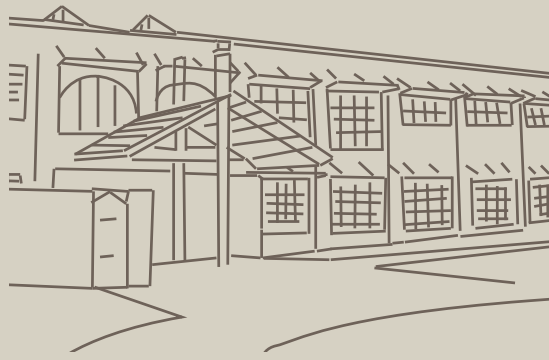


# MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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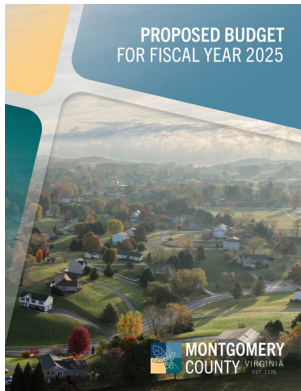
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Help Keep Waterways Clean  
Receive Broadband Updates



# today

Spring 2024

## FY 2024-25 County Budget and Tax Rate Approved



On April 22, the Board of Supervisors approved its FY 25 budget of \$254.6 million, effective July 1. The Board approved a real estate

tax rate of 75 cents per \$100 assessed value and personal property taxes remain at \$2.55.

The FY25 budget includes funding for education, public safety, human services, libraries, parks and recreation. For the first time, funding for paid firefighters in Eastern Montgomery is included. In addition, \$5.9 million in new County funding (which will be adjusted if additional

funding is provided by the state) was approved for MCPS, bringing the total approved County funding for the MCPS operating budget to \$64.3 million. Total funding for MCPS including all federal, state, and local sources currently account for approximately 68 percent of the County's budget.

To learn more about the budget, visit [montva.com/budget](http://montva.com/budget).

## Capital Improvement Program Includes Magistrate, Park, Library

The County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a five-year plan that prioritizes and provides a funding mechanism for large-scale capital infrastructure improvements in the county. These improvements include significant upgrades to existing infrastructure and facilities and/or the addition of new infrastructure and facilities. In order to qualify as a capital improvement, a project must have a useful life of five years or more and cost at least \$50,000.

Currently, the county is working on several capital projects outlined in the CIP. One significant project is the new Magistrate and Court Services Facility with a sally port, which is under construction at the corner of South Franklin Street and First Street in Christiansburg. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$8 million. The new facility will be a single-story structure providing offices, customer service areas, and conference rooms designed to accommodate



growth and meet all ADA accessibility requirements. This project also increases the safety for officers transporting prisoners to

the jail, as well as the community by the addition of a functional, enclosed sally port. *(Continued on next page.)*

## Comprehensive Plan Guides Vision, Goals for Next 20 Years

Montgomery County is developing its next Comprehensive Plan, known as "Montgomery Matters." The Comprehensive Plan is the guiding document that details our community's shared vision and goals for the next 20 years.

Over the next two years, feedback from citizens will be used in envisioning what Montgomery County will look like in 2045.

Citizens are invited to a community open house to learn more about the Montgomery Matters process and share feedback on Thursday, June 13, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg.

Visit [www.montgomerymatters.com](http://www.montgomerymatters.com) or contact the Planning and GIS team at [mcmatters@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:mcmatters@montgomerycountyva.gov) or by calling 540-394-2148.

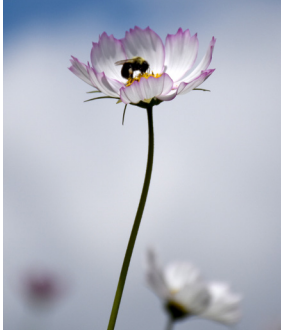




## Communications Survey

We want to hear from you! Please share how you would prefer to receive online communications from the County by completing this quick online survey at [bit.ly/montvacomm](http://bit.ly/montvacomm) or scan the QR code with your phone.

# How Residents Can Help Keep Waterways Clean, Healthy



### *Plant pollinator gardens and native plants*

Planting pollinator gardens increases plant propagation across the

watershed. In addition, healthy plants reduce stormwater runoff and associated sediment and nutrient loads to streams.

**Reduce Watering Needs** Use mulch to improve the health of lawns and

gardens. The Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority provides mulch to County residents. Visit [www.mrswa.com](http://www.mrswa.com).

**Minimize Fertilizer Use** Use slightly composted leaves in landscaping. The towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg provide these to residents.

**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.

**Scoop the poop!** Pet waste washes into the streets, into the storm drains and ditches and then directly into creeks. Bagging pet waste is one way to reduce bacteria levels in streams.

**Test Your Soil** This will identify needs and help avoid wasteful spending on unnecessary additives. Learn more at Virginia Tech's State Soil Testing Lab: [www.soiltest.vt.edu](http://www.soiltest.vt.edu).

Learn more about Montgomery County's MS4 Permit program and how to help. Follow #MontVaMS4 on social media and check out [montva.com/stormwater](http://montva.com/stormwater).



## Receive Broadband Updates from Provider

Construction continues on a project to bring high-speed internet to rural areas in Montgomery County. Gigabeam Networks is partnering with Appalachian Power to install fiber cable on existing power lines. Connections in the Elliston and Shawsville areas are anticipated to begin by summer 2024.

Residents and businesses in the County can sign up for high-speed internet at [www.gigabeam.net](http://www.gigabeam.net). By completing Gigabeam's online form, citizens will begin receiving email updates about the project.

## Capital Improvement Program Update - continued

In addition, work will continue on the Auburn Park along Route 8 in the Riner area. This park will feature baseball, softball, and multi-purpose fields with lighting; a restroom facility; playground; picnic shelter; and walking trails. The estimated cost to complete this project is \$13 million.

Also underway are outdoor improvements along Draper Road at the Blacksburg Library. This project includes enhanced outdoor area accessibility, as well as several new and improved features for storytime and other outdoor library programs. The allocated budget for this project is \$650,100.



Construction on all of three of these projects is anticipated to be completed in fiscal year 2025. To view the approved Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2028, visit our website at [montva.com/budget](http://montva.com/budget).

## Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

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District C - Steve R. Fijalkowski, Vice Chair

District A - Sara R. Bohn

District B - Derek W. Kitts

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