

Montgomery County

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today

Spring 2018

FY 2018-19 budget keeps tax rates the same

The Board of Supervisors recently approved its FY 2019 spending plan that goes into effect July 1. The \$189.4 million budget keeps tax rates the same for FY 2019. The real estate tax rate remains 89 cents per \$100 assessed value and personal property taxes remain at \$2.55.

The budget includes \$1.5 million in additional new County funding for school operations, bringing total funding for schools to \$109 million.

The remaining budget funds are dispersed among 11 County



departments, five Constitutional offices, three agencies under separate boards, four court functions, five rescue squads, five fire departments, and 42 outside

agencies. The current fiscal year ends June 30. To view the budget online, visit www.montva.com/budget.



2017-18 County Highlights

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors and County staff work diligently for the citizens on a daily basis. As a result of their efforts, there have been several notable highlights over the past year. Here are just a few that we wanted to share with you.

■ Both the remaining parcel of the former Blacksburg Middle School and the former Blacksburg High School were sold, enabling funding for the expansion and remodeling of two existing schools: Falling Branch Elementary School and Christiansburg High School. At Falling Branch Elementary School, mobile classrooms have been removed

and students and teachers are now learning and teaching under one roof. For Christiansburg High School, construction of new athletic facilities are in the works, which will include an artificial turf football field, rubberized track, and expanded softball and baseball fields. All of these projects will be completed without issuing debt.

■ Funding has also been appropriated (without issuing debt) for a new fire station to serve the Riner community. Be on the lookout for updates about this project soon!

■ In honor of Annette Perkins and her 20 years of service on the Board of Supervisors, the County donated nine acres of property to the Town of Blacksburg for a community park.

■ In honor of Gary Creed and his 16 years of service on the Board of Supervisors, the County dedicated the expansion efforts at the Eastern Montgomery Recreation Complex to

him and unveiled concept plans to include "Creed Field."

■ Without issuing debt, the County purchased 124 acres of land adjacent to Falling Branch Corporate Park for future expansion.

■ The County welcomed Sara Bohn, District A, and Steve Fijalkowski, District C, to the Board of Supervisors in January 2018.

■ Standard & Poor's Investor Services upgraded the County's bond rating to AA+, resulting from the County's diverse, stable and growing economic base. The AA+ rating is the second highest ranking given by S&P, second only to an AAA rating. Montgomery County is one of 19 out of the 95 counties in Virginia that have received an AA+ or AAA rating from S&P.

To learn more, or to subscribe to our new, electronic newsletter (beginning Summer 2018), visit www.montva.com.



Water is the world's most precious commodity. Please help Montgomery County keep our water clean. Everyday activities can result in contamination of stormwater through soil, bacteria, fertilizer, and pesticide runoff. However, you can help by incorporating some of these tips!

- **Reduce Watering Needs:** Use mulch to improve the health of your lawn and garden. Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority provides mulch to County residents for \$30/ton. Learn more at www.mrswa.com.
- **Minimize Fertilizer Use:** Use slightly composted leaves in your landscape. Blacksburg and Christiansburg provide these!
- **Test Your Soil:** This will identify needs and help you avoid wasteful spending on unnecessary additives. Learn more at Virginia Tech's State Soil Testing Lab: www.soiltest.vt.edu.
- **Mow Lawns Properly:** Set mower blades 2-3 in. high. The longer grass will take in more sunlight, which leads to a thicker, healthier lawn with deeper roots that can better survive drought, disease and insect damage.



Animal waste is one of the many sources of pollution that can create big problems for both water quality and human health. Help keep you, your family, your pets, and our water healthy!

You & Your Family All pets shed bacteria like E. coli, and dog waste can contain roundworms, Giardia and Leptospirosis - all of which may stay active in the soil long after the visible evidence in your yard is gone. Fresh dog waste can be less infectious than aged, so scoop daily.

Your Pet "Scooping the poop" can help eliminate the spread of parasites like hookworms, roundworms, and canine parvovirus. Hookworms can survive in the soil for a week to a few months, while roundworms can survive in the soil for four years. Parvovirus is often deadly to unvaccinated puppies and can persist in the soil where waste was left for at least one year.

Our Water Pet waste washes into the streets, into the storm drains and ditches and then directly into our creeks. Bagging pet waste is one way to reduce bacteria levels in streams.



On April 28, the County held its 35th annual Broomin' and Bloomin' event. Each year, volunteers help clean up roadsides, parks, streams, school grounds and other public properties. This annual event promotes community pride and good will and protects our local environment to help ensure that Montgomery County remains sustainable for generations to come. Learn more at www.montva.com/broominbloomin. Sincere thanks to all of you who have supported this event throughout the years!

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

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| District B - Christopher A. Tuck, Chair | District D - M. Todd King |
| District G - April N. DeMotts, Vice Chair | District E - Darrell O. Sheppard |
| District A - Sara Bohn | District F - Mary W. Biggs |
| District C - Steve Fijalkowski | County Administrator - F. Craig Meadows |

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