

May 19, 2016

TO: City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: All Department Heads
Connie Gaylor, Administrative Coordinator

SUBJECT: Thursday Update

The following information is provided to you as a summary of activities for the week of May 16, 2016 and as an announcement of activities in the coming weeks:

1. Beautification Day was held this past Saturday and despite the cold and rain, 55 volunteers donned gardening gloves and grabbed trowels to help plant the 10,000 annual flowers that grace the median, corner and park beds along Montgomery Road. The seven members of the Beautification and Tree Commission helped to route the volunteers to their planting beds. Another 25 to 30 volunteers from the Mormon Youth Group will plant the beds at the entrances to Dulle and Pioneer Parks this evening (with a rain date of next Thursday, 5/26). The City is very much appreciative of these volunteers coming out in the rain and their planting efforts.
2. In recognition of National Police Week and National Public Works Week, we would like to thank all of the staff from both of these departments for their dedicated service to the safety, welfare, maintenance and beautification of our wonderful Community. Your efforts are appreciated each day by residents and your peers.
3. Matthew Vanderhorst met with Bill Fritz from Sycamore Community Schools on Monday to review the current technology service sharing agreement to ensure it still meets the needs of both organizations. This service sharing effort was recognized by the Alliance for Innovation (AFI) with their Innovation Award. Matthew will be receiving the award on behalf of the City and School District during the AFI conference in June.
4. Planning Commission met on Monday night to discuss concept plan for the construction of a new building at 10587 Montgomery Road for King Dental. The site plan would require several variance requests and the applicant wanted to discuss the plan with the Planning Commission prior to filing a formal application. The applicant has indicated that they intend to move forward with an application to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Planning Commission also heard a request from Traditions Development and Building Group for a revised General Development Plan for the village section of the Vintage Club. Several residents from the Vintage Club were in attendance at the meeting. After hearing presentations from staff and the Developer as well as taking comment from the residents, the Planning Commission voted to approved the reviewed General Development Plan.
5. On Monday, our newest police officer, Steve Hoy, began his employment. Steve comes from the City of Forest Park with over 16 years of experience and a variety of law enforcement skills. Please join us in welcoming Steve to Team Montgomery!

6. On Monday, Julie Prickett attended the Center for Local Government's Spring Human Resources Hot Topics Seminar. This session's "hot topic" was titled "Building the Bench: Attracting Diverse New Leadership in Local Government." Some great information and resources regarding attracting, developing and retaining talent for future upper management level positions in local government was shared.
7. The Gertz Company has completed the replacement of 13 of the 27 identified fire hydrants as part of this year's replacement project. Weather permitting all hydrants and restoration will be completed by the end of May.
8. Brian Riblet reports that the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (TID) application is complete, submitted, and will be presented at the TID Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 23, at 1:00 p.m. and that the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) STP application will be complete and ready to submitted to OKI by the end of business this Friday.
9. Brian Riblet and Gary Heitkamp met today with representatives from Hamilton County and ODOT to review issues with the Pfeiffer Road Bridge Deck Replacement Project PID#94547 currently scheduled for 2018. Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) is the primary issue being discussed at this time.
10. On Wednesday morning, Katie Smiddy and Wayne Davis met with the State Auditor Team to review their on-site Audit of the City's books. The Audit team, led by Staci Reiley, indicated that they had completed their work at the City and would need a few areas to be addressed before they could finalize their report. They indicated that in the City's Management Letter they expected to have comments regarding pool collections, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reconciliations, and timely deposits of Mayor's Courts receipts. Katie and Wayne will continue to work with the Auditors to ensure that they can complete their report and to also ensure that the City's 2015 Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR) is completed on time. Overall they were complementary of the City's financial operations and of the support they received in conducting their work.
11. A retirement reception for Pat Giblin was held this afternoon at the Safety Center. Pat has certainly been a valued member of the police department for 18 years. His care for the community and for his peers will be greatly missed but his sense of humor and antics will be long remembered! We wish Pat much happiness in his retirement and this next phase of his life.



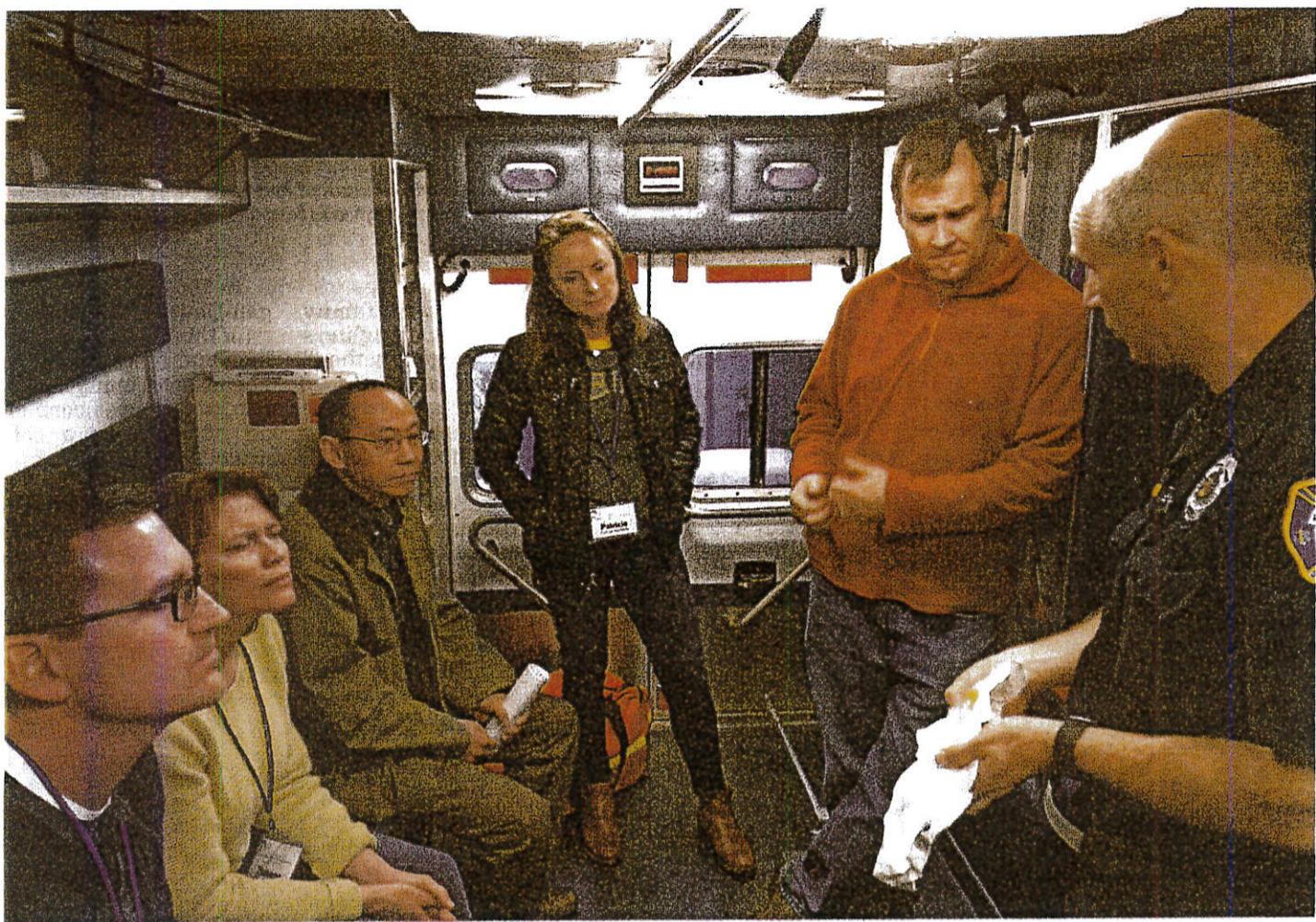
12. The City of Montgomery has now joined Instagram. Follow [@montgomeryohio](https://www.instagram.com/montgomeryohio) on Instagram to learn the latest on City events and programs plus great photos of many local sites often taken by City staff or volunteers. Visit montgomeryohio.org for links to our pages on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and now on Instagram.
13. You might notice the green Sycamore Aviator flags flying downtown from Friday, May 20 through Friday May 27. These flags are being displayed in honor of the graduates of

Sycamore High School in the city of Blue Ash, Symmes Township as well as Montgomery. We are proud to honor the students in their accomplishments and wish them well in the future.

14. Sign-ups and initial weigh ins for the second Fitbit challenge are set for next week. The challenge will run from May 29 to July 23. During this 8-week challenge, participants will be randomly partnered with another City of Montgomery employee and will work together toward achieving the weekly challenges of steps taken, calories burned, total distance/miles traveled, and total active minutes. Employees can sign-up at their respective location on these dates: Tuesday, May 24 (City Hall at 12:30 p.m.) Wednesday, May 25 (Safety Center at 6:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and Public Works at 7:30 a.m.) Thursday, May 26 (Safety Center at 6:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.). Successful completion of this challenge will award you 25 points on your 2016 Wellness Scorecard. If you have purchased a Fitbit, and have not been previously reimbursed, please save your receipt and submit to Sarah.
15. The Environmental Advisory Commission will be hosting a Document Shredding event this Saturday at the Public Works Facility. This event will be held from the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is not only a service to the community, but the reported tonnage of paper collected is reported on the application for the Annual Residential Recycling Incentive grant to Hamilton County Solid Waste and Recycling District and will help to increase our recycling percentages. Thank you to the EAC for hosting this event.
16. Please find attached Montgomery-related news articles that appeared in the local media since our last update.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

C: Wayne Davis, City Manager
Mayor and City Council Members
Department Heads
Terry Donnellon, Law Director



THANKS TO FAITH LYNCH

David Walters, Therese Rieger, Li Sun, Patricia Robitaille and Brodie Mitchell get a quick demonstration of the inside of an ambulance from Paramedic and firefighter Sander Wechsler.

Montgomery Citizen's Leadership Academy celebrates 10 years

Marika Lee

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In 2006, Montgomery wanted a way to get more citizens involved in the community. In 2016, the Montgomery Citizen Leadership Academy is celebrating its 10th year.

"We didn't think we'd be here in 10 years, still doing it and if the community would still be interested," said Matthew Vanderhorst, Montgomery's community and information services director.

The city started developing the Montgomery Citizen's Leadership Academy, or MCLA, in 2007 and had its first class in 2008, Director of Citizen Engagement Raymond Kingsbury said. He added in 2006 the city's strategic plan mentioned having a two-way dialogue with residents.

"So as we looked at different options, one of the things that intrigued us was

ATTEND THE MONTGOMERY CITIZEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Apply online at:
www.montgomeryohio.org/pages/mcla/
 Students must be Montgomery residents, work in Montgomery or be part of a Montgomery community group.

leadership academies. I did some research and they seemed to be government centric. We really didn't want to do that. We wanted to make it more a community-based academy," Kingsbury said.

MCLA involves 10 three-hour sessions between January and March. Students learn about the operation of different parts of the city and its partners

in the program. The city partners with local businesses, such as Twin Lakes, Ohio National and Bethesda North Hospital. There are about 25 to 30 students in each class. MCLA now has 235 graduates, Kingsbury said.

"What the leadership academy has done is found new and often younger people to claim roles in the community that are volunteer and leadership driven," Kingsbury said.

Vanderhorst said the city has 10 boards and commission and before MCLA it was hard to fill all the seats. Now, the city sometimes has multiple candidates.

"You don't put on the academy just for that. It is good to have them involved in the government, but really we are looking for them to get involved in the community in whatever way suits them.

See ACADEMY, Page 2A

Academy

Continued from Page 1A

We see city hall and the city government as part of the community but we are not the center of the community. We are trying to change the mindset from entitlement to involvement," Vanderhorst said.

He added MCLA graduates have been a part of starting the Montgomery Farmers' Market and the Montgomery Food Share.

"Connected communities and engaged communities and citizenry have many benefits. Things like better schools, stronger economies, safer streets, better government," Kingsbury said.

Kingsbury said the conversation between the city and the MCLA students continues after their graduation.

"We are using them as a sounding board. Part of this next five-year strategic plan, city council has deemed they want to look at housing in Montgomery



THANKS TO FAITH LYNCH

Montgomery Citizen Leadership Academy students Li Sun, from left, and Todd Thornicroft get advice on snow removal from long-time Montgomery Public Works employees, Robert Dunham and James Stewart.

and some of the issues regarding it. We made a call to the graduates and asked who would like to have that conversation. About a third of them showed up," Kingsbury said.

Kingsbury said it has been a benefit to Montgomery because they city is able to discuss challenging topics with residents, who have an understanding of how the city and the community operates.

Vanderhorst said the next group of students will be the 10th MCLA

class.

"The first thing we always hear is they want to get involved in their community but they don't know how or where to start. They may be new to the area and a lot of them will join the academy just to figure out what is out there and where it fits. Once they graduate they go out onto that route," Vanderhorst said.

Want to know more about what is happening in Montgomery? Follow Marika Lee on Twitter: @ReporterMarika