

ECA Newsletter

July 2020

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Happy Independence Day! We will miss the annual ECA July 4th Parade and Party this year. But, I hope you all have a wonderful and safe holiday.

The Newsletter this month has quite a few items about Montgomery County programs and services, many related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Parking Phone App for Montgomery County

As you may know, the popular parking pay-by-phone app *MobileNOW!* is no longer available. The company ceased operations in May. The app no longer works and [their website](#) only provides limited account access. The company says that it expects to reimburse customers who have a remaining credit balance in their accounts “in accordance with applicable law with any funds remaining and available for distribution” and it will post notices on its website.

Currently, the *Parkmobile* pay-by-phone app remains available and works at all Montgomery County-operated parking locations. For additional information, go [HERE](#).

Parking and Transportation-related COVID-19 Rules/Changes

Speaking of parking.... As we enter Phase 2 of the County's COVID-19 Reopening plans, with more businesses opening and more people venturing out from home, it's worth reviewing the many changes in County parking and transportation procedures/rules. The Department of Transportation has a website devoted solely to

Transportation Changes, Updates and Resources for COVID-19. It includes a lot of helpful information about parking, public transit, Bikeshare, street closures, curbside food pick-up zones, and many other topics. For example, you might be interested to know that residential parking permit enforcement is still suspended. And parking is still free in Garage 36 between Auburn and Del Ray Avenues. For more information, go [HERE](#).

Minimum Wage Increase in Effect for Montgomery County

The minimum wage increased in Montgomery County on July 1st. The number of workers employed by a business controls the minimum wage amount for that business:

- \$14/hour for employers with 51 or more employees;
- \$13.25/hour for employers with 11 to 50 employees; and
- \$13/hour for employers with 10 or fewer employees.

This minimum wage rate will increase incrementally each July 1, until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2022. Employees age 18 and under, working under 20 hours per week, are exempt from the new rate. Employees under 18 years of age must earn at least 85 percent of the State minimum wage rate. Certain employers providing home health services or home or community-based services can apply for designation as an eligible services provider and follow an adjusted implementation schedule.

You can learn more about the County's minimum wage at the [Office of Human Rights website](#).

Montgomery Parks Begins Opening Playgrounds and Sports Fields

On June 20, Montgomery Parks began issuing permits for youth sports practice on County athletic fields, specifically for skill-building drills and conditioning. Fields are available for permit-only practice from noon to 8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. To request a reservation for a field permit, league managers must obtain a permit through online registration via [ActiveMontgomery](#) or by emailing Mary.King@montgomerycountymd.gov.

On June 29, Montgomery Parks began to gradually open County playgrounds. They expect it to take up to two weeks to reopen all 276 playgrounds. Users of the playgrounds must wear a face covering, stay six feet apart, and clean their hands before and after use. Park visitors are encouraged to bring their own wipes and hand sanitizer. For more information about these and other COVID-19 actions, visit the Montgomery Parks website [HERE](#).

Montgomery County Recreation Opens Pools/Aquatic Centers July 6

All 4 Aquatic Centers and 7 Pools operated by Montgomery County (including the Bethesda Outdoor Pool at the corner of Hillandale Road and Little Falls Parkway) will reopen on Monday, July 6 with modified hours and several other changes to operating procedures and rules. Reservations and pool passes will be required for admittance. If you plan on going to one of these facilities, be sure to check on their website [HERE](#) for complete information about how to obtaining passes and make reservations, as well as the new hours, procedures, and rules. You can also call Recreation's Customer Service line, (240) 777-6840.

Montgomery County Recreation Virtual Summer Programs for All Ages

Montgomery County Recreation has opened registration for summer virtual programs and classes to promote active and healthy lifestyles as we gradually reopen from the COVID-19 health crisis. Programs will begin the week of July 6. They are tailored to a variety of interests, skill levels and ages. Summer programs include arts, sports, dance, exercise and wellness and more. In addition, week-long virtual summer experiences are available for children aged 6 to 12.

To view available programs, visit Montgomery County Recreation's virtual Rec Room at [HERE](#).

Montgomery County 'BikeMatchMoCo' Donation Program

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has created the *BikeMatchMoCo* program, which is a free service enabling people with extra, unused bicycles to donate them directly to individuals who need a bike. Due to a large demand for bikes, the program is seeking additional donations.

Individuals who need a bike or would like to donate a bike must fill out a simple registration form. The information is reviewed by MCDOT staff to match bikes available for donation with new owners. The request/donation form and additional information about the program is available at their website [HERE](#) or can be obtained by mail by calling 240-777-8380.

Edgemoor Tip of the Month – 'Home Energy Hacks' Energy Savings Videos

Montgomery Energy Connection, a program led by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), has a series of videos, *Home Energy Hacks* that can help you learn how to save on energy costs. The videos are 90 seconds to three minutes long and provide residents with quick and easy tips to reduce energy use in the home. New videos are released on the 18th of each month. Some of the topics covered so far include Types of Light Bulbs, Home Energy Audits, and Insulating Electrical Outlets.

The Home Energy Hacks videos can be viewed on Cable Montgomery's Home Energy Hack YouTube page [HERE](#). You can follow DEP and learn about new releases on their [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

Do you have a tip you'd like to share with your neighbors? Please email me your suggestions [HERE](#).

The ECA Newsletter is a compilation of information relevant to Edgemoor area residents. It is distributed on an occasional basis on the EC-Net email list.