

# Montgomery County Today

Montgomery County Government Center

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## Happy Halloween!

### In this issue:



Happy Halloween! ..... 1

Breaking ground on a new era ..... 1

Smartway goes high class ... 1

Prevent fires with these tips ..... 2

Voter reminders ..... 2

October at the library ..... 2

Happy Halloween, Montgomery County!

Looking for somewhere to take your little ghouls and goblins this year?

On Friday, Oct. 30, the Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, will be open for trick-or-treating from 2 to 4:30 p.m. All departments will have plenty of candy for your little ones!

Prepare for some scary fun at Mid County Park on Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg, on Saturday, Oct. 31. Stop by between sundown (7 p.m.) and 10 p.m. to experience the Haunted Trail – if you dare! The horrifying journey will cost \$5.

For more information, contact Montgomery County Parks & Recreation at 382-6975.

### Important dates:

- **Oct. 12** - County offices closed for Columbus Day
- **Oct. 13, 26** - Board of Supervisors meetings - 7:15 p.m. - Board Room, 2nd floor, Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg
- **Oct. 27** - Last day to vote absentee by mail
- **Oct. 31** - Last day to vote in-person absentee

## Breaking ground on a new era

## Smartway goes high class



The Montgomery County Courthouse groundbreaking was held on Friday, Sept. 18. Montgomery County, Blacksburg and Christiansburg residents and officials attended the event.

The structure will be 102,500 square feet and will have a two-story parking garage that has space for 137 vehicles. Its estimated completion date is October 2011.

The current Courthouse will be converted into a public safety building.

The Smartway bus that travels between Blacksburg/Christiansburg and Roanoke is getting a new look! There will be four new buses that have 57 seats, wheel chair access, better seating, lumbar adjustment, underneath luggage storage, monitors, electrical supply, WiFi and arm rests.

The new buses will be coming to town after Jan. 1, 2010. A proposed fare increase of \$1 will be voted on by Valley Metro this month. If approved, the fare will increase from \$3 to \$4. As a new, special service, the bus will provide transportation directly to the Roanoke airport during holidays that coincide with Virginia Tech breaks.



View our online calendar at

[MontgomeryCountyVA.gov/calendar.php](http://MontgomeryCountyVA.gov/calendar.php)



## Prevent fires with these tips

October is fire prevention month. According to the Home Safety Council's State of Home Safety in America™ Report, fires and burns are the third leading cause of unintentional home injury and related deaths. Fire safety and survival begin with everyone in your household being prepared. Follow the safety advice below from the Home Safety Council to reduce the chance of fire in your home:

- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking
- Keep things that can burn, such as dishtowels, paper or plastic bags, and curtains at least three feet away from the range top
- Store matches and lighters in a locked cabinet
- Space heaters need space; keep them at least three feet away from things that can burn, such as curtains or stacks of newspaper; always turn off heaters when leaving the room or going to bed
- Have a service person inspect chimneys, fireplaces, wood and coal stoves and central furnaces once a year; have them



cleaned when necessary

- Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before dumping them in the trash
- Always use stable candle holders made of material that won't catch fire, such as metal, glass, etc.
- Never bring or use gasoline indoors; use it as a motor fuel only
- Read the label of everything you buy; if you see the words "caution," "danger," or "flammable," be very careful
- Make a fire escape plan for your family; find two exits out of every room, pick a meeting place outside; practice makes perfect - hold a family fire drill at least twice each year
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home
- Teach every family member to "Stop, Drop, Roll and Cool" if clothes catch fire
- Learn how and when to use a fire extinguisher

Brought to you by the  
Home Safety Council  
[www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org)

## Voter reminders

The Montgomery County Voter Registrar's office would like to remind you about important voter deadlines. Please mark the following dates on your calendar.



- **Tuesday, Oct. 27** - Last day to mail in an absentee ballot if you will not be able to vote in person on Nov. 3. The ballot may be obtained from the Voter Registrar or [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov)
- **Saturday, Oct. 24** - the Voter Registrar's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Saturday, Oct. 31** - Last day to vote absentee in person at the Registrar's office, 755 Roanoke St, Christiansburg, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Blacksburg voters in the E1 precinct are also advised of its temporary location change from St. Michael's Lutheran Church to Kipps Elementary School, 2801 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg.

For more information, call 382-5741 or visit [www.MontgomeryCountyVa.gov/vote](http://www.MontgomeryCountyVa.gov/vote)

### Did You Know?

You may visit [www.MontgomeryCountyVA.gov/reassess](http://www.MontgomeryCountyVA.gov/reassess) to find out where reassessors will be working each week.

The reassessment office may also be contacted Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 381-6800.

## October at the Library

Join the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library for these October programs!

### Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Blacksburg Library

Join us for the Community Book Talk about the newly published book "Ecological Intelligence" by Daniel Goleman. A Sustainable Blacksburg representative will discuss the book and answer your questions. Reserve your copy of the book now.

**Oct. 13, 7 - 8 p.m., Floyd Library** - Medical News for Non-Physicians - Includes information about strep throat, MRSA, AIDS, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, mad cow disease and others.

**Oct. 15, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Floyd Library** - Tom Moates, author of "A Horse's Thought - A Journey Into Honest Horsemanship," is a leading international equestrian journalist and author. "Discovering Natural



Horsemanship," his first book, is firmly established as a staple of modern equestrian literature. Moates will talk about both books and answer questions.

**Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m., Meadowbrook Library** - "Woo... Mercy Daddy" is the autobiography of Jimmy Valiant, pro wrestler legend and WWE Hall of Famer. Through examples from his personal and professional life, Valiant describes how to stay positive during the challenging times. Angel Valiant has written a children's book, "Piggy in a Blanket." Books will be available for purchase.

For information about other programs, visit [www.mfrl.org](http://www.mfrl.org) or call 382-6965.

## Your newsletter

This newsletter is for and about Montgomery County and its citizens. Please feel free to e-mail feedback to: [correllla@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:correllla@montgomerycountyva.gov)



This newsletter is a product of the Montgomery County Public Information Office, Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg.

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**Are you 65 or older? Disabled? You may qualify for real estate or mobile home tax relief if your total household income is \$35,000 or less and total financial net worth (excluding home and one acre or less) is \$100,000 or less. First time applications are due Dec. 31, 2009. Call 382-5710 or see [www.montva.com/cmsh](http://www.montva.com/cmsh).**