



**MONTGOMERY
COUNTY**
PENNSYLVANIA

Montco Monthly

January 2024

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

Montgomery County swears in Commissioners and Row Officers



Earlier this month, Montgomery County hosted a public swearing-in ceremony for Commissioners Jamila H. Winder, Neil Makhija, and Thomas DiBello, as well as nine Row Officers, in the Montgomery County Community College's Health Science Center Main Gym.

With the support of her fellow Commissioners, Jamila H. Winder became the first African American woman to hold the position of Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

"This honor of being the first is not lost on me. I am filled with gratitude that other little Black girls and boys can now see themselves in a position of power and can aspire for greatness in their own way," said Winder. "While this moment is historic, I maintain the same commitment that I have had since I joined the Board of Commissioners last year: creating sustainable solutions that benefit all residents and look out for the most vulnerable."

Makhija, who made history as the first person of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent elected to a Board of Commissioners in Pennsylvania, also was named the Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and Chair of the Board of Elections.

The ceremony also honored nine elected officials who head various departments within the County. Those include Clerk of Courts Lori Schreiber, Controller Karen Sanchez, Coroner Dr. Janine Darby, District Attorney Kevin Steele, Prothonotary Noah Marlier, Recorder of Deeds Jeanne Sorg, Register of Wills Tina Lawson, Esq., Sheriff Sean Kilkenny, and Treasurer Jason Salus.

[Watch the recap](#)

Montco announces new Code Blue activation threshold

Montgomery County recently announced a change to the threshold for which a Code Blue



Cold Weather Emergency is declared. Code Blues will now be declared when overnight temperatures or wind chill are at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours or more.

“By changing the Code Blue threshold from 20 degrees to 32 degrees, we’ll be able to activate more Code Blue Shelters and offer a higher standard of safety for those who are unhoused,” said Jamila H. Winder, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

[Learn more](http://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/CodeBlue)

Montgomery County honors recipients of \$161 million in ARPA funds



Over 100 recipients of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant program in Montgomery County gathered last month to celebrate the program’s ongoing success with

the Montgomery County Commissioners. Stakeholders from across the county shared their insights on the transformative initiatives that are shaping the future of the community.

In August 2022, Montgomery County announced its Recovery Plan, which allocated \$161.4 million dollars in ARPA funding across 112 businesses, nonprofits, and organizations in the county. Since then, 79% of the projects representing \$87 million in funding have been started, with 19% being complete or almost complete.

"Each organization here today represents progress and innovation. These initiatives have not only met immediate needs but have laid down the foundation for a brighter more inclusive future for our County," expressed Jamila H. Winder, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. "The stories of change, the lives touched, the future lives that will be impacted...and the communities uplifted stand as a testament to what we can achieve when we work together."

This Recognition Luncheon served as a platform for sharing success stories, insights, and the positive impact of ARPA initiatives on Montgomery County. The collaboration between County Commissioners, the Recovery Office, and grant recipients exemplifies a collective commitment to building a brighter and more resilient community.

[Learn more](#)

January events spotlight



**Rescheduled: Peter Wentz
Farmstead Candlelight Event**



**Join us for Norristown Farm
Park's next Full Moon Hike**

Peter Wentz Farmstead's annual Candlelight Event is coming up on Saturday, Jan. 13 from 3 to 8 p.m.

Rescheduled due to inclement weather, the soft glow of candles will soon light your way as you explore this historic property.

Learn how a family like the Wentzes would have spent a quiet winter's night and see an 18th century cooking demonstration.

The holidays may be over, but the Belsnickel is still stalking the Farmstead looking for good children who he can give a treat!

[Learn more](#)

Q: How can you tell January's full moon, called the Wolf Moon, from the other full moons?

A: It follows the howl-idays.

Bring some sturdy footwear and your best (or worst) puns to Norristown Farm Park's next Full Moon Hike on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m.

Come experience a hike under the almost full moon. This nearly two mile hike will be led by Park Ranger Dave. See some nocturnal animals and experience the starry sky. Wear sturdy shoes for hiking.

[Register](#)

Now hiring! Join our County team

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR
TEAM



New year. New job. New you!

We are hiring across multiple departments and for a wide array of skill sets and experience levels.

If you want to start the new year off by becoming part of our County team, check out our open positions and apply today!

[Learn more or apply](#)

Community bulletin board



Accepting: Montco Implementation Grants

The Montgomery County Planning Commission seeks applications for the 2024 cycle of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program.

This program provides funds to municipalities to make targeted physical improvements that achieve progress toward the goals of the county's comprehensive plan, Montco 2040: A Shared Vision.

The grant program focuses on supporting local projects that specifically further the goals of the comprehensive plan and the plan's themes of Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy. Applications are due March 1, 2024.

[More info](#)



Support: Point in Time Count survival item drive

Each year, the Point in Time (PIT) Count helps our County get an idea of the number of our residents who are experiencing homelessness on a single night.

Your Way Home Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services are once again collecting survival items, including winter hats, warm socks, gloves and more, to distribute to our unhoused neighbors during the County. This year's PIT Count set for the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Please take a look at their wish list and consider supporting their drive if you are able!

[Donate](#)

Save the date: Celebrate Black History Month with us!



Celebrate Black History Month with Montgomery County on Wednesdays in February!

On February 7, 14, and 21 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., the Montgomery County Black History Month Committee will host 3 virtual panel discussions focusing on this year's theme: African Americans and the Arts. Registration is required.

- Wednesday, February 7: Blacks/African Americans in the Arts – Visual, Movies & Film
- Wednesday, February 14: The Influence of Black Music & Dance
- Wednesday, February 21: African Americans Hair Art & Fashion

On Wednesday, February 28, the Committee will host an in-person event at the Montgomery County Human Services Center to celebrate African Americans' contributions to the arts with music, literature, visual art, and delicious food. Registration is not required to attend. Lunch will be served after the program.

[Learn more](#)

Feeling under the weather?



The Home Test to Treat program is an virtual community health program from the US government offering free COVID-19 health services, including at-home rapid tests & telehealth sessions, to eligible participants nationwide

[More on this program](#)

Montgomery County Commissioners



[Jamila H. Winder](#)



Chair

Neil Makhija

Thomas DiBello

Commissioner

Commissioner

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