Montco Monthly
May 2024

Below are the latest updates from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Did someone forward you this message? Sign up here to receive future email updates.

Celebrating 100 days in office and beyond!

Since taking office in January 2024, the Commissioners have taken a considered approach to several key policy areas including housing and homelessness, public safety, and economic development, while emphasizing more community engagement and input at the County level.

We put together a video recapping some of their biggest accomplishments so far - and looking ahead at what's to come.

Watch our 100 days recap video

Working together to address affordable housing in Montco
Last month, Montgomery County brought together local officials and thought leaders for Homes for All: A Housing Solutions Summit, a solutions-focused look at the affordable housing crisis unfolding in our area.

In addition to a half day of informative and engaging breakout sessions, attendees also heard inspiring keynote addresses from Garry Gilliam, Founder of The Bridge Ecovillage as well as Peter Urscheler, Mayor of Phoenixville, PA.

The conversations that took place throughout the day are intended to help form the groundwork to ensuring everyone who lives, works, learns and invests in our County has equal opportunity to live in an affordable home and a thriving community.

Deadline extended: Community Health Assessment

The Montgomery County Office of Public Health is conducting its first Community Health Assessment to better understand the health and wellness facing our residents.
The confidential survey should take about 15 minutes and will help shape the direction of public health in our County.

It can be taken online but paper copies are also available at multiple locations throughout the County, including local libraries.

The deadline to participate has been extended to mid-May.

Participate today!

May events spotlight

**Revolutionary War weekend at Pennypacker Mills**

Experience a Revolutionary War encampment at Pennypacker Mills in Schwenksville!

On Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19, travel back in time as the Mills plays host to live historical demonstrations, musicians, speakers, and much more.

There will be activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Events will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Learn more

**Get rewarded for reading at Norristown Farm Park!**

Take a walk. Enjoy a book with the family.

Win a prize?!

Through June 24, stop by the Montco StoryWalk located in Norristown Farm Park to enjoy "The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

While you're there, be sure to scan the QR code and you'll be entered to possibly win four passes to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square!

More info

Commissioners mark the reopening of Bridge 6 in Gladwyne
The Montgomery County Commissioners last month announced the re-opening of Mill Creek Bridge in Lower Merion Township, establishing safe passage between Old Gulph Road and Montgomery Avenue. Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday morning, Lower Merion Police led the first convoy of vehicles over the bridge since it was rendered unsafe for use in 2021.

Originally built in 1956, Mill Creek Bridge (also known as Bridge 6) had been weight-restricted due to deteriorating condition beginning in 2019. When floodwaters from Hurricane Ida wrought significant damage on the bridge’s foundational supports in summer 2021, Bridge 6 was forced to close and undergo reconstruction. Following delays due to COVID-19 and further weather challenges, construction partners began work on the bridge in March 2023.

Watch on Instagram

Community bulletin board

Get a peek at a future career in public service

We are now accepting applications for the MontcoWorks Public Service Pathways Fellowship!

This summer program is open to Norristown area students entering grades 10-12 and is intended

Enjoy the nice weather and explore Montco this spring!

The Montco Trail Challenge is back for its 9th season this spring!

Get out and go in search of special trail markers posted along 18 participating parks and trails!
to reinforce civic engagement while also introducing students to a career in public service.

It will run from June 24 to July 12.

Applications will be accepted until all slots are filled!

All ages and skill levels are invited to participate, including your four-legged family members.

And remember, you don’t have to complete the entire trail in order to mark it off on your scorecard.

Details

Montco Office of Veteran Affairs Transitions to Office of Veteran Services

After nearly a century of dedicated service, the Montgomery County Office of Veteran Affairs is proud to announce a significant milestone in its evolution. Effective May 2, 2024, the office will officially be renamed the “Office of Veteran Services.”

Since its inception 95 years ago, the Office of Veteran Affairs has played a vital role in the community, initially established under the Administrative Code of 1929 to standardize county functions. Over the years, the office has diligently fulfilled its responsibilities, including the preservation, care, and marking of veteran graves, as well as the processing of county, state, and federal claims.

More on this change

Annual Overdose Prevention Billboard Contest Winner
Since 2017, our Office of Drug and Alcohol has coordinated an annual contest with the goal of raising awareness about opioid overdose prevention.

Each year, Montgomery County high school students are invited to submit artwork displaying a positive message discouraging substance abuse and encouraging healthier lifestyles.

We received over 50 submissions from 10 school districts, which received 1,000 public votes. The first place winner this year is Anika R., an 11th grader at Wissahickon High School!

Congratulations, Anika—your artwork will be displayed on billboards around Montgomery County.

Commissioners on the go!

We're taking our Board of Commissioners meeting on the road!
Our meeting scheduled for **Thursday, May 23** will be held at the Limerick Township Building at 646 W. Ridge Pike in Limerick, PA. It will begin at **6 p.m.**

There will be no meeting at One Montgomery Plaza in Norristown that morning. The only Commissioners meeting will be the evening meeting in Limerick.

We hope to see you there. If you can't make it, we will live stream the meeting on our website and social media. There will also be a Zoom option for virtual public comment.

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Montgomery County Commissioners

[Images of Jamila H. Winder, Neil Makhija, and Thomas DiBello]

**Jamila H. Winder**  
Chair

**Neil Makhija**  
Commissioner

**Thomas DiBello**  
Commissioner

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