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Montgomery #2 'NJ Best Town for Families' for 2017

New Jersey Family Magazine has once again named Montgomery Township the state's #1 mid-size town and the #2 town overall in its "New Jersey's Best Towns for Families 2017" ranking. Now in its third year, the list ranks New Jersey towns through the lens of how family friendly they are.

Montgomery's convenient location was cited by the magazine. 'Sitting on the edge of Somerset County, residents get peace and quiet (not to mention amazing country views), plus easy access to grocery stores, shopping, restaurants and kid-friendly things to do,' according to the magazine.

"Montgomery is truly a special place because of our residents. There are so many residents and community organizations that really take an ownership interest in Montgomery and make sure we protect our exceptional quality of life," said Mayor Ed Trzaska.

Deputy Mayor Rich Smith agreed wholeheartedly. "Montgomery can credit this achievement to its residents. We are a community that cares about our township, our neighbors and our future. I am proud to call Montgomery my home for the past 20 years," he stated.

Montgomery resident David Cheskis, who is a father of three, scout leader and chairman of the town's planning board, was interviewed by the magazine. "Montgomery is well known for our great schools, great location and character. We're big enough to have great resources, but small enough to have that hometown feel," he said.

In addition to a stellar public school system, Montgomery boasts history going back to the American Revolution, lots of green space and parks, and proximity to New York City

and Philadelphia. Montgomery parks include the newly-restored 247-acre Skillman Park which, along with its popular new 2.2 mile loop trail, will add a dog park this spring. Montgomery Veterans Park in Belle Mead, with ball fields, playgrounds, miles of hiking and bike trails, and an arboretum, also hosts community gatherings at its Veterans Memorial and 9-11 Memorial sites. Thirty-six percent of the town is preserved or protected open space. Four additional land preservation deals were reached in 2016, totaling another 170 acres of land.

Mayor Trzaska concluded, "Our open space is a major selling point. Montgomery offers that unique balance of rural and suburban life, especially for central New Jersey."

The ranking looked at the entire state-511 towns in all-and measured each municipality against a host of important factors, including school district quality, crime rates, affordability, commute times, percentage of families who live there, access to hospitals and general lifestyle factors.

"This year, we reworked our algorithm to take a deeper dive into high school performance while also weighing things like safety, how affordable a town is, average commute time and more criteria that matters to families," says Cindy Mironovich, New Jersey Family's publisher and founder.

To read the summary article about Montgomery on NJ Family's website, go to:
<http://www.njfamily.com/New-Jerseys-Best-Towns-for-Families-Montgomery-Township-Somerset-County/>

To view the entire 2017 "Best Town for Families" ranking list, go to:
<http://www.njfamily.com/Best-Towns-for-Families-The-List/>

Montgomery was ranked #1 "NJ Best Towns for Families" in the mid-size category, defined at 15,001 to 34,599 and was also named #1 overall for Somerset County. Here is the mid-size ranking:

<http://www.njfamily.com/New-Jerseys-Best-Towns-for-Families-Mid-Size-Town/>