

The Borough of Montvale

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A look at the Community, including upcoming events, important notices, meetings, and more.



Thank You!

Mayor Michael Ghassali, The Borough Council, and The Entire Montvale Community thank the frontline workers who are keeping our community strong and safe during this time.

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From the Tax Department

Please see Page 7 for all information about property tax due dates.

Parks

Montvale Town Parks To Open
Phase I

Visit [Montvale.org/Parks](https://montvale.org/Parks)

The Mayor's Corner

I want to thank everyone again for adhering to all of the many restrictions in place to slow the spread of coronavirus. We need to continue to be vigilant to prevent the exponential growth of infections that other areas of the state are experiencing. I also want there to be hope. We are starting to plan for the day when we can begin to reopen the Borough of Montvale. One thing is certain: We do not want to risk a second wave of infections. I am working with Borough Council, the Mayors of neighboring towns, county and state officials and public health experts on a coordinated effort to plan for the future.

Montvale has always been considered home to a melting pot of residents, businesses and visitors to our retail shops. In the meantime, please look after your neighbors, no matter where they are from. At times like these, it is important that the public have the most up-to-date and accurate information. Anybody can sign up to receive email notifications when I post updates or go to our Borough website at [Montvale.org](https://montvale.org).

I want to extend our thanks on behalf of the entire Montvale community to the many generous residents and businesses who offered their time, resources, talent to find and donate masks and

gloves for our residents, our first responders, gift cards and food to give to the families in distress in our town. These good deeds are all recorded and the Council and I will recognize these amazing residents and businesses in due time. On the same topic, I am reinitiating the Mayor's Charity Fund to accept money and 100% of the contributions will be going to needy families and causes to benefit families in distress in our town. I have appointed the following residents to be the charity board trustees, Council President Doug Arendacs, Council Member Rose Curry, Judith Thomas and David Lafferty. Anyone who wishes to contribute, please make checks payable to Mayor's Charity Fund and mail it to Borough of Montvale, 12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, NJ 07645, Attn: Mayor's Charity Fund.



Mayor Mike Ghassali

Please stay the course, be vigilant and be safe, and as always please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Mayor Mike Ghassali

Montvale Police Department

First, my condolences to those who have lost loved ones to the pandemic. I know how difficult the current situation has been on all of us. A few positive things that I have noticed as the lockdown continues, is that adults and children are out walking and playing in their neighborhoods. There is less traffic on the roads, and in the skies. They outside air even seems a little fresher. Again, be mindful of the fact that more people are out walking, bike riding, etc., and drive carefully.



I have been personally overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses and residents. We have had an incredible amount of donations of Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves and masks, and donations of food to feed our Officers. I am so grateful and proud to serve this community. We have tried to keep the Montvale Police Department Facebook page updated to thank those who have made these much needed and much appreciated donations. The Mayor and Council have been tremendously supportive as well. They are all working tirelessly to manage this unprecedented crisis.

Keep up the social distancing and hand hygiene-it's working. I have been on a morning conference call with the NJ State Police, the Attorney General's Office, and over 800 Police professionals from throughout the State, 7 days a week for the past 6 weeks. The statistics show that we are winning. With your continued vigilance and cooperation we will prevail, and get back to our normal lives.

Chief Joseph Sanfilippo

Montvale Officials

Mayor

Mike Ghassali (R)
MGhassali@MontvaleBoro.org

Council President

Douglas Arendacs (R)
DArendacs@MontvaleBoro.org

Administrator / Municipal Clerk

Maureen Iarossi-Alwan
Miarossi@MontvaleBoro.org

Council

Chris Roche (R)
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Rose Curry (R)
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DKoelling@MontvaleBoro.org

Timothy E. Lane (R)
TLane@MontvaleBoro.org

Annmarie Russo-Vogelsang (R)
ARussovogelsang@MontvaleBoro.org

Meetings This Month

Please visit the calendar on Montvale.org for meeting schedules and call-in information

Trash & Recycling This Month

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
27	28	29	30	1
East Zone Trash Pickup	Central Zone Trash Pickup	West Zone Trash Pickup	Recycling: Districts 1&2	
			Yard Waste Collection	
4	5	6	7	8
East Zone Trash Pickup	Central Zone Trash Pickup	West Zone Trash Pickup	Recycling: Districts 3&4	
			Yard Waste Collection	
11	12	13	14	15
East Zone Trash Pickup	Central Zone Trash Pickup	West Zone Trash Pickup	Recycling: Districts 1&2	
			Yard Waste Collection	
18	19	20	21	22
East Zone Trash Pickup	Central Zone Trash Pickup	West Zone Trash Pickup	Recycling: Districts 3&4	
			Yard Waste Collection	
25	26	27	28	29
East Zone Trash Pickup	Central Zone Trash Pickup	West Zone Trash Pickup	Recycling: Districts 1&2	
			Yard Waste Collection	

Montvale Recreation Special Events Committee

Looking to give back to your town in a way that benefits residents of all ages through fun family-oriented events? Recreation is currently seeking adult or high school volunteers to assist in the planning and coordinating of Montvale's annual events such as Day In The Park, the Halloween Carnival, the Christmas Tree Lighting, the Spring Fling and more! Join the Special Events Committee today to be a part of keeping these events successful, memorable and a tradition for Montvale. Please email MontvaleRecreation@montvaleboro.org for more information.

Adventure Camp

Adventure Camp Registration is now closed as the camp is full. The above guidelines on camp refunds, in the event of camp cancellation, is applicable to Adventure Camp as well.

Adventure camp is for children entering grades 6 and 7 in the September 2020-2021 school year. The camp will run June 29 through July 24, 2020 (Closed on Friday, July 3 for the holiday). As part of this camp, campers will spend time off site learning and discovering. Each week campers will venture on trips to explore and above all, have fun! Please note that this camp will begin 30 minutes earlier this year. Campers must arrive by 9:00 am and will be released at 2:30 pm. Earlier drop off will allow for campers to have more time on their many trips during camp. For further camp information, please visit the Recreation section of the Borough website.

Contact:



201-391-5700



www.Montvale.org



The Borough of Montvale
12 Mercedes Drive

Summer Camp

We hope that this announcement finds you and your family well during these trying times. We know there are many questions regarding Montvale Rec Summer Camp and Adventure Camp this year so we hope that the following will clear up the common questions we are currently receiving. First, we have not reached any conclusions on whether or not we will be able to have camp this year. With that said, we are and will do everything possible to work towards the goal of holding camp this summer. We recognize that the camp experience is one that campers, counselors, and staff alike look forward to all year long and that many parents rely on camp as a form of childcare. At the same time, we hold the health, safety and well-being of all camp participants to be of the utmost importance. If we felt as though holding camp could jeopardize any of the aforementioned, there is a possibility we would have to postpone or cancel camp this summer. As we all know, this is a fluid and dynamic situation with projections and guidelines changing almost daily. We hope to have more clarity on what camp may look like this summer by mid-May but a decision could come as late as mid-June if circumstances demand such.

In the event that we are not able to have camp this year, parents who registered and paid, will receive a full refund including online credit card fees. Going forward, in an effort to alleviate a financial commitment to camp, we will be accepting registrations for camp without payment. In the event we are able to have camp, we will send out announcements regarding such with instructions on how to submit camp tuition. For now, please make sure you receive the confirmation email after you register. If after checking your spam/junk mailbox, you still haven't received the registration confirmation, email MontvaleRecreation@montvaleboro.org. The May 1st registration deadline and late registration fee will no longer be in effect. However, we still have camper group limits which means once a group is full, the excess campers will be waitlisted. Please keep all medical and lunch forms until further notice. If and when we are able to accept them, we will send out a new deadline to hand them in by.

Prospective 2020 Summer Camp Counselors: We still hope to keep with the Memorial Day weekend deadline to notify you of your employment status. In the event that we need to extend that deadline, you will receive an email through the address you provided on your application.

Thank you for your understanding,

Montvale Recreation and the 2020 Summer Camp Staff

Summer Camp for children entering grades 1-5 in September of 2020, will run June 29 through July 24, 2020 (Closed on Friday, July 3 for the holiday) on Memorial Drive. Camp hours will be 9:30 am to 2:30 pm on Memorial Drive. For further camp information, please visit the Recreation section of the Borough website.

Recreational Activities and Programs

At this time, all Montvale Recreation programs have been suspended indefinitely. All parks, playgrounds, fields, courts and recreational facilities have been closed in addition to field use permits being suspended. This measure was taken as a result of the recommendations from the CDC and the Governor's Office, which have both strongly discouraged social gatherings in order to limit the risk of spreading COVID-19. When we are able to resume recreational programming and activities, announcements will be sent out via email, the [Borough website](#), [the Borough Facebook page](#) and the [Recreation Facebook page](#).

Program participants (aside from summer camp) who will be receiving refunds have been emailed. If you registered for a program occurring in April and May and have not received an email, please contact Lisa Dent through them below address: MontvaleRecreation@montvaleboro.org.

Montvale Senior Club

Our senior club will resume upon our governors decisions.

We pray that all our members are coping and respecting the regulations that have been set before us to help eliminate the corona virus.

We look forward to being together soon.

Library Programs

The library is currently closed, but we are making as many of our services as possible available online. Please check our [website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page for updates during this time. Links to our Facebook, Good Reads, Instagram, Twitter and Spotify accounts as well as all of our databases such as Hoopla and Mango languages are available on our website: montvalelibrarynj.org.

All residents who don't have library cards are able to register for them on www.bccls.org and get a card number emailed back to them. Use that to access Hoopla, Mango languages, Overdrive/Libby, and many more websites available through www.bccls.org and our website. If you have any questions on how to set this up, email movlcirc@bccls.org or george.galuschak@montvale.bccls.org.

Programs For Everyone!

Tune in to a Virtual Book Group

Our virtual book groups are open to all. We will meet through Google Hangouts—participants who have Gmail accounts may connect through their computers or personal devices and all others may connect via telephone. Watch your email, our website, and our social media outlets for specific information on how to connect to each meeting. Questions can be answered by emailing Lorissa.lightman@montvale.bccls.org.

What's Cooking with Therese?

We're all cooking more than usual while we're stuck at home. If your family is tired of eating the same meals over and over, watch a video about online cookbooks created by Therese Jones at <https://www.montvalelibrarynj.org/adultbooksclubs>. Therese leads our Cookbook Book Group and is passionate about cooking and entertaining. You will also find "Easy at Home" recipes with readily available ingredients. New recipes will be added periodically, and we welcome your suggestions.

From the Children's Room

Please let your children know that the Montvale Library misses them, and Ms. Giulia and the Children's staff are busy creating videos and activities to help the time fly by. Be sure to visit us at <https://www.montvalelibrarynj.org/childrens> so that we can entertain your kids. Check this page periodically as we continue to add new and exciting content. For a brief preview:

Check out Ms. Giulia's awesome videos on some subjects such as playing the guitar, her favorite story time books, and cooking tips including her special recipe for making gnocchi.

Mrs. Liz challenges you to create your own rainbow art and tell the world what book is keeping you company during these trying times. Please share by posting on our Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter account #SHAREABOOKANDARAINBOW. Examples can be found on our website and Facebook.

eBooks and Other Online Materials

Hoopla: We may be closed, but you can still take out items! Hoopla offers eBooks, movies, audiobooks, TV shows, music, and comics to Montvale residents. To sign up, go to <https://www.hoopladigital.com/> or download the free Hoopla app and log in with your library card number (the 14-digit number above the barcode)! Have you read, watched, or listened to anything you loved on Hoopla? Email lorissa.lightman@montvale.bccls.org with your picks which will be shared in the next newsletter!

Libby: Borrow eBooks and audiobooks! Download the free app from your device's App store and register with your Montvale Library card to enjoy free content. For anyone who needs step-by-step help getting their device set up, please email movlcirc@bccls.org.

And much, much more content!

Please check our website and social media pages for updates as we are constantly providing new virtual services.

A final note, please do not leave books in the book drop during this time. Your item due dates have been automatically changed to two weeks after we reopen. No fines will be accrued while we are closed and we will resolve any issues that may come up when we reopen.

Tri-Boro Volunteer Ambulance Corps

The Tri-Boro Volunteer Ambulance Corps hopes that you, your family and friends are well and taking all precautionary measures during this pandemic. With these challenging times upon us, we as an ALL-VOLUNTEER organization are doing our very best to stay in service to answer your call for help. The Coronavirus has put an additional strain on our volunteers and caught us and the rest of the world off guard and a little unprepared with PPE (Personal Protection Equipment). We would like to thank Dr. Mark Samani of Montvale, for all the masks, gowns, goggles and face shields that he donated with the generosity of monetary donations he received from so many residents of Montvale. THANK YOU to all that donated and reached out to our organization during this difficult time, we appreciate your support!

I also want to thank our membership for their tireless efforts and quick response to these changing demands during this growing Covid-19 outbreak. They constantly put the needs of others ahead of their own needs while risking personal exposure to save lives. We work closely with the officers of the Montvale, Park Ridge and Woodcliff Lake Police Departments and are truly impressed with their professional, courteous manners in ensuring not only the patient's needs and safety but the needs and safety of our members.

The road ahead of us may appear unclear but we are all in this together!

Stay safe and remain strong.

Heather McGee
President T.B.V.A.C.

Tri-Boro Food Pantry

The Tri Boro Food Pantry is still serving the community during the coronavirus outbreak. The increase of unemployment and food insecurity has caused a surge in patrons. The number of families we see on a weekly basis has more than doubled. We are busier than ever and have less food than ever, which is troubling. The pantry is largely reliant on patronizing local grocery stores. With the new shopping limits set in place at the grocery stores, we are unable to restock our shelves and the inventory at the pantry has become dangerously low. Our secondary source of food is the generosity of the community. Without recent food donations, our doors would have been closed already. At this point we are making an urgent plea to the community for unexpired food donations. While nonperishables are preferred, we are grateful for any donations. Donations can be made at the Pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-12pm or by appointment at 201-573-9083.

We are currently filling bags with: Hot cereal, cold cereal, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, pasta, rice, dried beans, canned soup and canned vegetables. Thank you for helping us help the community!

NFPA Urges Added Caution around Home Fire Safety

As the public largely remains at home in response to COVID-19, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is urging everyone to use added caution around home fire safety.

Cooking, heating, and electrical equipment are among the leading causes of home fires each year. As people continue to stay at home and engage in these activities, it's critical that they recognize where potential hazards exist and what can be done to prevent them.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and is responsible for nearly half (49 percent) of all reported home fires involving cooking equipment. Moreover, unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires, meaning that home cooking fires occur most often when people aren't keeping a close eye on what they're cooking.

As many households are now dealing with unusual routines and out-of-the-ordinary circumstances, such as kids home from school and parents working from home, there's greater potential for distracted cooking.

NFPA statistics show that heating equipment is the second-leading cause of home fires, resulting in an average of 52,050 home fires each year. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment is involved in an annual average of 35,100 home fires.

For much of the country, heating systems are still in use and in many cases, for more hours than usual. In addition, with everyone at home, people may be using the same outlets to charge phones, laptops and other digital equipment, which also presents a fire hazard.

With these concerns in mind, NFPA reminds the public to use best practices for staying fire-safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond:

Cooking

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.
- Make sure all handles are turned inward, away from where someone can grab a hot handle or tip a pan over.
- Be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, refrain from using the stove or stovetop.
- If you have young children in your home, create a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Heating

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one meter) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one meter) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

Electrical

- When charging smartphones and other digital devices, only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed or on a couch.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, microwave ovens, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use.
- Use a light bulb with the right number of watts. There should be a sticker that indicates the right number of watts.

In addition, smoke alarms should be located on every level of the home, in each bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. Test them monthly to make sure they're working. NFPA also strongly encourages households develop and practice a home escape plan to ensure that everyone knows what to do in a fire and can escape quickly and safely.

For a wealth of NFPA resources and information on home fire safety, visit www.nfpa.org/Public-Education

From The Tax Department

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 130, the Borough of Montvale has extended the second quarter property tax grace period until June 1, 2020.

Second Quarter property taxes are due on May 1, 2020. However, the grace period has been extended to Monday, June 1. Payments MUST BE RECEIVED on or before June 1 in order to be processed without penalty. Payments received on June 2nd or later will be considered late and interest will revert back to May 1.

The Borough continues to have bills to pay, including multi-million dollar payments to the County and the Local and Regional School Districts. These payments do not stop during the current pandemic. Because of this, we would encourage those that are currently able to pay on time to please do so. It is important that we continue to have revenue coming into the Borough to meet our obligations.

For your convenience, a dropbox is located curbside by the main entrance of the Library. You may also pay online through the borough website at www.montvale.org, or you can mail your payment to the Borough at 12 Mercedes Drive, attn: Tax Collector. If you would like your bill returned stamped PAID, please enclose your entire bill with payment and include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

As always, if you have any questions please email Fran Scordo, Tax Collector at fscordo@montvaleboro.org

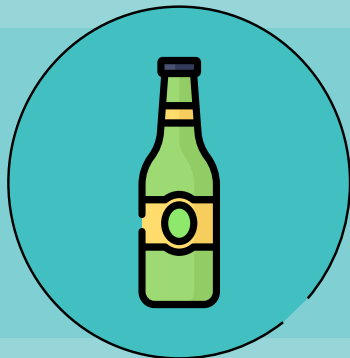
Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis.

Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

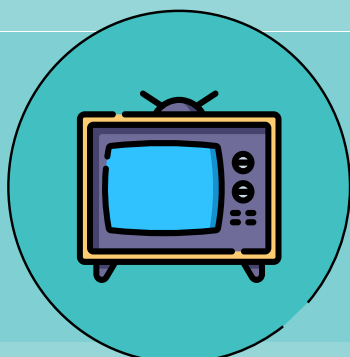
If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle - including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends.



Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with your emotions.

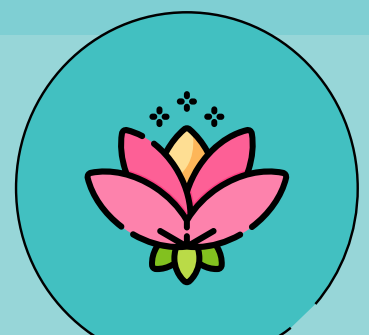
If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency.



Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.



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.com

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CrossCountry Mortgage

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Chamber of Commerce Board Meetings:

1st Wednesday of the Month located at Montvale Borough Hall 4:00 pm

*Upcoming
Events:*



Street Fair 2020

Rescheduled

When: Sunday ~~June 14th~~ October 18th

Where: Paragon Drive, Montvale

Time: 10am - 5pm

Join over 100 Vendors and over
25,000 people for a family fun
filled afternoon

Visit Our Web-Site for Details on COVID-19 www.MontvaleChamber.com

- * Scott Forman and Steven Fox host April 7th video meeting with Congressman Josh Gottheimer
- * Congressman Gottheimer's link for updated Corona Virus information:
- * The Montvale Chamber of Commerce in affiliation with the US Chamber of Commerce recommend 2 web-sites for businesses to access guidance for small businesses in response to the Corona Virus
- * Borough of Montvale and Mayor Ghassali COVID-19 Information



**Join the Chamber: MontvaleChamber.com/join
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