MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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FY 2022-23 County Budget and Tax Rate Approved

On Apr. 18, the Board of Supervisors approved its FY 2023 budget of \$220.8, effective as of July 1. 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.

For more details, visit our website: *www.montva.com/budget*.



Emergency Services Transitions to Fire and EMS Department



On Mar. 14, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance creating a Department of Fire and EMS. This new department will continue the duties of the former Emergency Services Department by providing various types of emergency services to the County's citizens and visitors, as well as continue to assist Montgomery County's 11 fire departments and EMS agencies that are comprised primarily of volunteers. The department includes 10 full-time staff members, as well as several parttime EMTs and paramedics.

The new paid EMTs and paramedics are in no way are replacing the current fire and EMS volunteers in Montgomery County, which total more than 500 individuals. As the County continues to grow, EMS volunteers are sometimes unable to respond to calls. The paid EMTs and paramedics will help fill in the gaps during times when the volunteers are unable to respond to calls.

To learn more about Montgomery County's Department of Fire and EMS or to become a volunteer, visit *www.montva.com/fire-ems*.

Parks and Recreation Projects in East Mont and Riner



CREED FIELDS

Construction of Creed Fields Park in Shawsville is complete! The park includes four fields for football, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, softball, coach pitch and t-ball; bathrooms; a playground; a shelter; and a walking path. The park is named in honor of the late Board of Supervisor member Gary Creed, who represented Eastern Montgomery from 2002-2017.

AUBURN PARK

Construction of Auburn Park in the Riner is underway. The future park, located off Route 8 in Riner, is approximately 35 acres. The park will have many features including four baseball/softball fields; two multipurpose fields; restroom facility; picnic shelter; playground; and walking trails. The estimated cost is \$10 million.

VATI Grants Received to Improve Broadband Infrastructure

On Mar. 18, 2021, Montgomery County was awarded a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant to improve broadband infrastructure. Montgomery County has partnered with Gigabeam Networks to bring fixed wireless broadband access to 1,292 serviceable units, including 44 businesses in Allegheny Springs, Elliston, Lafayette, and Shawsville. This project is underway, with anticipated completion by December 2022. In addition, on Dec. 13, 2021, the New River Valley Regional Commission received a \$68 million VATI grant to assist with delivering fiber internet to homes and businesses in Montgomery, Pulaski, and Bland Counties. As one of three county partners, \$27.6 million is dedicated to delivering service in Montgomery County, in partnership with Gigabeam Networks and Appalachian Power Company to bring broadband to 8,822 citizens and businesses throughout the County.

Once final approvals to begin this significant broadband project have been provided by the state, the design plans will be finalized and work will begin. The goal to complete this project is December 2023. To stay informed on broadband updates in Montgomery County, visit www.montva.com/broadband.

County Redistricting

Following every Census, redistricting takes place to accommodate population changes in our community. As a result, new district maps have been created for Montgomery County. The Board approved the new district maps in March. New redistricting plans will take effect during the Nov. 2022 Election. To view the new maps and approved polling places, visit *https://arcg.is/0HDC9i0.*

2023 General Reassessment Underway

The County has hired Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group Ltd. to conduct the 2023 general reassessment of real estate.

Field workers will be visiting every taxable and nontaxable property in the County over the next several months to verify property information, such as square feet, and number of bedrooms and baths. Field workers will have County identification badges and cars marked "County Reassessment."



The County is required by the Code of Virginia to reassess properties at 100 percent of market value at least every four years. Property owners will receive notices of the new assessed values in the of fall 2022. The reassessed property values will go into effect Jan. 1, 2023, and will remain in effect until the 2027 reassessment.

Visit *www.montva.com/reassessment* for additional information about reassessment.

Electric Car Charging Station at Gov. Center

Driving an electric car in the New River Valley just got a little easier with the addition of a charging station at the Montgomery County Government Center. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are 893 stations with 2,465 charging outlets with public access in Virginia. Less than two dozen are located in the New River Valley.

The Level 2 charging station has two

charging ports, allowing two cars to charge at the same time. Most electric vehicles can get 10 to 20 miles from one hour of charging on a Level 2 charger. The station is visible on charging station locator apps.

Funding for the electric car charging station was paid for with Montgomery County sustainability funds.

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