Montgomery County
Maryland

Our History
and
Government

General Richard Montgomery

Montgomery County, Maryland
Our History and Government

A Joint Project of
Montgomery County, Maryland
and the
Montgomery County Historical Society
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Montgomery County, Maryland, please visit the county web site:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov
or the web site of the Montgomery County Historical Society:
www.montgomeryhistory.org

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INTRODUCTION

Preserving our history and our heritage is a responsibility we all have to future generations. Our County was formed more than 230 years ago and over those two centuries the face of Montgomery County has changed dramatically while maintaining its historical roots.

Created by our nation's founding fathers in 1776, Montgomery County has grown to become Maryland's largest jurisdiction with a population that's close to reaching the one million mark.

Agriculture provided the economic base in Montgomery County in the mid 1700s, and today – 230 years later – one-third of our land is still preserved for agricultural use. Montgomery County is also a vibrant urban center with more than 200 biotech companies. Our cultural arts environment attracts a wide array of audiences from all across the metropolitan area and the State. Our state-of-the-art venues, including the Music Center at Strathmore, BlackRock Center for the Arts, the American Film Institute and the historical Glen Echo Park, have earned us a reputation as a world-class cultural arts community.

The past decade has seen dramatic changes in the demographics of our population. People from all over the world have come together here with the common goal of making a better life for themselves and their families, and our culture and economy are richer for it. Montgomery County is home to nearly half of all the foreign-born residents in the State of Maryland. We embrace and celebrate this diversity. It is our multiculturalism that makes us stronger, more vibrant and a better community.

As you look through this book, and learn about the history of Montgomery County, take a moment to reflect on how far we have come over the past two centuries and where we are going. Our history is something we can all take pride in and draw upon as we strive to make this county a better and stronger community for generations to come.

I want to also thank the Montgomery County Historical Society for their contributions in compiling this history book and their tireless efforts and longstanding dedication to preserving the history and heritage of Montgomery County for years to come.

Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive

Oakley Cabin, Brookeville
Many early homes were log cabins chinked with clay and water.

HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

It was more than 300 years ago when the first European settlers arrived in what is now Montgomery County, an area stretching from the mouth of Rock Creek in the south to the Monocacy River in the north, the Potomac River on the west and the Patuxent River on the east. They found evidence of occupation by Indians of the Piscataway Confederation. It was a beautiful forested area rich in game that included deer, buffalo, bear and wild turkey, with rivers and streams teeming with fish. Captain John Smith of Virginia explored the Potomac River in 1608, and was the first European to map the area.

The first settlers to colonize the area were from England, Ireland and Wales. The first patent for land was recorded in 1688 for a tract along the banks of Rock Creek. Once here, the settlers quickly cleared much of the virgin forest to grow tobacco and food, and build homes.

Early Lifestyles

The first homes were one- or two-room cabins, with a loft. Often, a separate building housed the kitchen and slaves. Later, homes of brick and stone appeared. The more prosperous farms often included barns, a spring house, smoke house and slave quarters. There were a few elaborate homes with carved mantels, high ceilings and imported furniture. Apple orchards were common and the colonial cellar was stocked with produce from the farm.

In 1695, the land that now encompasses Montgomery, Prince George's and Frederick Counties, as well as Washington, D.C., was designated as Prince George's County. The area was divided in 1748 and the western portion—including the land that would ultimately be Montgomery—became Frederick County. On August 31, 1776, Dr. Thomas Sprigg Wootton, a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention, introduced a bill to divide Frederick into three counties—Frederick, Montgomery and Washington. The bill passed on September 6, 1776. These were the first counties in America to be established by elected representatives. The names selected for the new counties also broke with tradition. Earlier counties had all been named for old world figures

such as Prince George and Queen Anne, but these were named after two popular Americans of the time—George Washington and Richard Montgomery.

Origin of Names

Richard Montgomery was born on December 2, 1738 in Raphoe, Ireland. At 18 he was commissioned as an officer in the British army and fought in the French and Indian Wars, before emigrating to America in 1772. He was commissioned a brigadier general in the fledgling American revolutionary army and he commanded an expeditionary force sent to Canada that captured Montreal. On December 4, 1775 his forces laid siege to Quebec City. Although his troops were greatly outnumbered, he led several daring attacks on the fortress. On December 31, he was killed by cannon fire. A plaque in the lower town of Quebec City marks the barricade at which he was killed. Montgomery never set foot in the Maryland county that bears his name.

Many family names appear on the map of the County, the legacy of early settlers. They include: Layton, Clarke, Poole, Hyatt, Neel, Browning, Clagett, King, Dawson, White, Dickerson, Spencer, Burton, Darne, Brooke and Gaither.

Germantown got its name from German settlers who moved there from Pennsylvania. Seneca was named after the Indian tribe. Bethesda derives its name from the Presbyterian Bethesda Meeting House built there.

When Montgomery County was established, the State appointed commissioners to buy four acres of land for a courthouse and jail. The place they selected was first called Montgomery Courthouse, and then became known as Williamsburg. Eventually, it became Rockville, taking its name from Rock Creek.

Early Federal Period

When it was first selected to be the County seat, the community that would become Rockville consisted of about a half dozen buildings, at a crossroads on the road which led from Georgetown to Frederick. Located on this road was Hungerford's Tavern, a one and one-half story building with a large meeting room dominated by a stone fireplace, and four smaller rooms. Hungerford's Tavern became the center of political activity and the meeting place of pre-Revolutionary patriots. The Hungerford Resolves, protesting British acts and arguing for an end of trade with England, were signed there in 1774. Hungerford Drive in Rockville preserves the name.

In December 1791, the Maryland General Assembly passed an act ceding 36 square miles of Montgomery County to the federal government to be used as the nation's capital. As a result, the District of Columbia was born and Montgomery County lost Georgetown, its port city. Virginia also ceded land for the federal city, but this land was later returned to the state and is now Arlington County.

The Madison House in Brookeville.

During the War of 1812, the village of Brookeville enjoyed a moment of prominence. On August 26 and 27, 1814, it became the "Nation's Capital for a day." President James Madison, Attorney General Richard Rush and other cabinet members sought refuge there while the British sacked Washington and burned the White House.

During the 19th century, horses were the principal means of transportation. Of immense commercial importance was the development of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal, which would eventually stretch 184 miles between Washington and Cumberland. Begun in 1828, the project was not completed until 1850. The cost was approximately $11 million. The locks, which could lift or lower a boat about eight feet, were considered engineering marvels in their day. A canal museum has been established in the National Park at Great Falls. It includes a restored lock and many canal artifacts displayed in a former stone tavern.

Preparing ground for wheat on the Snyder farm in Travilah.

Agricultural Decline and Recovery

The practice of clearing forests and planting tobacco and corn eventually exacted a price. Farm lands became depleted and new land to clear became scarce. The agricultural economy began to suffer and the younger generation began moving away. By 1840, worn-out farms and run-down houses surrounded by broken fences were a common sight. This low point was followed by an agricultural revitalization. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Sandy Spring introduced new farming practices such as crop rotation, deeper plowing and fertilization. Soon County farms began producing rich crops of corn, wheat and oats, and, by 1860, the area was in the midst of a period of farm prosperity.

Until 1860, private schools existed in the county for those who could afford an education. In that year, the county established a free public school system for white children. Black children received no education until after the Civil War. Then, what schools did exist were established privately by the communities able to invest in their children's education. In 1872, the Maryland State Assembly appropriated state funds so there could be schools for African American children. In that year, Montgomery County Public Schools created a segregated school system.

Slaves played a significant role in the development of the County, although slavery was never practiced in Montgomery County to the extent it was in the deep south. The shift away from tobacco plantations to dairy and diversified crops contributed to the decline of slave labor. Ironically, it was the life story of an enslaved Montgomery Countian named Josiah Henson who lived on a plantation in northern Bethesda that became a focal point in the abolitionist movement. Henson, who told of his harsh treatment, became the model for the principal character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* After escaping to Canada, Henson wrote, "The sternest and most covetous master can not frighten or whip the joy out of us. Certainly, old Riley never did out of me." *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in 1852 and did much to influence public opinion against slavery. President Abraham Lincoln called Mrs. Stowe "the little woman who wrote the book that made this big war."

Friends Meeting House at Sandy Spring.

The War Between the States

The Civil War divided Montgomery County, as it did the rest of the nation. Maryland remained in the Union, but support for the South was very strong and many young men crossed the Potomac to join the rebel army. Because sympathy for the Confederate cause was so widespread, President Lincoln ordered federal troops into the County to protect Washington.

There were no major battles fought here, but the County's critical geographic location resulted in both armies marching and countermarching across the landscape. At one time, there were 18,000 Union troops around Darnestown and another 20,000 at Poolesville. Robert E. Lee led a Confederate army across the Potomac at White's Ford in September 1862. There were cavalry skirmishes with Union troops near Poolesville. The two armies later clashed in the bloodiest single day in American history along Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, west of Montgomery County.

In 1863, Lee mounted his second invasion of the north, and Union forces under the command of General Joseph Hooker and, later, General George B. Meade gave chase, crossing from Virginia into Maryland near Point of Rocks. The armies met at Gettysburg.

In June 1863, en route to the pivotal battle of Gettysburg, Confederate cavalry general J.E.B. Stuart captured 150 Union wagons just south of what is now the corner of Viers Mill road and Rockville Pike. A month later, Stuart passed through the County returning from raids in Pennsylvania and Major John Mosby and Col. Elijah White's 35th Battalion Virginia Cavalry and their raiders frequently penetrated the County.

In July, 1864, General Jubal Early led 12,000 Confederate troops on a raid aimed at Washington, D.C. At Monocacy Creek, he defeated Union troops commanded by General Lew Wallace, who later gained fame as the author of the novel *Ben Hur*. General Early marched his troops through Montgomery County and camped in Rockville. They proceeded to present-day Silver Spring, from where they unsuccessfully attacked Fort Stevens in the District of Columbia. During Early's retreat, the Confederate cavalry, which formed his rear guard, skirmished with Union cavalry in the streets of Rockville.

Gaithersburg train station in 1890.

Throughout the war, both sides sometimes plundered the countryside, stealing horses and food. Much of the wooden fencing in the County reportedly found its way into army campfires. A prominent County resident, Montgomery Blair, served as Lincoln's postmaster general during the War Between the States.

Changes in the Post Civil War Period

Since Maryland had remained in the Union, Montgomery County did not undergo many of the problems experienced in Virginia and other southern states during Reconstruction. Despite strong opposition from some citizens, the County established its first free schools for African American children.

From 1870 to 1895, life in Montgomery County tended to reflect the mood of the nation in an age of materialism and pro-business sentiments that saw rapid development of railroads, telegraphs, electric service, and towns.

The opening in 1873 of the Metropolitan branch of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) railroad brought passenger service to the County for the first time and helped boost the County's economy. With the decline of farming, proximity to Washington, D.C. began to be critical to the County's development.

Washington's population doubled and continued to grow. Trolley cars were introduced and the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad made it feasible for developers to begin building residential homes in the suburbs. Among the first of these suburbs were Chevy Chase, Kensington, Takoma Park and Garrett Park. Resort hotels were constructed at Glen Echo, Rockville, and Forest Glen. Summer retreat houses were built at Washington Grove. Between 1866 and the early 1900s, the assessed value of real estate in Montgomery County nearly doubled, soaring to more than $12 million.

20th Century

After 1900, the Montgomery County school budget began to show the effects of suburban growth. In 1908, there were 6,483 students and a budget of $76,000. Many Montgomery County students attended schools in the District of Columbia. In 1912, the District stopped accepting Montgomery students and in 1913, a $140,000 bond issue was authorized for new school construction. By 1921, the school budget had grown to more than $316,000.

The County experienced another boom in population and land development following World War I. Civic associations and community improvement organizations began to assume an important role in local government and were demanding better services. In 1918, the state legislature created the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to improve water and sewer service. The development of Silver Spring began in 1921 with the subdivision of 19 acres owned by E. Brooke Lee, who was known as "The Colonel" because of his National Guard rank.

Except for school teachers, the County government had been a part-time operation. After 1922, the County began hiring full-time police officers, building inspectors, health workers, secretaries and other employees. In 1927, the state legislature created the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. A zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and building codes were quickly adopted.

First Woman Legislator

In 1928, Lavinia Engle became the first woman from Montgomery County to be elected a Delegate to the Maryland General Assembly. Mrs. Dawson Trundle was the first female member of the school board; Dorothy S. Himstead was the first female member of the County Council, and Kathryn Lewlor Shook Dufore was the first female judge of the circuit court.

Between the World Wars

In the 20 years preceding the Great Depression, land values more than doubled, but government debt had increased by more than seventeen-fold. When the Depression forced property values down, Montgomery County had to do some serious belt-tightening. The next decade saw growing opposition to tax increases and bond issues, and elected officials began preaching the gospel of "pay-as-you-go". Agricultural prices dropped, and farmers in the County were among the hardest hit by the Depression.

The large number of federal employees cushioned some of the economic effects and by 1935, housing starts began to increase and the population grew. African Americans, many of whom were farm workers, left the County. By 1940, the African American population had declined from 17 percent to 3 percent. Montgomery County increasingly became a suburban community with a growing dependence on federal employment.

World War II required the County to send many of its sons to fight in the global conflict, and "the war effort" became the intense focus of the federal government and local residents. Housing construction and suburban growth came to a halt, but the County's first skyscraper, the 20-story Bethesda Naval Medical Center, was completed.

Drive for Home Rule

From its inception, the County functioned under the county commissioner system that kept most of the power in Annapolis. A growing number of citizens were becoming dissatisfied with this arrangement. A Montgomery County Civic Association study recommended more local control. The Brookings

Great Falls Tavern on the C&O Canal now serves as a visitor's center.

Institution followed with another study in 1941 that recommended sweeping changes, the most important being adoption of a home rule charter. The Brookings study became a matter of heated controversy for nearly a decade.

The Charter Committee, with about half of its members drawn from the League of Women Voters, mobilized in June 1942. Stella B. Werner, for whom the current County Council Building is named, became the executive director. A petition was drafted and supporters collected 8,000 signatures—1,000 more than required by law—to get the charter on the ballot. The voters were to elect a board to draft a charter and the seats were hotly contested. The entrenched powers ran candidates opposing the move, but the voters approved the idea.

In 1943, after numerous public hearings throughout the County, the elected Charter Board drafted a proposed charter closely modeled on the recommendations of the Brookings study. It was presented to the voters in 1944 and defeated.

After the war, the County embarked on a period of unprecedented growth. The population doubled from 1946 to 1950 and doubled again in the next decade. The automobile became a necessity and housing starts soared. One out of seven residents over the age of 25 had a college degree.

By the mid-forties, the County school budget had reached $2.4 million. There were 17,300 students and 565 teachers in 65 elementary and 13 high schools. Montgomery College, originally called Montgomery Junior College, began classes in September 1946 in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

Residents of the post-war era became increasingly dissatisfied with the County's form of government. By 1946, the population had grown to 87,777 and Charter proponents tried again. They were again defeated, but in 1948, 56 percent of the voters approved the change, making Montgomery the first county in Maryland to adopt a home rule charter.

The new charter established a Council-Manager form of government. It survived a court challenge and, in 1949, six men and a woman were elected to the first County Council. The following year, the successful effort of the charter

Falkland Apartments in Silver Spring

advocates was recognized when Montgomery County was the first county in the nation to be honored as an "All America" municipality. Previously only cities had received the award.

New Growth Trends

Montgomery County shared the national suburban growth trend of the late 1940s and early 1950s, but with a difference. Returning veterans and city residents moving to the suburbs constituted only a small portion of the new arrivals. Most of the new homeowners were also new to the region, coming here from all parts of the U.S. to work for the federal government.

Suburban growth produced a decline in farming. As land values increased, farmers sold off their land to developers. In one ten-year postwar period, the average value of an acre of farm land in the County increased 330 percent.

Continued growth led to increased demands for educational services. In 1950, the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College opened. The 1950 Census showed 164,401 people in Montgomery County, only 10,000 of whom were African American. Schools were racially segregated and the NAACP began the first efforts here to protest the quality of African American schools. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its historic Brown vs. the Board of Education decision, ending the legal segregation of schools. Integration proceeded with few incidents and, by 1958, all of the public schools were desegregated. By the mid-fifties, the school budget had climbed to $75 million.

Much of the growth during the fifties was concentrated in single family homes. Suburban voters enthusiastically supported developing more recreational facilities and, in 1956, the first park plan went into effect.

The sixties saw the surge in suburban high rise apartments. The Rockville campus of Montgomery College opened in 1965.

Charter Changes Adopted

In 1968, the voters changed the charter to a County Executive-Council form of government. The new charter created an executive branch headed by the elected County Executive and a legislative branch under an elected seven-member Council. The County Manager was replaced by a Chief Administrative Officer appointed by the Executive. The first County Executive, James Gleason, was elected in 1970.

Sam Eig buying champion steer at the 1971 Montgomery County Fair.

Changes of the '70s and '80s

During the '70s, the population growth rate slowed down from the previous pace of doubling every decade, but continued strong. Suburbanization gave way to increased density of population.

Metrorail moved across the District line into the County and in February, 1978, the Silver Spring Station opened. Six years later, the Red Line was completed to Shady Grove. Silver Spring and Shady Grove are the busiest stations in the County. Montgomery County has about 85,000 Metrorail boardings on an average weekday.

The 1980 Census showed a population of 579,000 which reached 665,000 by the late '80s. In 1986, the County Council approved the first billion dollar operating budget with about half of the funds earmarked for education. By then the County's public school system had grown to be among the 20 largest in the nation with more than 96,000 students and 13,000 staff

members in 155 schools. The enrollment of Montgomery College reached nearly 18,000 students, with a full- and part-time faculty of more than 900. The college also expanded, including a new campus in Germantown.

Increased County Employment

For decades, the County enjoyed a strong and growing economy. Between 1980 and 1990 the number of residents in the workforce grew by 43 percent.

At one time the majority of the County workforce commuted daily to Washington. Today, over half of the workforce holds jobs within the County in mostly executive/managerial or administrative/clerical positions.

More residents work for private companies than government in businesses related to electronics, computers, telecommunications and medical sciences.

Current County Government

Under the current system, the Executive submits yearly operating and construction budgets which the Council must approve. The Executive appoints the various department heads, and other County employees are part of a merit system.

Under the Charter, the County must submit to an independent annual audit, make centralized purchases and use competitive bidding.

The Council sits as a legislative body and initiates, repeals and amends local laws for the County as stated by the Express Powers Act. In addition, sitting as the District Council, the Council legislates in all areas of planning, zoning and land use. The Council cannot enact laws for any incorporated town, village, municipality or special taxing area on any matter covered by the powers granted to these jurisdictions.

In November 1986, the voters amended the Charter to increase the number of Council seats from seven to nine in the 1990 election. Five members are elected from geographic council districts and four are elected at large.

Red Brick Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Takoma Park Unification

On July 1, 1997, the city of Takoma Park—founded in 1883 and divided between the counties of Prince George's and Montgomery—was unified into Montgomery County.

The boundary change was the result of 18 years of advocacy by Takoma Park residents to have a community undivided by a county line.

The 1997 unification added 1,900 properties, 6,000 people and two square miles to Montgomery County.

21st Century – Today

Montgomery County remains the most populous jurisdiction in the State of Maryland, and is rapidly approaching the one million mark. In the last decade of the 20th century, minority growth rose from 27 percent of the total population in 1990 to 40 percent in 2000. Almost half of Maryland's Hispanic and Latino population resides in Montgomery County. Thirty percent of county residents are foreign-born.

With 199 schools – 32 of them National Blue Ribbon Schools – Montgomery County Public Schools serve 140,000 students from more than 161 countries. It is the 16th largest school system in the United States, with a $2 billion operating budget.

The County boasts one of the country's most educated workforces, leading the nation with the highest percentage of residents who hold advanced degrees. Research institutes – including Johns Hopkins University's Montgomery County Campus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Institutes of Health and the University of Maryland – have campuses in Montgomery County.

Located at the epicenter of the Mid-Atlantic's thriving federal and advanced technology marketplace, Montgomery County is home to more than 200 biotech companies – representing two-thirds of all those located in Maryland and the third largest cluster in the nation. With a hugely successful business incubator network, a nationally-renowned 93,000-acre agricultural preserve, an award-winning Small Business Mentorship Program, and world-class conference and performing arts facilities, Montgomery County is in an ideal location for both large and small businesses.

In 2006, Isiah Leggett became the first African American to be elected County Executive.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC EVENTS

1774   At Hungerford's Tavern, in what is now Rockville, patriots of lower Frederick County met to protest British taxes and injustices, and to draft the "Hungerford Resolves," protesting British acts.

1776   Montgomery County formed from part of Frederick County.

1776-1948   Montgomery County governed under the County Commissioner system.

1777   County seat established at town of Williamsburg, site of the present city of Rockville.

1779   First county court house built at Williamsburg.

1791   Georgetown, then a part of Montgomery County, is ceded to the Federal government to form part of the new District of Columbia.

1801   The name of the county seat was changed from Williamsburg to Rockville, named after Rock Creek.

1828-1850   Decline in County agriculture, due to overproduction of tobacco, poor farming methods, and emigration of farm labor. Prosperity returned when Quakers in the Sandy Spring area introduced imported fertilizer and farm machinery.

1840   Second court house was built.

1861-1865   During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate troops passed through the County several times.

1860 Free public school system established in
Montgomery County.

1891 Third court house built. The red brick building is
still standing, preserved by citizens groups.

1931 Fourth court house was built of grey stone.

1948 Home rule charter adopted, allowing for a Council-form
of county government. Montgomery was the first county
in Maryland to establish a charter form of government.

1954 County schools begin desegregation.

1968 New charter adopted, allowing for an elected County
Executive, and a seven-member elected County Council.

1970 First County Executive takes office under the new charter.

1976 Bicentennial of Montgomery County and the Nation.

1981 Executive Office Building and Judicial Center built.

1987 Montgomery County proclaimed a Bicentennial
Community in recognition of the 200th Anniversary
of the U.S. Constitution.

1990 Council expanded from seven to nine members.

1997 Unification of the City of Takoma Park into
Montgomery County.

OFFICIAL SYMBOLS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICIAL COUNTY EMBLEM

The County emblem was adopted in March 1998 by Administrative Procedure, replacing the coat of arms as the primary symbol used to identify the government. The emblem consists of the coat of arms flanked by the year 1776—the year the county was established—and encircled by a double ring with the words, "Montgomery County, Maryland."

OFFICIAL COAT OF ARMS

Official Coat of Arms of Montgomery County, Maryland

The coat of arms uses some of the elements of the family arms of General Richard Montgomery for whom the County was named in 1776. It was designed and approved by The College of Arms in London, England and officially adopted by Bill 38-76 (now Section 1-401 of the County Code) enacted by the County Council on October 5, 1976 at the request of the County Executive.

Description of Coat of Arms

The broken spear at the top of the crest is probably an award to an early member of the Montgomery family. The spear and the armor encased forearm or cubit arm are used by those Montgomery families that use the motto "Gardez Bien" or Guard Well.

The pointed yellow and black flags at the top of the crest were taken from the Maryland State coat of arms in order to reflect Montgomery County's relation with the State of Maryland.

The gold mural crown is used by many municipalities and the indented line at its top represents the borders of a local government.

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The helmet and mantling are of a style used in municipal coats of arms.

The gold fleur-de-lis in two quarters of the shield are reminders of the French ancestry of the Montgomery family.

The gold rings with blue gemstones in two quarters of the shield proclaim royal favor and protection, and are found in the family coat of arms of General Montgomery's family.

The indented line which separates the upper quarters of the shield from the lower quarters of the shield represents the borders of a local government.
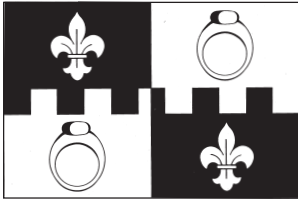
OFFICIAL BIRD AND BLOSSOM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Bill 14-88 made the robin and dogwood the official county bird and blossom when it was written into law as Section 1-405 of the Montgomery County Code on December 14, 1988.

OFFICIAL FLAG OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The flag uses some elements of the family arms of General Richard Montgomery for whom the County was named. It is based on the shield of the official coat of arms of Montgomery County which was designed and approved by The College of Arms in London, England and officially adopted by Bill 38-76 (now Section 1-402 of the County Code) enacted by the County Council on October 5, 1976 at the request of the County Executive.

The gold fleur-de-lis in two quarters of the flag are reminders of the French ancestry of the Montgomery family.

The gold rings with blue gemstones in two quarters of the flag proclaim royal favor and protection and are found in the family coat of arms of General Montgomery's family.

The indented line which separates the upper quarters of the flag from the lower quarters of the flag represents the borders of a local government.

The following specifications are used to produce the County flag: Height to length, 2 to 3. The flag will be quartered by a crenellated line, separating the top two quarters from the two bottom quarters, and a straight vertical line, separating the left two quarters from the two right quarters. The upper left and lower right quarters shall consist of a gold fleur-de-lis on a blue background. The upper right and lower left quarters shall consist of a gold ring with a blue gem on a red background. Crenellated line formed of 11 squares, 1/11 of flag length, with center block split in middle with left side red and right side blue. Rings and fleur-de-lises to be three times as high as a block in the crenellated line with width proportional. Rings and fleur-de-lises centered horizontally on their quarters and spaced vertically so that upper and lower edge of rings and fleur-de-lises are equal distance from horizontal outside edge of quarter and nearest part of crenellated line. Red and blue should be the same shade as is used in the United States flag and gold should be same shade as is used in the Maryland State flag.

COUNTY EXECUTIVES AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, PAST TO PRESENT

1970—1978	James P. Gleason
1978—1986	Charles W. Gilchrist
1986—1990	Sidney Kramer
1990—1994	Neal Potter
1994— 2006	Douglas M. Duncan
2006—	Isiah Leggett

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCILS
Council/Manager Form of Government

First Council - 1949-1950

J. Douglas Bradshaw	P. Garland Ligon
Dorothy S. Himstead	Lewis Meriam *replaced by*
Thomas C. Kelley	Harold F. Hammond *4/50*
Frederic P. Lee	Augustus R. Selby

Second Council - 1950-1954

Harold F. Hammond	George F. Nesbitt
Kathryn J. Lawlor *replaced by*	Lathrop E. Smith
Louis A. Gravelle *1/53*	Grover K. Walker
J. Louis Monarch	Stella B. Werner

Third Council - 1954-1958

Wilbur N. Baughman	J. Grahame Walker
Charles H. Jamison	Stella B. Werner
Robert T. Snure	Jerry T. Williams
Grover K. Walker	

Fourth Council - 1958-1962

David L. Cahoon	Grover K. Walker
Stanley B. Frosh	Stella B. Werner
William F. Hickey	Jerry T. Williams
B. Houston McCeney	

Fifth Council - 1962-1966

Kathryn E. Diggs	Jerry T. Williams *replaced by*
John A. Floyd	William C. Birely *12/65*
Mary A. Hepburn	Thomas M. Wilson *replaced by*
John H. Hiser	Cleatus E. Barnett *12/64*
Grover K. Walker	

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCILS
Council/Manager Form of Government

Sixth Council - 1966-1970

Cleatus E. Barnett
Avis Birely
Idamae Garrott
William W. Greenhalgh

Richmond M. Keeney
Rose C. Kramer
David Scull *replaced by*
James P. Gleason *3/68*

Council/Executive Form of Government

Seventh Council - 1970-1974

Idamae Garrott, 1st President
Dickran Y. Hovsepian, 2nd President
William Sher, 3rd President
Neal Potter, 4th President

Sidney Kramer
Elizabeth L. Scull
William H. Willcox *replaced by*
Norman L. Christeller *10/72*

Eighth Council - 1974-1978

Dickran Y. Hovsepian, 1st President
Norman L. Christeller, 2nd President
John L. Menke, 3rd President
Elizabeth L. Scull, 4th President

Esther P. Gelman
Jane Anne Moore
Neal Potter
William Colman *replaced*
Mr. Christeller 2/78

Ninth Council - 1978-1982

Neal Potter, 1st President
Scott Fosler, 2nd President
Elizabeth L. Scull, 3rd President
Neal Potter, 4th President
Rose Crenca

Esther P. Gelman
Michael L. Gudis
Ruth Spector
David L. Scull *replaced*
Mrs. Scull 6/81

Tenth Council - 1982-1986

David L. Scull, 1st President
Esther P. Gelman, 2nd President
Michael L. Gudis, 3rd President
William E. Hanna, Jr., 4th President

Rose Crenca
Scott Fosler
Neal Potter

Eleventh Council - 1986-1990

Rose Crenca, 1st President
Michael L. Subin, 2nd President
Michael L. Gudis, 3rd President
William E. Hanna, Jr., 4th President

Bruce Adams
Isiah Leggett
Neal Potter

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCILS
Council/Executive Form of Government

Twelfth Council - 1990-1994

Isiah Leggett, 1st President
Bruce Adams, 2nd President
Marilyn J. Praisner, 3rd President
William E. Hanna, Jr., 4th President
Derick Berlage

Nancy Dacek
Gail Ewing
Betty Ann Krahnke
Michael L. Subin

Thirteenth Council - 1994-1998

Derick Berlage, 1st President
Gail Ewing, 2nd President
Marilyn J. Praisner, 3rd President
Isiah Leggett, 4th President
Nancy Dacek

William E. Hanna, Jr.
Betty Ann Krahnke
Neal Potter
Michael L. Subin

Fourteenth Council - 1998-2002

Isiah Leggett, 1st President
Michael L. Subin, 2nd President
Blair G. Ewing, 3rd President
Steven A. Silverman, 4th President
Phil Andrews

Derick Berlage, *replaced by*
Donell Peterman
Betty Ann Krahnke, *replaced by*
Howard A. Denis, *special election 4/00*
Marilyn J. Praisner
Nancy Dacek

Fifteenth Council - 2002-2006

Michael L. Subin, 1st President
Steven A. Silverman, 2nd President
Thomas E. Perez, 3rd President
George L. Leventhal, 4th President
Phil Andrews

Howard A. Denis
Nancy M. Floreen
Michael J. Knapp
Marilyn J. Praisner

Sixteenth Council - 2006-2010

Marilyn J. Praisner, 1st President
Died in office 2/1/08; replaced by
Donald Praisner *elected 5/08*
Died in office 1/31/09; replaced by
Nancy Navarro *elected 5/09*
Michael J. Knapp, 2nd President
Phil Andrews, 3rd President
Nancy M. Floreen, 4th President

Roger Berliner
Marc Elrich
Valerie Ervin
George L. Leventhal
Duchy Trachtenberg

Seventeenth Council - 2010-2014

Valerie Ervin, 1st President
Phil Andrews
Roger Berliner
Marc Elrich
Nancy M. Floreen

George L. Leventhal
Nancy Navarro
Craig Rice
Hans Riemer

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Land

Montgomery County is adjacent to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and is also bordered by the Maryland counties of Frederick, Carroll, Howard and Prince George's, and the State of Virginia.

Rolling land and small hills make up most of Montgomery County's 497 square miles. There are 15 square miles of water, including rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, and 28,435 acres of parkland.[1] Elevations range from 52 feet above sea level near the District Line to 850 feet in the northern portion of the county near Damascus.

Population

931,000 people have made Montgomery County their home (April 2006). The average age is 36.9 and more than half of the population is female.[2]

Montgomery County prides itself on its racial diversity and cultural richness. The county's population is 64 percent white, 16.6 percent black, and 13.4 percent Asian/Pacific Islander. Including all races, 13.9 percent of the population is of Hispanic origin. [2] Thirty percent of County residents are foreign-born.

Housing

Most of the county's 350,000 homes are single-family detached dwellings, numbering 177,335. There are 108,090 households in multi-family structures, and 64,575 in townhouses.[2] According to 2006 data from M-NCPPC, Research and Technology Center, STAR system, the median single-family sales price for both new sales and resales is $485,000. The average apartment rent ranges from $1,175 for an efficiency to $2,120 for a three-bedroom apartment.[3]

The average household size in 2005 was 2.66 persons with an estimated median household income of $83,880.[2] Families make up 74.2 percent of households in the county, and of these, 61.8 percent are married couple families. Single-parent families account for 10.2 percent of family households, with the remainder consisting of related family members other than parents and children. [2]

Education

Educational attainment of the 624,025 adults in the county, age 25 and older is as follows; 63.6 percent have a bachelor's degree or better, 22.3 percent graduated high school, with 6.3 percent attending some college or trade school.[2] The Fall 2010 public school enrollment was 144,064.[4]

Employment

The private sector accounts for 49.7 percent of employment in the county followed by the government, which employs 25.8 percent. Non-profit organizations employ 13.2 percent of the workforce and 11.3 percent of workers are self-employed.

Over half of the County workforce works within the county in mostly professional, executive/managerial or administrative/clerical positions. Almost 72 percent drive to work alone, while 15.5 percent use public transportation. Another 5.3 percent of the workforce carpool.[2]

Additional Information

For more information about Montgomery County demographics, visit the Montgomery County Research and Technology Center

At A Glance brochure at the following address: http://www.mc-mncppc.org/research/data_library/ data_library_portal/documents/AtAGlanceJuly2007.pdf

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[1] The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Research and Technology Center
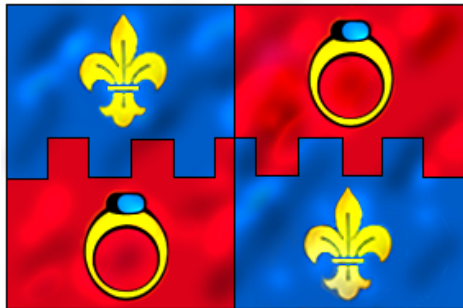[2] 2005 Census Update Survey
http://www.mc-mncppc.org/research/data_library/CUS2005/ M-NCPPC-ResearchCensusUpdateSurvey_2005_update.shtm
[3] Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, 2010 Rental Apartment Vacancy Report
[4] Montgomery County Public Schools
http://www.montgomerycountyschoolsmd.org/about

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