County Commissioners to attend Norristown Bicentennial kick-off

**Norristown, PA (March 28, 2012)** - The Montgomery County Commissioners are enthusiastically supporting the Norristown Bicentennial celebration, which begins this Saturday at Elmwood Park. All three commissioners – Josh Shapiro, Leslie S. Richards and Bruce L. Castor, Jr. will be in attendance at the kick-off event to honor Norristown's 200th year anniversary.

The Bicentennial will be a year-long celebration of community, culture, and heritage. The kick-off at Elmwood Park on Saturday, March 31 begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

“We are committed to helping make Norristown a great county seat, and this Bicentennial event will go a long way towards shining a light on what a wonderful town Norristown already is and set the stage for what it can be,” Shapiro said. Richards, who has taken the lead in seeking ways the county and Norristown can work together, said, “the Bicentennial will demonstrate the culture, heritage, and especially the wonderful people who live in Norristown.”

Live music, historical re-enactments, community art, local foods, and more will highlight the bicentennial kickoff presented by Conicelli Autoplex, 6ABC, and The Times Herald. Residents from the 19401 and 19403 zip codes will enjoy free admission to Elmwood Park Zoo made possible by donations from Dave and Buster’s in Plymouth Meeting.

At the Elmwood Park band shell, from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., the opening ceremony will feature a performance of the original arrangement of the Star Spangled Banner and the Norristown High School Color Guard, followed at noon with Federal Period (1820s) daily life historical re-enactments by the W.S. Hancock Society of Norristown. Members of the Norristown Karate Club will demonstrate their skills from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the eight-piece Norristown-based Allen Reynolds Band will take the stage.

Throughout the day the Montgomery County Historical Society will provide guided tours of Norristown with stops at Selma Mansion and St. John’s Church, also celebrating its bicentennial.

For more information about the Norristown Bicentennial, please visit [www.norristown200.com](http://www.norristown200.com).