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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**



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Montco Sheriff's Office promotes gun safety with new free public seminar and free gun lock offer

Norristown, Pa., (November 6, 2014) – The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will offer a free Firearms Safety and Awareness Seminar for the public on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Campus, 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428. Sheriff Russell J. Bono announced the plans at a press conference on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in his office at the Courthouse.

"The right to bear arms is absolutely guaranteed under the constitution. However, responsibilities come with it," said Bono. "Misuse of firearms or that right comes with potential criminal and civil liability."

The unsafe storage of firearms is a public health and safety issue. Having unlocked guns in the home increases the risk of unintentional and intentional shootings. According to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence from 2005-2010, almost 3,800 people in the U.S. died from unintentional shootings.

There are approximately 50,000 gun permits registered with the MCSO Special Services Division. Year-to-date there has been an average of 275 permit renewals and 325 new permits issued on a monthly basis. The classes are being geared towards the new permit owner.

"Sometimes we get people coming in with the intention of getting a firearm, but they don't know anything about firearms," said instructor MCSO Dep. Harry Burke.

The classes are limited to 25 participants each and will be held on Wednesday evenings on the following dates:

- **November 19, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
- **February 18, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
- **May 20, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
- **August 19, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
- **November 18, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Each participant will receive a certificate and a free gun lock. Certified Law Enforcement Instructors will cover several topics including Pennsylvania laws pertaining to possessing firearms in Pennsylvania,

understanding your rights under the Castle Doctrine, safe handling and proper cleaning of firearms, choosing the right weapon and holster, basic shooting fundamentals.

The gun locks were donated to the MCSO by Project Child Safe, a nationwide program that promotes safe firearms handling and storage practices among all firearm owners through the distribution of safety education messages and free firearm Safety Kits.

Registration will be open at www.montcopa.org/sheriff for the November 2014 seminar on November 7, 2014. Registration will open for the February 2015 class in early December. **Please do not bring live firearms to the seminar. No live firearms or ammunition will be used. Training guns will be provided for hands-on training.** Learn more about Project Child Safe at: <http://www.projectchildsafe.org>. Follow the MCSO on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/montcosheriff and **Twitter** @MontCoPASHeriff.



PHOTO: Montco Sheriff Russell Bono introduces new Firearms Safety & Awareness class



PHOTO: Montco Sheriff's Office Dep. Harry Burke gives an overview of his Firearms Safety & Awareness presentation



PHOTO: Safely locked handgun (left) and training gun (right)