



NEWS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311

Frank X. Custer, Communications Director

Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant

PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX 278-5943

COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair*

LESLIE S. RICHARDS, *Vice Chair*, BRUCE L. CASTOR, JR., *Commissioner*



RELEASE: February 20, 2013

Two Montgomery County Projects Win 2012 Pennsylvania Horticultural Community Greening Awards

Norristown, PA (February 20, 2013) – The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) paid tribute to community greening champions across the state at a series of ceremonies, including a special presentation at the Governor’s Residence in Harrisburg, hosted by Pennsylvania First Lady, Mrs. Susan Corbett. Judges evaluated sites based on plant variety, design, use of space, and horticultural practices. This year, 67 winners were chosen from entries throughout the tri-state area. Two of the winners were Montgomery County projects: the Human Services Center Rooftop Garden and the Pennypacker Mills Children’s Heritage Garden.

An established leader in community greening, PHS works with citizen volunteers, government agencies, businesses, and other organizations to plan, create, and maintain community green spaces. The Community Greening Award recognizes greening and beautification efforts throughout the region, and celebrates those who have improved their communities throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

PHS recognized Pennypacker Mills for “an outstanding public planting...improving the quality of life through horticulture.” Using the extensive archives at Pennypacker Mills, it was determined what varieties of flowers and vegetables were historically planted at the Mills. Now called “heirloom varieties,” these plants and seeds became the basis for determining what should be planted in the garden. Through garden tours, visitors can smell, taste, and touch herbs, flowers, and vegetables.

County employees are also able to enjoy a variety of veggies and herbs planted at the Human Services Center Rooftop Garden, another PHS award recipient. Montgomery County employees helped make the

rooftop garden possible. The County Commissioners followed through on the suggestion of a county employee to revitalize the rooftop garden and provide green space at HSC. The Division of Health Promotion coordinated with staff volunteers who weed, water, and take care of the garden.

The Children's Heritage Garden is available to visit mid-May through September and is an additional free experience for those who visit Pennypacker Mills for guided tours. For more information on the Children's Heritage Garden and other educational programs, please visit the Pennypacker Mills page at <http://historicsites.montcopa.org/> or call 610-287-9349.

Images provided the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society:



Drew Becher, President of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society presents Linda Callegari, Pennypacker Mills Assistant Administrator, and volunteers Rob Callegari from Lower Gwynedd, Linda Moore from Collegeville, and Richard Earley from Worcester, with the award for the Children's Heritage Garden at Pennypacker Mills.



Drew Becher, President of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society presents Montgomery County employees Gay Simpson from the Office of Aging and Adult Services, Michael Gonzalez from the Office of Child Day Care, Nina Bailey-Wilson from the Assets and Infrastructure Department, and Pat Fallon and Eleanor Dill from the Health Department, with the award for the Human Services Center Rooftop Garden.