



Montgomery County

MONTGOMERY
C O U N T Y

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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April, 2004 Issue

County Government Week – Take Your Child To Work Day

County Government Week is April 19th - 23rd. This year, the theme is Counties Move America's Products and People. Montgomery County has a great history of transportation initiatives; some of the more recent being the development of the Austin Road interchange led by the County Commissioners as well as all of the recent bridge improvements managed by the County Engineer's Office.



This year, a bake sale will be held in the lobby of the Administration Building on Monday morning, with proceeds benefiting the children in need of food across America. On Tuesday, employees can enjoy fresh popcorn in the afternoon. Ritter's Frozen Custard will be here on Wednesday and for \$3.00, employees can partake in a sundae

bar. Thursday is Take Your Child To Work Day, with festivities (weather dependent) being held outside of the Administration building from 10:00 - 11:30.



APRIL - 2004

SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT

Volunteer Month

April is national volunteer month and Montgomery County would like to recognize two specific types of volunteers that help this County run. Many employees volunteer for social causes through the County. County employees host bake sales to raise money for events, participate in Cancer and Diabetes walks and spend a few weeks during the summer competing in the Battle of the Business competition to raise money for charity. County employees also have adopted families in need over the holidays and help out at some of our County facilities.

County citizens also make up a large cadre of volunteers in which our Country depends on. Citizens staff boards such as the Workforce Policy Board and volunteers also spend weekends at the Animal Shelter, helping to adopt cats and dogs and time with residents of Stillwater Center. Hundreds of volunteers came together this past summer and fall to help with the passage of the Human Services Levy, for which Montgomery County is extremely grateful.

Montgomery County Promotes Gregory J. Merrill, P.E. to Director of Sanitary Engineering

Montgomery County Commissioners announced the promotion of Gregory J. Merrill, P.E. to head the Sanitary Engineering Department recently vacated by Jim Brueggeman. Merrill, a native of the Dayton area, graduated from the University of Dayton and attended Wright State University for Masters classes. He holds a professional engineer's license for the States of Ohio and Indiana and is a member of the Water Environment Federation, American Water Works and American Public Works Association.

Mr. Merrill has 30 years of experience in the engineering field, has worked with the Marion Penick Company as a consultant as well as with the City of Troy and the City of Fort Wayne's Engineering Departments prior to employment with Montgomery County. He has been with the County for the past 19 years having started as a project engineer with various promotions to his previous position as Deputy Director of Engineering. Mr. Merrill has been responsible for numerous large-scale

capital improvement projects and works closely with the Ohio EPA, local organizations and jurisdictions.

When asked about the priorities for the next few years, Merrill wants to focus on the continued construction of the County's water and sewer infrastructure to support development, completion of water and sewer master plan updates to ensure that the treatment plants work at the optimum level and a continued partnership with local officials. "One large goal that we all have within the Sanitary Engineering Department is the continued development of work teams that will increase the productivity and efficiency of our staff," commented Merrill.

Congratulations!!

Stillwater Center Celebrates New Facility with Formal Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Montgomery County Commissioners formally dedicated and opened the new Stillwater Center at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, April 12, 2004. Families of residents, staff, County and state officials attended the event which showcased the innovative structure that has replaced an extremely antiquated TB hospital on North Main Street.

Stillwater houses the County's most severely and profoundly mentally disabled individuals, many of whom need constant medical supervision and assistance. The design of the new center is state-of-the-art, reflecting the national change

toward providing home-like settings for those with the most severe medical needs. Most of Stillwater's residents cannot walk and many are medically fragile. All of the residents participate in special work programs or recreation programs to enhance their quality of life.

The new center houses 98 full-time residents and offers a special area for respite care, which allows short stays for temporary residents who are cared for in their own homes. This program is for their caregivers to have some much needed time without caring for a medically fragile individual 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Stillwater Center Employee Welcomes Daughter Home from Iraq

Taffy Leonard, an employee at Stillwater had reason to celebrate last month, when her daughter, a member of the 104th Engineer Unit in the US Army, returned from Kuwait. Wendy Leonard is a member of the Road Dawgs, as a company driver, who drove supply trucks and busses into Iraq. The unit was responsible for supplying food and water, ammunition and medical supplies to front line troops.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

by Ann Stevens,
Public Information Coordinator

According to Prevent Child Abuse America, 32 percent of Americans report having witnessed physical abuse of a child, and 47 percent report observing neglect. Yet, nearly half of these Americans also report having done nothing, in large part because they did not know how to respond. "Reporting child abuse and neglect is very important, but it isn't prevention," said Children Services Executive Director Helen Jones-Kelley. "Prevention is critical to making sure the children in our community grow up happy, healthy and safe."

You can make a difference!



What can you do to prevent child abuse and neglect? Prevent Child Abuse America offers the following:

1. Reach out. Anything you can do to support children and their families can help reduce the stress that often leads to abuse and neglect.
2. Raise the issue. By educating yourself and others, you can help prevent child abuse and neglect.
3. Remember the risk factors. Child abuse/neglect occur in all segments of society, but the risks are greater in families with economic hardships and substance abuse problems.
4. Recognize the warning signs. Some signs of abuse include nervousness around adults, aggression, low self-esteem and frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries.
5. Report suspected abuse or neglect. Call Children Services at 224-KIDS or your local law enforcement agency if you think a child is in immediate danger. Wear a blue ribbon during April as a visible gesture of your support of child abuse/neglect prevention. Tell everyone you meet what it represents, and what they can do to prevent child abuse/neglect. You can make a difference!



Montgomery County Employee Picnic, June 19th

Don't forget, the Montgomery County Employee Recognition Picnic is scheduled for June 19th, at Arthur O. Fisher Park.

- The picnic will again include:
- Great food,
 - Prizes
 - Variety of family events.

Please mark it on your calendars and look for more information to come through your department.