

# Centerville Commerce Quarterly

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A Publication of the City of Centerville, Ohio



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## STUDY SHOWS INEQUITY IN SERVICE DELIVERY AND TAXATION:

### *City residents and businesses carry load for townships.*

The Greater Dayton Area Mayors and Managers Association recently commissioned a study by the University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center to examine the issue of services offered and tax equity between cities and townships in Montgomery County. While the study focused on Montgomery County, the same issues are present in other Ohio counties.

The study's findings report that 80% of Montgomery County residents live in cities or villages, yet they are excluded from many services provided by the state or county. The study highlighted inequities for tax-paying city residents and businesses, as their tax dollars are subsidizing many of the services townships receive.

Following are excerpts from the University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center study. The report is available on the Centerville website at [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov).

\*The sign along State Route 48 in Washington Township just outside of Centerville advertising new upscale apartments uses precious space to inform prospective purchasers "No City Tax." A classified advertisement in the Dayton Daily News marketing professional office suites located in Harrison township, just outside of Dayton, declares "No City Income Tax!" in bold font.

\*On a snowy night in February snowplows pull out of the County garage lo-

cated in Dayton to spend a busy night plowing and salting the roads in Montgomery County's unincorporated areas. They will leave the roads in Montgomery County's 16 cities and 3 villages untouched. Though the residents of the incorporated areas pay the same taxes to the County as the residents of the unincorporated areas, they also pay their city or village income tax to hire crews to handle their plowing and salting needs.

\*This summer, crews from the Ohio Dept. of Transportation District 7 garage will perform road maintenance along the State Routes in Montgomery County. The State will halt its maintenance work whenever they reach the border of a city or village. The cities and (cont'd page 3)

## Mayor's Business Breakfast Registration Is Open

The Mayor's Business Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for February 27th at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. This year's event is sponsored by Miami Valley Hospital South. All city businesses are encouraged to attend this free event which celebrates

Centerville's diverse business community. The event also provides City businesses with an invaluable networking and business development opportunity. Attendees will be provided with a comprehensive economic development overview of our (see more on page 2)



## BusinessFirst! Spotlight— Southwest Ohio P2 Internships

The **Southwest Ohio P2 Internship Program** is a partnership between Hamilton County, Butler County and Montgomery County Solid Waste Districts and TechSolve. If your company is committed to reducing waste and implementing practical solutions that save money, your organization is a perfect candidate for Montgomery County's P2 Internship Program. The program provides a highly qualified, college-level engineering and/or environmental science major student for 12 weeks. The intern works directly with company personnel to decrease production costs and improve performance through energy and material conservation.

### **Companies applying for a summer intern must:**

- Be located in Montgomery County, Ohio
- Identify a project that supports long-term environmental goals with a clear relationship to the Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency Hierarchy, described as source reduction, energy efficiency, reuse, recycling, and energy recovery.
- Share project outcomes with the Districts. Confidential information will not be disclosed.

### **Company Benefits:**

- Trained, full-time upper-level undergraduate and graduate students with a major in the engineering field (environmental, civil, mechanical, chemical or industrial), Environmental Health and Safety or Environmental Science fields.
- The district provides approximately 75% reimbursement of the intern's wages.
- Typical cost to a participating company is approximately \$2,000.

### **Business Applications**

- Applications for businesses interested in hosting a P2 intern are due no later than **January 25, 2013**.
- A fillable application is available online at [www.mcswd.org](http://www.mcswd.org).



## Mayor's Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast

(continued from page 1) growing community and a special briefing and presentation from Miami Valley Hospital South regarding the continued growth of the hospital campus and its services.

Almost 225 city business leaders attended this free event last year, making it one of the largest business events in the area. Interested businesses are asked to RSVP before February 15th online at:

[www.centervilleohio.gov](http://www.centervilleohio.gov)

When reserving your place, please provide your business name and the names of the attendees from your business. Free exhibition space is available for attending businesses. Space can only be reserved by registering online. Exhibition space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so be sure to register today!



## BusinessFirst!: Schedule A Visit Today

The City of Centerville is a proud member of the BusinessFirst! program which offers city businesses convenient and effective access to the resources they need to succeed. The BusinessFirst! program uses a customer-focused approach to link businesses with resources that help businesses stay and grow in the community. The BusinessFirst! team is a coordinated group of near-ly 100 economic development,

community, workforce development and government professionals who are ready to assist firms in meeting their corporate objectives.

Numerous Centerville businesses have benefited through participation in BusinessFirst!. The program gives businesses a single point of contact for a wide range of assistance.

Services include business financing, workforce training programs, tax

credit assistance, and much more. The City of Centerville is committed to serving its business community and linking it with the resources it needs to grow.

If you are interested in scheduling a BusinessFirst! visit or would like to learn more about the program, please contact Nathan Cahall, at [ncahall@centervilleohio.gov](mailto:ncahall@centervilleohio.gov).

## Study Exposes Tax Inequities

(cont'd from page 1) villages must use their own resources to maintain those State Routes within their own borders.

\*At the municipal courts in Dayton, Kettering, Miamisburg and Vandalia, costs of operation and maintenance are borne by the residents of only the cities that utilize the courts. The State requires that these courts serve townships in their districts, while the residents of these townships do not pay for this service. Is there any justification for this kind of inequity?

While 80% of Montgomery County residents live in cities or villages, they are excluded from many services provided by the State or the County. Is it fair for them to have to pay full State and County taxes only to be forced to tax themselves to receive services that the State and County provide at no cost to Montgomery County township residents and businesses?

Most townships in Montgomery County are no longer exclusively agricultural or rural. They now compete with cities for residential, commercial, and industrial development. In their marketing efforts, townships frequently point to the absence of income taxes as an advantage to choosing their township as a location for residents and businesses. Are such low taxes made possible because their services are subsidized to a significant extent by the State, County and municipal neighbors? Questions such as these prompted the Greater Dayton Area Mayors and Managers Association to ask the University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center to examine the issue of service and tax equity.

According to the research, the annual subsidy provided by Montgomery County and the State of Ohio to the unincorporated areas of just Montgomery County (townships) is over \$14 million per year!

### *State and county subsidies to townships in Montgomery County*

<i>Subsidy Type</i>	<i>Approximate Cost</i>
County Road Construction, Maintenance, and Engineering	\$10,376,000
State Road Construction, Maintenance, and Engineering	\$2,100,000
Criminal Justice, Policing, and Legal Services	\$1,450,000
Municipalities within township Tax Charges	\$780,000
Planning Services	\$160,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$14,866,000</u></b>

### **The study's recommendations include:**

Require Ohio townships to take responsibility for their own services in the same manner that Ohio municipalities do

Require the Ohio Dept. of Transportation to provide the same level of services in townships and municipalities

Eliminate the system that requires municipalities to fund local courts

Change the taxing and funding obligation when municipalities are located within townships. Municipal taxpayers should no longer pay property taxes to townships for general government services that they do not receive.

If there is no legislative action regarding township roads, recommendations include changes in labeling roads as township or County, changes to the formulation and distribution of vehicle license fees, and changes to the allocation of Local Transportation Improvement Program funds.

When contracts are created between the County and unincorporated areas for service delivery, such as the Sheriff policing certain townships, a mechanism for independent review and public examination must ensure that there is not a hidden subsidy provided through such contracts.



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