



NEWS

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Contact: Lora Gonzalez (610) 278-3677.



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Montgomery County Celebrates Accomplishments of African-Americans During Annual Black History Program

Norristown, PA (February 20, 2020) – Montgomery County residents are invited to attend the annual Black History Program hosted by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Black History Month Committee on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The event will take place at the Montgomery County Human Services Center, 1430 DeKalb Street, Norristown.

This year's program will focus on the national theme, "African Americans and the Vote," as established by the Association for the Study of African American Life & History (ASALH). It will showcase riveting speakers on the importance of the African American vote, along with songs, dance, spoken word, and musical selections. Additionally, several African-American community leaders will be honored for their service to the citizens of Montgomery County. Honorees include Caroline Merrill, Judge Greg Scott, and the Upper Merion Area Middle School Black Student Union.

"Every year, the County's Department of Health and Human Services takes the time to celebrate African-American culture and recognize and highlight the many awesome contributions of African-Americans in this country and throughout history. We are so incredibly proud of this collaboration that spans multiple County departments. It will be a great time of learning, encouragement, music, food, and beautiful celebration!" said Tara Gaudin, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

Affectionately known as the Father of Black History, Historian Carter G. Woodson, initiated Black History Week on February 12, 1926, which for many years was celebrated in February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In the mid-1970s, Black History Week expanded to Black History Month.

Guest speakers include:

- **Senator Vincent J. Hughes** - Vincent J. Hughes is a Democratic member of the Pennsylvania State Senate, representing the 7th District since 1994. He is currently the Democratic chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Hughes previously served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from the 190th District from 1987 to 1995.
- **Mark J. Moore, Esq.** - Mark is a native Philadelphian and veteran trial attorney who practices in Philadelphia. He is a former Philadelphia Assistant District Attorney who is well-versed in the criminal justice system.
- **Councilwoman Valerie Scott-Cooper** - Born and raised in Norristown's 3rd District, Valerie Scott Cooper is a product of the Norristown Area High District. Valerie is currently the Executive Chair of the Norristown Complete Count Committee. The committee was organized and they have been working together since June 2019 to make sure every person is counted. She has a heart for the town she has called home most of her life and plans to diligently work as the 3rd District Councilwoman.

For more information about the program, contact program administration, Lora Gonzalez at 610-278-3677.