Registration is Open for Montgomery County Recreation Outdoor Summer Programs

Montgomery County Recreation is offering outdoor programs and classes to promote active and healthy lifestyles this summer. Programs and activities are tailored to a variety of interests, skill levels and ages. Outdoor summer programs include sports, dance, exercise and wellness.

To view available programs, visit [www.mocorec.com](http://www.mocorec.com).

Questions can be emailed to recreation.customerservice@montgomerycountymd.gov.

For the most up-to-date information on Montgomery County Recreation, follow us on Twitter [@MoCoRec](https://twitter.com/MoCoRec) or Facebook at [@montgomerycountyrecreation](https://facebook.com/montgomerycountyrecreation).

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Montgomery County Council to Vote on County Executive’s Request for $20M to Provide Additional Relief for Renters

*The legislation was introduced this week and will be voted on by the County Council next week before the Council goes on recess.*

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich recommended this week that the County Council appropriate $20 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to expand rental assistance for eviction and homelessness prevention. Funds would expand the County’s eviction and homelessness prevention programs, including the COVID Rent Relief program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The County received funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to address emergency needs from the impact of COVID-19. DHHS’s Services to End and Prevent Homelessness’ programs will use the funds to provide financial assistance at levels needed to prevent eviction and end homelessness. The programs evaluate the risks of eviction and homelessness concentrated in communities experiencing disproportionate impacts of COVID-19, prioritizing households determined to be at the greatest risk of eviction and loss of housing. Research has shown that low-income women of color are most at risk of eviction.

Montgomery County has existing programs that provide critical support for tenants to avoid eviction and maintain housing; but the programs lack sufficient funds to address the breadth of the current emergency. This allocation will enable thousands more households to receive support.

[Read more](#)
‘Reopen Montgomery’ Small Business Grant Program Launched Wednesday, July 29, Enabling Businesses to Submit Online Applications for Reopening Assistance Grants of Up to $5,000

The “Reopen Montgomery” Small Business Grant Program, which was created by the Montgomery County Council with the support of County Executive Marc Elrich, will formally launch by noon on Wednesday, July 29. The $14 million program will help businesses with grants that could be as much as $5,000.

Businesses and nonprofit organizations may be eligible for grants for reopening expenditures they have incurred related to health and safety requirements from the State and County for reopening their business between March 16, 2020, and 30 days following the date when the County starts Phase 3 reopening. The County is still operating under Phase 2 reopening guidelines.

Details on the program and application information—in English and Spanish—can be found at https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/biz-resources/reopen/. Questions about the Reopen Montgomery program can be emailed to Reopen@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County Food Assistance Provider Grant Applications Now Open; Capacity Building Grants to Help with Infrastructure

Montgomery County is now accepting applications for its Food Assistance Provider Capacity Building Grant program. The funding will be used to help food assistance providers improve infrastructure and increase their ability to provide food access to hard-to-reach communities in Montgomery County during the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future. Nonprofit organizations can apply for up to $85,000.

Applications for the grants are due by noon on Monday, August 3, 2020; and funds will be distributed beginning Thursday, August 13, 2020.

The COVID-19 Emergency Food Assistance Provider Capacity Building Grant is a partnership between the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Montgomery County Food Council (MCFC) and the Healthcare Initiative Foundation (HIF). The $1 million in funding for the program comes from the federal CARES Act and was appropriated by the County Executive and Montgomery County Council to increase food access to county residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant includes funding for items that will help food assistance providers increase their ability to store and transport larger quantities of food and improve the organizations’ infrastructure. The County’s Food Security Task Force, formed by the County’s Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS), will review and determine all grant awards. The HIF is the fiscal agent for the program and will award the money.

Grant applications will be reviewed on criteria that includes requests in the priority area such as storage, transportation, technology, and the ability of the organization to increase the number of individuals and households served by increasing capacity. Special consideration will be given to organizations who form partnerships to better serve the community.

To submit an application, visit the HIF website at https://hifmc.org/for-grantseekers/covid-19-food-access-grant/. If an organization cannot complete the application online or requires the application be provided in a language other than English, email Jess.Fuchs@hifmc.org. After successfully logging into the site, select the COVID-19 Food Assistance Capacity Building Grant application on the dashboard.

For specific questions, email mark.hodge@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Read more
Council unanimously approves funding to expand Health and Human Services’ mobile crisis response capacity

This week, the Montgomery County Council unanimously approved a special appropriation of $592,202 to the fiscal year 2021 operating budget of the County’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to expand mobile crisis response services.

DHHS operates the Crisis Center and staffs one Mobile Crisis Team, which is based in Rockville. The Mobile Crisis Team is a two-person team that responds to calls made directly to the Crisis Center and when the police request their assistance as a part of a police response. Currently, the County only has funding for one Mobile Crisis Team, and the team can only respond to one call at a time. Read more

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Council introduces changes to Public Campaign Financing system

This week, the Council introduced Bill 31-20, Public Campaign Financing – Amendments, which would improve the current public campaign financing system. Bill 31-20 would do the following: amend the County public campaign financing system; alter the maximum contribution limits; allow participating candidates to carryover certain funds under certain circumstances; require an audit of the public campaign financing system after the general election in an election cycle; and alter the penalties for willful violations of the public campaign financing system. The goal of this legislation is to improve the County’s public campaign financing system. Read more

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County’s Rapid Response Teams Provide COVID-19 Testing and Health/Human Services Assessment to Households in Neighborhoods Impacted by COVID-19

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services’ Rapid Response Teams, made possible through a contract with Ready Responders, will provide home-based COVID-19 testing and health/human services assessments to households located in zip codes highly impacted by COVID-19; those who face significant barriers to accessing community test sites; and those who have household situations where testing at home would be more effective than going to a community test site.

The no-cost visits will be provided seven days a week and the response team will include a health worker and a human services worker. Team members will provide temperature checks, monitor vital signs and give COVID-19 saliva tests to all household members who give consent. A DHHS service navigator will follow up after the visit as needed. Emergency or urgent medical care and human services referrals will be provided at the time of the visit—such as calling 911 for a medical emergency, providing emergency food referrals or offer immediate referral to temporary hotel shelter for household members who are ill and cannot effectively isolate at home. A DHHS service navigator will follow up after the visit as needed. Bilingual staff will visit or staff will have access to the County’s language line to help with interpreting during home visits.

Geographic areas most impacted by COVID-19 in Montgomery County include the following zip codes: 20850, 20866, 20877, 20901, 20902, 20903, 20906 and 20910.

Residents can be referred for this service by a community-based agency or refer themselves by calling the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1755 (open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days/week). Callers will be asked a series of questions to determine eligibility. For the latest COVID-19 updates, visit the County’s COVID-19 website and follow Montgomery County on Facebook @MontgomeryCountyInfo and Twitter @MontgomeryCoMD.

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August Youth Development Webinars Are Here!

During this unprecedented time, Montgomery County Collaboration Council's Youth Development Community of Practice will continue to offer training through live and archived webinars for professionals working in Montgomery County youth-serving organizations, agencies, schools, and all other professionals working with youth. Upcoming training includes a Virtual Team Building Webinar, and Foundations and Impact of Trauma on Teens Webinar. To learn more, visit https://collaborationcouncil.org

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Two New Pop Up COVID-19 Testing Sites

Rockville

FREE COVID-19 TESTING
NO DOCTOR’S ORDER NEEDED
WHEN: Saturday, August 1 | 12 - 6 p.m.
WHERE: Rockville United Church
355 Linthicum St
Rockville, Maryland
APPOINTMENTS: www.MoCoCOVIDTesting.org
or call the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1755
Appointments encouraged but walk-ins allowed. Testing is free and no insurance is required.

FREE COVID-19 TESTING
NO DOCTOR’S ORDER NEEDED
WHEN: Thursday, July 30 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
WHERE: Silver Spring Civic Building
1 Veterans Place
Silver Spring, Maryland
APPOINTMENTS: www.MoCoCOVIDTesting.org
or call the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1755
Appointments encouraged but walk-ins allowed. Testing is free and no insurance is required.

PRUEBAS DE COVID-19 GRATUITAS
NO SE NECESITA UNA ORDEN DEL MÉDICO
CUANDO: Sábado, agosto 1 | 12 - 6 p.m.
DÓNDE: Rockville United Church
355 Linthicum St
Rockville, Maryland
CITAS: Haga una cita en www.MoCoCOVIDTesting.org o llame a la línea de pruebas al 240-777-1755
Se recomienda hacer citas pero se permite la entrada sin cita previa. La prueba es gratuita y no se requiere seguro médico.

PRUEBAS DE COVID-19 GRATUITAS
NO SE NECESITA UNA ORDEN DEL MÉDICO
CUANDO: Jueves, julio 30 | 2 - 6 p.m.
DÓNDE: Silver Spring Civic Building
1 Veterans Place
Silver Spring, Maryland
CITAS: Haga una cita en www.MoCoCOVIDTesting.org o llame a la línea de pruebas al 240-777-1755
Se recomienda hacer citas pero se permite la entrada sin cita previa. La prueba es gratuita y no se requiere seguro médico.

Silver Spring Civic Building
BlackRock Center for the Arts
presents

Virtual Galleries

2020 BALTIMORE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY Annual Juried Exhibit Sponsored by the Baltimore Watercolor Society JULY 1 – AUGUST 31, 2020 Exhibit Presented Online | Artwork is Available for Purchase

GORDANA GERSKOVIC: TEXTURESCAPES Solo Exhibit Featuring Photographs of Textures Found in the Landscape JUNE 20 – JULY 31, 2020 Exhibit Presented Online | Artwork is Available for Purchase

For more gallery information and to learn more about BlackRock Center for the Arts, visit www.blackrockcenter.org

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MD State Highway’s Planned Lane Closures in District 3 for Period Beginning July 24

Here’s a link to this week’s MDOT SHA District 3 major planned maintenance and construction-related lane closure update for Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties.
https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OC/MDOTSHA_D3_CONSTRUX_LANE_CLOSURES.pdf

For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news
For other news and meeting agendas, visit:
County Council https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council
Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news_releases

Also check out the latest from:
Department of Public Libraries http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library
Department of Recreation http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec
Department of Transportation http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html
Department of Environmental Protection http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep
Department of Permitting Services https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps
Montgomery County Volunteer Center http://www.montgomeryserves.org
Office of Community Partnerships https://montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships
Commission for Women https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw
Parks Department http://www.montgomeryparks.org/
Planning Department http://montgomeryplanning.org/
Department of Health and Human Services www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs