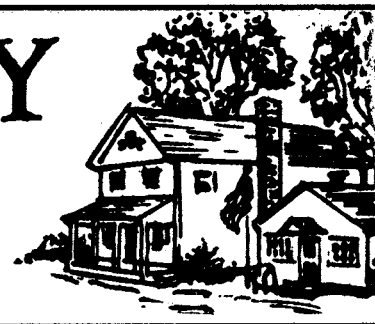
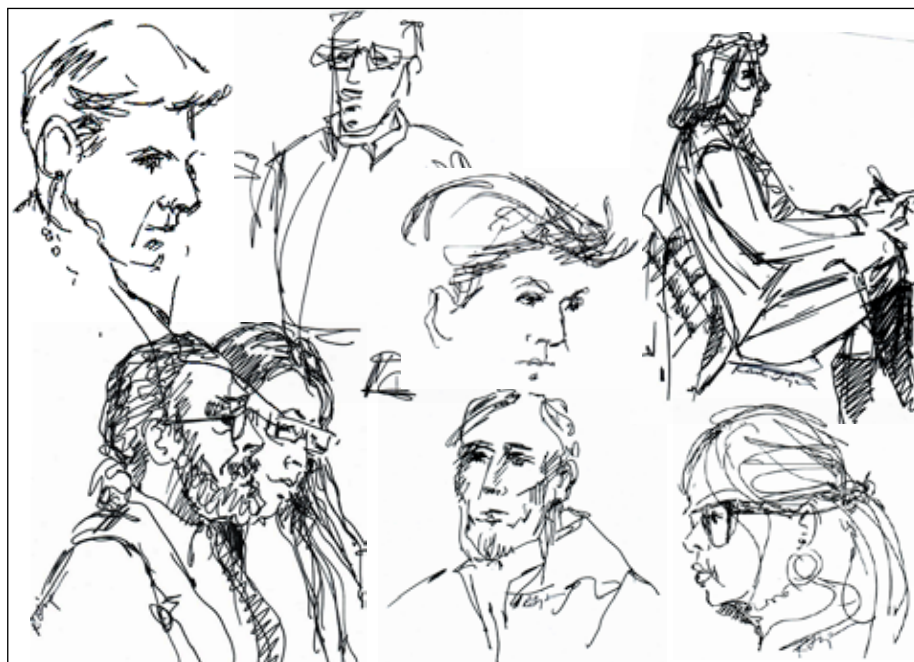


MONTEREY NEWS

June 2019
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 6



Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand, Swap Shop, Church foyer



Folks at our annual town meeting. Thanks to Ruth Fingerman for the quick sketches.

Find Robert Frost's poem, *Birches*. Read it. Photocopy it. Better yet, copy it by hand. Put it someplace where you'll see it to remind you: We could do worse than fall in love with the planet that provides us with birches.

Here's a Thought page 23

The first thing Chapin told us was that the cafe/bistro, Monterey General, will not open in time for the summer. They are doing a tremendous amount of renovation in order to preserve the building.

Plans for the Store page 11

Join the Monterey ArborQuest to help find the oldest "history books" in Monterey—the oldest trees in town. Thanks to Jim Dutcher, Lyman Thomson, Bob Rausch, and Jared Lyman for their entries this month.

Monterey Arbor Quest page 19

Thanks to Allegrone Construction for making sure the library flag will be flying for Memorial Day as it has since 1931.

Monterey Library News page 16

These constellations have inspired the human family for thousands of years, and I expect they may do so for thousands of years to come.

Mythology in the Stars page 22

This suet had hot pepper in it, and Maureen says, "gourmet squirrels like it hot."

Wildlife pages 28–29



Traffic Monitoring on Main Road page 7

At precisely 9:30 a.m., Moderator Mark Makuc sounded the gavel to begin the meeting. He officially ended the meeting at 1:44 p.m., allowing the participants to leave for their long overdue lunch.

George Cain, a finance committee member, said that in the past, the town "couldn't pass an audit with a magic show," and that now we are on the path to having an accurate audit.

Long Town Meeting pages 2–7

We will surely miss Joe's constancy, guidance, and leadership. We have teased and threatened to put a cardboard cutout of Joe at all our programming meetings, but there is nothing phony about him.

Joe Baker Retiring pages 8–9

The green is upon us, all through the swamps, fields, and woods. Every living thing has a way with the coming of the green, an adjustment, some kind of welcome.

A Bird I Know pages 20–21

As a child, the spare parts I found at the dump fueled my passion to pursue unthought ideas, unimagined projects, and unknown solutions.

Dumpster Diving page 27

It's easy to forget how central the Housatonic River is to the natural ecology of the Berkshires and its industrial, agricultural, and social past.

The Waters Around Us pages 14–15

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Dignified Flag Disposal page 7

Annual Town Meeting

It was a dreary rainy day, one of many lately, on May 4, when eighty-two registered voters and a few other guests made their way to the fire house for the annual town meeting. At precisely 9:30 a.m., Moderator Mark Makuc sounded the gavel to begin the meeting. However, the participants were so busy chatting that he needed to use the gavel a second time, in order to get everyone's attention. This time, everyone took their seats and quieted down so the meeting could proceed. As in previous years, the CART (Communication Access Real Time) system was utilized so that everyone could read a word-by-word replay of what was being said at the meeting.

Town Clerk Terry Walker began with the reading of the warrant, and after the introductory paragraph, the usual motion was made to waive the reading of the rest of it. The first order of business was a moment of silence for those Monterey citizens who had contributed to the functioning of the town and had passed away since the last town meeting. This included Cynthia Weber, Gige O'Connell, David Logan, Kenneth Heath, Jr., John Heffernan, and Shirley Olds.

Article 1 & 2-Reports & Salaries

When Article 1 was read, regarding the reports of all officers, agents, and committees of the town, Mari Enoch raised her hand and asked for an update from the broadband committee. Select board member, Don Coburn, although not a member of the committee, stated that the town is still negotiating with the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) to release the \$1.1 million allocated for Monterey. The MBI does not want to turn over the funds until Fiber Connect completes their work and has a take rate of 51%. Currently that rate is at 40%. Coburn said the select board will be having a phone conference with the MBI the following week to try to

solve the problem. Some of the attendees were tempted to go off on a tangent about broadband in general, however, such discussion was quickly quelled by Moderator Makuc who managed to keep the group on task. Then Article 2 was read, having to do with the salaries for elected officials, and this was passed without comment.

Article 3-The Budget

Makuc read off the entire budget and if someone had a question or concern, they said "Hold," so that the item could be revisited for discussion.

Editors Note: As each of the "holds" is discussed, amendments can be approved to modify the budget line requests. If there are no amendments adopted, then the line request stays as proposed. The budget is accepted in entirety by a single vote after all the holds are considered.

The first hold concerned the Administrative Assistant Procurement, Training, and Expenses for \$3,000. Select board member Don Coburn addressed this issue, saying that this item was on the warrant last year so that the administrative assistant, Melissa Noe, could become the town procurement officer. He stated that in his opinion this was not necessary because if a town administrator (TA) were hired, that person would most likely be able to deal with procurement. Coburn made a motion to put this item off for a year,



Maureen Banner

Laurie Shaw has taken meticulous notes at the annual town meeting for the Monterey News for many years now.

and to change the line item from \$3,000 to \$0. Select board member Kenn Basler responded that there was no certainty as to when, or if, a town administrator would be hired, and if that person would necessarily have the qualifications to be a procurement officer. Melissa Noe has already taken some of the course work necessary for this position. Finance committee member Jon Sylbert summed up the situation by saying that we can spend another \$3,000, or waste the \$3,000 already spent. When the motion to reduce this line item was put to a vote, it failed.

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FACTORY - THE MUSICAL

SAT, JUNE 22, 7 PM \$10
CYNTHIA WADE: Film, GRIT

SAT, JUNE 29, 4 PM \$15
BLACKSTONE VALLEY
STRING QUARTET

The next line item concerned a \$17,500 request for a town administrator. Don Coburn took the floor again and said that the town had voted in a previous town meeting to hire a town administrator, with 90% of the attendees being in favor. He said that the idea of funding another study to look at this matter was spurious (this was in regard to the upcoming Article 6), and that we should just get on with the business of hiring a town administrator. One of the reasons he cited was lack of supervision of town operations and the lack of a human resources person. A board of three executives was a "losing proposition," he said. Coburn gave the example of Shawn Tryon as Director of Operations. While he said that he assumes Tryon does a good job, he is not supervised well enough to ensure this. Coburn suggested taking the \$6,000 being proposed in Article 6 for a study, to see if a town administrator was needed, and adding it to the TA salary. Once again, Mark Makuc stepped in to say that the meeting needed to deal with one thing at a time. Basler cited the previous chaos in town hall, with a revolving door of town clerks and treasurers. He said that it would be helpful to have an outside agency come in to advise the town and that previous studies had helped the board move forward. Barbara Swann commented that if the study is funded, an agreement is needed that the select board would carry out what the study recommended. She said that it was important to find the right administrator for Monterey. Jon Sylbert responded to a question from Jon Levin asking if \$17,500 was an adequate salary for a town administrator, indicating that it would only be for a half year, depending upon the results of the study. Outgoing select board member Carol Edelman countered this by saying that a salary

of \$50-55,000 would be appropriate for a part-time administrator, including benefits. While she was originally in favor of a town administrator, her three years of experience on the board changed her point of view. She reminded the group that there are some big expenses coming up, such as the library and the school, and she did not feel it was a necessary expense at this time. Don Coburn made a motion to add \$6,000 to this line item for a full-time administrator but the motion failed.

The discussion then moved on to the next line item, regarding a finance committee clerk. Finance committee member Rebecca Wolin requested that the figure of \$1,000 be restored for this line item and this was approved. The next item had to do with town accountant services. David Meyers asked why the amount being requested had almost doubled for this year. Don Coburn spoke up and said it had to do with the accounting firm agreement. The firm did not want to go through with the second year of the agreement, and this was the rate recommended by the Hampshire Council of Governments, based on the size of the budget. Wendy Germain expressed concerns about the performance of the accounting firm, stating that there have been some problems. Fred Chapman asked why the company wanted to do business with Monterey in the first place with a contract of only \$15,000 and Don Coburn suggested that it was a "loss leader" as they wanted the business. Jon Sylbert said that the decision was made to stay with the current firm, or else they would have to put out an RFP to find a new company. He said that although there have been a number of bumps in the road, the town is moving in the right direction. Mary Ellen Brown said that the job is not that complicated and made a motion to lower

the line item from \$28,043 to \$15,000, but this motion failed. Jon Sylbert made the comment that the coordination of the whole financial process is very complex, and that "we are past the old way of doing things." George Cain, also a finance committee member, said that in the past, the town "couldn't pass an audit with a magic show," and that now we are on the path to having an accurate audit. Finally, a motion was made and adopted to call the question, ending the discussion with no change to the line.

The discussion moved on to the next line item which was a \$2,750 allocation for GASB 75 (Governmental Accounting Standards Board guide). When asked what this was, Kenn Basler responded it was an annual requirement to review the amount of money needed for retirement.

There was a bit of discussion about the line item seeking a \$1,244 raise for town counsel. Don Coburn responded to this saying that our town counsel, Jeremiah Pollard, speculated that he would need more hours for the upcoming fiscal year. Coburn made a motion to amend the line item from \$13,426 to \$12,426. Pollard responded to this by saying that he doesn't keep track of hours and gives each of the towns he represents a fixed budget. He had been far exceeding the amount of time he anticipated working for Monterey and his work is generating about \$100/hour, which he intimated was a bargain rate. Jon Sylbert supported Pollard by saying, "When lawyers take on towns like this, it's basically pro bono work," and that staying with the stated salary was the least we could do. The motion to reduce this line item failed.

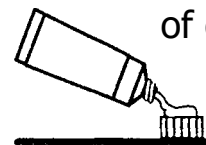
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The next item for discussion was the police chief's salary, which showed an increase of \$2,125 in the budget. Jon Sylbert explained that some employees are salaried and others are paid hourly. Hourly employees were to be given a 2.78% raise based on their hours. Salaried managerial staff were supposed to get a 2% raise. He made a motion to lower the police chief's salary to \$77,837 (\$599 less), for an increase of 2%. The motion passed. Similarly, there was a motion to reduce the stated salary for the Director of Operations to \$71,765 (\$552 less) for the same reason. This also passed.

The line item for fire department training generated some interest as it stipulated a \$30,000 increase from last year, which is meant to offset the \$30,000 deduction from the firehouse lease (from \$47,000 to \$17,000). Once again, Jon Sylbert took the floor and explained that the firefighters had previously given up their training salaries in order to fund the renovations on the firehouse building, which is owned by the Monterey Fire Company. While the fire company is a private entity, the building is an important part of the town, and it would revert to the town if the fire company disbanded. It is also used for many town functions such as the town meeting. Following this explanation, there was no further discussion.



Residents, officials, and visitors sustained a more than four-hour meeting.

The line item for a fourth highway worker was questioned by David Meyers who wanted to know why this was necessary. Jon Sylbert again rose to address this matter saying that Shawn Tryon, Director of Operations, needs to spend more time in the office to oversee the overall operations. Tryon spoke up and said that it is also more efficient to have teams of two workers going out on a job, instead of teams of two workers and one worker. Sylbert concluded the discussion by saying, "As much as I would like to see Shawn sweating or freezing his butt off, he needs to be in the office." The request for a fourth worker was left in.

The line item for the Southern Berkshire Waste District was also questioned, since it had been reduced from \$3,600 to \$0. When asked why, Kenn Basler quipped, "No more waste!" before going on to explain that the Southern Berkshire Waste District had gone out of business. He also added that the transfer station operations funding went down due to the excellent job that the citizens of Monterey have been doing with recycling. The final hold on the budget had to do with Medicare, which was going up \$510. Barbara Swann wanted to know who was receiving Medicare. Kenn Basler said he had no idea and that the line item referred simply to the payroll tax. Finally, with all the holds on the budget fully examined, the budget with its amendments was passed.

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Article 4-School District

This article concerned an amendment to the regional agreement establishing the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD). Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent for the SBRSD, and Chris Regan, the SBRSD Business Manager, were introduced. Regan explained the issue by saying that the school assessments have been going up and down every year, making it difficult for each town to plan their budgets. After many meetings with the select board and finance committee members from each town, as well as the

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school board committee members, the group came up with a formula that Regan said is “no less burdensome but more fair.” She explained that the state determines a formula by which each member town must pay a required minimum contribution for educational costs. All other portions of the assessments would be calculated on a five-year rolling average of each town’s required minimum contribution. Regan said this would eliminate the “crazy ups and downs” in the budget, and towns would be better able to predict their assessment for the upcoming year. She cautioned that the assessment stated in this budget was based on the old calculations, since all five member towns must agree to the amendment before it can take effect. If it is passed by all the towns, the Monterey assessment is likely to go down by about \$30,000. There was no further discussion on the matter and the article passed. Jon Sylbert took the opportunity to thank Ms. Regan for her tireless work for the school district, since she is planning to retire.

Articles 5–18 Additional Funding

Article 7 proposed appropriating \$6,048 for an Outreach Worker for the Council on Aging. Julio Rodriguez asked if this person would be for just our town. Ilene Marcus said that the position would likely be shared with other towns. Rodriguez responded that this had been tried before but the needs of the community had not been met. With no further objections, the article passed, as did Article 8, proposing new computer equipment for the police cruiser, and Article 9, asking for new thermal imaging equipment for the fire department.

Article 10 had to do with replacing the furnace at the highway department. Mickey Jervas asked if we could hold off on the furnace to see if the town becomes a “green community.” Shawn Tryon said that they could hold off on it for a while. Carol Edelman cautioned that the Green Community process could take some time. The article appropriating the money was passed, so there will be heat in the highway department even if the Green Community process is not successful.

Next up were articles 11–17, which were pretty routine appropriations— for a truck for the highway department,

stabilization funds for various line items, capital improvements on the fire company property, and rescinding unissued funds from previous town meetings. These all passed without a whimper.

Article 18 concerned the hot topic of a broadband network. At the 2015 town meeting, a sum of \$1,960,000 was authorized to be borrowed for the construction and installation of a broadband network. We all know how that went. Although this article simply had to do with rescinding the authorization, the mere mention of broadband elicited a flurry of comments and quite a bit of digression. Moderator Makuc had to pull the meeting back to the issue at hand and the motion passed.

Article 19 Lake Garfield Petition

Article 19 was a citizen’s petition to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for the non-chemical control of Eurasian water milfoil, and the hiring of a lake scientist to help with the problem at Lake Garfield. Steve Snyder, chair of the Lake Garfield Working Group, a select board appointed committee, said, “We have reason to believe, being advised by experts, that this is a sum that would be well invested.” He said that the cost to the taxpayers would be \$.06 per \$1,000 or about \$33 per year for the average homeowner. Steve Weisz added that diver-assisted suction harvesting has helped keep the milfoil at

bay, along with some help from weevils, but, he added, “We will never win the war.” He likened it to dyeing your hair, saying, “Once you start, you need to keep going,” and added that it would be money well spent to do another round of this type of treatment. Ron Goldfinger asked how efficient the weevils were. Weisz replied, “Not very, the fish eat them.” Goldfinger stated the lake is an asset to the town which ended the discussion and the citizen’s petition passed. Article 20, authorizing the select board to enter into a ten year contract with a qualified vendor to provide recycling processing services for the town, passed quickly as well.

Articles 21 & 22 Green Community

There was a fair amount of discussion about Article 21, and the stretch energy code, which would regulate the design and construction of buildings to make them more energy efficient. Tom Sawyer, co-chair of the planning board, got up to explain that, if passed, Articles 21 and 22 need to be approved in order to facilitate the process of making Monterey a Green Community. He introduced Matt Dovell, from the Berkshire Regional Planning Board, who made a brief presentation on this matter. Dovell explained that there are financial incentives for towns to act in an eco-friendly manner. The awards are generally in the range of \$130,000–

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\$140,000 and can be used to help with the energy needs of the town, and provide an incentive to make improvements. Michele Miller questioned why we need to be a Green Community at all. She wondered about the purpose of stretch code, and solar overlay (Article 22), and asked who would profit from these. She added that we shouldn't pass the stretch code just so "someone pats us on the back and gives us \$20,000 for light bulbs. We should do what we think is right because it is the right thing to do." Select board member Carol Edelman responded that 250 out of 351 communities in the state are Green Communities and that the article is not asking to spend money but to get money. The stretch code ensures that new construction is energy efficient and tight. She said it is realistic and doable, and by passing this article we would be doing the smart thing. Tom Sawyer added to the discussion by saying that the state will eventually adopt the stretch code anyway, so this measure is just ahead of its time. Jon Levin commented that it is to the town's advantage to be able to receive these available funds. Matt Dovell assured the group that the town gets to make the decision about how the funds are used.

George Cain summed it up saying, "This is found money." A motion was made to call the question and the article passed.

However, much of the energy that sparked that discussion carried over to Article 22, which proposed an amendment to the zoning by-laws for the purpose of creating a large solar overlay district in a 10.7-acre parcel on the site of the former golf course on Fox Hill Road. This land is owned by the town and approximately 1.5 acres would be used for the solar array. Tom Sawyer assured the group that this would need to comply with the conservation regulations, would be screened from abutters, and measures would be taken to make sure it did not impact wildlife. Gary Shaw questioned why a 10.7 acre parcel was necessary for a 1.5 acre array. Tom Sawyer responded that it is just the size of the parcel owned by the town. Kay Purcell wondered if the parcel could be used for other purposes as well, such as senior housing. Carol Edelman responded that the 10.7 acres allows for flexibility in placing the array. Susan Cooper questioned whether a company could come in and make money on this. Jon Sylbert responded that the town would have to agree to lease the land to a company, but that the town

would have complete control. Dennis Lynch proposed an alternate site near the town landfill, so there would be no concerns from abutters. After some more back and forth, the question was called, and since this article required a two-thirds vote, cards were raised in the air. The article passed with a vote of 51-8.

Articles 23-30

Article 23 easily passed and so amended the town by-laws to create a Council on Aging consisting of five to seven members, appointed by the select board. Likewise, Article 24 sailed through, preventing any member of a town board, committee, or commission from being disqualified from voting solely due to the member's absence from one session of such a meeting.

Article 25 reignited last year's town meeting discussion regarding recreational marijuana establishments. The article asked voters to approve a by-law banning such establishments from the town. Don Coburn started off by saying that if the town does not pass this measure, we would be governed by state law. Susan Cooper asked where the planning board was on this matter. Steven Enoch, co-chair of the planning board, said that since this concerns land use, it should come through the planning board, with a draft of a by-law. He urged the assembly not to vote on this but to let the planning board continue to work on it. He also questioned the word "transportation" in the article as written, and suggested making an amendment to delete that word. Mari Enoch quickly responded by saying this couldn't be done because it is written that way on the ballot for the upcoming election. She clarified that "transportation" was related to commercial use only. Don Coburn talked again about having to work under the state law since the temporary ban on marijuana had expired. He said, "Anyone can come in and do anything allowed by state law." Steven Enoch again made the case that if Article 25 was voted in, then the planning board cannot act. A proposal for cultivation in certain districts in town had been presented by the planning board during the past year but met with opposition during a meeting to present this plan. Tom Sawyer said it would probably take until next year's town meeting to

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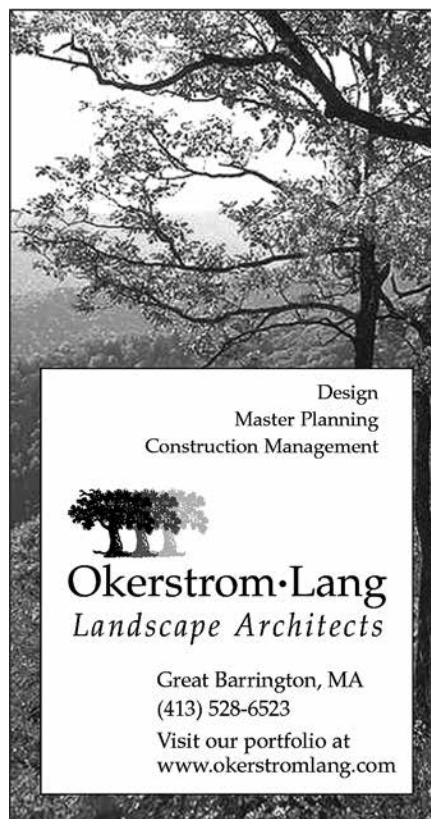
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come up with a new plan. Gary Shaw added some levity to the discussion by citing an article from the New York Times, which described the skunk-like stench emanating from the greenhouses growing recreational marijuana, forcing neighbors to stay inside to avoid the noxious odor. That pretty much ended the discussion and vote was taken with raised cards, passing Article 25, 39-19.

It was downhill to the finish line from there. Articles 26 and 29 were passed over because they were not needed for any town boards this year. Articles 27 and 28, allowing the treasurer to borrow money as needed with the approval of the select board, passed easily. That left Article 30, an announcement of the upcoming election, the reading of which was mercifully waived and quickly passed. Before the final bang of the gavel, Jon Sylbert stood to acknowledge Stephanie, from the CART service, who tirelessly transcribed every word of the meeting on the screen in the front of the room, keeping everyone informed. Sylbert also praised Ray Tryon for his sixty-five years as the Monterey Town Constable and Carol Edelman for her three years on the select board.

With that, Mark Makuc officially ended the meeting at 1:44 p.m., allowing the participants to leave for their long overdue lunch.

—Laurie Shaw

Dignified Flag Disposal

Under the United States Flag Code, Section 8 (k), Respect for the Flag: “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

Monterey now has a collection box at the transfer station where you may retire your worn-out, unserviceable American, state, or POW flags of any size for proper disposal. Each year I place new flags on the veteran’s graves and, with dignity, burn the old ones. I would be pleased to include yours. Officially this ceremony is done on Flag Day, June 14 or July 2, but can be done at other times as well.

I ask only that they be folded in some manner before being placed in the box. Thank you.

—Linda Thorpe



Linda Thorpe

5 Hole Dining in Monterey

Roots of Memorial Day

“Decoration Day” originally started after the Civil War to remember and honor those who died in that war only. It spread from state to state, and eventually was renamed Memorial Day, a day to remember and honor those who have died in service to our country in all wars. It is a good time to reflect with our children how our ancestors fought and sacrificed that we may have the freedoms we have today.

National Moment of Remembrance

The “National Moment of Remembrance” resolution, passed in December, 2000 asks for all Americans on Memorial Day, at 3 p.m. local time, “To voluntarily and informally observe, in their own way, a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps.’”

—Linda Thorpe

Editor’s Note: At a recent select board meeting to discuss this year’s Memorial Day events, Linda drew a sharp distinction between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. I asked her if she could bring the importance of Memorial Day to the readers’ attention.



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Bonner McAllester

Local hustler Paul dePreter, who owns the old firehouse, recently began a time-share enterprise on Main Road. His plastic Adirondack chair rents for one quarter for one-quarter hour. If this catches on he hopes to expand the fleet to as many as four different colored chairs for increased monitoring of traffic along Main Road.

Monterey Community Center Joe Baker Retiring

Our fearless leader is stepping down, or at least away, from the day-to-day concerns of the Monterey Community Center (MCC) at the end of June. For many years, Joe has been a tireless force to get the Wilson-McLaughlin house renovated and opened for use as the MCC. Joe has several other professions—artist, musician, and web designer—but chose to spend countless hours volunteering for this cause. Joe abounds in persistence, perseverance, and patience. He also models open-mindedness, fairness, and a penchant for details, as shown through his record of service to the MCC.

In the last fifteen years, he spent his time and talents to garner support, financially and physically, to get the MCC usable by the townspeople. He took the lead, and was many times alone, writing grant applications which succeeded in bringing in critical cash at needed times. He was masterful at drawing people in to donate money and effort. He collaborated with others in fundraising, building, maintaining, and giving tours of the building. Joe was instrumental in starting the community garden and its rainwater collection system. He was the point person in administration, meeting with the select board and other authorities. He built and maintains the MCC website. Joe was responsible for many, many years of writing articles for the *Monterey News* regarding the project. He handled the legal aspects of incorporating and running a 501(c)3, the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House (FWMH).

Six years ago he got Mike Banner excited about getting our metaphoric engine over the mountain. They were the dynamic duo (with plenty of other people helping out now and again) with hammer and nails, woodwork and paint, until Mike retired two years ago after many months of intensive carpentry and the building was ready for the certificate of occupancy. Joe even got the phone line put in, so his voice will stay on the voicemail at 528-3600. This is fitting since Joe will still be advising the Board of Directors.

When Joe joined the precursor to the FWMH in 2004, he shared the vision for



Joe Baker

FWMH (Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House) members gather at the entrance to the future Monterey Community Center on New Marlborough Road (l. to r.): Gige O'Connell, Shirley Olds, Susan Sellew, Joe Baker, Lew Scheffey, Cynthia Weber, Jim Edelman, Evelyn Valianos, Gerry Shapiro. From the August 2005 Monterey News.

the future of the MCC with original board members Gige O'Connell, Shirley Olds, Cynthia Weber, Lew Scheffey, and Gerry Shapiro. We are greatly indebted to them also for bringing us from the FWMH as a dream to the reality of the MCC.

Fast forward to 2017, the Monterey Community Center opens in April and has a few programs running the first month. Now, in June 2019, there are only a few days a month that don't have a program or private activities. In the beginning, Joe was handling

the custodial duties mainly by himself, as well as many of the behind-the-scenes issues, meetings with the town, and 501(c)3 paperwork for the state. Last year, the MCC was transitioning to town management, and the town began helping with maintenance and other roles Joe shouldered. He started the program committee to dream up and organize programs, for which he led the monthly meetings and took meeting notes. He also continued to run the board meetings to oversee the vision and direction of the

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Stephen Moore

The Monterey Community Center, April 22, 2017 grand opening (l. to r.): Steven Weisz, Laurie Shaw, Joe Baker, Carol Edelman, Kenn Basler, Shirley Olds, and Nadia Makuc.

MCC, and he spearheaded the plans for the transition for the MCC's total management by the town, as of this July.

This transition is well underway. The community center coordinator was hired and will be staying on. Fellow board members Laurie Shaw, Evelyn Vallianos, and Dennis Lynch are crucial in the transition and will be holding the torch for at least the next year. Christine Goldfinger is the liaison from the board to the garden. No riding off into the sunset yet for them.

As Joe prepares to retire from the MCC, he has left systems in place to fill his roles. The establishment of a town committee for the MCC to be appointed and sworn in by the select board is underway, and the programs will continue. We will surely miss Joe's constancy, guidance, and leadership. We have teased and threatened to put a cardboard cutout of Joe at all our programming meetings, but there is nothing phony about him. Enjoy your next chapter, Joe Baker! We hope it is wonderful. Thanks for all your many years of dedicated service.

With sincere appreciation,

—Mary Makuc,
and many, many others

Town Election Ballot Question

Question 1:

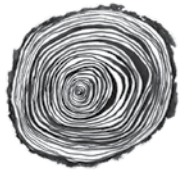
Shall this Town of Monterey adopt the following bylaw?

The Town of Monterey prohibits all recreational marijuana establishments, including but not limited to recreational marijuana establishments for the cultivation, manufacturing, transportation, testing and/or retail sales of recreational marijuana.

Yes 91 (57%), No 68 (42%)

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2019 Town Elections

165 voters turned out for the town elections on Tuesday, May 7. The town is fortunate that a full slate of candidates were available, however, with only one contested seat. The tallies below do not include unmarked or blank votes for some offices.

Contested Seat

Constable (3 years)

Julio Rodriquez 88
Kevin Fitzpatrick 64

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)

Jonathan Levin 135

Board of Assessors (3 year)

Stan Ross 138

Board of Assessors (1 year)

Gary Shaw 137

Board of Health (3 years)

Julio Rodriquez 140

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

James Dutcher 135

Finance Committee (3 years)

Jonathan Sylbert 129

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)

Lisa Smyle 127
Mickey Jervas 129

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc 152

Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)

Steve Snyder 128
Julio Rodriquez 129

Parks Commission (2 years)

Ilene Marcus 136
Kay Purcell (write-in) 1

Parks Commission (1 year)

Wendy Benjamin 137

Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)

Tom Sawyer 135
Roger Tryon 136

Planning Board (3 years)

Nancy Marcus 128

Select Board (3 years)

Steven Weisz 123
Write-ins* 8

Tax Collector (3 years)

Mari Enoch 147

Tree Warden (1 year)

Kevin Fitzpatrick 146

*Write-in votes for select board: Jon Sylbert 3, Jon Levin 1, John Weingold 1, Peter Murkett 1, Carol Edelman 1, Schneider 1

Lake Garfield Working Group Milfoil, Grants, and Testing

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held its monthly meeting at the town hall on Monday evening, May 20. On the agenda was discussion concerning the details and options for the use of the \$30,000 appropriated at the recent town meeting for continuing the work of invasive weed mitigation through diver-assisted suction harvesting. It was noted that this work will require a renewal of approval by the conservation commission. The LGWG will assist in forwarding the necessary documentation in time for work to begin this summer.

Members of LGWG also committed to facilitating the renewal of a notice of intent (NOI) to the conservation commission, enabling property owners to continue hand pulling weeds or to use benthic barriers on their own lake frontage.

An update was given on the Mass DEP 319 grant application to mitigate surface water runoff into the lake. LGWG member Dennis Lynch, who worked many hours in preparing for the application for this \$100,000 matching grant, revealed that the timing of town budgeting and the state granting process had precluded a successful application for the grant in this coming fiscal year.

The issue of sharing LGWG and other lake-related information was discussed, including how to improve access via the recently revised town website.

Lastly LGWG member Michael Germain reported that the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) and the LGWG will start regular testing for cyanobacteria in Lake Garfield and Lake Buel. Samples will be sent to the EPA. Also, through the hiring of a local student and the purchase of a flourometer by the FLG, real-time testing will be conducted weekly through the summer, with results to be posted on the FLG website.

The next LGWG meeting will be held Monday, July 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the town hall. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

— Steve Snyder
Chair, LGWG

Parks and Recreation Commission

Kayaks

The Monterey Parks and Recreational Committee will be enforcing regulations for those that leave their kayaks on the racks across from the lake. The town recently purchased additional storage for kayaks. We will be posting the regulations hopefully by June 1.

In the meantime:

1. Please have a name and number somewhere on your vessel by June 20.
2. Please make sure your kayak is placed on a rack and not left on the ground.

Remember—the racks are there for Monterey residents and part-time residents only.

Thank you for everyone's cooperation on this matter.

Dog Park

Some folks have inquired about Monterey having a dog park.

The committee would like to revisit this issue and welcomes any input on this possibility.

The committee meets on the first Wednesdays, 6 p.m., at town hall. The next two meetings are on June 5 and July 3.

— Wendy Benjamin

Parks and Recreation Commission

TRI Housing Rehab Project Update

The Resource Inc. (TRI) has been working for the Town of Monterey to manage their FY18 Housing Rehabilitation Program funded with a grant award from Community Development Block Grant Funds. These funds are benefitting low- to moderate-income homeowners in the towns of Monterey, Egremont, and Sandisfield.

TRI has successfully reviewed more than twenty projects to make sure that they meet both the program and income guidelines. We have held a successful contractors' breakfast, which was well attended. The program was explained from a contractor's perspective, and we now have four licensed and insured local general contractors ready to bid on our projects. All of this has been accomplished since February 1, 2019. In just the last few weeks we have held contractor bid walk-throughs, and expect to begin construction on our first projects on June 1. If you have not yet turned in an application and believe that you might qualify for the Housing Rehabilitation Program, it is not too late. We are still accepting applications in anticipation of more funding being received by the town.

Each income-eligible unit will qualify for up to \$40,000 of moderate rehabilitation. Moderate rehabilitation includes, but is not limited to: roofing, siding, heating system, hot water heater replacement, electrical, and plumbing issues. Also eligible are doors, windows, and improving ingress and egress issues. The exciting news is that the income limits for 2019 just increased by approximately \$4,000–\$8,000 depending on your household size. If you:

- were not previously within the income limits and think you might be now with the increased limits, and/or
- need home repairs,
- have questions about the program,
- would like a copy of the new application,
- have looked at the application but need help filling it out or gathering documents,

contact Dawn Odell Lemon, assistant program manager. Dawn can be reached by telephone at (413) 645-3448, or via email at dawn@theresource.org.

Lost Pugs

Have you seen my girls?



413-717-1482

Lost from Monterey MA since
October 2018 - please do not
chase - take photo and call
\$1,000 Reward

Community Potluck Supper Plans for the General Store

There was an extraordinary turnout at our last-of-the-season potluck in May—almost fifty people—and I’m sure the draw was the topic: Chapin and Kevin Fish, the new owners of the store, talking about their plans for the building and the business.

The first thing Chapin told us was that the cafe/bistro, Monterey General, will not open in time for the summer. They are doing a tremendous amount of renovation in order to preserve the building. Chapin says that most of the “bones” of the building are good—they found chestnut beams in the basement which have to date to no later than the early 1900s—but they had to remove both the walk-in refrigerator and freezer, which were on top of seven layers of flooring. This sagging section of floor was supported by a pier in a crawl space made with a wooden barrel filled with concrete. (That’s been replaced.) Chapin added that there is a huge amount of water that has been running through the underside of the building, so they’ve been installing drainage to help manage this.

They will be putting in a full kitchen for the cafe, and they hope to have a pouring license for the dinner service. They are planning to be open seven days a week for breakfast and lunch, and occasionally for dinners. Their real estate business, Brockman Real Estate, will be upstairs, and they will be incorporating some



of the items from their other store, Farm and Home, which was in Great Barrington. There will be essentials, like milk and bread for sale, but not a fully stocked “general store.”

They are very interested in the history of the store. Kevin held up a series of enlarged photographs from earlier days which they are using to guide their reconstruction, and would love to see or copy any pictures of the store in its former incarnations. Their goal is to impart the feeling of walking into the old time Monterey general store.

They are very enthusiastic, and it was great to get to know them and hear their plans, despite our initial disappointment at their not opening soon. It was wonderful to hear they’re trying to fix the building to last another two hundred and fifty years.

— Kyle Pierce

Letters

Roadwork with a Big Stick

“Speak softly and carry a big stick,” said President Theodore Roosevelt in 1900. He was referring to relying on military power to preserve world peace prior to the First World War.

It seems to us that Shawn Tryon has adopted the president’s motto as his mission as Monterey’s Director of Operations, supervisor for the highway department. Shawn, in his quiet way, uses the power of the equipment to improve our roads, to remediate dangerous conditions, and seemingly clear the roads before the snow hits the ground.

And he doesn’t do it alone. The metamorphosis of our town is also accomplished with the commitment and dedication of Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rich Crittenden, and Jim Hunt.

Thanks to all of you for making our town safer and nicer.

— Janet R. and Hillel M. Maximon

Letters

Thank You Monterey

To my fellow Montereyans,

My sincere thanks for re-electing me to the Monterey Select Board. I promise to work diligently on behalf of all Monterey residents. My direct email is Steve@MontereyMA.gov. Please feel free to reach out to me with your questions and concerns. I will make an effort to respond, or forward you to a town official who can help you. Please understand that, as a member of a three-person board I cannot make decisions absent my other two board members. However I am here to help. I look forward to working with you.

My very best regards,

— Steven Weisz

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Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Gardeners

The community garden has a small number of spaces available. Please get in touch by phone or email now if you are interested in an eight-by-sixteen foot plot for organic growing.

June Activities

Mosaics Workshop: We all have pieces of broken dishes, vases, and other beloved ceramic objects. On Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, you will have an opportunity to turn them into new works of art in a "Bits & Pieces" mosaic workshop, with artist and educator, Marilyn Orner Cromwell.

Bring a flower pot, a garden stepping stone, or a wooden plaque to decorate with your shards. Wood should be sealed with gesso or a coat of paint (it won't show) prior to using. Clay flower pots are good to go, as is. Pieces can be shared.

At this workshop, you will be shown how to cut, design, and attach your pieces. Your work will probably need to be completed at home, but the technique and materials will be demonstrated and you will have instructions to take with you. This is a hands-on workshop, and those hands may want a pair of gloves (of the medical or dishwashing variety). Fun and relaxing.

Marilyn Orner Cromwell is a painter, a teacher with IS 183, a member of 510 Warren Street Gallery in Hudson, and a member of the National Association of Women Artists.

Fee: \$30 plus \$5 Materials. Pre-registration required (see below for contact info).

Yogurt-making demonstration:

Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wendy Jensen will be demonstrating proven methods for producing your own yogurt at home; no need to buy Fage, Oikos or Siggi's ever again! Fee: \$10 donation to the MCC.

Knife sharpening: Saturday, June 15, at 10:30 a.m. Simple lessons about household knife design and materials. Practice, with guidance, sharpening two or three of your own knives with a small folding diamond file, which you will leave with. Preregistration by June 5. \$25 includes \$10 donation to MCC and \$15 for your file.

Saving and preserving food: Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. In his "Saving the Season" workshop, local author and foodwriter Kevin West will guide you in the concepts and practices of food canning and preserving. Fee: \$10 donation to the MCC

Ongoing activities

Darn Yarners: First and third Thursday of each month (June 6 and 20), 1 to 3 pm. This is an informal group of fiber artists (knit, stitch, mend, spin, crochet and such) meeting to work on individual projects in a somewhat social setting. No cost. Facilitated by Wendy Jensen.

Ping Pong: Adult ping pong continues to bounce back and forth between Saturdays and Thursdays. In June, join us on Thursdays, June 13 and 27, from 3:30 p.m., and on Saturdays, June 8 and 22, at 2 p.m. Please come and enjoy the thrill of play with your friends and neighbors. Free.

Monterey Community Center

Workshop Registration

Visit: ccmonterey.org
Go to: "Events" on top bar
Click on: "Event Information and Registration"

Questions? Call: 413-528-3600
Email: calendar@ccmonterey.org

See our event calendar: Many additional activities are listed on our event calendar. These range from council on aging weekly events to adult book club monthly meetings to card games, singing and other individually presented events on many topics.

Visit us at any time through our website (ccmonterey.org), where you will find the event calendar, event registration, use policies, and other information, and where you can donate to the center through PayPal. You can always contact Mary Makuc, Event Coordinator, at 413-528-3600, or calendar@ccmonterey.org. We thank you for your support!



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Joe Baker

The Greenagers recently arrived at the Monterey Community Garden and installed a raised bed garden.

The Greenagers, a United Way Funded Partner program, provides employment and volunteer opportunities for teens and young adults in the fields of conservation, sustainable farming, and environmental leadership. To learn more about this youth project, go to Greenagers.org.



Bonner McAllister



Memorial Service Cynthia Weber

A memorial service for well-known community member, beloved mother, and grandmother, Cynthia Weber, 90, of Monterey, will be held on Saturday, July 13, at 11 a.m., at Corashire Cemetery in Monterey. Reception to follow nearby. Dress comfortably for the weather. Memorial contributions may be made to the Monterey Community Center.

A remembrance of Cynthia's life to follow in the July issue.



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The Waters Around Us

Wherever you find yourself, you are certain to be in the watershed of one river or another. That may sound blindingly obvious, but I grew up in the suburbs, where the built landscape seemed to overwhelm or obscure natural features. I can't recall ever giving much thought to the local waterways and how they flowed.

Here in the Berkshires, we live in the nearly 2,000-square-mile watershed of the much abused and oft ignored Housatonic River. Flowing some 150 miles from its headwaters in eastern New York to the Long Island Sound, the Housatonic meanders through meadows, woodlands, and ravines, finding and forging paths of least resistance. It builds volume locally from the Konkapot River and the brooks and streams that feed into it.

It's easy to forget how central the Housatonic River is to the natural ecology of the Berkshires and its industrial, agricultural, and social past. Before this area was settled by Europeans, the Mahicans regarded its waters with reverence and set up encampments along its banks. In the nineteenth century, both the Housatonic and the Konkapot powered local industry and commercial enterprises. A 1876 map of Monterey from *Monterey: A Local History* shows a series of waterside mills—sawmill, planing mill, shingle mill, carding mill, paper mill—near the center of Monterey just downstream from the old stone dam behind the library.

Monterey Softball Open Call

All softball players
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Batting practice at 10
Games begin at 10:30



Janet Jensen

Until federal protections were enacted in the 1970s, excessive discharges of many kinds, including raw sewage and paper mill wastewater, polluted the Housatonic River and its tributaries. The most devastating insult, however, was General Electric's release of massive quantities of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls, a class of persistent man-made and toxic chemicals). Although some of the PCBs have been dredged and removed, further remediation remains a problematic, expensive, and unresolved undertaking.

As a consequence, the Housatonic's image has been tarnished. In spite of its natural beauty and cultural legacy, the river that helped create Great Barrington and skirts its downtown remains in its shadows. The establishment of the Housatonic River Walk, built through community initiative,

tenacity, and the work of some 3,000 pairs of volunteer hands over three decades, helped to rehabilitate the river's image, as River Walk director Christine Ward points out.

On June 22, the Saturday after the summer solstice, a bridge-to-bridge procession, "Heartflow: Honoring the Housatonic River," will celebrate the past, present, and future of this river. This colorful celebration will include a circus act, music, art creation, poetry, blessings, and a gentle half-mile procession along the river walk. The event will highlight indigenous traditions, especially the understanding of water as a sacred gift. It is affiliated with the Global Earth Exchange—Radical Joy for Hard Times observances around the world that day to reflect on, honor, and heal damaged places on our Earth.

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All are invited to be part of the observance, which is scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m., beginning at Stanley Park, and culminating near the Bridge Street bridge. See the itinerary below for more details about the event, which is hosted by the Housatonic River Walk and organized with the participation of many local groups.

The idea of an event to honor and celebrate the river was sparked at the first meeting, in late March, of a local group that is exploring ways to establish legal standing for the Housatonic River in alignment with the growing, global Rights of Nature movement. "Granting civil rights to nature will give bodies of water, trees, mountains, and wetlands standing of their own, as opposed to only being represented by people with financial stake in them," explains Sarah Natan, the group's founder. "Also, the Rights of Nature concept can empower local governments to make decisions about what happens in their own back yards."

Although the concept entails a radical shift from the status quo, hundreds of municipalities in this country and abroad are working on it in various ways, Sarah said. Tamaqua, Pennsylvania in 2006 became the first township to successfully pass a bill endowing nature with civil rights. Pittsburgh followed suit in 2010 in an effort to prevent fracking. In March of this year, citizens of Toledo, Ohio, enacted the Lake Erie Bill of Rights with a 61% majority. Bolivia and Ecuador have both enshrined the rights of nature in their constitutions.

Exactly how this would work here is yet to be resolved, but Sarah envisions collaboration among the towns along the river to pass local ordinances granting civil rights to the Housatonic.

I've been a client of Sarah's at her community acupuncture clinic in Great Barrington for some time. When she shared her commitment to establish rights for the Housatonic, I signed on and attended that first meeting of twenty or so people in her Sheffield loft. At that initial meeting, people spoke about their various experiences with political or environmental activism. Many questions were raised about what could be accomplished through the Rights of Nature approach and how it might work.

The whole thing seemed somewhat quixotic. And yet, through my work at the United Nations, I've seen how electrifying and transformative the idea of basic inalienable rights can be, especially for the disenfranchised. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the legal mechanisms it has spawned, are considered by some to be the crowning social achievement of the twentieth century. Perhaps a rights-based approach could be the key to restoring environmental balance.

And I thought about Mum Bett, who, in 1781, while still a slave, must have walked right past the place where we were meeting to seek counsel from the young, abolition-minded lawyer, Theodore Sedgwick. He was then living a few miles down the road in what is now the Hardscrabble Zendo in Sheffield. Her claim, radical at the time, to her freedom as a human being under the Massachusetts Constitution helped gain not only her emancipation, but that of all the slaves in the state many decades

before Lincoln would declare an end to slavery in this country.

And in 1848, a couple of hundred miles west of here, in Seneca Falls, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and a few friends helped organize the very first women's rights convention and discussed the then-revolutionary idea that women should have the right to vote. It took seventy years, but, in a fairly common trajectory, an idea once ridiculed, then violently opposed, has become a truth we now consider self-evident.

June 22 Heartflow

Assemble by 2 p.m. at Stanley Park across from Cumberland Farms on Main Street.

Heartflow will progress to the River Walk entrance at the left side of Rite Aid and walk south along the River Walk. There will be brief events along the walk.

The event will culminate at 4 p.m. at the bridge by the Searles School building on Bridge Street.

—Janet Jensen



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Monterey Library

Building Project

The update on the building project is hard to write. Every day various items are finished and checked off. Today, for instance, they raised the flagpole. Thanks to Allegrone Construction for making sure the library flag will be flying for Memorial Day as it has since 1931.

By the time you read this many more things will be finished. It seems likely the whole project will be substantially completed in June. There will undoubtedly still be things that need work. Our commissioning agent, Colliers International, has already scheduled a meeting for next February so we can review how the heating system is working during the winter. Though the contract included some landscaping for the purpose of fulfilling conservation commission requirements, there will be some more of that to do.

The plan on how the library will be set up has continued to evolve even as the work is finishing up. In fact, we recently rotated some of the shelves. We aren't going to wait until everything is perfect to open up. We're committed to providing the best library services we can. Once the building commissioner, the contractor, and the design team are in agreement that

the building is ready to do business, we will move into the new Monterey Library and be open. There will be things to be worked out, but we will be open and doing business, perhaps before the next issue of the *Monterey News*. We look forward to serving the needs of our entire community.

Summer Notes

A few notes about the summer. As always, we have our museum pass program. Check out what is available on our website (below), and feel free to call ahead to see which passes are available.

Our Saturday morning children's programming will be happening. We're not sure exactly where the programs will be—look out for the sandwich board sign. Our first summer program for the children will be at 10:30 a.m., on Saturday, July 6, when Tom Seiling, a favorite for many years, will perform and get everyone singing and moving around. You'll find us either at the firehouse or the new library.

The Friends of the Library are already planning a grand celebration and a formal ribbon cutting, so stay tuned. We should have the date by the next issue of the *Monterey News*. Check the library website for details on what is happening.

—Mark Makuc

Library Director

MontereyMassLibrary.org



Steven Weisz

Ray Tryon retired this year as Monterey's constable after sixty-five years in office. Ray also served as our town's fire chief for fifty years, among his other services to his hometown.

Monterey-Community A New Way

I am a Monterey resident and I have formed "Monterey-Community," an email-based Google Group. Google Group format acts as a kind of electronic bulletin board to allow posting of notes, emails, questions, and answers.

On our group, we have had good discussions about fiber broadband internet delivery and the "wiring" of the town by Fiber Connect, a private business, and the communication between Fiber Connect, the town, and the owners of the poles on our streets, which are controlled by the utilities. Recently there was also a discussion of the Monterey Memorial Day parade.

Debate is most welcome, but incivility will be difficult if not impossible to tolerate.

The group is membership based so send me a request at my personal email, christopher.blair3@gmail.com. I will send you an email invitation to the group. Click "OK" and that's it, you will have joined.

When you are a member, post your email to the group address, monterey-community@googlegroups.com. It will be sent on individually to each member's email inbox. Members can "Reply" to the sender, or "Reply All" to the whole group.

—Chris Blair

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Nevis Tortoise Adventure

By chance, a backhoe man found a land tortoise,
during a job on Pump Road. A school was close by,
so he thought, why not give the playground a try?
The young Red Footed tortoise was given to teachers, where in the yard,
a cast iron bathtub became his place to live. He was homeward bound.
The tortoise wandered methodically, crisscrossing the grassy playground.
What a sight for all the children to see! As the tortoise moved slowly around.

While feeding him lettuce, bananas, carrots, and bread,
the children, while smiling, watching the reptile eat, and touching his shell,
all thinking it was better than classroom time instead.

After awhile the tortoise grew large, and needed more space,
so he was moved to a larger place, into a big chicken pen.
On the mountain in Morningstar, with many laying hens,
and outnumbered by the birds, they were still his friends.
Many years passed by, and the tortoise grew fond of them.

During a chicken pen repair along the fence, the tortoise escaped.
and being a big island, he was on the run, nowhere to be found,
slowly wandering up and down, perhaps looking for a mate.
I would never see him again, I thought, with no like tortoises abound.
On Morningstar mountain, the tortoise, at a slow pace, roamed around.
Six months he went missing, and my searching for him did abate.
Then, by chance one day, I looked in the field by the chicken pen gate.

The tortoise was spotted that afternoon, and seeing him I was filled with joy.
Seeing my old missing friend, I jumped up and down like a young boy.
I ran down, picked him up and looked into his eyes,
which looked healthy but wet, and I could have cried.
Maybe the tortoise was crying.

Homing animal instincts perhaps, led the tortoise back here, surely not just by chance.
This happens with some animals, sea turtles, birds, butterflies, herring, and salmon.
There are many more, but I mention these few animals at a glance.

In Nevis, Red Footed tortoises are rare. These reptiles eat mostly fruit and greens,
then pause, hide with good camouflage, as time passes by.
Some tortoises live to be 150 years old and why?
They move slowly, contemplating every move, at a very slow pace.
This gives the tortoise a mellow, thoughtful sort of natural grace.

Well, the tortoise is back home with all his hens and friends,
and again, the Morningstar mountain farm is complete.
The world is overrun with fast moving people, and modes of transportation—
cars, trains, planes—and the tortoise cannot compete.

I may learn from this tortoise some, and hope to slow my own life down.
My hope is that we live long lives together, as the earth goes round and round.

—Stephen Rose

Biopsy of the Soul

Berry, seedling,
glowing core,
halflife;
zero.

Oh, to die with import!
—Peter Shepley
December 1999



Monterey Arbor Quest

Tree circumference _____ inches

Tree type _____

Simple descriptive location _____

Name _____

Email _____

phone _____

Enter by: Emailing info to
montereytreequest@gmail.com
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Monterey News box at parking lot
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Monterey Arbor Quest Trees: Records of History

As the stately yet aged and dying Sugar Maple came crashing down, landing with a heavy thud, Bill, the arborist responsible for its fall to earth, viewed it a very different way. This time it was not just another client's wish to be fulfilled—it was not just a tree blocking a client's lake view, or considered to be too close to someone's house—it was as though Bill was peering into a convergence of time and place wrapped in a cloak of bark, branches, and leaves. Bill turned to his new apprentice Jim, and said, "I'll bet this tree has been around longer than all the ages of both of our families put together."

Bill was probably right. What was once a magnificent, large sugar maple was roughly estimated to be more than 350 years old using a convenient field technique. How the age of the tree was determined, and what Bill and Jim learned about its history, is the gist of this article.

Of course, as an arborist, Bill was trained in the techniques of estimating the age of trees, and he taught them to Jim. Bill explained that you can make an initial rough estimate of the age of a tree in the field first by finding its diameter. With a cut tree, the diameter is just directly measured.



Dennis Lynch

This White Ash round, cut from a tree that grew along New Marlborough Road, began its life around 1920. It is on display outside the Monterey Community Center.

To find the diameter of a standing tree, you begin by measuring the circumference, or girth, of the trunk in inches at chest height, or about 4.5 feet above the ground; then divide that number by 3.14 (the rough value for π , or π) to find the approximate diameter. Using this measurement, he showed Jim his pocket chart that listed the growth factors of different types of trees. A sugar maple grows, on average, one inch larger in diameter every 5.5 years. When they multiplied this 5.5 growth factor by the 65.5" diameter, they concluded that it was perhaps 360 years old.

"In New England, that sugar maple specimen was an old timer to be sure, Jim. Not as old as the towering, giant redwoods and sequoias in the northwest, but the sugar maple undoubtedly was a majestic presence in its travel through time."

Knowing that it is a more accurate aging technique, Bill said, "Now I'll show you how to age the tree by counting tree rings. Let's each count the rings out from the pith, the very center of the tree, and

see how close our estimate was." Jim, who has loved trees from an early age, jumped to the task. Bill cautioned him, "Count carefully, as sometimes the rings are very close together if the tree was going through a period when the growth was slow for lack of moisture or some other factor."

Counting Annual Rings

The general practice in dendrochronology (*dendo*-trees, *chrono*-time) to find the age of trees is by closely observing and counting the number of annual or growth rings. If you look at a slice or cross section of a tree, you will see a series of concentric growth rings starting in the center and expanding out to the bark layer. Each ring represents one year of growth and by counting the total number of rings the age of the tree can be closely estimated.

Another technique uses a "tree corer," a thin metal tube with a cutting edge, which is drilled into the trunk, and when withdrawn, pulls out a cross section of tree rings to read the age of the tree. This technique is more accurate by about 10% than aging a tree by using its circumference and the growth factor. However, the tree coring tool generally doesn't go very deep, so it only measures the age of the more recent growth.

The outer ring is where growth is taking place in the tree. Some arborists refer to this as where a tree is "adding wood." Bill further noted that some growth rings may appear thinner than others because seasonal changes throughout the year result in growth rate changes. For example, thinner rings may

Monterey Arbor Quest

Tree circumference _____ inches

Tree type _____

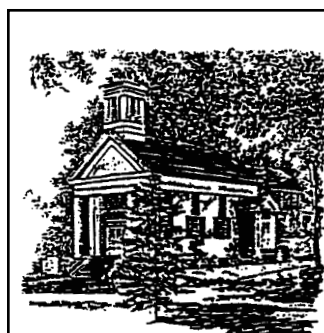
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indicate dry or arid climate while wider rings may be caused by a rainy period resulting in a longer growth season. In a way, reading tree rings is a good way of looking back at the climate changes during the life of a tree, something climate scientists do.

Indeed, when they'd finished counting the rings, and averaged their counts, they decided the tree was 324 years old, which demonstrated the difference between aging by circumference and using the more accurate dendrochronology method.

Growth Factors

Different types of trees have different growth factors, which is an average estimate of the rate of a tree's growth over time, trying to take into account such things as soil conditions, the amount of sunlight, competition from other trees, and seasonal temperature changes. Typically a sugar maple grows faster than a northern red oak, so the maple has a higher growth factor. Another tricky thing about aging different tree types is the fact that a slow growing tree, either because of the type of tree, or the condition it was trying to grow in, may result in a smaller diameter tree, but yet might be older than a larger diameter tree. The American hornbeam, which is a very dense or hard tree, has very narrow growth rings and may be much older than one might guess.

When Bill and Jim returned to the office after the workday, Bill pointed to a history

book on his shelf and said, "Let's see what happened 324 years ago when we think the Sugar Maple germinated and began to grow." He turned the pages and came across a few historical events that happened 324 years ago, in 1695, including; the author, poet, and satirist Jonathan Swift was ordained an Anglican priest in Ireland; also, a window tax in England caused shopkeepers to brick up their premises to avoid the tax; and, the Bank of Scotland was founded. Jim exclaimed, "This tree was nearly a hundred years old at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War!"

As it dawned on Jim that these old trees, and even the younger ones, are living history books, his curiosity grew. Can you give me some books or suggest some internet links to read further about this?"

Bill glanced out at the forest near his office, smiled to himself, and thought that his little tree aging lesson for Jim, which was gained from years of experience and training, was well worth it.

Join the Monterey Arbor Quest to help find the oldest "history books" in Monterey—the oldest trees in town. Thanks to Jim Dutcher, Lyman Thomson, Bob Rausch, and Jared Lyman for their entries this month. You can fill in the Arbor Quest coupon and drop it in the *Monterey News* box outside the library, or email the information to MontereyTreeQuest@gmail.com.

The quest ends on July 27, at the steak roast.

—Dennis Lynch

Friends of Monterey Library Fundraising Parties

Need a reason to invite old and new friends to party? Host a small event like a wine tasting, dessert bake-off, piano lounge cocktail hour, barbecue dinner, or a sunset yoga class. Make it purposeful and ask people to make a contribution to the Monterey Library to attend the event. It's a great way to party and be purposeful at the same time.

While the state grant paid for a great deal, and the town is paying for the rest of the construction costs, there remain expenses that have to be covered through fundraising by the Friends. These include some landscaping costs, coat racks, soft comfy chairs, small table lamps, and furniture for the reading deck that overlooks the Konkapot.

It's your event, and we greatly appreciate help in raising funds for the library. If you would like to chat about your event, please email: montereylibraryfriend@gmail.com with the subject line "I want to help" if you're interested, or call Franny Huberman at 413-528-5414.

See you at the library.

—Ilene Marcus

Friends of the Monterey Library



Fiddlehead ferns—a delicious sign of spring. Cut them when they first appear, sauté them lightly. Thanks to Bonsai Cox for the photo.

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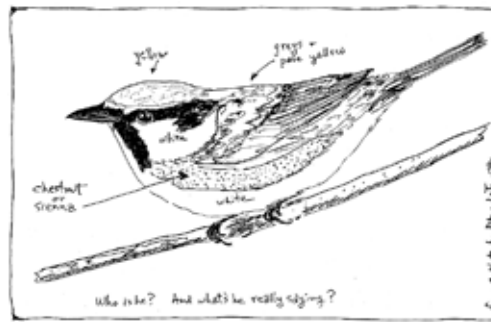
    

A Bird I Know: Chestnut-sided Warbler

The green is upon us, all through the swamps, fields, and woods. Every living thing has a way with the coming of the green, an adjustment, some kind of welcome. For the outdoorsy person in New England there will be shade, less open sky. We'll remember the long winter view into the woods, the shape of the ground and the ridges, not to mention the snowy woods floor brightening our short days with reflected sun and our long nights with moon and starlight shining up from the ground. Now we have a whole new world, and not just for us.

Birds are harder to see with all these leaves in the way, so we pay attention to how they sound. Most have a characteristic "call," also a "song." This time of year with the familiar wildflowers springing open we run for the field guides. There are the bookmarks from last year when we did the same thing. Bring in a familiar plant friend and give it a squint. "I know you, I just can't remember your name. And I said the same thing last year and looked it up and wrote it down and now I'm doing that again."

At least the flowers hold still on the plant, or in a glass of water, as we puzzle and sleuth. With birds, it's only like that if they have been killed by a car, or brought in by the cat. Mostly we get a glimpse, a



moment of memory, and then they are gone. Lucky for us, we can often hear them even when they are out of sight.

Now comes the memory channel for things audible, and many a bird watcher has found mnemonic aids a big help. These have been thought up over the years, put into English words and phrases that sound a lot like the song of the bird. The message? Not so much.

When we hear a Barred Owl and think to ourselves almost automatically, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" we might get a mental image of someone in a kitchen cooking. We are likely to grin at the phrase we have stored away that helps us remember this owl. This helps us with identification but has nothing to do with the bird, of course. I always remember Donald Kroodsma's writing, in his slim guide to backyard birdsong, that he hopes the book will help us not just to identify birds, but to identify with birds.

The feathered familiar that has returned to our homestead today is one I haven't seen yet this year, but I know his song, and in English it is filed away for me as "Pleased, pleased, pleased, pleased to meetcha!" In spite of myself, I attach this sentiment to the bird who has not knowingly said it at all. I can't help smiling almost as if some English-speaking visitor had come walking up the path and said this to me.

Besides feeling appreciated by a little animal I haven't even spotted yet, I know what he looks like because I have seen him every year and I remember him. He is small, about five inches long, and has yellow on top of his head, a black eye-stripe and mutton chops, and a remarkable "broad chestnut stripe which runs down sides and flanks." This is in the description by Edward Howe Forbush, 1858-1929, who was the State Ornithologist for Massachusetts. His account of the Chestnut-sided Warbler starts off practical and scientific, and then launches into the section called "Haunts and Habits." Here he gives his own observations as well as those sent to him by trusted observers in Massachusetts.

It is not, perhaps, so beautiful as some of the more retiring warblers, but as Professor Lynds Jones says, it impresses one as an exquisite, and there is something about it which makes the "day brighter, the wearing field work easier, and the hours of fasting forgotten," when it flies into view. Perhaps its dainty, immaculate white vesture, with its clean-cut chestnut stripes, so unique among the small birds,

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together with its jauntiness and trimness, set it apart from and above all its fellows. Robert Ridgway rates it as “perhaps the prettiest of all our warblers.” This is high rating from a distinguished source, *Birds of Massachusetts*, by Edward Howe Forbush, (Norwood Press 1929).

Forbush tells in some detail how a female built the nest. It took about six days to finish and was held together again and again with the webs made by tent caterpillars, which the bird gathered and brought to the fork of a bush, to hold dried grasses in place for the sides. The Chestnut-sided Warbler female lays three or four eggs and does all the incubating, with the male bringing food for her, mostly caterpillars and other insect larvae. The babies hatch after ten or eleven days and flutter out after another ten days or so. Both parents feed them.

By the end of September most of these “exquisites” will have left New England. The leaves will be turning, the woods opening up for the long views again. My daily life is of the season, and suddenly one day when the green comes spreading through the land, a bird I know will sing, “Pleased, pleased, pleased to meetcha!” and make me smile.

—Bonner McAllester

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*Kindergarten class of 1997 with teachers Susan Andersen and Elaine Bertoli.
Second Row (l. to r.): Caitlin Klan-Coor, Lizzie Meier, Bonnie Caldwell, Emi Rosenberg,
Buddy Ferris, Mason Hines, Colleen Van Deusen, Jason Duryea.
Front Row (l. to r.): Jhori Jurgensen, Pamela Crawford, Taylor Amstead, Shoshana
Candee, Samantha Backus, Amy O'Brien, Henry Fuore.*

Bennett Ferris Ph.D in Neuroscience

Bennett Ferris, formerly of Monterey, son of Charles Ferris and Melissa Mishcon, has received his doctoral degree in neuroscience from The Rockefeller University in New York City. The degree will be formally awarded in a ceremony at the university on June 13, 2019.

Bennett has been a graduate fellow in the Laboratory of Integrative Brain Function at Rockefeller. The laboratory is headed by Dr. Gaby Maimon, who is also a principal investigator in The Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The Maimon Laboratory studies biological structures and processes, such as visual perception, that underlie cognition and decision making. Bennett's research on the brain structures of the common fruit fly, known as *Drosophila melanogaster*, focused on the neurons involved in the flight patterns of drosophila. His work identified the neuron which controlled spontaneous turning behavior, as distinguished from turns which responded to specific visual stimuli. His research was published in the journal *Current Biology*, volume 28, in 2018.



He also served as program coordinator and mentor of The Rockefeller University summer neuroscience program, a free program for high school students to learn about the biology of the brain.

He was a teaching assistant in 2017 in the marine biology laboratory at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Bennett is a 1997 graduate of the Monterey kindergarten; 2009 graduate of Monument Mountain Regional High School; and a 2013 graduate of Brown University, with a degree in organic chemistry.

—Charles Ferris

Mythology in the Stars

After the bone chilling winds of winter dimmed the bleak monochromatic landscape at the water's edge of our seaside residence in Fairhaven, the spring arrival of the migrating Ospreys to the nesting tower right outside our window on Little Bay, is a welcome sight.

The appearance of the Ospreys, carried on angled wings for their seasonal migration on warm gossamer winds, is witnessed like the long awaited spring constellations of the zodiac. Did you know that April, the fourth month of the Gregorian calendar, is the first month of the zodiac (which is derived from the Greek word for "circle of animals") year? And to early astrologers, the perfect balance of the Sun and the Earth in space, when the hours of light and shadow are the same all over the world, was also a celestial celebration they called the Earth's birthday. Thus the first month of the zodiac new year is Aries, who mythically lights the fire in the heavens to ignite hope and promise in the horoscope of those born under its sign.

The earliest records of astrology, the early science of the stars, were recorded in Babylonian times. Over time astrology came to be highly regarded as a science for tracking time and anticipating weather conditions. The introduction of mythical creatures to the zodiac happened around 365 B.C. by the Greek philosopher Plato. He formulated that celestial sun signs ruled by the gods could also be linked to animated mortal symbols with human characteristics.

Much of the last month of the Gregorian calendar, December, is Sagittarius in the zodiac, and is represented by the man-horse Centaur. The Centaur mythology combines the power of human intellect with the strength of a draft animal. Together they are able to accomplish worthy goals of challenging achievements that lie ahead.

The philosophy of connecting human character qualities to animals is a term called "anthromorphology." I have illustrated some of the animal constellations—star pictures—that Plato referred to, some of which are visible on the zodiac belt. They are arranged counter clockwise from my signature around the sunburst emblem, as



Let my illustration be like the sun, shining a little light on some of our friends in the night sky.

follows. The first is Leo, the lion. Then Cygnus, the mythical swan, followed by the man-horse Centaur, Cancer the Crab, Lupo the Wolf, Pisces the Fish, Capricorn the Goat, Taurus the Bull, and finally Scorpio, the Scorpion. It seems to me that they have earned a pecking order of dominance in astrological folklore, not unlike Darwin's survival of the fittest. But if the heavens subsequently became a celestial jungle in my personal mythology, all constellations were finally dominated by Ursa Major, the Bear; Orion, the hunter; and the strength of the Greek god, Hercules.

Modern mythology is still alive and well in old country folklore, such as Caledonian Scotland's Loch Ness monster, the little mermaid of Denmark, the ravens of Britain's Tower of London, and even Sasquatch (or Bigfoot) in the mythology of west coast American wilderness. Varied forms keep reappearing in literature and film entertainment for children of all ages. They include the classic *Lord Of The Rings*, and recently prominent Harry Potter series.

But as the sun sets outside our window on Buzzards Bay, bringing down the daylight curtain upon this station of earthly observation, the seasonally prophetic Ospreys go to roost for the night. And one by one the stars overhead begin to quietly light up the myriad constellations across

the horizon. These constellations have inspired the human family for thousands of years, and I expect they may do so for thousands of years to come.

—George B. Emmons

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Here's a Thought...

Betting on a Birch Bark Revolution

Like so many of us this year, we're seeing pairs of Northern (a.k.a. Baltimore) Orioles at our house. One of the males knocked on the glass at one of the windows for a few days, which provoked well-aimed leaps for the window from Tally, one of our cats. That always provoked a swift exit by Mr. Oriole, until the next time. They enjoyed the game and seemed quite simpatico. Real buddies.

There used to be a stand of white birches near the spot where all this melodrama played out. Now only one of them remains. She's being monitored by arborist Eric Haupt, as her age is showing. I hope she's here for a good long time to come.

White birches haunted me when I was a child, both for their beauty and for their uniqueness. Have you ever seen a stand of birch illuminated by full-moon light? If yes, no doubt you remember. If not, it's a sight worth seeking.

Birches are also just plain useful. With a hardness similar to oak, the wood of the yellow birch is a popular choice for making furniture. I grew up loving the taste of birch beer, a once-popular soda pop made from black birch twigs, or sap.

I knew that, centuries ago, the native people who lived where birch trees grow (New England and north into Canada) had pioneered the creation of beautiful birch baskets, a craft which they, and other gifted contemporary artists, still hone. Apparently there's a natural fungicide in birch bark which helps the containers preserve the food they hold. These tribal craftspeople also made flat-sided food containers from



Birches... New England icons.

birch bark, using bark from the same species used to create canoes. That bark goes by three names: white, paper, and canoe birch.

In grade school I'd wondered how "the Indians" could have created safe, durable canoes out of material as seemingly fragile as birch bark. That birch bark canoe image knocked on my door again as the catalyst for this article.

It didn't arrive as a how-to-build-a-canoe question, though that's interesting enough. It arrived as a metaphor, a serendipity understanding. We ride Planet Earth through space just as the First People who lived here rode—and still ride—birch bark canoes on the rivers of what we now call New England.

Craftsmen creating birch bark canoes go through a long apprenticeship and

a large number of specific, time tested, creative steps to achieve their results. Even more than those canoes, Earth is both a sturdy and a fragile mode of transportation. Like any other vehicle, she'd benefit from regular maintenance. In order to provide it, though, most of us humans have quite a bit of changing to do.

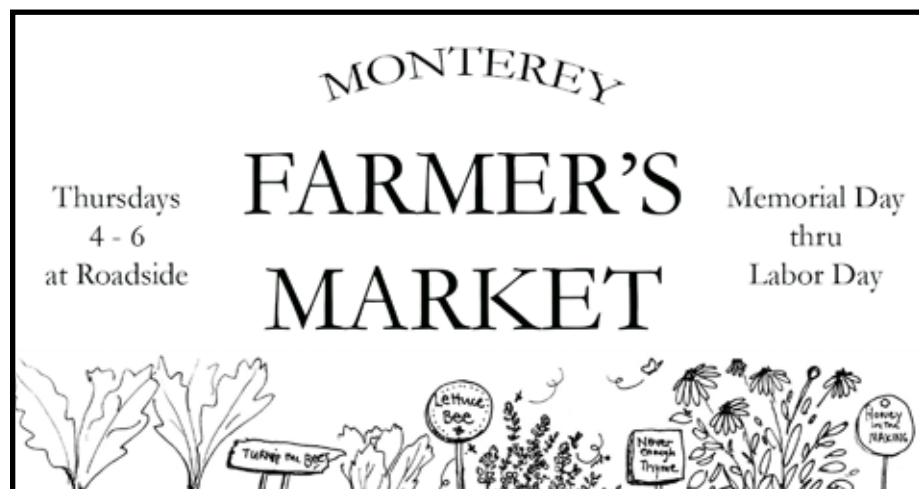
Overwhelming, that thought. Overwhelming and scary. So I propose we start, or continue forward, with small, specific steps.

One of the best steps I've heard recently is to not try to go it alone. After all, we're all on this canoe together, and we even live in a town that helps us compost. So talk with your neighbors about your concern for the Earth's needs, whatever way you see them. Talk with your friends about her beauty and your love for her. Talk until you find someone who's both compatible and willing to be your Earth Buddy. Then partner up and just let each other know when you've done something good for the Earth, something small, or large, or somewhere in between.

Cheer each other on. Turn it into a game. Offer each other prizes. Invite others to play. The need is too serious to take with the kind of deadly seriousness that can paralyze action. Look for your own way. Find it. Do it. Share it.

Another step? Pull out an old anthology of American poetry, or go online. Find Robert Frost's poem, *Birches*. Read it. Photocopy it. Better yet, copy it by hand. Put it someplace where you'll see it to remind you: We could do worse than fall in love with the planet that provides us with birches.

—Mary Kate Jordan



Fishing Derby June 8

The remaining derby dates this year are on the second Saturday mornings—July 13, August 10, September 14.

All events are 9 to 10:30 a.m., for children thirteen and under, rain or shine. Prizes are awarded and limited equipment and assistance is available.

And while you're there, don't forget to wander up to the hatchery and observe the fish in the tanks or check out the museum room past the tanks in the low building to the left.

Transfer Station

Welcome back to all the summer people who have already returned to enjoy their summer with us and those who will be not far behind.

Nothing much has changed at your transfer station beside the number one question, "Where is Dave?" Well, around the first of the year, after not feeling well for awhile, he was diagnosed with "Severe Aortic Stenosis." After many tests it was decided that open heart surgery to replace his valve was the right decision. On May 9 he was operated on at Baystate Hospital in Springfield. Released one week later, he is now back home recuperating. For all those well wishers, who have asked about him week after week, he thanks you all for your thoughts and prayers. He is looking forward to coming back to work soon, but I'm afraid there are weeks and months of rehabilitation ahead of him first.

The swap shop has been busy throughout the winter and now, as always, there are some great items to be had. Plenty of games, books, puzzles, and more to keep everyone occupied throughout the long summer hours on the beach or those occasional rainy days when stuck inside.

If the kids or grandkids are planning a visit, keep a watch for incoming bikes... there's always a call for them. And if you have some bikes that are no longer being used, please bring them up to be shared with others in town.

As usual we try to do our best to recycle every item that we can, but with that said, it is better to throw something into the trash that might be recyclable than to throw something into recycling that does not belong.

If you have any questions, please ask one of us before dumping.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend.

—Bill, Randon, and Beth



Steve Pullen



Steve Graves of Otis won the eleventh annual Richmond, MA, table tennis tournament on April 6 at the Richmond Consolidated School, which attracts players from throughout Berkshire County. Photo by Richmond, MA Recreation Commission.

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Annual Otis Arts Festival Artists and Craftspeople Needed

The twelfth annual Otis Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, August 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Farmington River Elementary School, in Otis.

The Otis Cultural Council invites local artists and craftspeople to join in this fantastic indoor event to display and sell their artwork. Entry fee is \$20 for Otis residents, \$25 for non-Otis residents. Check payable to Otis Cultural Council must be submitted with application, available online at: townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil. For information, email culturalco.otis@yahoo.com, or call 413-269-4674. The deadline for applications is July 3.



Snow in a nearby cemetery on May 13.
Photo by Bonsai Cox.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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Community Chorus Tuesdays at 7:30

The Monterey Community Chorus will meet every Tuesday in June, at 7:30 p.m., in the community center.

Singers of all levels are welcome. The aim is for participation in a joyous musical experience, community, sharing, and laughter. We do simple harmonies on some of the songs, some arranged, and some improvised. We work on a variety of songs, many from the folk genre, but not all. Some songs we are working on now: "All of Me," a jazz standard; "River Song," by Bill Staines; "City of New Orleans," by Steve Goodman; "Bring Me Little Water Sylvie," by Leadbelly; "Time After Time," by Cyndi Lauper; and "Hand It Over," a gospel song sung by Keb Mo.'

Come join us and see if you like it. Listening is okay too—even moving your mouth if the spirit moves you. Suggested donation is \$5, but your presence is the most important contribution.

—Oren Rosenthal

Gong Meditation Bath

I will be offering another gong meditation bath on Wednesday, June 19, from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m., at my home, at 9 Heron Pond Park, Monterey. Light refreshments will follow. Please bring a blanket and a pillow to get cozy. This month any donation you make will go to Volunteers in Medicine in Great Barrington.

A thirty-six inch gong will be played for forty-five minutes. The benefits of this experience are many and varied. Each person's experience is unique. The vibrations of the gong help to release your body of stress and anxiety, so your body is able to reach a deep state of relaxation. You can equate it with a massage experience, but this one is generated by sound. The nervous system benefits greatly due to deep relaxation.

Please RSVP to susancain9@gmail.com. You can call her with any questions at 203-249-8958.

—Susan Cain




Contributions May 2019

Contributions from the annual fund appeal in March seem to be tapering off, but we're hopeful that folks are waiting to send in contributions when it suits them.

Thank you so much for your support, which has allowed the *Monterey News* to publish without a subscription cost, and mail to folks on request, for nearly fifty years (January 2020).

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Bidwell House Museum

The warm weather is finally here and the Bidwell House Museum is excited to share some of the programs coming this summer.

History Talk

Our much loved summer history talk series returns on Saturday, June 15, with a talk by Vassar College Professor James Merrell. Scholarly study of Native Americans before ca.1800 has flourished recently, extending our knowledge of Indian peoples during that era well beyond Squanto and Pocahontas. Nonetheless, to a surprising degree, when talking about the continent's first peoples we still use language that would be familiar to William Bradford and Captain John Smith. Is thinking about our loaded vocabulary an exercise in "political correctness?" Or is it simply "correctness?"

Born and raised in Minnesota, James Merrell is the Lucy Maynard Salmon Professor of American history at Vassar College. Recipient of several fellowships, including from the Guggenheim Foundation and the NEH, he is the author of *The Indians' New World: Catawbas and their Neighbors From European Contact Through the Era of Removal*, and *Into the American Woods: Negotiators on the Pennsylvania Frontier*. Both books won the Bancroft Prize; *Into the American Woods* was a Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Please note that this talk will begin at 10:30 a.m. instead of the usual time of 10 a.m. The talk will be in the Tyringham Union Church, and the suggested donation is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.



The Lucky 5

Open Mic Festival

At the end of the month, on Sunday, June 30, the museum is thrilled to present our second annual Open Mic Music Festival. Whether you are musician who loves to play or a music lover who enjoys listening to a live band, this family-friendly event will have something for everyone! Starting at noon, the first two hours of the show will be open-mic for any musician interested in playing. After the open mic, we will segue into a great concert with The Lucky 5, a jazz band that blends swing and gypsy jazz to create a unique blend of music that appeals to a wide range of music lovers. Enjoy their foot stompin' sounds while relaxing under a tent in the park-like setting in front of the Museum. If you have a friend who is starting a band, or you know someone who just likes to sing, tell them to sign up for the open mic. Guests are encouraged to bring a picnic and enjoy an afternoon of music. Snacks and soft drinks will be available for purchase. The cost of admission will be \$10 per person in advance and \$20 per person if purchased at the concert. Guests aged 18 and under are free. Musicians interested in participating in the open-mic portion of the event should contact the museum at 413-528-6888, or bidwellhouse@gmail.com, by June 24 so we know how many acts to expect.

Bidwell Country Fair

Looking ahead to July, our popular Bidwell Country Fair is happening on Saturday, July 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to this free event celebrating local history and the community. Back by popular demand is the pie-baking contest. We have three categories this year: sweet traditional, savory, and bakers under 16. Michele Miller from Bola Granola, and Rachel Portnoy from Chez Nous, are returning as judges, and new judge Clayton Hambrick, formerly of The Church Street Café, has joined the team. They are all very excited to see what you can bake up this year.

Other fun events are planned for the afternoon including:

- Live music by local musicians, including Mountain Laurel and the Adams Brothers,
- 18th century re-enactors,
- Crafts, games, and face painting for kids,
- Food and drinks,
- Craft demonstrations,
- Horseback rides,
- Local farm vendors,
- A huge tag sale,
- And more.

All events are free, thanks in part to the support of grants from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils, and a fantastic group of volunteers. Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day.

Summer Gala August 3

Finally, save the date for our annual summer fundraising on Saturday, August 3. We will be back on the beautiful grounds of the Bidwell House Museum. More details and tickets will be available on the website later in June.

The museum, located at 100 Art School Road, is open Thursdays to Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tours on the hour, Memorial Day through Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



Dumpster Diving-Babson Bound

Trips to the town dump have been a tradition in my family ever since I was three years old. The dump, a.k.a the transfer station, is located in Monterey, Massachusetts, a small town a few miles down a tree-lined road from my grandparents' house in the Berkshires. I attribute the roots of many of my current passions to my early experiences there. Once I was old enough to understand their uses, the endless tangles of USBs, RCAs, auxiliary cables, and speakers that I acquired from the dump's swap shop satisfied all my tinkering needs. I stood, albeit only three feet tall, as living proof that one person's trash can become another person's treasure.

My current passion for entrepreneurship can be traced back to the Monterey Swap Shop, a small community-run shack at the dump where various people filtered out the thrown away things that might still hold value for someone. For instance, when Seymour, an older man from the other side of the lake, turned to me for help setting up his printer, I did it with an ethernet cable I found foraging at the dump. As payment for the service, he gave me \$20 and for a bonus, let me drive his pontoon boat around the lake for an hour. Later, enough people in the community began enlisting me for similar tasks and suddenly I had my first small business on my hands. Shortly thereafter, I began acquiring discarded ski boots from the swap shop, which I refurbished and sold to the owner of the local ski shop to be used for her winter rentals. It was in doing this that I discovered the value beyond money that contributing to my local community had when I applied my entrepreneurial spirit to it. This experience has been a guiding force in my life ever since.

This past summer, I was one of the very few chosen for LaunchX, an entrepreneurship program for high school students, where I would go to work with a team of peers from around the world to create a startup called Smart Medicine Hub. SMH's goal was to create a smart pill box capable of transmitting information



to mobile devices to help those on medication better track their prescriptions. This opportunity at LaunchX further opened my eyes to what responsible entrepreneurship can do for the world around me.

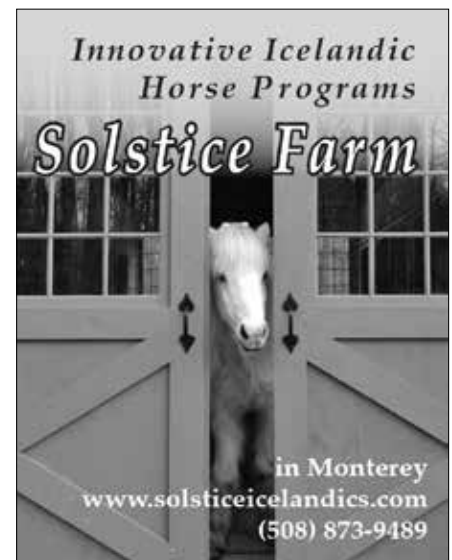
As a child, the spare parts I found at the dump fueled my passion to pursue unthought ideas, unimagined projects, and unknown solutions. As a result, I am now quite comfortable with my design process and have honed my talents in analyzing and synthesizing data as I have gone along. My work at Citi Bike, where I am learning about bike maintenance and helping to assemble a prototype for the dockless bikes recently introduced in the Bronx, helps further those skills by giving me ample opportunity to apply them to real world solutions.

From the dump of my childhood, I emerged with not only a genuine appreciation for sustainability, but a

knowledge of what that truly means. And this will serve as a foundation for my studies in engineering and transportation. As an entrepreneur, I see myself as a leader who cherishes working with as well as for a community, whether it's the townspeople of Monterey or the staff at Citi Bike, or even just my peers at school. I aspire to create or invent something new that will be a significant contribution to society. I plan to make treasures from the trash of others, because I know exactly how that is done. More importantly, I know just how invaluable that can be because I know what it is like to clean the dust and dirt off of something cast away and see it shine anew beneath the light of the bright summer sun.

—Justin Kaye

Editor's Note: Justin wrote this essay for his Babson College application.



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Wildlife Report

Birds, Bears, and Even More

Suzanne Sawyer wrote in early May of bluebirds in a nest box near the house. There are some boxes farther away, with tree swallows nesting, also more bluebirds. The Sawyers have turkeys visiting every day, sometimes more than two dozen at a time. The hummingbirds are back, and all the familiar finches and summer birds “too many to mention,” Suzanne says. Later in the month she wrote about a Baltimore oriole at the feeder, also a Cooper’s hawk in the area. Early in the spring, a Carolina wren visited the Sawyers.

Steve Snyder reports blue jays, barn swallows, bobolinks, and a bank swallow at Gould Farm, early in May, and then later on the bright sight of a scarlet tanager, two indigo buntings, and a male oriole. There are mourning doves, too, and returning catbirds.

After reading George Emmons’ article on Baltimore orioles in the May issue of the *Monterey News*, Steve Moore got some clementines and cut them into chunks which he put in their flowering quince and a sparsely leafed out peach tree. Within a couple of hours, a male oriole came to feast on the fruit, and before long some blue jays, too.

Early in May, Sharon Rosenberg wrote of two male rose-breasted grosbeaks at once on either side of her cylindrical bird feeder. There have been several sightings of red-bellied woodpeckers around town: the Sawyers at their place along Route 23;



Baltimore oriole

—Bonsai Cox.

Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen on New Marlboro Road, where two woodpeckers chased each other up a tree; and Bonsai Cox on Stevens Pond who got a good photograph. Bonsai also had a glorious male Baltimore oriole at her feeder and took another photograph (bottom left).

Kit Patten called about a hawk he was seeing and hearing, one of the buteos (broad wings), with a call like this: “kuk - keer.” Kit doesn’t know what species this was and neither do I.

We have a list of the birds who graced the Monterey Community Center bird walk with Joe Baker on May 19:

Robin, blue jay, chipping sparrow, Baltimore oriole, yellowthroat, yellow warbler, redstart, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, broad-winged hawk, veery, chickadee, and titmouse. And these are just the ones Joe and I can remember.

The bird walk was enlivened by a splendid porcupine resting in a poplar tree along the edge of the mowed yard at the community center. We were looking up in those trees at an oriole, and there was the porcupine. David Abromowitz paired up his cellphone camera with one half of his binoculars and got a close-up photograph (below).



The bird walk moved on down New Marlborough Road and we saw many birds, but we also visited a low wet place where two walkers had told me about a couple of bear cubs nibbling among the skunk cabbages. There was plenty of evidence of this, including some that was scatological.

Also in the mammals department, Nancy Kleban saw a raccoon at her new home on Beartown Mountain Road. This is the first one she has seen there. Driving



home one night recently Steve Moore saw his first live opossum ever, and Steve says this one did not dash beneath his car. (I am not sure I’ve ever known a ‘possum to dash, anywhere.)

Pals of mine from Maine were headed to these parts for a folk festival in mid-May and as they came along the Blandford stretch of the Massachusetts Turnpike they saw what had to have been a mountain lion, hit by the side of the road. It was a big tawny cat with a long tail. I heard this story from each of them. They had travelled in their separate cars that day, over the same road.

Maureen Banner took an action shot (above) of an “athletic squirrel” swinging on a suet cage. This suet had hot pepper in it, and Maureen says, “gourmet squirrels like it hot.”

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Richard Pargament and Ray Norrell were visited by a large mammal at their bird feeder and took some good photographs out the kitchen window (at right). This young bear sat down and focused on the cylindrical feeder, carefully working seeds out the small holes. No bears nor feeders were harmed in this episode.

White baneberries are in bloom, the trilliums are done, and the ferns past their fiddlehead stage (see page 19). Wild strawberry blossoms and bluets sprinkle the upper pasture here, and there are blackberry buds promising blossoms and fruit. Our garden pool has hundreds of half-grown pollywogs and the start of a good crop of duckweed.

Here comes summer. Thanks for all your stories, photographs, and news. You remind us to get outside. The getting is good.

—Bonner McAllester

528-9385, or bonnermca@gmail.com.



Bears are an important feature of this carved tree trunk, "Tree of Life," seen in Milford, PA (above right). There's a second full size bear on the backside, two bald eagles at the top, and countless small animals around the base including snakes, frogs, toads, ducks, and more.
Photo by Wendy Jensen



Red-bellied woodpecker (above)

Nuthatch (below)

—Bonsai Cox



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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, June 3 and 17, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, June 12, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, June 10 and 24, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, June 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, June 5, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, June 13 and 27, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesdays, June 5 at 9 a.m., and June 19, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

All meetings will be held in the town hall unless otherwise noted.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.



It's summer slow-pitch softball season in Greene Park. Batting practice begins at 10 Sunday mornings, with games beginning at 10:30. That's slugger Kate Vallianos looking to hit a long ball.

Council on Aging Events

Regularly scheduled council on aging board meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays, June 10 and 24, in town hall, at 10 a.m. Please consider attending. We are actively looking for new members for the board, and people who might like to help plan activities. We could use new faces and thoughts.

Movie Night

Tuesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. in the town hall, we'll be showing an adult animated dramatic film, recommended by Mike Banner, *Louise by the Shore*. It follows an elder woman who spends the winter alone in a French seaside town. Light refreshments will be served.

Trips

We have an exciting trip up Mount Greylock on June 19. The bus will meet us at town hall (please park in the back) at 10 a.m. The bus holds thirteen people, and there are a few spaces left. In addition, there are people willing to drive for any additional attendance. This trip includes

— Kenn Basler, Chair
Don Coburn and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

lunch at beautiful Bascom Lodge at the top of Mount Greylock. Please call me for reservations.

Our annual Pittsfield Suns outing will be on Sunday, July 7. The baseball game starts at 5 p.m., and lunch is included, like last year, under the tent, starting at 4:15. The cost to reserve a ticket is \$5, payable in June (to get a head count). Please call me to reserve a spot. This is an intergenerational gathering, so bring the grandchildren. That day is also one of the Suns' theme nights, Halloween in July, so come in costume if you like. Also, it's Kids' Library Night, sponsored by the Berkshire Athenaeum, which will be giving away books to children who are in reading programs. It was a lot of fun the last few years—let's do it again.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse will hold a wellness clinic at town hall on Thursday, June 13, from 2 to 3 p.m., no appointment is necessary.

— Kyle Pierce, 413-528-9213
Chair, Council on Aging

Upcoming Blood Drives

American Red Cross
RedCrossBlood.org

Friday, June 7: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lee Council on Aging, 21 Crossway, Lee

Friday, June 18: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road (Route 23), in Great Barrington.

Friday, June 21: 1 to 6 p.m., at Race Brook Lodge, Route 41, Sheffield.

June Calendar

Sundays: Slow-pitch softball, Greene Park.
10 a.m. batting practice, 10:30 games.

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m.,
community center. Sponsored by the
parks commission.

Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Community Chorus, 7:30 p.m., com-
munity center. See page 25.

Thursdays:

June 6 and 20: Darn Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m.,
community center. See page 10.

June 13 and 27: Ping pong, 3:30 to 5:30
p.m., community center. See page 10.

Fridays: Cards and games, 1 p.m., com-
munity center.

Saturdays:

June 8 and 22: Ping pong, 2 to 4 p.m.,
community center. See page 10.

Saturday, June 8:

Fishing derby, 9 to 10:30. See page 23.

Mosaics with Marilyn Cromwell. See
page 12.

Sunday, June 9: Yogurt making with
Wendy Jensen. See page 12.

Tuesday, June 11: Movie night, 7 p.m.,
town hall. See page 30.

Saturday, June 15:

Bidwell History Talk, 10:30 a.m.,
Tyringham Union Church. See page 26.

Kitchen knife sharpening with Stephen
Moore, 10:30 a.m. See page 12.

Lenox Contra Dance. Double session "Slide
and Glide" dance, 5 to 7 p.m., potluck,
evening dance 8 to 11. Calling by Will
Mentor with music by Pete's Posse.

Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St.
LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Monday, June 17: Lake Garfield Working
Group, town hall, 7 p.m. See page 10.

Wednesday, June 19:

Mount Greylock trip and lunch, Council
on Aging. See page 30.

Gong Meditation Bath, 4:30 p.m. See
page 25.

Thursday, June 20:

Last day to label kayak racks across from
town beach.

Monterey News deadline.

Saturday, June 22:

"Heartflow: Honoring the Housatonic
River," a celebration along the River
Walk in Great Barrington. See pages
14-15.

Saving and preserving food with Kevin
West. See page 12.

Monday, June 24: Adult book group, 7:30
p.m., community center. *The Poisoner's
Handbook*, by Deborah Blum.

Sunday, June 30: Open Mic Festival,
Bidwell House Museum. See page 26.

July Events

Saturday, July 13: Memorial service for
Cynthia Weber. See page 13.

Saturday, July 6:

Tom Seiling at Monterey Library, 10:30
a.m. See page 16.

Bidwell Country Fair, 1 to 4 p.m. See
page 26.

Sunday, July 7: Pittsfield Suns baseball
game, Council on Aging. See page 30.

Monterey News

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528-3211.

Town Contact Information

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528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443

x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136

chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

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SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under
each department, for office hours.

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 22; Bonner McAllester, p. 20.*

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