Montgomery County’s Erik Collins, Director of Community & Economic Development, and Gwen Eberly, Economic Development and Planning Manager, recently spent nine days visiting 33 companies in Japan. This important trade mission was focused on furthering relationships with the Japanese companies who call Ohio home. Many of these companies have been in Ohio for decades and have recently expanded or are considering future expansions. Collins and Eberly visited with executives of Green Tokai, Co., a Japanese auto parts manufacturer who has been in the City of Brookville for nearly 30 years.

Continued on page 2
The Ohio State University College of Public Health has announced that the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT) has been selected as the winner of the “Organization Award” for the 2018 Champions of Public Health Awards. The awards are presented to recognize individuals and organizations that make significant contributions to the health and well-being of Ohioans.

Formed in the fall of 2016, the COAT seeks to reduce the number of fatal overdoses and is comprised of more than 100 organizations. The COAT was selected for its innovative use of the Incident Command System (ICS) structure that allows partners to work together in a unified and coordinated way to respond to the opioid crisis. Public Health and Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services are the COAT’s lead agencies in the effort to combat the crisis.

With more than 600 employees, they are a committed partner and plan to continue investing in Montgomery County. Meeting with them face-to-face, further cemented the relationship between Montgomery County and Green Tokai’s leadership.

“Ninety-five percent of the trip was to show gratitude to Japanese businesses for having a presence in Montgomery County. Business retention and the expansion of businesses is paramount to our economic development strategy. The businesses we visited appreciated that we took time to travel around the world to visit their headquarters in Japan. They also recognize that Montgomery County’s Economic Development team is available to assist them with any opportunities or challenges their U.S.-based operations face,” said Collins of the trade mission.

Ohio is home to 390 Japanese-owned companies who employ thousands of people regionally. Just one company in Montgomery County employs over 600 people. Montgomery County has been supportive of their expansion in the area and continues to support growth by offering tax incentives, workforce education programs and cultural programs. These efforts demonstrate to other Japanese companies how welcoming Montgomery County can be – something highlighted during the trade mission.
ADAMHS Offers **Drug-Free Workplace** Assistance

Our local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board received funding from Ohio’s Bureau of Workers’ Compensation to implement a new Recovery Workforce program for employers in Montgomery County. The program provides reimbursement for drug testing and training, as well as a forum for employers to share their success. ADAMHS also provides technical assistance for development of drug free workplace policies. For more information visit www.mcadamhs.org, email MCOWSP@mcadamhs.org, or call 937.443.0416.

Animal Resource Center Clears Adoption Floor

The Animal Resource Center’s annual ‘Send Them Home Saturday’ event had all pets adopted by 12:30 p.m.! With the support of community sponsors, this Thanksgiving weekend event allows people to adopt a new pet with no fees. In addition to the ARC waiving fees that day, money raised from the sponsors covered the cost of licenses for dogs adopted during the event.

Sponsors for this year’s event were: Lucky’s Taproom and Eatery, MAKSolve, Merck Animal Health, PI-Tech, HP Energy, Starco, T.J.’s Goodboy Gourmet Dog Treats and Dyer, Garofalo, Mann & Schultz.

There was a line before the Animal Resource Center opened, and adoption tags were going up on the kennels almost immediately. It was a great event to get pets into forever homes for the holiday season.

Youth Career Services Supervisor Aaron Ferris speaks with students involved with Centerville’s School of Possibilities.

**Finding a Career Path for Students**

There are plenty of options available to high school graduates looking for alternatives four-year college. That’s what the Centerville School of Possibilities (CSP) focuses on – career paths for all students. Community & Economic Development Director Erik Collins and Youth Career Services Supervisor Aaron Ferris joined local education and private industry partners for a presentation and question-and-answer session with Centerville High School students in CSP on Nov. 30. Topics ranged from the overall employment landscape for these students to intricacies like where to start in an apprenticeship. Students were engaged, and they came away with a lot of great information.

Volunteer Kathy Burson escorts a dog at the ARC.
Montgomery County Solid Waste District Achieves Unanimous Passage of 5-Year Plan

On Dec. 3, 2018, the Montgomery County Solid Waste District achieved unanimous passage of the district’s Five-Year Solid Waste District Management Plan for the first time ever. This outstanding achievement demonstrates the collaboration and community involvement that guided the report from start to finish. Our Community Outreach Team has been busy for the past year developing the District’s five-year plan, which is required under Ohio House Bill 592.

The team spent about two months presenting the plan to all 28 member jurisdictions in Montgomery County. Thank you so much to our team members for their hard work and dedication, and for this historic accomplishment.

Attendants, Added Scanners Equal Fewer Lines at JFS

Waiting lines in the Family Assistance Scanning Center at The Job Center are becoming a thing of the past, thanks to a major renovation designed by one of Job and Family Services’ Culture of Collaboration teams. The room now features four new scan stations that have replaced the two dated stations.

Bright new signs on the walls and within each station provide clear directions for customers, and the room is now staffed by attendants from Goodwill/Easter Seals’ Senior Community Service Employment Program who walk people through the scanning process when needed.

Each customer is provided with a receipt for each transaction to give customers greater assurance that their material was received and reduce the practice of customers scanning the same items multiple times.

The Culture of Collaboration engages people from all areas of Job and Family Services to improve customer service with specific projects managed by small teams. Members of the Quick Scan Lab project include Dan Bolton, Kathy Fitzwater, Michael London, Rebecca Hines, Michael Hannes, Jessica Abernathy, Tracey Alves, Andrew Combs, and Shira Lewis.
Montgomery County Collaborative Newsletter

Serving Veterans with Compassion, Dignity, Respect

The Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission is a county agency dedicated to providing the best possible service to Montgomery County veterans. Veterans scheduling an introduction appointment will have one-on-one discussion with a state-certified service officer on possible claims, bonus awards, or services available to the veteran specific to his/her military service.

Assistance in filing claims to the Veterans Administration includes the preparation of forms and documentation of claims, filing to obtain discharge papers (DD-214), and obtaining medals. Financial assistance may be provided to qualifying veterans as a short-term or onetime payment to assist with the necessities of life.

Please call 937-225-4801 or visit their website at www.mcvsc.org for more information.

Family and Friends Group Donates Fountain

The Stillwater Center’s courtyard fountain made its debut during the Thanksgiving Dinner. The fountain was a donation from the Families and Friends, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit. Consider this an invitation to stop by in the Spring when the bulbs and the flowering plants are blooming and the fountain is singing!

County Engineer Serves as Past President of State Association

During its annual business meeting on December 9-11, 2018, the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) presented state recognition awards to Ohio County Engineers and their staff.

The incoming 2019 CEAO Officers included Immediate Past President Paul W. Gruner, Montgomery County Engineer. County engineers are responsible for the maintenance, repair and capital improvements of county highways, roads and bridges in Ohio.
Public Health Responds to Hepatitis A Outbreak

Hepatitis A outbreaks have been occurring in multiple states across the U.S., and the Ohio Department of Health declared a statewide community outbreak for Hepatitis A. While anyone is at risk of getting Hepatitis A, priority groups for prevention include:

- Men who have sex with men
- People who use street drugs whether they are injected or not
- People who are incarcerated
- People experiencing homelessness
- People having contact with individuals in the priority groups

As of Nov. 26, there were a total of 179 cases in Montgomery County. Public Health has vaccinated 2,075 individuals for Hepatitis A in 87 external vaccination clinics. These clinics targeted the Montgomery County jail, homeless populations, men who have sex with men and individuals abusing drugs. In addition, 532 vaccinations have been provided at the Public Health Clinic.

Call (937) 225-4550 to schedule an appointment to be vaccinated.

Emergency Management
Winter Safety Tips

Winter storms bring dangerous driving conditions and a higher risk of car accidents. Make sure your car is ready for winter travel.

- Check antifreeze level.
- Replace worn tires and check tire air pressure.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice build up in the tank and fuel lines.
- Car battery, battery terminals and ignition system should be in good condition.
- Make a winter emergency kit to keep in the car that contains the following:
  - First aid kit
  - Food and water
  - Blankets, warm clothing
  - Kitty litter or sand
  - Jumper cables, car repair items
  - Road flares
  - Phone charger
  - Flashlight and batteries
  - Ice scraper

Spring is also right around the corner, which brings thunderstorms and potential severe weather. So be prepared and stay safe!

For more tips, visit www.mcohio.org/departments/emergency_management

Protecting your Health

You are probably aware that Public Health -- Dayton and Montgomery County offers immunizations and does restaurant inspections, but you may not know the full extent of services they offer to help keep us safe. This 5-minute video is a snapshot of those services...

https://youtu.be/clei6BLuT64
Montgomery County Collaborative Newsletter

OMB Recognized For 35th Straight Year

The Office of Management and Budget earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 2018. This is the 35th consecutive year they’ve won that award, which makes Montgomery County OMB one of only two communities throughout the U.S. and Canada to receive the award for 35 straight years.

The award is given by the Government Finance Officers Association to encourage local governments to prepare the highest-quality budget documents. It started in 1984, and Montgomery County OMB has won it every year.

Montgomery County Facilities Department responsibilities are more than maintaining and constructing buildings. The Facilities Department maintains and manages three large area parks and one urban park: Art Van Atta (150 acres), Madison Lakes (177 acres), Arthur O. Fisher (180 acres), and Courthouse Square.

Courthouse Square is downtown’s gathering point for events, food, and fun next to the County’s Old Historic Courthouse at Third and Main. This park bustles with activity all summer long with food trucks, stage and music events, games and contests. Facilities staff (our Kent Anspaugh is often called “Mayor of the Square”) manages and maintains activities, including preparing the Square for the Grande Illumination that kicks off the holiday season each year in our downtown.

Did You Know? Facilities Team Manages Fantastic Area Parks

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Business Solutions Center Hosts International Meeting

The Montgomery County Business Solutions Center hosted a major meeting of international defense agencies on Nov. 28 and 29. The International Customer Users Group (ICUG) is a quarterly meeting meant to improve procedures and policies for Foreign Military Sales, Security Assistance and Security Cooperation.

Commissioner Judy Dodge gave opening remarks at this 75th meeting of ICUG, emphasizing the collaboration among the agencies. Representatives from 28 countries for the meeting, which strengthens ties with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the world abroad.

Courthouse Square Silent Night as lit up by Hank Stanley’s staff before the tree raising and Grand Illumination.

Facilities staff preparing Memorial for Judge Arthur O. Fisher at Arthur O. Fisher Park

Memorial plaque for Judge Fisher: the first African-American elected to a Montgomery County Common Pleas Court judgeship
Workforce Development Takes Services on the Road

Many people don’t know the services available through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). That’s why Workforce Development’s Business Services team takes its services out into the community.

On Nov. 14, the team of Workforce Specialists traveled to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 82. The effort brought awareness to the IBEW’s apprentices that funding for things like work equipment for their apprenticeships is available through WIOA. It’s part of Workforce Development’s strategy to reach out to the community, rather than waiting on customers to come through the Job Center doors.

Children Services Celebrates 100th Adoption of 2018

DAYTON – Children Services celebrated its 100th adoption of 2018 on Dec. 14, as Megan and Joshua Farnham welcomed 9-month-old Samuel into their family.

“We are over the moon,” Megan said. “It’s been hard, but it has definitely been worth it. He is such a good baby!”

While Montgomery County has averaged 85.4 adoptions in the last five years, the county has not reached 100 adoptions since 2007. At the end of 2018, 191 children were awaiting their forever families while in the legal custody of Montgomery County Children Services and a total of 619 kids were in foster care.

“We are always looking for local people who are willing to open their hearts and their homes to our children in foster care,” said Jewell Good, MCDJFS Children Services Administrator.

“Training is free and provided at the Haines Children’s Center, and some training is even available online.”

A complete schedule of monthly informational meetings is available under the Children Services tab at mcohio.org. You can also get more information on foster care and adoption by calling (937) 224-KIDS (5437).
Montgomery County Receives the Healthy Business Council of Ohio’s Healthy Worksite Gold Level Award for the Third Consecutive Year!

Montgomery County is excited to announce being selected for the 2018 Healthy Worksite Gold Level Award, presented by the The Healthy Business Council of Ohio! This award recognizes Ohio employers who demonstrate a commitment to employee wellness through comprehensive worksite health promotion and wellness programs. Montgomery County received the Silver Level Award in 2015, followed by GOLD recognition in 2016, 2017, and 2018!

MCBDDS Awarded Grant to Support Collaboration, Development of Quality Measures

DAYTON, Ohio, Wednesday, December 12, 2018 – The Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (MCBDDS) recently received a grant to support the creation of quality measures for providers of services for people with developmental disabilities.

The Provider Pilot Partnership Grant, funded by the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), offers consulting and facilitation services that will allow MCBDDS and Montgomery County-based providers of agency, day, residential and transportation services to collaborate with the goal of developing:

- Common local benchmarks that are indicative of quality services
- Measures designed to capture and report evidence of quality
- Strategies to improve administrative efficiencies in the local provider community

Representatives from each Montgomery County provider agency have been invited to participate in this effort.

MCBDDS was one of 10 organizations in Ohio selected to participate in OACB’s Provider Partnership Pilot Project.

“This grant will give us the opportunity to work with experts who have a statewide perspective on service delivery for people with developmental disabilities,” said Mitchell Snyder, Provider Development Manager for the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services. “We’re excited to have access to their knowledge and look forward to continuing to advance our efforts through this program.”