

THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY OF SOMERSET

Municipal Building, 2261 Van Horne Road (Route 206), Belle Mead, New Jersey 08502
Tel (908) 359-8211, TDD (908) 359-8211 Website: www.twp.montgomery.nj.us

MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

WHO IS THE MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY?

We know Montgomery is a great place to live and a diverse community of terrific people of all ages, vocations, cultures, and creeds. We are volunteers, professionals, hobbyists, business owners, managers, parents, children, educators, coaches, athletes, artists, musicians, scientists, technicians, travelers, gardeners, retired seniors – we all engage in life here together as neighbors, whatever our age or identity. So what can statistics reveal about our Montgomery population?

According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau release, the estimated population of Montgomery is 23,049 as of July 1, 2015. The median age is 41.3. 49.3 % of residents are male and 50.7 % are female.

According to Zoom Prospector, an affiliate of GIS Planning, Inc., about half of the population or 11,459 Montgomery residents are in the labor force. 71% of those are in white collar jobs and 29% are in blue collar jobs. The average commute time is 32 minutes.

Montgomery has 984 business establishments with 11,977 employees. The top jobs in town are retail (1,194 jobs); banking, finance and insurance (1,629 jobs); professional, scientific and technical (1,943 jobs); and health care and social services (2,595 jobs). The majority of Montgomery businesses are small, having fewer than 4 employees (62%).

The largest age group is 10 to 19 year olds, followed by 40 to 49s and then 50 to 59 year olds. Education-wise, 77.63% of the adult population has a college degree (bachelors or graduate).

There are approximately 7,697 homes in Montgomery and 80% of residents own their own homes while 20% rent.

According to estimates*, Montgomery is currently made up mostly of people who identify as one race – 66.6% as White, 2.0% as Black or African American, and 28.6% as Asian. The majority of Asian residents in Montgomery are Chinese (14.1%) and Asian Indian persons (11.2%). 1.7% identify as two or more races. Approximately 4.9% of Montgomery residents identify as Hispanic or Latino of any race, as well.

While information on religious affiliation was not available for Montgomery specifically, we know Montgomery is diverse in this way as well. We have a number of churches, both Catholic and Protestant, and a Jewish synagogue located in the Township. There are more houses of worship in the area, including Islamic mosques, Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras. Many choose to remain unaffiliated from a religion or religious organization. All are respected for their right to religious freedom here in Montgomery Township.

We hope you found the above snapshot of Montgomery interesting. Statistics, however, can never really define us or our sense of community. The people of Montgomery celebrate and find strength, enrichment, and indeed unity in our diversity. Our community composition is dynamic and ever evolving and we will continue to change in the future. But one thing we will always work hard to keep the same – Montgomery being a wonderful place for everyone to live, to work, and to raise a family!

We wish everyone of all faiths and cultures a wonderful holiday season with family and friends this year and health and happiness in the New Year!

**Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), 2010-2014 Five-Year Estimates (latest available data as of this writing).*

Montgomery Township Committee:

Patricia Graham, Mayor pgraham@twp.montgomery.nj.us

Ed Trzaska, Deputy Mayor etrzaska@twp.montgomery.nj.us

Rich Smith, Committeeman rsmith@twp.montgomery.nj.us

Christine Madrid, Committeewoman cmadrid@twp.montgomery.nj.us

Mark Conforti, Committeeman mconforti@twp.montgomery.nj.us

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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POLICE CAPTAIN PALMER RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS ON FORCE HONORED BY TOWNSHIP FOR HIS SERVICE

Captain Robert Palmer retired as Police Captain / Director on September 30 after a 37-year career as a Montgomery Township Police officer. He was recognized and honored by resolution in front of a large audience of admirers at the October 6th Montgomery Twp. Committee meeting.

Mayor Patricia Graham read the resolution, which also outlined Captain Palmer's law enforcement career. He began as a special police officer in 1979. He became a full-time police officer in 1984. Rising through the ranks, he was promoted

to sergeant in 1988 and then to lieutenant in 1998. He was named captain/police director in 2008, after several years of change in the Department's leadership. The resolution also outlined Captain Palmer's accomplishments and awards. He received numerous awards for Meritorious Service. He developed the MTPD's Field Training Officer Program. He served as Montgomery Township's Emergency Management Coordinator and was appointed liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He also worked on the transition of MTPD to the Somerset County communications center. The captain also served on the Montgomery/Rocky Hill Municipal Alliance & Youth Services Commission and the Veterans Memorial Committee.

Captain Palmer and his wife, Ruth lived in Montgomery for 25 years and raised their two daughters here who both graduated from Montgomery Township High School. They were big supporters of the MTSD music program



Retiring Captain Robert Palmer, after 37 years of public service, was honored by officials and by his colleagues on the police force and a large group of friends and admirers at the Oct. 6th Montgomery Twp. Committee meeting. Pictured (l to r) are: Committeeman Mark Conforti, Committeewoman Christine Madrid, Cpt. Palmer, Mayor Patricia Graham, and Deputy Mayor Ed Trzaska.

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TWO NEW TRACTS BEING ACQUIRED FOR OPEN SPACE IN MONTGOMERY

The Montgomery Township Committee on October 6th approved the acquisition of two new properties for open space preservation, totaling 50 acres. One property is located in northern Montgomery and the other in the southern part of town.

“Adding these 50 acres to Montgomery’s open space portfolio provides significant benefits to the township. Both of these properties add to adjoining open space and our greenways and provide valuable natural and recreational resources for our residents to enjoy. We are excited to have taken this opportunity to preserve these properties!” said Montgomery Mayor Patricia Graham.

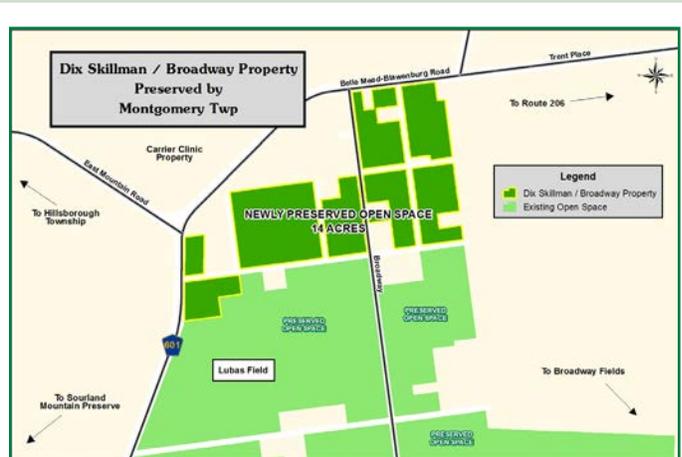
The southern property is 36 acres of woodland on Cherry Hill Road which would provide new access to the existing 400+ acre Cherry Brook Preserve. This acquisition will provide a valuable trailhead/access to the southern part of the Preserve, which has five miles of hiking and biking pathways for public use. Preserving this piece also protects the contiguous network of preserved forest, providing valuable breeding and stop-over habitat, particularly for Neotropical birds.

The property owner had sought approval from the Township Planning Board to build five residential lots. At the time of the Planning Board hearing, the Township Open Space Committee expressed interested in seeing the property preserved – it has long been a “targeted” property on the Township’s Conservation Plan.

The Township will purchase the property using a combination of funds from NJDEP Green Acres funds, Township Open Space Trust Fund, donations made by neighbors, and compensation paid by Williams/Transco to offset land disturbance during the recent pipeline construction project. The purchase price of the land is \$2 million.

The northern property is 13.5 acres of woodland on Broadway and Rt. 601 and has views of the Sourland Mountains. Known as the Dix Skillman / Hillmont tract, it is adjacent to 800 acres of open space including the Broadway fields & McKnight complex and Lubas Field. It is also very close to Somerset County open space, including the Sourland Mountain Preserve & County lands formerly owned by Carrier Clinic. This acquisition preserves forest habitat and wetlands and also providing for possible future expansion of recreational facilities in the vicinity.

While it remains vacant land, this property has an interesting history. This land is a conglomerate of a large number



The 13.5 acre Dix Skillman/Hillmont tract near Rt. 601 and Broadway Fields is being purchased for open space by Montgomery Twp.

of small residential building lots (20 ft. x100 ft.) created on paper in the late nineteenth century by land owner Charles H. Cook. Cook was a pottery manufacturer from Trenton who promoted Belle Mead as a factory town with healthy country air for the working class. Manufacturing plants were to be built along the railroad on Reading Blvd. Promoters ran free excursion trains from the city to convince potential factory workers to buy the nearby lots on non-existent streets on time-payment plans for a few dollars down. Some factories were built, but never on a large scale. One better-known example was Belle Mead Sweets, makers of fine chocolates, which left in 1904. Necessary residential improvements were never built for the factory worker neighborhood and almost all



A 36 acre tract along Cherry Hill Rd. which is also under contract for purchase as open space by Montgomery Twp.

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SOMERSET COUNTY UPDATE FROM FREEHOLDER MARK CALIGUIRE



COUNTY SERVICES & PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

In past “County Messages” in this newsletter I have updated you on projects that Somerset County government is carrying out in Montgomery. But I also want to make you aware of many countywide services as well, because although “home rule” is strong in New Jersey – meaning that many services are provided by individual municipalities to their respective citizens – county government also provides many regional services that benefit all county residents.

Below are just a few Somerset County services or programs that you or your family may want to take advantage of. I encourage you to contact our knowledgeable county staff for more information, or visit our website at www.co.somerset.nj.us

Senior Services – The County operates six multi-purpose senior centers that serve a daily hot meal and provide speakers, programs and activities to engage and entertain; for home-bound seniors there is a Meals on Wheels program. Seniors also can get help with Medicare and other insurance issues. Call the Office on Aging & Disability Services at 908-704-6346 or toll-free at 1-888-747-1122.

Veterans Services – Do you or a family member have questions about veteran’s benefits? The Office of Veterans Services can help. You can make an appointment by calling 908-704-6329.

Transportation – The Office of Transportation provides public-transit bus service through its SCOOT, CAT and DASH programs. Seniors and residents with disabilities can get transportation to medical appointments and other destinations. Call 908-231-7116 or toll-free 1-800-246-0527.

Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center – Located in Bridgewater, this comprehensive community mental health center is dedicated to the prevention, early detection and treatment of those with mental health and behavioral health issues. Call 908-725-2800 or toll-free 1-888-744-4417.

Emergency Alerts – Did you know you can sign up for free email and text alerts from the Somerset County Sheriff’s Office? The sign up link is <http://bit.ly/SCNixle> You will receive alerts in the event of severe weather or other emergencies.

Park System – Hiking, bicycling, golfing, swimming, picnicking, horseback riding, gardens and more are all part of Somerset County’s award-winning parks system. Visit www.somersetcountyparks.org to learn about our many recreational opportunities and venues, including the recently opened Skillman Park in Montgomery and the soon-to-be-opened (Spring 2017) Mountain View Park in neighboring Hillsborough.

Looking ahead to 2017 – The Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to announce the continuation of our Household Hazardous Waste and First Saturday of the Month drop-off programs. The new dates and locations will be posted at www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle The Sheriff’s Office collects unwanted or expired medications in conjunction with the five hazardous-waste days. We’ll also once again be offering the very popular “Operation Secure Shred” free document-shredding service starting in the spring; the dates and locations will be posted on the county website. To sign up for free email bulletins about these and many other County programs, visit www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe

And, of course, you can also contact me directly at my freeholder office at 908-231-7030.

A great holiday season to all our residents!

Mark



A moment of silence followed the unveiling of the POW/MIA Chair of Honor by Tom D'Alessio, V.P. of Rolling Thunder, Inc. (left) and Somerset County Freeholder Mark Caliguire (right) at the Memorial at Montgomery Veterans Park on Veterans Day. Rolling Thunder is a nationwide veteran and military support group whose mission includes ensuring that Americans do not forget the sacrifices of those service members who are missing and that they will be accounted for. The chair will travel throughout the next year to the lobbies of several of the public schools in Montgomery and other locations, ending at the Twp. Administration Building.



Montgomery honored our veterans Nov. 11th with a procession and ceremony at the Memorial in Montgomery Veterans Park. The featured speaker was Montgomery Twp. Police Officer Christopher Jaeger, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and member of the N.J. Army National Guard with 23 years of service. Freeholder Mark Caliguire assisted in the unveiling of a POW/MIA Chair of Honor, organized by Rolling Thunder (N.J. Chapter). Elain Marin, Rolling Thunder's national sec'y, conducted the Missing Man ceremony. Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli and Deputy Mayor Ed Trzaska offered remarks. Master of Ceremonies was Peter Rayner, Montgomery Veterans Memorial Com. (MVMC), and an invocation was offered by Rev. Anthony Godlefski of the United Methodist Church. The Montgomery High School Marching Band played moving renditions including Taps. Boy Scout Troops 46 & 850 presented the colors with the help of Cub Scouts from Pack 850. Members of Girl Scout Troop 61215 greeted veterans and guests. First responders from Fire Co. 1 & 2, MEMS, and many other volunteers participated in this year's observance. The event was organized by MVMC, Mike Maloney, Chairman. Many more photos at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskNHSb4J>

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and marching band.

The room was packed with police colleagues and other twp. staff, volunteer first responders, and several former mayors who came back to join the current Township Committee in commending the captain. After the resolution was read, the retiring captain received a standing ovation.

The Mayor also presented Captain Palmer with a resolution by members of the New Jersey legislature honoring him for his service. The Committee presented Cpt. Palmer with a gift of appreciation – a framed photograph of a scene from Hobler Park by Montgomery Twp. Open Space Committee Chair and well-known photographer Clem Fiori.

Mayor Graham commented, “Bob’s service to our town really has been extraordinary. It’s not just all of his skills; it’s not just all of his tremendous leadership and inspiration. He is a person of the utmost integrity. He always puts the interest of the Township ahead of his own. I’m very grateful to have had the privilege to work with Bob.”

Deputy Mayor Ed Trzaska offered his praise of the captain, “Bob has been a remarkable leader of the department and truly made a difference in countless ways. We will miss him, but he helped build an amazing foundation for the department and is leaving it in great hands.”

In his remarks, Captain Palmer humbly credited others, stating, “No one does this job alone. You have an extraordinary cadre of police officers in this community.” He also credited James Curry and Guy Fillebrown, recently retired MTPD officers who were appointed Lieutenants concurrent to when he became Captain in 2008.

Lieutenant Thomas Wain was appointed as acting captain/police director at the Oct. 6th meeting. “We hope to carry on what Captain Palmer has been instilled in us,” Wain said. “We have full confidence in you,” responded Committee Member Christine Madrid. (See Twp. Committee message on Pg. 1 regarding the transition of leadership and hiring process in the Police Dept.)

PRINCETON SHOW JUMPING OPENS NEW INTERNATIONAL RING



Montgomery Township’s Deputy Mayor Ed Trzaska, Princeton Show Jumping owner/operator Andrew Philbrick, his son Alexander Wise Philbrick, head rider Sarah Wayda and Olympian Anne Kursinski were on hand Sunday to officially open Princeton Show Jumping’s new International Ring. The addition of the new rings and tower are part of the continuing development of Hunter Farms North. The site hosts 10 USEF rated shows each year from April through October, and attracts top horses and riders from all over the world. The 300’ x 225’ International Ring and the attached warm up ring employs the world’s best footing and drainage technology to enable world class show jumping in any weather. For more information, go to www.princetonshowjumping.com.

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buyers lost their lots to tax foreclosure in the Great Depression.

Over many years, Attorney Dix Skillman set about buying up many of the undeveloped individual lots to rejoin them. His widow, Virginia Skillman, recently agreed to sell the multitude of lots to Montgomery for preservation. The ‘paper road’ rights-of-way visible on tax maps will be vacated.

The Dix Skillman / Hillmont property will be purchased using funds from Township Open Space Trust Fund and NJDEP Green Acres Program. The purchase price is \$382,500.

Asked about these two open space acquisitions, Deputy Mayor and Open Space Liaison Ed Trzaska commented:

“We are thrilled to preserve another 50 acres in town. This new open space adds to our 400-acre Cherry Hill Preserve and the 800 acres of protected land surrounding Lubas Park. One of our core governing principles is to protect Montgomery’s rural character. Over the past several years, we have preserved over 600 acres of additional open space, including 170 acres in 2016 alone.”

It is anticipated that these land purchases will be completed by early 2017.



FIRE SAFETY WEEK TEACHES PREVENTION

By JOE BOYLE, FIRE PREVENTION SPECIALIST

Another year of fire prevention for Montgomery Schools is in the books.

A Sesame Street puppet show was enjoyed by our Pre-Schools and Kindergarten classes. Cookie Monster and Elmo taught the children not to play with hot things and to take three big steps away from hot things in the home. The first and second graders were taught what to do if an unexplained alarm of the smoke detectors happens. They were taught to 'get low and go' in a smoke condition and how to make sure the door is safe to exit.

There was a visit from a firefighter in full gear to teach children not to run away or hide from Fire fighters. "Firefighter Stephen" put on his S.C.B.A. tank and mask for all the children, so they could see how different the firefighter looks in his turnout gear, and they heard him breathing. His name was repeated numerous times to make the children comfortable with the firefighter. The Children did remember many key elements of Home Fire Safety from previous classes. If I did something wrong in an example, they would correct me - this was a very fun game to them!

The reason behind the time spent with the firefighter in full gear is that young children become afraid in emergencies and hide. They are found in closets, under beds, under covers on the bed, behind furniture, anywhere they can hide. It's the, 'If I can't see It, It can't hurt me' syndrome. We are trying to make the kids realize that firefighters, even if you can't see them, only hear the breathing, are coming to help you. Not to run away and hide.

The smoke detector section of the program is to make them aware to evacuate as soon as they hear the alarm. Read your smoke detector package. It gives you an industry standard of 120 seconds to escape after the alarm sounds.

READ MORE ON SMOKE DETECTORS AT <https://shar.es/1Iq6Ei>

Have an escape plan - involve your family and plan at least two ways out of every room. Make a safe meeting place for your family. Plan ways to be visible to emergency service personnel at a meeting place. If your exit from the structure is blocked by fire, be visible in a window.

When emergency service personal arrive and ask if everyone is out of the building, you can answer correctly and accurately if your family is all accounted for at your meeting place. Call 911 from your meeting place or at a neighbor's home. Never return into the structure - once outside, stay outside!

Plan your escape route now and practice it. Don't be embarrassed to have a home fire drill - it can save your family. Check that your safety devices are in proper working order. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are cheap life insurance. Replace your smoke detectors at least every ten years, and your carbon monoxide detector every 5 to 7 years. Replace the batteries twice a year. Remember even electric smoke or CO2 detectors have batteries. The batteries will power the detectors when electrical power is down.

Teach your children and be aware yourself, of multiple ways out of any building should there be an emergency. Make a game out of finding exits at restaurants. Make the rule that you cannot exit the way you came in and make the kids aware of other ways out of any structure. Read about the large loss of life that occurs in such fires and you will realize the importance of egress.

Please remember your neighbors that work so hard to volunteer in your community as emergency service personnel. Your Fire Departments are totally volunteer as well as your emergency medical personnel. Take a moment to say thanks to them. They train constantly and work hard to help you, plus they are really nice people. Stop in the station and say hello and thanks once in a while.

Small things done now can pay dividends in the future. Please call the Montgomery Fire Prevention office if you have any questions regarding home evacuation drills or any questions about your detectors. It's our pleasure to serve your safety needs.

Joe Boyle
Fire Prevention Specialist
Montgomery Fire Prevention Bureau

TIPS FOR WASTE-FREE HOLIDAYS

Give “green” gifts a chance this holiday season and recycle as much as possible. There are things we can do to minimize the amount of waste we create. Giving “green” gifts is one way to conserve resources, minimize ‘the mess’ of packaging materials and even save money. Recycling boxes, wrapping paper, gift cards, cardboard and acceptable plastics is another.

Some “green” gift ideas, which will keep on giving well past the holiday season: Tickets: theatre, dance, concert, comedy, sports events; Season Passes: sports and entertainment venues; Memberships: gym, organizations; Subscriptions: books, magazines; Lessons: cooking, music, dancing; Gift Certificates: restaurant, car wash, spa, bed-and-breakfast; Services: housecleaning, yard work, car washing; Charities: donate money in a recipient’s name. Contributions to nonprofit organizations often are tax deductible.

Ideas on how to reduce waste include: Purchasing products with little or no packaging, sending electronic holiday cards to tech-savvy friends and family members, reusing gift wrap and bags and making the packaging part of the gift, such as wrapping a gift in a tablecloth, dishtowel, an article of clothing or a reusable tote bag.

Residents are reminded that they can recycle holiday waste, such as corrugated cardboard, chipboard (gift boxes), nonmetallic wrapping paper, holiday cards and plastics - #1 through #7 - at their usual curbside collection or at First Saturday of the Month County drop-off events. Upcoming Saturday drop-off dates at the Somerset County Recycling Center, located at 40 Polhemus Lane in Bridgewater, are Dec. 3 and Jan. 7.

In addition, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection offers holiday-shopping ideas, ways to cut down on food waste, and post-holiday “stuff” management ideas at:

www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/xmas_06.htm
www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/foodwast_article.htm
 and www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/holiday_stuff.htm



Kid Connection

265 Burnt Hill Road
Skillman, NJ 08558
908-359-2111

kids@twp.montgomery.nj.us
www.montgomery.nj.us

Director:
Andrea McKenna

MONTGOMERY KID CONNECTION

33 YEARS EDUCATING YOUNG MINDS

Montgomery Kid Connection programs are designed to provide children with a positive, nurturing experience while fostering a love of learning and developing social and academic skills through critical and creative thinking.

Kid Connection offers preschool, kindergarten enrichment and before/after school programs for ages 3 years (on or by October 1st) to grade 2 from 7:30am to 6:00pm.

Kid Connection offers the following 2, 3 and 5 day programs:

- Full Day Preschool (9:15am-3:15pm)
- Half Day Preschool (AM 9:15am-11:45am)
- Extended Lunch Preschool
- Kindergarten Enrichment (AM and PM sessions) to compliment the public school’s half-day program.
- Before school – Pre-K through grade 2 (starting at 7:30am)
- After school – Pre-K through grade 2 (ending at 6:00pm)

Contact Andrea McKenna, Director, at 908-359-2111 or

amckenna@twp.montgomery.nj.us for registration options.





Enthusiastic volunteers were treated to unseasonably warm weather when they planted over 50 trees and shrubs at a volunteer work day at Skillman Park on October 30, organized by the Open Space Committee, Montgomery Friends of Open Space and Somerset County Park Commission. Volunteers included Dens 7, 9 and 11 from Montgomery Cub Scout Pack 185 pictured with Open Space Coordinator Clem Fiori (top photo); Committeeman Mark Conforti and young volunteers (left photo); and other community-minded residents (right photo). Thank you! This planting was the 6th event in an ongoing series to reforest the Rock Brook stream corridor, which will improve water quality, prevent erosion by stabilizing the streambank and floodplain, and provide habitat for wildlife.

JANUARY IS RADON AWARENESS MONTH AND A GOOD TIME TO TEST YOUR HOME

The Montgomery Township Health Department is working with the Greater Somerset Public Health Partnership (GSPHP) to recognize January as Radon Awareness Month.

Radon is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas that occurs naturally in soil. It is released from the natural decay of the elements uranium, thorium and radium, and occurs in higher concentrations in certain areas of the state, including Somerset County.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon is associated with 15,000 to 22,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

“In an effort to reduce the risk of exposure to radon gas, residents are urged to test their homes,” said Stephanie Carey, Health Officer of Montgomery Township. “It’s not uncommon to find that homes on the same block will have different test results. Even if your neighbor’s home is not affected by radon gas, it does not mean that your home is in an acceptable range.”

Starting on January 3, to help residents to test their homes, one radon kit per household will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$10 at the Montgomery Township Health Department. Radon kits may be picked up at the Montgomery Township Health Department, 2261 Route 206, Belle Mead while supplies last.

For more information on radon testing or mitigation, contact the Montgomery Health Department at (908) 359-8211.

NEW MONTGOMERY TWP. HEALTH DEPARTMENT INITIATIVE ACCREDITATION IS GOOD GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

WHAT DOES THE MONTGOMERY TWP. HEALTH DEPT. DO?

Our purpose is the good health of the people of the communities we serve. Together we:

- Prevent Disease and Injury
- Promote Healthier Choices
- Protect food, water, and air
- Prepare for Emergencies

We work together for a safer and healthier community.*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

Montgomery Health Department is working to become accredited by a newly developed standards through – The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) will measure our health department's performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. (To find out more on the standards, go to www.phaboard.org)

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BECOMING ACCREDITED?

Montgomery Health Dept. will need to successfully demonstrate that we meet all of the PHAB criteria. Becoming accredited is an 18 month process. We are doing the work to document our practices now so we may submit for accreditation by the middle of next year. It is our aim to earn accreditation by 2018.

We are joining counties, other cities, and multi-jurisdiction health departments across the United States in this effort, including our local partners, NJ Association of County & City Health Officials (NAACHO) and the Greater Somerset Public Health Partnership (GSPHP).

Montgomery Health Dept. has been improving our quality and effectiveness since 2008. That's when we joined the Multi-State Learning Collaborative for Excellent in Public Health (MLC3). New Jersey was one of the first States involved in this initiative. In fact, Montgomery Township was one of the first pilot communities to pre-test the standards for PHAB.

WHY IS MONTGOMERY TWP. HEALTH DEPT. TAKING ON THIS VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

Our goal in seeking this accreditation is good governance, including transparency, accountability, and doing "what works" to improve the health of our residents in the jurisdictions we serve (including Montgomery Township and the Boroughs of Rocky Hill, Pennington, and Hopewell.)

We want our residents to know we are providing state of the art public health services by meeting national standards. We want to earn your trust so you know where your tax dollar goes and why and how it makes your neighborhood a healthier place.

Just like a college or hospital or corporation – accreditation is about improving efficiency and effectiveness and ensuring that there is high return on tax dollars invested to yield improved health outcomes in the community.

We want to improve our communications, our feedback-gathering mechanisms, our measurement methods, and all our services to better address the public's needs and to improve health outcomes. By using solid, proven practices we don't have to reinvent the wheel. We learn from and use practices which have a proven track record of success.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Montgomery Health Department has 12 months to gather documentation and then be subject to a site visit from the Public Health Accreditation board. Our staff is engaged and enthusiastic about the process. We are encouraged by successes to date in reaching the accreditation goal. We must demonstrate that we have 'best practices' in place.

During last year's 'Strategic Planning Community Forum and Survey', we invited the public to join us in brainstorming, sharing their ideas and priorities, and creating a community vision statement together. This kind of community involvement is key to being a more responsive, caring agency.

WHAT WILL THIS DO TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH?

Ultimately it's about results. Identifying and Implementing Best Practices will allow us to work smarter and show why we are doing the tasks we are doing.

For example, one of the accreditation standards requires that we demonstrate we have the means to gather accurate information to identify the public's issues and needs.

Besides reaching out and asking our public about their needs, we are also studying 'big data' such as Census Bureau and State Health Dept. data, as another way to measure our community's and people's needs. We want

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to focus our efforts and budgets to help people live healthier lives.

For example, we know many people are experiencing an increase in stress levels, and that self-medicating and addiction is on the rise in all communities. There is a growing need for preventative mental health support services. Working with regional partners including other health departments, public schools, area hospitals, and mental health support organizations, we could positively impact target at-risk populations, such as students and senior citizens. We can let them know that help is available, and combat any lingering societal stigma so people seek out mental health services sooner. This type of outreach can decrease the need for emergency mental health services (a measurable outcome) and more importantly, improve and even save individual lives.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION?

Accreditation stimulates quality improvements to better deliver essential public health services. The accreditation process should stimulate transparency, improve our communications, accountability, and competitiveness for grant funding.

We should be able to measure real improvements in our community's health outcomes – such as decreases in obesity and related disease, increases in access to healthy food, exercise, decreases in the call for emergency health services, etc.

We are very excited to be on the leading edge of this national accreditation movement in public health.

We would like to thank the National Association of County and City Health Officials, which provided Montgomery Health Department with a \$15,000 grant to undertake the PHAB accreditation process.

If you have any questions about our PHAB accreditation process, please call (908) 359-8211 ext. 245 to speak with Montgomery Twp. Health Officer Stephanie Carey.

** Our services include inspections - food retailers, public water supplies, recreational bathing sites, youth camps, and septic systems; investigations of all public health nuisances; animal control including dog and cat licensing and rabies vaccination; health education; periodic free health screenings and flu vaccination clinics; maternal and child public health nursing; communicable disease control; births, deaths, and marriages records registrar; work with our Board of Health to review new construction projects.*

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR OUTSTANDING WOMEN AWARDS

Do you know a Somerset County woman who has made extraordinary contributions to her career field or her community?

The Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women is seeking nominations for its 2017 Outstanding Women in Somerset County awards program.

“We have many women in Somerset County doing amazing things every day,” said Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh, commission liaison. “It is most appropriate that during Women's History Month, we take the time to publicly recognize them and say thank you.”

Print a nomination form and guidelines from <http://bit.ly/2017WomenAwards> or call Commission Chair Janice Fields at 908-599-1637 if you do not have internet access.

Nominations must be received by Dec. 31, 2016. Email submissions are preferred. Send an electronic copy of the completed and signed nomination form, along with any supporting documentation, to SCCSWomen@gmail.com Entries also may be mailed to the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women, Attn: Janice M. Fields, Chair, 36 Darren Drive, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.

Nominees must be women who live in Somerset County. All nominations will be reviewed by the commission's selection committee.

Categories are arts/entertainment/sports; business/entrepreneur/information technology; education; environmental initiatives; government/public/social service; hometown hero; journalism/media/law; medicine/health services; and volunteerism.

Nominations should be as specific as possible, citing the ways the nominee has demonstrated outstanding performance or dedication in her job or community.

Awards will be presented March 10, 2017, at the commission's annual Women's History Month celebration and dinner.

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for free email alerts at www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



MONTGOMERY RESIDENT SHARES TIPS ON “ZERO-WASTE LIFESTYLE”

BY ANNIKA SOCOLOFSKY, GRADUATE STUDENT,
MUSIC COMPOSITION, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

I must admit that it had never really occurred to me that I could exist in this world without directly sending anything to a landfill. It wasn't until a friend started sharing her efforts to go trash-free, that I even saw it as a possibility. The realization blew me away, and I immediately delved into zero-waste blogs and recipes. I've now been zero waste for two months, and all of my trash fits into a one cup jar. After seeing just how much of a difference I can make in my own environmental impact, there is no way I could ever bring myself to revert to my old ways.

There are numerous resources out there for how to reduce your waste.

Most of them subscribe to the Five R's of waste reduction: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot. This means refusing products that come in excessive packaging, reducing your pantry so no food is wasted, reusing jars and containers instead of throwing them away, recycling those things which you no longer need, and composting all biodegradables.

Trash Is For Tossers (www.trashisfortossers.com), one of the foremost resources for zero-waste, pinpoints the three easiest and most important things you can do to cut down your trash today as:

- 1) Carry your own water bottle to fill up with tap water. Bottled water is a huge contributor to global warming (www.bandthebottle.net).
- 2) Bring your own reusable bags when grocery shopping. Yes, they're hard to remember sometimes, which is why I always travel with a small one folded up in my purse. www.Bulletinbag.com is one source for totes which fold into their own pocket and easily fit in a purse or glove compartment.
- 3) Compost. 60% of "trash" that gets sent to landfill can actually be composted in your own backyard (which also means your trash can in the house will be a lot less smelly).

For those interested in going a little further, the first step is to look in your garbage and figure out what you're currently throwing away. The next step is to start buying trash-free alternatives. For example, instead of buying spinach that comes in a plastic bag, I buy loose-leaf spinach from a grocery bin that I then put in my own mesh produce bag. Instead of buying cereal that comes with a box and plastic bag, I fill up one of my own jars with cereal from the bulk food section (can be a money saver too). I bring my own containers when I buy cheese, lentils, tofu, produce, snacks, just about everything. I also make my own butter, toothpaste, and deodorant from bulk ingredients--though this is an extreme that not all zero-waste lifestylers do.

It is my belief that by being public about my efforts to cut-out trash, I will inspire others to take steps in this direction. One way I've helped raise awareness for this movement is by sharing photo updates on social media, including this photo of my trash after one month of going trash-free. **The Montgomery Township Environmental Commission** heard of my efforts and encouraged me to write this article to share with other residents. A little effort from each of us adds up very fast, and I hope this has sparked some curiosity in our community!



Trash After First Month



Trash After Second Month

STATE HAS ISSUED DROUGHT WARNING

A drought warning has been issued for the following 14 counties — in which millions of New Jerseyans rely on the public water supply: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren. Most of these counties have been under a DEP-issued drought watch since July. In addition, the DEP has expanded the drought watch to include Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties. All but three counties — Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland — are under a formal drought designation (warning or watch).

Reservoir levels have declined to a level not seen in a decade in some areas. A drought watch seeks voluntary water conservation; the more serious drought warning enables the DEP to require water purveyors to take action to conserve and secure drinking water sources.

NJDEP Administrative Order 2016-10 Designating Drought Warning

The Drought Warning designation is an exercise of the DEP's non-emergency authority and aims to reduce the likelihood or severity of an impending water shortage and/or water emergency. Under a Warning, the DEP may direct actions to be taken by water suppliers that seek to preserve and balance water supplies in the affected region(s).

During this period of diminished rainfall and lower reservoir storage levels, New Jersey American Water encourages its customers to use irrigation conservation measures and begin using an odd/even schedule for outdoor use of water (based upon your street address digits being odd or even and matching to irrigate only as necessary on same odd or even calendar date).

“With our customers’ cooperation in conserving water, we can continue to effectively manage our supplies to meet our customers’ needs,” said Kevin Kirwan, vice president of Operations.

New Jersey American Water will continue to provide regular updates regarding any additional conservation measures, as well as the overall supply status.

For more information, go to www.njdrought.org

Please conserve water by: 1. Turning off faucets when brushing, shaving or washing dishes, 2. Running wash and dishwasher only when full, 3. Install water-saving showerheads and aerators, 4. Fix any leaking faucets, 5. Don't wash your car at home, 6. Be sure to turn off automatic sprinklers for season. You'll save money too!

For more water saving tips, visit: <http://www.sjwatersavers.org/tips-and-resources1.html>

MONTGOMERY REMINDER ON LEAF & YARD CLEAN-UP

Stormwater regulations do not permit leaves/branches/brush to be placed in the road or in storm drains. We must ensure the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians who travel Township roadways and sidewalks.

Montgomery residents are responsible for proper disposal of their leaves/branches. Montgomery Township does not provide a leaf disposal program. Here are some guidelines:

- Please remember to keep leaves out of storm drains and out of the street.
- Follow Montgomery's yard waste disposal rules for tree branch drop-off. Check the Container Facility and Bulletins pages of the twp. website at www.montgomery.nj.us or contact Public Works at 908-874-3144.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings & leaves into the lawn.
- Use leaves as a resource for compost. For tips on how to compost, go to the Public Works section of Montgomery's website. Somerset County also has large compost bins available for \$50 each, a considerable discount to retail price. They also provide seminars twice/year on how to compost. Contact the County Office of Recycling at 908-231-7109.

If you see a violation of State stormwater regulations such as materials being dumped into stormwater drains, call the Montgomery Township Stormwater Hotline at (908) 281-6525. Much more information is available at <http://www.twp.montgomery.nj.us/departments/engineering/stormwater-management/>

LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT FOR MOM AND/OR DAD TO RELOCATE CLOSER TO YOU?

Montgomery Center Senior Apartments (designated as senior housing by Montgomery Twp.) offer beautifully designed 1 and 2 bedroom apartments tucked away in a quiet setting convenient to major highways and adjacent to the Montgomery Shopping Center. Montgomery Senior Apartments offers affordable rent, washer/dryers, dishwashers, range/oven/broiler, generous amount of closet space, and individually controlled air conditioning.

For leasing information, please contact Jose Rosario at 609-921-7617 or jrosario@hiltonrealtyco.com.

SNOW PLOWING: WHAT WE DO, HOW RESIDENTS CAN HELP

When it comes to clearing township roads when snow storms hit, its more logistically challenging than you might think. Residents play an important role. Your cooperation and patience are needed and appreciated.

Montgomery Township has approximately 260 lane-miles of roadway. Lane-miles are different than road miles; each mile of road has two lanes; the equivalent of two miles of maintenance and materials. A plow is not as wide as a road lane. Therefore one lane-mile can take two to four passes of the plow, making a lane-mile equal to two to four miles of driving/maintenance. Montgomery also has over 250 cul-de-sacs. Each cul-de-sac is equivalent to one mile of road in terms of maintenance and plowing (time and material).

For long duration snow storms, our goal is to maintain travel and accessibility for emergency vehicles by "opening up" roads (one pass each direction) and skipping cul-de-sacs until later. This process will be repeated continuously until the storm slows down and then curb-to-curb plowing commences.

Curb-to-curb clearing is completed after the snow storm ends. Curb-to-curb is necessary for mail delivery; to open inlets for water drainage; and clearance for additional snow storms.

Each snow storm is unique - temperature, snowfall duration and depth, icing, etc. Plowing begins prior to the end of the snowfall. An average storm takes approximately 12 hours to clean-up (plowing and/or salting) after the last snowflake falls. A snow storm of 12 hours plus the 12 hour clean-up process, means 24 (or more) straight hours of work. Your patience is appreciated.

Here are some guidelines for residents that help us:

- Montgomery Township has an ordinance which prohibits "parking on street" during snow emergencies which is strictly enforced.
- DO NOT put snow into the roadway as you clear your driveway and/or sidewalk. Throw snow off the road and 'downdrift' of the plow, which means to the right of your driveway when facing the street. Snow piled 'updrift' is more likely to end up back in your driveway.
- If you clear driveways/sidewalks before plowing is done curb-to-curb, expect to have snow that comes off the plow at the end of the driveway or in the sidewalk.
- Due to snow coming off the plow, mailboxes can be damaged. It is not the intent of the driver to damage a mailbox. If your mailbox is damaged, email DPW at: dpw@twp.montgomery.nj.us
- Do not place trash cans or recycling cans out until the plows have passed.
- Please watch children and keep them out of the plows' path and harm's way.

Mailboxes can be damaged

If your mailbox is down because of a snow plow and you live on a County Road (see County Road list under "Potholes..."), please email your name, telephone number, address (& nearest cross street) and include any photos of the mailbox to Somerset County Road Department at RoadDiv@co.somerset.nj.us.

If your mailbox is down because of a snow plow, and you live on a Township Road, please email your name, telephone number, address (& nearest cross street) and any photos of the mailbox, dpw@twp.montgomery.nj.us. There is no set schedule as to when the mailbox will be repaired. Public Works is balancing their workload to accommodate priority issues. In the meantime, please make arrangements with your Post Office to have your mail held until the mailbox is repaired. Doing this will ensure that your mail is safe until you retrieve it.

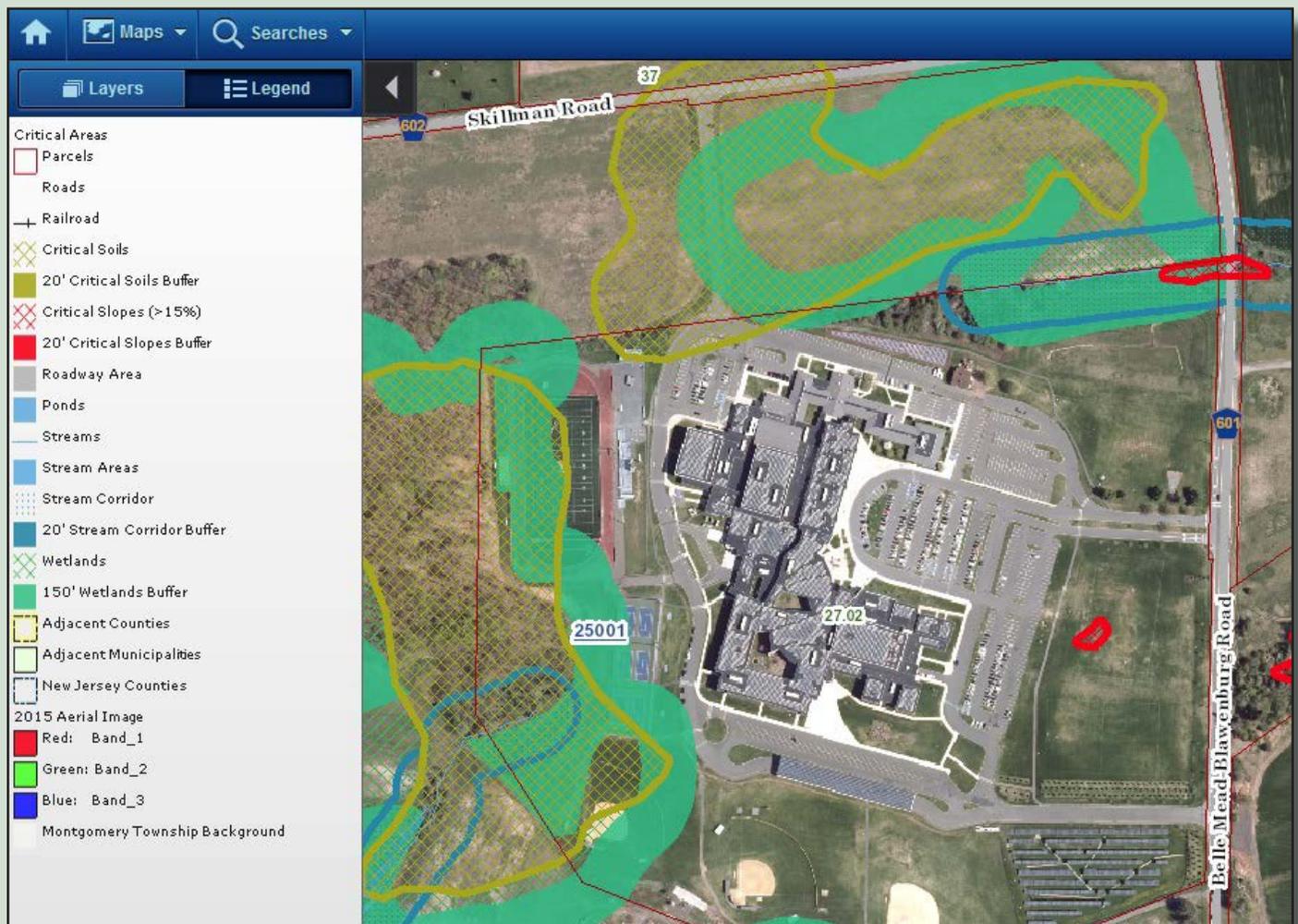
If snow is piled up around the mailbox so that the post office cannot deliver mail, you have a couple of options:

- a. Have your mail held at the post office until the snow has melted and mail delivery can be resumed,
- b. Consider clearing the snow away from your mailbox

Storm Drains can get blocked

To report that a storm drain is blocked because snow has been plowed onto the side of the road, please email your name, telephone number, and the address where the storm drain is located, to dpw@twp.montgomery.nj.us. Public Works will prioritize these issues. If the storm drain is clogged with a small amount of snow, we appreciate your effort to clear the snow away from the drain as much as possible. Thank you!

We all appreciate the cooperation of our residents in following these snow clearing guidelines the next time and every time a snowstorm hits. Remember our crews are out there working hard, doing their best to serve you.



NEW USER-FRIENDLY MAPS & GIS DATA ON MONTGOMERY TWP. WEBSITE

Montgomery Township is excited to release a new and improved online interactive map! This is where residents can access data and view information about their property, surrounding properties, and the entire township using a user-friendly map. Currently, there are five map services available: Developments, Utilities and WWTP, Critical Areas, Flood Zone and Topography, and Zoning. The Developments tab lets you view information about past, current, and future subdivisions. The Utilities and WWTP tab allows you to view Stormwater Sewer and Wastewater Sewer structures and lines. The Critical Areas tab shows wetlands, stream corridor, steep slopes, and protected soils information. The Flood Zone and Topography tab lets you see elevation data and FEMA Flood Hazard Area data. Finally, the Zoning tab allows you to see the zoning districts around town.

Where can you find the interactive map? The application can be accessed on the township's website by clicking the "Interactive Maps" link on the Engineering Department page.

Getting around the map is easy! Zoom and Pan using the tools on the right hand side of the screen. Search for properties by clicking on the "Searches" button at the top of the screen – you can search by address or by block and lot number! Most importantly, to see information about a property or a feature on the map, click on the "Identify" button on the right hand side of the screen, and select something from the map.

We are always looking to improve the application! If you find errors with the information, issues with the application functions, or have any suggestions, please contact our GIS Specialist, Rich Caprio, at rcaprio@twp.montgomery.nj.us. More map services will be added in the coming weeks!

GET A JUMP ON THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - MONTGOMERY EMS

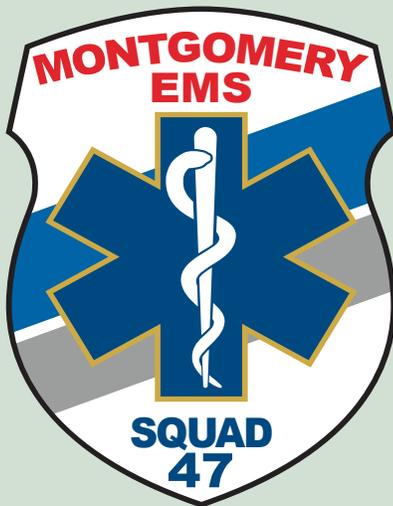
Volunteering... one of the top 10 New Year's resolutions that people make but that only a few dare to pursue. This particular resolution continues to change people's lives. This is not for everyone. You need to have certain qualities. Are you a kind person? Are you always willing to help someone in need? Do you care for other people? Do you care about your friends, your community, your neighbors, and your family? If so, you should consider volunteering with Montgomery Emergency Services. Unlike a strict diet plan, an expensive gym membership, or even a patch, this resolution is easy to keep and still makes you feel better in the end.

Montgomery Emergency Services is a great place to volunteer. You can join to be an ambulance driver. The only requirement is learning CPR. Another option is to become an EMT. You would need to take a CPR class and you would also acquire the skills needed to become an EMT. All training is paid for by Montgomery EMS. Whichever route you decide to take, the hours are flexible. Normally, you would sign up for a day or night shift, but you can adjust your schedule based on your availability. During your shift, the only requirement is that you stay in town. If someone calls 911, you will be notified by a radio/pager. You just need to put on your uniform and get to the squad building or the scene of the emergency. Once there, you will use your new skills to help someone in need. You may just be there to hold someone's hand, to give them some words of encouragement, or assist them with their breathing.

We also have associate members who instead help with tasks around the station and/or to help plan fund-raising events.

When joining the squad you will meet a lot of new friends. Any crew can include 2-4 members. We have people who are computer engineers, real estate agents, retirees, students, accountants, nurses, and stay at home moms. They have one thing in common - they want to help.

EMS is a great way to help other people and make long lasting friends - you will be surprised how life fulfilling it can truly be. So contact Montgomery EMS now at 908.359.4112, click on <http://www.mems47.org> or send an email to membership@mems47.org or go over to the Squad building (8 Harlingen Road) any weeknight at 7PM. See if it is right for you. You may come by and realize you already know us. We are your friends and neighbors. We are just like you. Come join us. We have been here since 1972, isn't it about time you stopped by. "We are Neighbors helping Neighbors".



MONTGOMERY EMS BLOOD DRIVE ON DECEMBER 10TH

Montgomery EMS (MEMS) is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Saturday, December 10, 2015 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Montgomery EMS squad building on 8 Harlingen Rd. Belle Mead, NJ 08502.

Please join us to help save lives, by giving blood.

Donors will receive a coupon for a free single cup of Thomas Sweet Ice Cream.

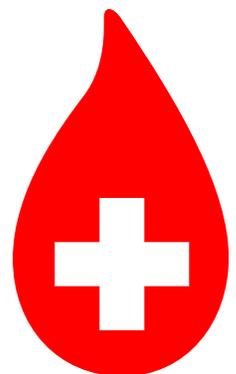
Please contact MEMS & leave your name, phone number and time of your donation at donateblood@mems47.org or 908-359-4112.

Remember to bring Photo ID, eat a good meal and drink plenty of fluids.

Directions to Montgomery EMS can be found on our website:

http://www.mems47.org/public_website/directions.shtml

If you have any concerns or questions on medical eligibility, please contact The Community Blood Council of NJ @ 609-244-8365.



Montgomery Township

Health Department

Also serving Hopewell Borough & Pennington Borough



Love Us? LICENSE US!



Why is it important to license your pet?

1. **To safeguard public health**

Every licensed pet has been vaccinated against rabies. This protects your pets, children and neighbors against this deadly disease! **When the license tag is visible, you know that animal has been vaccinated!**

2. **To help your pet get home**

If your pet gets lost, your pet can be returned more quickly and sometimes without a trip to the shelter! If it is impounded and taken to the shelter, it is safer there than it would be roaming the streets in harm's way. A license tag can be easily traced to the animal's owner with a phone call. A license tag is your pet's ticket home.



3. **To help us to enforce laws on responsible pet ownership**

If we can track pet ownership, then we know where to focus our services and education efforts.

4. **To support the shelter and adoption of unwanted pets**

Your yearly license fee helps support sheltering for strays and unwanted pets. It also pays for our leash-free dog park, animal control services and community education.



5. **It's the law!** Dogs and Cats must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.

SAVE THE DATE - FREE RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC FOR DOGS & CATS

SPONSORED BY MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ANIMAL CONTROL

Protect your pet (and your community)!

Saturday, January 21, 2017

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

See details in your pet's license renewal mailing

Or check out <http://www.twp.montgomery.nj.us/departments/health/animal-control/>

For more information, call Montgomery Township Animal Control 908-359-4308.





A MESSAGE FROM THE SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

ATTRACTIVE TREES AND SHRUBS FOR THE WINTER MONTHS

This winter, while most of the trees are bare, take time to look around town and think about what trees and shrubs you might like to see in your own yard next year. Montgomery's Shade Tree Committee has some recommendations of plants that are particularly attractive in the winter.

The most obvious tree for winter is the native American holly, presently covered with bright green leaves and shiny red berries. Its prickly foliage makes it quite deer-resistant. Holly is good for screening, too. We also recommend the less deer-resistant winterberry holly shrub, which loses its leaves but also has beautiful red berries. Note: hollies are either male or female, and only the females bear fruit, so if you want those pretty berries be sure to buy female plants, plus one male.

Other plants with nice red berries include hawthorn trees (we recommend the "Winterking" variety) and chokeberry shrubs (aronia arbutifolia is the type with red berries).

Another interesting winter feature to look for is the attractive bark of American beeches, American hornbeams, and river birches.

Eastern red cedar is native to New Jersey, but often overlooked for planting because it is so common in hedgerows and abandoned fields. However, its bluish foliage and blue berries are lovely in the winter and in wreaths and other Christmas decorations. Like holly, the birds love the berries.

One more lovely quality in a tree is the sound of the wind in its leaves, and few trees sound as wonderful as white pines. Its long needles are like a harp for the wind. White pine trees are among the tallest trees in the eastern part of the country, so don't plant them near a building or utility line.

To contact the Shade Tree Committee: shadetreecommittee@twp.montgomery.nj.us

The Shade Tree Committee is charged with the planting, care and preservation of public trees on the Township's streets and in its Arboretum, parks and public areas, like the Otto Kaufman Center. It advises the Township on matters relating to tree policy, including review of development applications. The Committee provides on-going advice to Township residents and officials concerning the planting, care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees. The Committee collaborates with the Parks Department, Montgomery's schools, scouts, local businesses, and other Township committees on a variety of environmental and education projects, including its annual Arbor Day program for third graders.

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

The Montgomery Township Office of Fire Prevention wants to take some time to remind all township residents to be Fire Safe as the temperatures start to dip and the holiday season quickly approaches. Here are a few quick tips:

Make sure you have a working Carbon Monoxide Alarm, otherwise known as a CO alarm.

Make sure you get your chimney cleaned/serviced **BEFORE** the cold weather starts

NEVER use your stove or oven as a heat source for your home

If using extension cords make sure they are not damaged and **NEVER** overload them

Keep your live Christmas tree properly hydrated

We are always here to offer any tips or advice, so please stop by and see us!!!!



Montgomery Twp. Municipal Building
2261 Rt. 206, Belle Mead, NJ 08502



NEW FUNDING AGREEMENT HELPS ASSURE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF THE MARY JACOBS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation, the Somerset County Library Commission, and the Somerset County Freeholders reached a new agreement recently regarding funding of the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey branch that operates out of the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library in Rocky Hill, NJ.

“This is a great outcome,” says Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation President Brenda Fallon. “I am very pleased the County is dedicated to finding a solution to help keep this valuable and popular library sustainable. Now the foundation can focus on building improvements and other wonderful projects for the library. We will still need generous support from our patrons and local businesses, but now we can have a much more solid future.”

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT

The new agreement defines the duties and responsibilities of the County and the Foundation, including:

- SCLSNJ will take on responsibility for the annual operation and maintenance of the library building and grounds, ultimately relieving the Foundation as coordinator of this cost and obligation.
- The Foundation, as owner of the building and grounds, will continue to fund all capital expenses to protect, enhance, and improve the property.
- Mary Jacobs Memorial Library will continue to serve as a branch of SCLSNJ, in which all library services, staffing, and resources are provided by SCLSNJ.
- SCLSNJ will coordinate a revenue-neutral, shared services agreement which will provide the yearly operational and maintenance needs for the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, including the library grounds keeping, cleaning of the building, repairs, utilities, and preventative maintenance.
- The Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation, Montgomery Township, and the Borough of Rocky Hill will provide substantial funds for the new arrangement. To be clear, these entities are already supporting the annual maintenance of the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library under the oversight and coordination of the Foundation. The Foundation’s annual contribution to operations and maintenance will gradually decrease from \$50,000 to zero dollars over the next five years.

The Mary Jacobs Memorial Library building is privately owned by the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation, which represents a unique situation unlike other branches in the Library System. The annual operations and maintenance costs of all other libraries in SCLSNJ are paid by the municipalities in which the branches are located. The Foundation depends on an endowment given in 1972 and on donations to meet its financial needs. After 40 years—and multiple expansions to meet the needs of a rapidly growing residential population—it has become obvious that the endowment is not sufficient to pay for yearly maintenance plus capital expenses.



A Message from

Mary Jacobs Memorial
Library Foundation



DISCARDED CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP OR DROP-OFF

The Montgomery Township Department of Public Works will be starting curbside Christmas tree collection on **Monday, January 9, 2017**. Please do not wait to put your tree(s) out, if your section of town happens to be collected first, it is possible that trees placed to the curb after January 9th may not be picked up. This collection takes several weeks and is dependent upon the weather, so please be patient.

As an alternative, you may drop off your tree at the Department of Public Works site, located at 12 Harlingen Road. This site is available for drop off at any hour, or day, starting December 26, 2016 until January 31, 2017. All trees either to be picked up or dropped off must be free of tinsel and ornaments.

Regular tree limbs/brush may be brought to the Public Works yard without charge but **ONLY** during the regular Saturday drop-off dates from 8 am to 12 noon. There is a container facility day on January 7th, 2015. If you have any questions, contact the Department of Public Works at (908) 874-3144.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON MONTGOMERY MUNICIPAL BOARDS

Montgomery residents who would like to volunteer to serve on a municipal board, commission or committee are encouraged to apply for position appointments for 2017.

Montgomery residents serve on many of the Township's over 30 committees. Most of the appointments are made in the beginning of January but vacancies can open up any time throughout the year. Some of the boards meet regularly once or twice a month while others schedule their meetings as they go. Most but not all meet at night. Some are permanent committees while others are ad hoc, created to tackle a specific issue. Besides full member positions, there are alternate and advisory positions available. Depending on the position, terms can be one, two or three years in length.

According to Mayor Patricia Graham, "Our volunteer boards are invaluable to the Township. We welcome the involvement of those who want to make a difference in their community and can make the commitment of their time and energy."

You can learn more about the work of municipal boards and committees on the [Boards and Commissions](#) page of this web site. To apply, fill out a [Municipal Volunteer Form](#). The form can be filled out several ways, for your convenience. This is an fillable form which can be emailed. Go to the [Forms page](#) of the township website and scroll down to Volunteer Form. A paper version of form is also available through the Twp. Clerk. The form may be mailed or brought to the Township Clerk's Office, 2261 Van Horne Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502 or emailed to clerk@montgomery.nj.us. Although it is impossible to appoint every interested resident to a committee, submitted forms are kept on file in the event that seats open up during the course of the year. For further info, call the Township Clerk's Office at 908-359-8211.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN & HE IS ON A FIRE ENGINE!

Imagine how excited your children will be to have Santa Claus arrive at their house on a fire engine this Christmas season!

Montgomery Township Volunteer Fire Company #2 is arranging to have Santa Claus and his elves deliver Christmas gifts by fire engine. The volunteers are anxiously planning to bring this special event to your community.

If you are interested in participating, we ask the following:

- A minimum donation of \$25 per household is requested.
- Please wrap one small gift per child and label it clearly with their name and address.
- Please plan to bring the gift(s) to Station 46, located at 529 Route 518 in Skillman.
- Dates for drop off: December 6th, 8th and 9th from 6-8pm.
- Delivery dates for the gifts: The gifts will be delivered by Santa Claus and his elves on the nights of December 15th, 16th, 19th and maybe even the 20th from 6-9pm.

If you are unsure whether you are in our district or have other questions, please contact us at 609-466-3926, email President@mtvfc2.com.



Two busy trick-or-treaters at the Montgomery Twp. municipal building Halloween day were kind enough to stop to let us admire their terrific fire-fighting gear! Open to all children up to age 7 every year.



Community Bulletin Board



DROP OFF LOCATIONS FOR TOILETRIES DRIVE THRU DECEMBER

In support of Bentley Community Services, Princeton Fitness & Wellness and The Learning Experience in Belle Mead are locations where you may drop off the following needed items:

Shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, body wash, disposable razors, body/hand lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes, (we have toothpaste), laundry detergent, disposable wipes, shaving lotion.

Bentley Community Services, a designated 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, specifically addresses the needs of struggling families. Bentley (BCS) provides access to healthy foods, facilitating healthy diets for working families in financial crisis, offsetting weekly grocery and basic needs bills that places families on the fast track to regaining self-sufficiency. Based in Montgomery Township, BCS's distribution warehouse facility is at 4064 Route 1 North in Monmouth Junction. BCS, in its fourth year, has been helping numerous families in the local communities regain self-sufficiency. BCS is an all-volunteer organization and has no geographic borders so they are able to help many families get on the fast track to recovery.

Princeton Fitness & Wellness is located at the Princeton North Shopping Center, 1225 State Road, Princeton, NJ 08540, 609-683-7888. The Learning Experience is located at 2176 Route 206, Belle Mead, NJ 08502, 908-829-3921. Please drop off your generous donations during hours of operations in designated containers located inside each facility.

For more information, if you need help, would like to volunteer or for donations, please contact Bentley Community Services at 908-227-0684. The website is www.bentleycommunityservices.org. Thank you for your generous donations during the season of giving!

“DECK THE HOLIDAYS” CHRISTMAS PIANO CONCERT DR. LAURA BELL

Featuring Festive Sing-Along and Organist,
Dr. Anthony Godlefski

Sunday December 4th, 2016 - 4 PM
Montgomery United Methodist Church
117 Sunset Road
Belle Mead NJ, 08502

Admission \$10
Free for Children 10 and under



All are Welcome! Proceeds to Church Missions and Building Repair Fund. Dr. Bell's new Christmas CD will be on sale during the concert.



Community Bulletin Board



FIRE COMPANY #1 (BELLE MEAD) WANTS YOU!

When an emergency strikes in Montgomery, the men and women of the Montgomery Township Volunteer Fire Co. #1 (MTVFC#1) snap into action to help their neighbors. We are local professionals who answer the call. MTVFC#1 is seeking men and women looking to not only better themselves, but better their community by becoming a firefighter.

You will have to pass a physical and background check, but we will arrange for your training to help turn you into a Montgomery firefighter. Established members of the community, 18 years of age or older, are preferred.

MTVFC#1 meets on most Monday nights at 7 pm. We are located in Belle Mead on Belle Mead-Griggstown Road right around the corner from Rt. 206. Come on down for more information or contact the MTVFC#1 Membership Committee at membership@mtvfc1.org with any questions.

Join the men and women who help protect Montgomery Township today!

JOIN MONTGOMERY TWP. VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. #2 (BLAWENBURG)!

All firefighters in Montgomery Township are volunteers. Our firefighters come from diverse walks of life, from students to retirees. We are your neighbors and friends. The number of fire and rescue calls Montgomery Township Volunteer Fire Company #2 responds to increased from 106 in 1990 to 321 in 2014. We need your help.

Our volunteers have found there are many benefits to becoming a member of the fire company. Firefighting will test your physical and mental capabilities in an exciting way. You will find a special kind of camaraderie and involvement among all members of the emergency services. You'll learn new skills. Best of all, you'll help your family, neighborhood and community. Everyone over age 16, male or female, is welcome to join.

No previous experience in firefighting is necessary to join. There are different types of members. Most of our adult members fight fires. Some respond to help control traffic. There are also associate members, who help with things like fundraising activities, catering events, cleaning and maintaining our trucks and equipment, and keeping our building and grounds clean.

Stop by the Firehouse any Wednesday evening at 7 pm at 529 Route 518, between Burnt Hill and Mountain View Roads. You can also email us at contact.mtvfc2@gmail.com. More information is also found on our new website: www.mtvfc2.com.



RARITAN VALLEY CHORUS SEASONAL CONCERT DECEMBER 11TH

Sing GLORIA, choral music of the season including movements of Antonio Vivaldi's GLORIA, RV 589

Sunday afternoon at 3 pm December 11, 2016

Hillsborough Reformed Church, One Amwell Road, Hillsborough NJ

All tickets \$10.

The tradition continues! Holiday Cookie Extravaganza Chorus-made treats \$10/tin

Martha Dudich, conductor

Raritan Valley Chorus, a dedicated community of singers making music in our area since 1991



Community Bulletin Board



MONTGOMERY BASEBALL

SPRING AND FALL PROGRAMS!

**OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF MONTGOMERY, ROCKY HILL AND PRINCETON!
GRADES PRE-K THROUGH HS (AGE 4 THROUGH 18)**

WHY PLAY MONTGOMERY BASEBALL?

- Over 400 kids (and growing!) play with their friends in our recreational program which is offered to every child ages 4-18 (pre-K through HS seniors!) at every skill level
- Our teams are balanced with every team making the playoffs
- We offer 3 recreational seasons: spring rec, summer sandlot, fall ball
- We have a competitive spring/summer travel program for ages 8-15 with teams winning local, district, state and regional titles

WE FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

- A speed and agility clinic is free as part of our spring recreational program
- Every one of our coaches receives 90 minutes of professional instruction on current practices in baseball instruction
- Through our partners we have access to discounted professional training services and clinics
- We offer professionally instructed summer baseball camps at our world class complex

WE BUILD A COMMUNITY

- Every year more than 500 of your neighbors enjoy a family night out at one of our local minor league baseball games
- We always have something up our sleeves, like Movie Night at the Complex, pancake breakfast at Applebee's, etc.; who knows what's next!
- Each year the MHS baseball team plays ~ 2 home games at our world class complex and MHS Coach Mueller runs a hitting clinic for our players with his players

Learn more and register at www.MontgomeryBaseball.com

WINTER PROGRAMS

MARY JACOBS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

64 WASHINGTON ST.

ROCKY HILL, NJ 08553

Medicare Workshop

Weds., January 11 at 11:00 am

Do you find the Medicare system confusing? Learn to navigate it with confidence. Registration is suggested. To register call (609) 924-7073 ext. 4.



SINTERKLAAS 2016 HOLIDAY BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9 – 2

BLAWENBURG REFORMED CHURCH

424 RT. 518, BLAWENBURG, NJ

Handcrafted Ornaments, Quilted & Knitted Items, Handmade Cards, Homemade Baked Goods, Breads, Jams, Jellies, Popular Frozen Homemade Soups, White Elephant Treasures, Delicious Brunch, Handmade Baskets and Jewelry, Holiday Wreaths. Alternative Gift Giving Opportunity – Heifer International

Go to <http://blawenburg.rcachurches.org/> for more info.



Community Bulletin Board



Princeton HealthCare System

PRINCETON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM'S COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

We offer a variety of programming dedicated to promoting healthy living at every stage. Register online at www.princetonhcs.org/calendar or call 1.888.897.8979.

THRIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON FOR THOSE TOUCHED BY CANCER

UMCP, 1 Plainsboro Rd, Plainsboro

An uplifting guide to the holidays – participants will learn how reduce seasonal stress and sample nutritious holiday foods.

Dec 5, 1 pm

GRANDPARENTING 101 IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Hamilton Area YMCA John K. Rafferty Branch, Hamilton

Interactive class to bring grandparents-to-be and new grandparents up-to-date on the latest in baby care.

Jan 9, 7 pm

DADDY BOOT CAMP

731 Alexander Rd, Suite 103, Princeton

This men-only course is designed for fathers-to-be to develop hands-on skills for caring for their newborns.

Feb 11, 9AM – 12:30PM

WALDORF SCHOOL OF PRINCETON WELCOMES YOU THIS WINTER

EDUCATING THE HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS OF CHILDREN PREK–GRADE 8

WOW! Waldorf on Wednesdays

Group Tours + More

December 7, February 1 & February 15, 8:45-10 a.m.

Open House & Alumni Panel

Saturday, January 14, 10:00 a.m.–Noon

Early Childhood Sample Class

Saturday, January 14, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

For children ages 2–5 with a caregiver.

Free; advance registration required.

Grade School Visiting Morning (for Adults)

Thursday, January 26, 8:30-10 a.m.

New Jersey's only Waldorf school, nestled on 20+ acres of meadows and woods, right in your backyard!

For more information, or to schedule a personal tour, please e-mail Jamie Quirk, admissions and marketing director, at admissions@princetonwaldorf.org, or call 609.466.1970, x115.

Visit us at 1062 Cherry Hill Road, Princeton, NJ 08540; www.princetonwaldorf.org.



Community Bulletin Board



Montgomery Township School District



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER INFORMATION WINTER 2016-17

2016-17 Visual and Performing Arts Calendar

The MTSD winter concerts continue with performances in all schools December 7th through January 18th. Please visit our Visual and Performing Arts Calendar for ALL events in the 2016-17 school year.

http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/VPA_Calendar

Helpful Information for Parents

Visit our district website's "Parents/Community" section for helpful information on many topics including the overview of "Parent Resources", links to all Parent Organization websites (PTA, PTO, PTSA & SEPTA), calendars, school schedules, student handbooks and other information.

<http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/parents>

Keep Up-To-Date With the MTSD

The Montgomery Township Board of Education communicates with our stakeholders through various channels including websites, emails, telephone, weekly eNews, our Facebook page and now Twitter.

Be sure to keep your Parent Resources account up-to-date with your latest contact information so our emails, phone communications and weekly eNews reach you!

District Website: <http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MontgomerySchools>

Twitter: [@monty_super1](https://twitter.com/monty_super1)

Strategic Planning Community Survey

Throughout September & October 2016, the Montgomery Township School District gathered input from different groups within the Montgomery/Rocky Hill community including students, parents, staff, community leaders and administrators. This information was used by ECRA Group, our partners in the strategic planning process, to formulate surveys for the various stakeholder groups, including a survey to provide an opportunity for all members of our community to share their input on district strengths, weaknesses, significant issues and visions for the future of our schools. This survey will be open from Monday, December 5, 2016 through Monday, December 19, 2016.

<http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/StrategicPlanningSurvey>

TRINITY CRAFT FAIR DECEMBER 10TH

Trinity Episcopal Churches annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, December 10th, from 9am-1pm. They will have paintings, pickles, jams, jewelry, pottery, alpaca items, and much more for sale. There will also be baked goods for sale made by the wonderful Trinity bakers. Come one, come all as this is a wonderful opportunity to shop for unique holiday gifts for family and friends. This event is located at Trinity Episcopal Church of Rocky Hill on the corner of Crescent & Park Avenue in Rocky Hill.



Community Bulletin Board

GPYO WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 11TH

Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra (GPYO) Winter Concert. GPYO presents its annual winter concert, open to public with free admission. The Symphonic and Concert Orchestras are presenting works by Meyer, Mendelssohn, Mussorgsky, Marquez, Rossini and Saint-Saens under the baton of Mr. Kawika Kahalehoe and Dr. Arvin Gopal. This will be a delight to all as well as an inspiration to upcoming musicians in the area. The concert is being presented at the Performing Arts Center, Montgomery High School, Skillman, NJ. Sunday, Dec 11, 3 pm www.gpyo.org, phone: 609-683-0150. FREE



GPYO AUDITIONS DECEMBER 19TH

Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra (GPYO) will be holding auditions on Monday, December 19 for new members, looking for elementary through high school students in Central New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, especially students who play double reeds, brass, and double bass. If Dec. 19 gets full one more date will be added. Apply online to schedule auditions. Auditions will be held at Montgomery High School, 1016 Route 601, Skillman, NJ 08558. www.gpyo.org Email gpyorecruitment@gmail.com. Phone: 609-683-0150.

MFOS UPCOMING 'FIRST SUNDAY IN THE PARKS' EVENTS

"WELL-BEING AND PERSPECTIVE: MEDITATION WITH SUMAN BAGARIA"

December 4, 2016 2:00 p.m.

Van Horne Park, Benjamin Blvd entrance

Meditation can be a powerful way to combat anxiety and gain personal balance. Suman Bagaria gives a 30-minute guided meditation using Meditation on Twin Heart method. It is used for gaining deep relaxation, eliminating stress, promoting health, attaining inner happiness and fulfillment. Millions of people practice worldwide and it is a simple, natural technique.

Turn onto Benjamin Blvd, the light on Route 206 that takes you to Princeton Fitness and Wellness Center. Follow it past the Wellness Center all the way back. Check status at www.montgomeryfriends.org.

"A WALK WITH KAREN LINDER, PRESIDENT FRIENDS OF PRINCETON NURSERY LANDS"

February 5, 2017 2:00 p.m. Location TBD

Karen Linder, president of Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands leads this easy general walk. Listen to stories about the preservation of the Princeton Nursery Lands property in Kingston, conservation, why preserving land is important and other topics.

Montgomery Township Departments

Main Phone Number 908-359-8211

Administration

Donato Nieman, Administrator

Construction/Code

Roy Mondy, Construction Official

Engineering Dept.

Gail Smith, Township Engineer
Stormwater Pollution 908-281-6525

Finance Dept.

Michael Pitts, CFO

Mayor's Office

Patricia Graham, Mayor

Mayor Hours: By Appointment
908-359-8211 ext. 215

Planning/Zoning

Lori Savron, Planning Director

Tax Assessor

Ryan Riccio, Tax Assessor

Tax Collection

Michael Pitts, Tax Collector

Township Clerk

Donna Kukla, Clerk

OTHER PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Control

Chris Krygier 908-359-4308
Animal Control Officer

Court/Violations 908-369-3532

Montgomery Kid Connection

Andrea McKenna, Director 908-359-2111

Police Non-Emergency

Acting Cpt. Thomas Wain, Director
908-359-3222

Public Works Dept.

Arthur Villano, Superintendent 908-874-3144
Pothole Hotline 908-874-8947

Recreation Dept.

Karen Zimmerman, Director 609-466-3023
Sports Field Rec. Hotline 800-731-8412