

Montgomery County

755 Roanoke St. · Christiansburg, Va. 24073
540-381-6887

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today

Fall 2020

"Be committed. Be well." Campaign

The New River Public Health Task Force is comprised of officials from local health, public safety, education, and government agencies. The goal of this collaborative effort is to provide residents and communities with effective guidance about COVID-19. In August, the task force launched a public awareness and outreach campaign, "Be committed. Be well." Free face masks are available to

residents at a variety of locations to include farmers markets, government buildings, and the library. We hope you will continue to do your part for our community by practicing the 3 W's: Wear a mask, Watch your distance, and Wash your hands.

More information is available at NRVRoadToWellness.com/be-committed-be-well



United States® Census 2020

Mid-March marked the launch of the 2020 Census, which is conducted every 10 years. Individuals are asked to provide basic information about every adult, child, and baby residing at each household within Montgomery County, including the Town of Blacksburg and the Town of Christiansburg. Beginning in

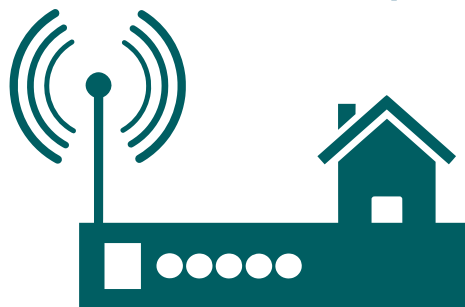
October, Census workers will start knocking on the doors of those who have not responded either online or by phone.

Every person counted in Montgomery County determines how much of the available \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed to our community for education, medical care and resources, emergency services, roads, transportation, public works, and other important programs and services. To learn more, visit 2020census.gov.

Montgomery County Installs 20 Broadband Hotspots

A recent study in our community identified areas that are currently unserved and underserved by broadband. As a result, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of 20 Wireless On Wheels (WOW) units.

The WOW units are self-sufficient, solar powered broadband hotspots. These units are intended to immediately assist the more rural areas of the county in need of



sufficient broadband service while a comprehensive broadband strategy is being developed. To learn more, visit montva.com/broadband.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA



APPROVED BUDGET
for fiscal year 2021

FY 2020-2021 Budget and Tax Rate Approved

In May 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved its FY 2021 budget of \$209.3 million, effective as of July 1, 2020. The real estate tax rate remains 89 cents per \$100 assessed value, and personal property taxes remain at \$2.55.

The current fiscal year ends June 30, 2021. For more details, see montva.com/budget.



November Election Voting Options

In preparation of the 2020 Election on Nov. 3, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approved two in-person, early voting locations: Multipurpose Room One in the Montgomery County Government Center and Wonder Universe at the Uptown Christiansburg Mall. Voting began Sept. 18 at both locations and will continue through Friday, Oct. 30. In addition, ballot drop

boxes will be available at the same locations. A Ballot Drop-Box will also be in the Government Center lobby area during normal business hours and at each polling site on Election Day, Nov. 3.

For more details, including early voting locations, hours of operation and details about the 2020 General and Special Elections, visit montva.com/2020election

2020 Election Dates and Deadlines

- **Sept. 18, 2020** First day of no excuse in-person voting (no applications required)
- **Oct. 13, 2020** Deadline to register to vote for the Presidential Election
- **Oct. 23, 2020** Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail. Applications MUST be received by the Registrar's office by 5pm
- **Oct. 31, 2020** Last day of no excuse voting in-person (no applications required)
- **Nov. 03, 2020** Presidential Election Day

Pollinator Gardens Help Create Healthy Waterways

Montgomery County is required to hold and maintain a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for urbanized areas to prevent the discharge of pollutants such as pet waste, trash, engine oil and fertilizers into waterways. Through various programming and planning, the county works to create a healthier environment for our community while adhering to the MS4 permit requirements outlined by the Department of Environmental Quality.

This year, the county has taken additional measures to help maintain healthy watersheds by planting pollinator gardens, which increase plant propagation across the watershed. In addition, healthy plants reduce stormwater runoff and associated sediment and nutrient loads to our streams. Pictured is a pollinator garden that was planted

during a public participation event in June, which was held in compliance with COVID-19 prevention measures.

Learn more about the county's MS4 permit and efforts to support an environmentally healthy community at montva.com/stormwater



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