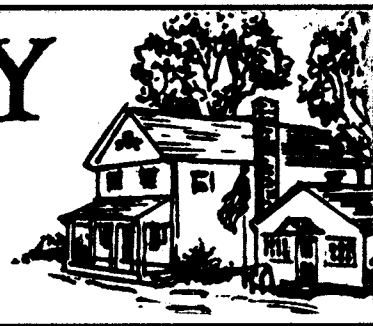


# MONTEREY NEWS

November 2022 Est. 1970

Vol. LII · Number 11



Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station



Town beach at rest. Photo by Mary Makuc.

This raises the question for all us civilized folks: what do we mean by wild?

Bear Bait page 18

Please come to the 3rd annual tree lighting ceremony at the Monterey Library on Saturday, November 26.

Monterey Lights the Holidays page 8

We do want to share some of our thoughts that we have taken away from our trip so far.

Beth and Dave - Coming Home page 23

"The (Planning) Board denied Hume's application because it concluded the RV Camp was not a customary religious use entitled to the protections of the Dover Amendment."

Hume RV Camps Appeal page 12

Enlistments of townspeople who were involved in various of the important battles of the Revolutionary War: Boston in 1775, the Attack on Quebec in 1776, Battle of White Plains in 1777, and Yorktown in 1781.

Revolutionary War Talk page 14



Veterans Day observation, November 11. See page 2. Photo by Devorah Sawyer.

"What's in a paint color?" How a two-year journey for just that is a window into Monterey General.

General Store Update page 16

Come to the 3rd annual Monterey Chestnut Roast & Talk at the community center.

American Chestnuts page 26

Coming in late January, the inaugural Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic (BPHC), a sixteen-team round-robin pond hockey tournament, will commence on Lake Buel in Monterey.

Calling All Hockey Fans page 31

The parks and recreation commission is excited to introduce pickle ball to Monterey.

Parks Commission page 5

The costs involved in maintenance of unpaved roads is one of the most significant items in the budgets of southern Berkshires communities.

Highway News page 10

## Standard Time

"Falls Behind"

Sunday, November 6, at 2 a.m.

Statewide elections are on November 8. The voting is at the town hall, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. as mandated by the state.

November Elections page 2

Fiber Connect is hopeful that it will be able to cable these remaining roads this winter and into the spring of 2023.

Select Board Corner page 30

Massachusetts has enacted a ban, effective on November 1, against disposal of textiles.

Textile Disposal Ban page 8

The Council on Aging is very excited to welcome our new outreach coordinator/administrative assistant, Kathryn Roberts.

Council on Aging page 9

With Casella the only hauler now picking up in western Massachusetts things may get worse before they get better.

In My View - Garbage Matters page 6

*Hope is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul.*

—Emily Dickinson

The Water is Wide page 23

I was astonished to see a very large coyote looking back at me with a wild gaze, and apparently not disturbed by his proximity to me.

Eastern Coyotes page 22

On Saturday, October 15, the town met inside the firehouse pavilion to conduct a special town meeting.

Special Town Meeting page 3

## November 8 Election

Statewide elections are on November 8. The voting is at the town hall, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. as mandated by the state.

The full gamut of state officers, from governor down to local legislature representatives is on the ballot, as well as for US House. There is no election for US senator.

There is one local election for school committee with two Monterey candidates, Laura Rodriquez, our current school committee representative, and Kim Alcantara. The October *Monterey News* had a candidate statement from Alcantara, as well as a statement of withdrawal from Rodriquez (too late to be removed from the ballot.)

There are four questions on the ballot:

1. A proposed amendment to the state constitution for a tax surcharge on very high incomes.

2. A regulation requiring dental insurers to spend a minimum of 83% of premiums on patient care expenses.

3. A law to expand availability of licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages.

4. A law to permit MA residents who can't provide documentation of lawful presence in the US to obtain a standard driver's license.

For the full text, statements of impacts, and brief pro/con arguments, go to mass.gov, and search "November ballot questions." This takes you to the secretary of state's website.

—Stephen Moore



The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.


## Veterans Day Observance Thursday, November 11

Veterans Day will be observed in front of the Monterey Library by the WWI monument, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The council on aging will provide coffee.

Reverend Liz Goodman will make opening remarks at 10:50.

At 11 a.m. sharp, the bell of the meeting house will be rung eleven times, followed by closing remarks by Rev. Goodman.

—Julio Rodriquez  
Retired, US Army

**Christopher J. Tryon**  
& Associates  
  
DBA: **Berkshire Geo-Technologies**  
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Structural Evaluation & Design  
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Driveway Design & Permitting  
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting  
Wetland Permitting  
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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## Vaccination Clinic October 25

Monterey residents Stuart and Laura Litwin volunteered for the Berkshire branch of the Medical Reserve Corps of Massachusetts (mamedicalreservecorps.org) in the effort to support vaccinations in Berkshire County. They were on hand on Tuesday, October 25 for the morning Covid bivalent and flu vaccination clinic at the firehouse pavilion organized by the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative.

Stuart reported that there were fifty-seven scheduled appointments and fifteen walk-ins. Folks could choose to get either or both the Pfizer booster and flu vaccine (high or low dose). Fifty-one flu shots were administered, and forty-seven Covid boosters. Four folks didn't show up.

The next morning there were probably sore arms all over town, but hopefully no one was under the weather!

# Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local  
References



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## Special Town Meeting October 15

On Saturday, October 15, the town met inside the firehouse pavilion to conduct a special town meeting. At this meeting “the town” consisted of twenty or so voters, in addition to the select board (minus Scott Jenssen who had a health issue), the moderator, and the town clerk. It was a beautiful fall day and perhaps some folks decided to enjoy the afternoon in other ways.

Moderator Mark Makuc gaveled the meeting into order right at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting was over before 2:00.

Special town meetings seem to be a recurring need each fall, often as the result of previous fiscal year bills which were not received or paid before the end of that year (the last day of June). Another reason for special town meetings is to address unforeseen events that call for unbudgeted expenses. This special town meeting also addressed a necessary correction to an action taken at the annual town meeting this past May.

Article 1: This article asked the town to vote \$29,580 to be transferred from Free Cash to the Storm Damage Account to clean up storm damage at Bidwell Park. This number is based on an outline of costs from John Fields Tree Service based on the annual bid for tree services, and includes a 10% contingency fund. This article passed with a unanimous vote.

Article 2: This article, as written in the warrant, asked for \$6,237.31 for legal fees for the appeal in Hume v. Monterey, and to cover \$1,000 for the town’s deductible (required by the town’s liability insurance policy) for potential new litigation.

Once the article was moved, select board member Susan Cooper proposed an amendment to add \$1,500 (to \$8,737.31). The initial dollar amount included what the board thought was a necessary \$1,000 deductible for potential new legislation, however the select board learned that the total deductible required is \$2,500. Cooper’s amendment was moved to discussion, but select board member Justin Makuc rose to make another adjustment to the request by adding \$2,700. This amount was the recently quoted cost for a second appeal in the Hume case. This additional amount brought the total for Article 2 to \$11,437.31. Cooper gladly

withdrew her amendment, and both she and Makuc explained the necessary change. There was some discussion, but then the town voted unanimously for the \$11,437.31.

(Note:) The select board is contesting the final billing for the first appeal for the Hume case from Jeremiah Pollard, which is more than twice the \$3,500 to \$4,000 he quoted, what Pollard characterized “on the high end.” As this issue is still outstanding, Article 2 would fully fund Pollard’s final bill.)

(See below for a full explanation of the litigation appropriations.)

Article 3: This article asked to move \$10,001.66 from free cash to pay for FY22 bills received after the deadline. The article passed unanimously without discussion.

Article 4: This article asked to make a minor change from an article passed at the 2022 annual town meeting. At that meeting the town voted money to “purchase and outfit a F550 truck.” An F550 is a proprietary designation for Ford trucks, and thus restricted the town to purchasing only a Ford truck. The highway department is not finding a suitable Ford truck available for sale, so Article 4 asked to change the wording to read, “to purchase and outfit a truck up to 20,000lb GVW (gross vehicle weight)” which will allow buying a truck from a different manufacturer. With this explanation by Makuc, the meeting voted unanimously in favor.

### Litigation Fees and Expenses

The town is currently involved in two litigations.

**Hume New England:** Hume New England appealed a denial by the planning board to build up to forty-four RV sites on their property. The appeal went to trial, and the land court judge issued a decision this past April. The town hired former town counsel, Jeremiah Pollard, to represent the town in this case. The discussion around Article 2 focused on the expenses for this appeal, as well as funding a further appeal. The Hume lawsuit expenses are:

\$ 522 paid to Pollard during FY22.

\$ 8,737.31 final billing from Pollard for first appeal.

\$ 2,700 cost for second appeal (capped at this amount).

\$ 11,959.31 total cost.

The expenses as appropriated:

\$522 appropriated from FY22 budget.

\$2,500 appropriated at May 2022 annual town meeting for FY23 budget.

\$8,937.31 appropriated at October 2022 special town meeting.

\$11,959.31 total appropriations.

See pages 12–13 about the Hume NE v. Monterey lawsuit.

**Walker suit:** The town also has to defend against the lawsuit filed by town clerk, Terry Walker, in early September. Unlike the Hume case, which has to be funded entirely by town funds, the Walker lawsuit defense will be handled through the town’s insurance.

The deductible discussed at the special town meeting was in reference to the Walker lawsuit. The deductible is \$2,500. \$1,000 of the deductible was included in the original warrant request of \$7,237.31, with the additional \$1,500 included in the amended amount at the special town meeting.

— Stephen Moore





## In My View Grant Revenues



I was elected to the Monterey Finance Committee in May of this year. Since then, I have spent time learning Monterey's financial structure

and how municipalities finance works. Although there are many similarities to the corporate world, there are many differences. I have had the opportunity to spend some time with a few of our department heads learning about their departments and needs.

As a homeowner I never really paid attention to where all the revenue came from. Yes, I knew there were grants and different supports from the state, but the last few months have been eye-opening when I got into the details.

### Grants 2021

In 2021 we were awarded approximately \$293,000 from thirteen different grants.

The largest grant in 2021 was \$82,000 for a road surface and temperature monitoring system. This allows the highway department to monitor road conditions during adverse weather conditions (above right).

The other awarded grants in 2021 may be smaller in dollars but were just as important. The police department received two grants; one to supplement the costs of bulletproof vests replacements, and one for the emergency management system.

In addition, there were numerous state and federal Covid grants, and numerous smaller grants.

### Grants 2022

In 2022, so far, we have been awarded approximately \$143,000 in grants and we are waiting to hear about additional grants. The largest award was for paying for the consultant from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to help produce the master plan being prepared by the planning board. This grant was for \$40,000. This year the police received additional funds (second award) for the bulletproof vests replacement initiative, and the emergency management system.

This year the fire department has been awarded two grants totaling almost



Stephen Moore

*The pole on the left (above), opposite the firehouse on Route 23, holds a variety of equipment to provide monitoring of road conditions. There are two other sets, to the east at the bottom of Chestnut Hill Road, and to the west near the intersection with Route 57.*

\$39,000. The Assistance to Firefighters Grants was for replacement of the fire department's air pack breathing apparatus and a few sets of their turnout gear.

We are currently waiting to hear on some outside grants for this year. As in 2021, we have received numerous smaller grants in 2022.

### Multi-year Grants

In the last two years we have received almost \$58,000 in grant funds for the planning for Route 23/Main Road culvert replacement. This project is now in Phase 2 and this portion (planning and engineering) of the project must be completed by June 2023.

## State Road Funding

Considered separately, we also receive funds from the state under their Chapter 90 program. This annual funding, provided during each state fiscal year, is for maintaining roads and making improvements in our transportation infrastructure.

All municipalities qualify for this funding which is based on the number of miles of road and population size. These dollars can be accrued. In 2021 we received approximately \$195,000 from this fund and presently we have accrued some funds from past year's grants.

See page 30 for news of a \$1 million roads grant for Beartown Mountain Road.

The select board, with advice from the finance committee and others, is currently making decisions about \$276,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, another Covid response funding source.

The grants for 2021 and 2022 have been written by town administrator Melissa Noe, town clerk Terry Walker, police chief Gareth Backhaus, along with Dennis Lynch, Ilene Marcus, and others.

—Frank Abbott

Monterey Finance Committee

*Editor's Note: The "In My View" feature has been available to select board members to express individual opinions, not speaking for the board as a whole. Elected finance committee members would have, as elected committee members, similar constraints. Frank Abbott would like to provide regular information to the town as an individual member, not speaking for the finance committee, via the Monterey News, so I have opened this feature up to finance committee members.*

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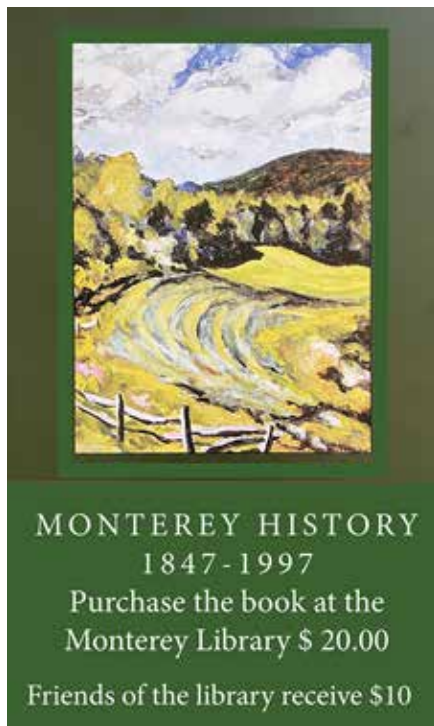
## Parks Commission Wrapping Up the Season

After a beautiful summer season at the town beach, the rafts, ropes, lifeguard chairs, and swim buoys are stowed away until next year. Thanks once again to Mark Makuc for bringing in the rafts, and to everyone who during the busy season picked up a few toys, filled in a hole, collected some trash, and helped to maintain our beach. We have ordered new raft ladders for next season. The date for kayak removal from the town racks was October 15. The few remaining vessels will soon be removed by the highway department if they are unclaimed.

The parks and recreation commission is excited to introduce pickle ball to Monterey. Lines have been painted over the basketball court at Greene Park outlining a pickle ball court. Monterey resident Steve Aronson has graciously provided the net assembly which will soon be hung from the chain link fence surrounding the basketball court. You'll need your own racquets and pickle balls.

Remember, the basketball court, by tradition, is reserved for basketball until 1 p.m. every Sunday. Please be courteous, limiting your pickle ball play to sixty minutes, if other players are waiting.

—Tracey Brennan  
The Parks Commission



## Water Rights Plaque

The deteriorating brick structure that contained a marble plaque commemorating the 1913 purchase by summer and townspeople of the water rights to Lake Garfield from downstream mills on the Housatonic River in Derby, Connecticut was recently removed from its awkward location with the help of Roger Tryon. Prior to the purchase of the water rights, the water level of the lake fluctuated throughout the year, including summertime, to power the mills.



In order to preserve this piece of local history, the parks commission had the marble plaque set in a granite stone and placed on a granite base in a corner of the town beach park.

The plaque reads, "Water rights purchased and given to the town of Monterey by the summer and towns people 1913"

In the photo above left, l. to r., are Tom Mensi and Gerry Clarin, representatives of the Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission.

—Tom Mensi

Photo above left taken by Allen Williams of Chester Granite in Blandford, Mass. Detail photo above right by Tracey Brennan.

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## In My View Garbage Matters



In light of new regulations, long-time vendors selling their business, staffing changes, and rising costs due to the supply chain issues, the Monterey Transfer Station committee was formed in March 2022. Our charge is to keep our transfer station a well-functioning gem and to encourage Montereyans towards best practices for responsible environmental stewardship, while keeping disposal costs affordable. Here's a report on things so far and a bit of the background on where we might be headed.



Susan Cooper

### Casella Waste Management

The recent acquisition of Valley Waste Transfer by Casella has been far from seamless. Some residents may have noticed full recycling bins at the transfer station that have not been picked up in a timely manner. We have spoken with other municipalities and we are all having the same issues with back-up. We have a direct line to an account manager and are working to resolve this. With Casella the only hauler now picking up in western Massachusetts things may get worse before they get better. The staff at the transfer station is doing their best to keep up with it, but without the vendor picking up when we are full, it's frustrating for all.

In addition, Casella is discontinuing some services. The transfer station has long accepted a variety of items which we disposed of for residents at Valley Waste's Lenox facility. Unfortunately, Casella will no longer be accepting some of these materials and at present there is no other facility that will take these materials. We are looking for alternatives, but with limited storage space, we are asking residents NOT to bring the following items to the transfer station:

- Tires
- Automotive batteries
- Pressure vessels (propane tanks and fire extinguishers).

Thanks for your help with this; we will keep you posted about this situation

as it evolves. In the meantime, tires are accepted at most tire stores, and automotive batteries at auto supply stores.

### Food Waste Management

The changeover to Berkshire Compost (from Gould Farm) is complete and most residents are up to speed on the new composting rules (see below). Our three bins are filling up weekly and this is key to keeping transfer station costs manageable. With 30% of municipal solid waste (MSW), or what people usually think of as garbage, made of readily compostable food waste, composting is a very easy thing we can do to keep all that food out of our MSW. This not only helps the environment, it is a key factor in keeping down our costs as we pay for MSW by the ton, and that price is headed upward. Food waste in the anaerobic environment of landfills is one of the largest US sources of the global climate change gas methane, and completely preventable through proper composting. Bridgette Stone, education director at the Berkshire Botanical Garden, led a wonderful composting workshop at the Monterey Community Center on August 13 (above). She held fifteen Montereyans rapt as she explained how easy it can be to compost organic waste, and all the ways compost helps restore your garden and feed the earth. We hope to have more events next spring and summer.

So we urge everyone to separate your food waste. Compost for your own garden or pop it in the bins at the transfer station,



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but please don't just throw it away. If you need help—ask!

## Landfill Closings

All our waste has to end up somewhere. Several Massachusetts landfills are scheduled to close in the next five years, and many nearby states are moving to close their landfills to out-of-state waste. Transport costs are already rising, and the next few years are likely to see large increases in our disposal costs. We need to be thinking about how we can further reduce our waste. This is the main mission of the transfer station committee.

## Questions Going Forward

- What can the town and each of us do to reduce how much waste we produce?
- Can we be better about separating our waste stream and making sure recyclables get recycled and food waste gets composted?
- Can we change the way we buy things to reduce how much waste we produce?
- How can we find ways to encourage every single resident to think about their own habits and do just a little bit (or maybe a lot) better?

We are exploring the methods other towns with similar issues have implemented. One possibility the committee is examining is called "Pay-as-You-Throw" (PAYT). Residents pay per bag of garbage rather than just a single one-time fee for all you can throw. It is pretty simple and towns that have employed this process have

actually changed their garbage habits. Many have seen 40% reductions in their solid waste production by implementing PAYT. That's a lot of proverbial bang for a lot fewer bucks. We are exploring other options as well and will keep you updated.

Less garbage means lower costs, for the residents and for the town. Less garbage also means less load on the environment. Once we get past having to change, it's a win-win for our town, our budget, and our environment.

## Swap Shop

We are also working to make the swap shop efficient and keep useful items available. Pat Nourse was working to tidy up the shop, and now Kathy Fromme will be stepping up to keep things running smoothly. But we are always in need of volunteers to help with the sorting and merchandising. If you would like to help out, please contact town administrator Melissa Noe. And it is worth pointing out that items brought to the swap shop, and carried away by others, are items that are not going into the waste stream, and possibly avoiding unnecessary consumption of new goods.

Monterey is blessed with an awesome transfer station thanks to the hard work of a lot of people leading to an opening in April 2017. The movers and shakers at that time were forward thinking and designed our station to maximize our ability to get reusable or recyclable materials out of our waste stream. Not just paper and cardboard, or bottles and cans, but food waste (compost), mattresses, batteries, textiles, fluorescent lights, old electronics, and even egg cartons. A lot of these things are now required to be separated by the Department of Environmental Protection, and Monterey was ahead of the curve on these mandates. We want to stay that way.

## Please Remember:

### Transfer Station Winter Hours:

You can always find the hours on the back page of every issue of the *Monterey News*, or on the town website on the "Transfer Station" page.

No tires, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, or car batteries.

## Compost:

**Yes to:** fruit and vegetables, meat, fish, poultry, bones and shells, eggs, dairy, grains and bread, soiled paper towels and napkins, soiled paper (*not* waxed or plastic coated).

**No to:** Some items labeled "compostable"—flatware, coffee cups, bags, and wrappers (these usually have plastic or other non-degradable coatings), plastic, metal, or glass. (While some composting facilities can handle certified compostable items, many products so labelled are not actually compostable or only in specialized facilities. Marketing is not always truthful. Sad but true.)

Please remember that food-soiled paper can lead to the rejection of a load of paper recyclables (soiled paper should go in the household trash compactor), and plastic can harm compostables. Sort wisely!

—Susan Cooper  
Select board member

*Editor's Note: In My View provides individual select board members an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

## CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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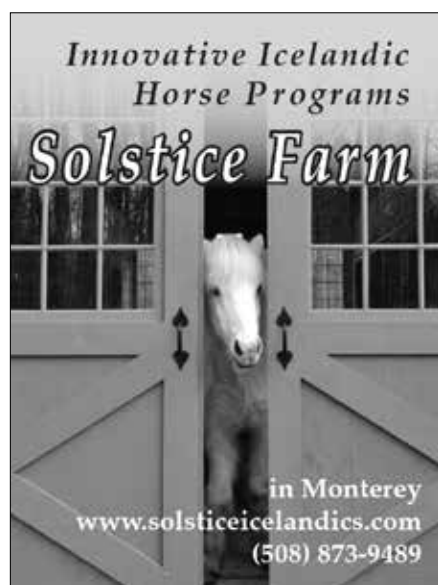
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## Massachusetts Textile Disposal Ban

Massachusetts has enacted a ban, effective on November 1, against disposal, or the transporting for disposal, of textiles. The ban includes all fabrics—clothes, drapery, carpeting, and mattresses (which can be disassembled for nearly all of its constituent parts for recycling).

From the state website, [mass.gov/guides/textile-recovery](http://mass.gov/guides/textile-recovery), are some interesting facts from across Massachusetts:

Residents and businesses dispose of approximately 230,000 tons of textiles annually.

More than 5% of the waste delivered to combustion facilities is made up of clothing, curtains, towels, and other fabrics.

About 85% of the textiles currently being thrown away could be donated, reused, or recycled instead.

There is nearly six times more clothing, shoes, and other textiles thrown away in Massachusetts instead of being donated, repurposed, or recycled.

The transfer station accepts mattresses for a \$20 fee.

The fabric bins to the left of the swap shop are the place to drop off your fabric waste. They do ask that fabrics be put into plastic bags as water can get into the bins. The contents are taken to a facility to be sorted for reuse or recycling.

—Stephen Moore

*Graphic courtesy of Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles (SMART)*


## Come Celebrate Monterey Lights The Holidays

Are the winter blahs starting to creep up on you as the days slowly get shorter and darker? Well, there is a solution to that coming up at the end of November. The first thing to do is decorate your house with lights to banish the darkest part of the season. If you need some, a limited number of lights are available by sending an email to [montereybrightlights@gmail.com](mailto:montereybrightlights@gmail.com). Then come to the tree lighting event at the Monterey Library on Saturday, November 26 (Saturday after Thanksgiving), at 7 p.m. This will be our third year welcoming the holidays this way.

- Music by Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester
- Welcome by Mark Makuc
- Land Acknowledgment by Michael Johnson
- Poetry reading by Don Barkin
- Tree and candle lighting with Elaine & Dennis Lynch
- Sing along with Bonner McAllester
- Concluding remarks by Laurie Shaw

Yes, it will be cold outside, but please bundle up, have some doughnuts and cider, and join us at the library on November 26 to let Monterey Light the Holidays.

—Monterey Cultural Council,  
and Monterey Community Center





### South Berkshire Kids Playgroup

Monterey Library

**Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.**

Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.





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## Monterey Community Center

### Repeating Activities

**Mondays:** Simple meditation—all are welcome. Bring a cushion for comfortable sitting, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesdays:** Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Tuesdays:** Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

**Tuesdays and Fridays:** Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

**Wednesdays:** Tai chi at 10 a.m. \$30 for the month (four Wednesdays).

**Alternate Wednesdays:** Support group for people with diabetes, 1 p.m., November 9 and 23.

**Wednesday, November 2:** Renewable Energy Working Group, 6 p.m. (First Wednesday of the month)

**Thursday, November 3:** Darn yarners, at 10 a.m. (First Thursday of the month)

**Alternate Thursdays:** Chorus, 4:15 p.m., November 3 and 17.

**Fridays:** Super gentle yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email jamesboneparth76@gmail.com.

**Saturdays:** Coffee club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

**Saturdays:** Ping pong, 2:30 p.m.

**Sundays:** Al Anon family group meeting, at 9 a.m.

### Special Events

**Friday, November 25:** Third Annual Chestnut Roasting and talk, 2 p.m. (See page 26.)

**November 26:** Monterey Lights the Holidays, Saturday, at the library, 7 p.m. (See page 8.)

### Coming up in December:

**Sunday, December 4:** Wreath making with Catherine Hurst, at 1 p.m.

**Sunday, December 11:** Cookie swap, from 1 to 3 p.m.

You can find more information on events at [ccmonterey.org](http://ccmonterey.org), call (413) 528-3600, or email [calendar@ccmonterey.org](mailto:calendar@ccmonterey.org).

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator and Nancy Kleban

out on the playground  
children shout in the shadows—  
it's dark by five now

—Laura S. Denman

## Council on Aging

The Council on Aging is very excited to welcome our new outreach coordinator/administrative assistant, Kathryn Roberts. Kathryn has been spending time in Monterey since 1989, and has lived here full time since 1997. She is looking forward to working with the CoA board and the Monterey community “to plan fun and informative events.” She is especially eager to reach out to councils in nearby towns to collaborate and seek new ideas.

To reach Kathryn with questions about scheduled events, or suggestions for new ones, please call (413) 528-1443, extension 112. Messages are picked up once daily Monday through Friday.

### November Events

**Wednesday, November 9:** Movie night at 7 p.m., in the Monterey Library, showing *Galaxy Quest*, an adventure/comedy/sci-fi movie rated PG and starring Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, and Alan Rickman. The alumni cast of a space opera television series have to play their roles as the real thing when an alien race needs their help. Called an “intelligent and humorous satire with an excellent cast” by Rotten

Tomatoes. Note the change from Tuesday to Wednesday. This is permanent. Going forward, movie night will be the second Wednesday of every month.

### Ongoing Services

**Wellness Clinic:** The wellness clinics have been cancelled until further notice. Please contact the CoA at the number above if you have concerns about this.

**Parkinson's Support Group:** This month's meeting is on Thursday, November 6, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Monterey Library. Call the CoA at the number above if you'd like more information about the program.

**Transportation:** For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

**Foot Nurse:** Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. COA covers \$10 of her fee.

**Free Safety Vests:** Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers.

—Lin Saberski  
Chair, Council on Aging

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## SUSAN M. SMITH

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## Protect Against Food Stamp Fraud

Across the country, and including in Massachusetts, many Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamp) clients have been victims of theft. The card readers in grocery stores have been altered to copy account information when benefit cards are swiped. This personal information is then used to create duplicate cards which enable the theft. Once stolen, federal law prevents SNAP benefits from being replaced.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (Department), the only way for SNAP clients to protect their monthly benefits is to change their benefit card PIN before the next month's benefits are loaded onto their electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards. Recipients are encouraged to *re-PIN their cards with a new PIN after each purchase*, especially if not all monthly benefits are used, which leaves the account balance susceptible to theft. While this is burdensome and challenging, it is the best way to protect SNAP dollars.

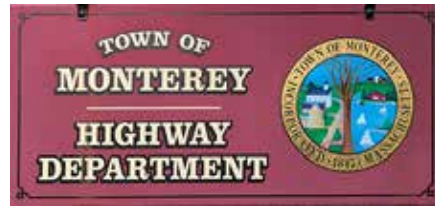
For directions to re-PIN your card, go to [mass.gov/protectyourebt](http://mass.gov/protectyourebt) (protect your EBT).

The Department has also learned of a scam in which clients receive text messages stating that their EBT card has been blocked. It's critical for SNAP clients to know that the Department only sends text messages from 382-674 and only directs clients to call the Department Assistance Line at (877) 382-2363, or the EBT Customer Service Line at (800) 997-2555. Clients should only discuss a PIN issue with someone calling from those numbers, or in a local Department office.

If you know anyone who thinks their SNAP benefits have been stolen, they should re-PIN their EBT card immediately, and then report the theft to the Department at (800) 997-2555.

For more information from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) on protecting your EBT card and benefits, go to [mass.gov](http://mass.gov) and search "Protect your benefits from scams."

—Lin Saberski  
Chair, Council on Aging



## Highway News

The costs involved in maintenance of unpaved roads is one of the most significant items in the budgets of southern Berkshires communities. In fact, roads come in second to education in local budgets. Monterey is no exception.

A look at the last annual budget shows that the school budget came in at 37% of the total budget with public works next, representing 21%. Now, 21% of the total budget is serious money, just over one million dollars. This speaks to the importance Montereyans place on road maintenance and safety. Over the years we have supported and funded the Monterey Highway Department with staffing and equipment that make it the envy of many other communities. The return for our support is that we have roads that are well maintained and safe to travel throughout the year.

Are we spending too much, do we have too much equipment, do we have too much staffing? These are questions that I hear percolating during the year but especially at budget time. The purpose of these "Highway News" articles is to inform

and clarify the role of the public works, the problems the highway department contends with, and how they address them; and to address the questions that I hear in the community. It is important to note that our finance committee is undertaking a comprehensive look at our capital plan, how decisions are made to purchase the trucks and equipment needed for public works. (They are also looking at the fire department and police department.) This "deep dive" into the decision making mechanisms of town government should clarify and justify monies spent, and hopefully, answer the real question—how do you decide when enough is enough? This should make it easier at budget time to know what we are voting on and why.

Back to roads. When talking to Jim Hunt, our Director of Operations, it is clear that a majority of time spent on planning, maintenance, and work is about our gravel roads. Over 50% of Monterey Roads are gravel, but a budget breakdown shows a much higher percentage of monies are spent on our unpaved surfaces. This makes sense, though. Erosion of our unpaved roads and their drainage systems, along with the more frequent freeze/thaw cycles in the winter, are the most significant factors affecting maintenance needs and costs involved with these roadways. The total cost to Monterey is harder to calculate when you consider the silt and runoff that affects our streams and lakes due to road-

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way erosion. Erosion of unpaved roadways occurs when soil particles are loosened and carried away from the roadway base, ditch, or road bank by water, wind, traffic, or other transport means. Exposed soils, high runoff velocities and volumes, sandy or silty soil types, and poor compaction increase the potential for erosion. Loosened soil particles are carried from the road bed and into the roadway drainage system. Some of these particles settle out satisfactorily in the road ditches, but most often they settle out where they diminished the carrying capacity of the ditch, and this in turn can cause additional roadway flooding, which subsequently leads to more roadway erosion. This is why you often see our highway department working with excavating equipment cleaning the ditches that run along the side of the road. There are many aggravating causes of erosion on unpaved roadways including but not limited to, shape and size of coarse surface aggregate (if any), lack of subsurface depth and/or poor drainage, freeze/thaw cycles, poor roadbed construction (poor graded material, inadequate compaction), roadway shape, roadway shading/sunlight exposure, traffic parameters such as speed, volume, and vehicular weight (think of the increase in home deliveries from Amazon and other commercial carriers). Unfortunately, it's never just one of the previous problems that affects our gravel roads, but a combination or, in too many cases, all of the above.

The problem we face with the changing weather patterns has seriously increased the problems we face with erosion. We have all been commenting that whenever we get rain it seems to just pour. The frequency of these heavy rainwater storms has impacted our gravel roads with more than the usual erosion. As you travel on our gravel roads, watch for the discharge outlets that our highway department has created to channel excess water off the road into side ditches. Over the past six years the highway department has increased the number of discharge outlets to improve the water flow and lessen the erosion. The other weather-related impact to our roads is the increased freeze/thaw cycles that we are experiencing. Ten years ago we could "look forward" to the annual mud season when the dirt roads would thaw

and become impossible to navigate. This past winter we had four of these events, each damaging the road and increasing the spring maintenance. This increase in freeze/thaw events is the most impactful problem we face. There are possible solutions and the highway department has been experimenting with a few.

One that shows promise has been tried on Eaton Road. The low point at the bottom of Eaton Road was created through a wetland. This is not unusual in Monterey. All the gravel roads follow roads created when the attitude was "dump enough gravel to get above the water." The other fun one was "If the rock is too big go around it" (think of Hupi Road). This was from a time when heavy machinery was a team of horses and gravel was cheap and easy to haul. This is exactly what they did years ago on Eaton Road. Recently the highway department excavated the bottom seventy-five yards of Eaton Road. They put down new base

material and then laid a honeycomb matrix that was rolled out over the base. This was then filled and compacted with gravel and then surfaced with the usual road gravel. The matrix should stabilize the surface during the freeze/thaw periods and prevent the movement of the sub base and the top base. Will it work? We'll know in the spring, but for now we should encourage the highway department to continue this quest for solutions.

This was meant to be an overview of roads. We didn't touch on paved roads but we will look at costs and comparisons between gravel and hard surfaces in the future. Hold on to your chair when you see the cost of paving!

There are lots of questions on winter plowing, what's being sprayed on roads before a storm, when do you start plowing, etc. Next month we'll do a deep dive into winter road maintenance and plowing. Stay tuned.

—Kenn Basler




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### *J.J. Harrigan*

Owner



## Hume New England RV Camps Appeal

*Editor's Note: Text in quotations comes from the decision of the Land Court judge.*

Hume New England submitted an application to the Monterey Planning Board for establishing a recreational vehicle (RV) park on their property. Hume's draft master plan for the RV camp includes forty-four sites, but the current application is only for twelve for now. The sites would be a mix of both back-in and pull-in sites. Each site would include a concrete pad with a picnic table. Also included in the RV camp would be a waste dump section (to be dumped and treated by Hume's septic system) and possibly electrical hook-ups. Water and sewer hook-ups were designated as future improvements.

Hume is a Christian-based, denominationally-unaligned organization to promote Christian beliefs. Hume New England is one of three sites, with the other two in California.

Massachusetts has an exemption to state law called the "Dover amendment" which exempts religious, educational, and agricultural uses from certain zoning restrictions. This is distinct from the exemption for property taxes for religious purposes.

In accordances with the Monterey by-law, "The (Planning) Board denied Hume's application because it concluded the RV Camp was not a customary religious use entitled to the protections of the Dover Amendment." Hume takes the position that as a religious organization, the Dover amendment exempts this use from this zoning restriction. Hume ap-

pealed the planning board decision to the Massachusetts Land Court.

The judge's decision stated, "The governing portion of the Dover Amendment states, 'No zoning ordinance or by-law shall . . . prohibit, regulate or restrict the use of land or structures for religious purposes or for educational purposes on land owned or leased by . . . a religious sect or denomination.'

"The parties confirmed two issues for trial: (1) Whether Hume qualifies for a religious use exemption in connection with Hume's property in Monterey, known as Hume New England ("Hume NE"); and (2) Whether Hume's proposed construction at Hume NE of an RV Camp to accommodate twelve (12) RV's for a so-called "Family Camp" program, seasonal staff housing, and volunteer housing is exempt from the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Monterey."

Hume identified three distinct purposes for the RV sites:

"An opportunity for families to have a Christian camp experience, while allowing them to remain together in their own accommodations; (2) The opportunity to host volunteers (mostly retirees) who travel around the country in their own motorhomes and travel trailers; and (3) Fill an increasing demand for temporary seasonal staff housing during the summer when permanent housing is filled by paying guests and year-round staff."

The Land Court judge, Diane Ruben, in her decision, showed consideration of all pertinent aspects of Hume's operation to fully understand each of the distinct purposes. The defining question for each of the purposes is whether it is primarily religious in nature.

She determined that "Hume is a religious organization entitled to the protections of the Dover Amendment." Her determination is explained by pointing to fundamental guidelines for how Hume functions, including a "Shared Statement of Beliefs" and certain requirements for organizations who wish to use Hume's facilities to attend various religious functions and teachings.

Judge Ruben addressed each of the three distinct purposes.

**Family Camp Program:** She found that the family participants in the Family Camp Program would significantly engage with Hume's religious activities, and thus concluded that this purpose is a protected religious use.

**Volunteer Housing:** The volunteer program involves people who come to Hume for anywhere between a day to an entire season. They would do work for Hume in various capacities. There is no requirement for volunteers to participate in chapel services or other religious activities, nor would they have to believe in the Statement of Beliefs. The judge concluded that "Hume's use of the RV Camp for volunteers does not have a bona fide and



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religiously significant goal. In addition, I find that the true goal of the proposed volunteer component is financial.” She further stated, “Indeed, based on the evidence presented at trial, volunteers might use the RV Camp free of charge as a launching pad for sightseeing in scenic Berkshire County, in exchange for performing a minor amount of volunteer work.”

Temporary Staff Housing: The judge wrote, “I find that the primary motivation for this proposed use is financial, to reduce operating and construction costs.” She concluded that, “While use of the RV Camp for temporary staff housing is a closer call than the volunteer use, on balance, I conclude the dominant factors are primarily financial rather than religious.”

This split decision, allowing that one use, family camp, should be permitted under the Dover Amendment, but that the two other uses, volunteers and seasonal staff, do not, does not satisfy either the town or Hume NE. From the town’s point of view, the split decision is for all practical purposes unenforceable. Both Hume NE and the town have filed counter-appeals to the State Supreme Court.

Tom Sawyer, chair of the planning board, says that the planning board has a good relationship with Hume New England and “has worked with Hume on multiple occasions approving site plans (dorms and a multi-purpose building/chapel) that fall under the Dover amendment guidance.”

Please see the report from the Special Town Meeting (page 3) to learn how Hume’s lawsuit affects our town finances.

—Stephen Moore

## Letters Lawsuit Dismissal

In last month’s edition of the *Monterey News* there was a report on town clerk Terry Walker’s federal lawsuit against the Town of Monterey, the town administrator, former select board members Steven Weisz and me. In her federal complaint, Walker alleges that her rights were violated by the select board under the state “whistleblower” statute. She also alleges that all defendants violated her constitutional rights as guaranteed by the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act. Then she alleges that Steve, Melissa, and I committed the tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress. Finally, she asserts that the three of us violated her federal constitutional right to free speech, a so-called Section 1983 action. She seeks attorney’s fees and compensatory and punitive damages against all defendants.

As I’m sure you appreciate, being sued in federal court is—to say the least—disagreeable. That is particularly so when the lawsuit has no merit whatsoever. Fortunately, for me and my family, my attorney demanded immediate dismissal of the complaint with prejudice. Walker and her attorney promptly agreed. Why? Because her suit against me was based solely on one email I sent to her petitioning her to withdraw her complaints then pending before the select board against the town administrator, my wife, and me. My exercise of that constitutional right to

petition the government and its officers is protected by the Massachusetts Anti-Slapp law. Under that law, and federal court procedure, if she had not agreed to the permanent dismissal of her complaint against me, the court would have so ordered, and she would have had to pay all my attorney’s fees and costs.

Because the rest of Walker’s claims against the other defendants have no more merit than her claims against me, I predict that eventually they too will be dismissed before trial. Unfortunately, in the meantime, town employees will have to waste their time dealing with the case and our attorneys’ fees and costs will continue to rise.

—Don Coburn

*Editor’s Note: In deciding whether to publish this letter I have considered the public and individual interests involved. (See page 9 of the October issue for the specific complaints in Walker’s lawsuit.) Regional publicity surrounding the filing of Walker’s complaint, as with a broad complaint filed in 2021 against the town and certain individuals, created one-sided characterizations of the named individuals actions. The complaint filed in 2021 was never served, and so those named individuals had little recourse to address the specific complaints listed. In light of this, I find that the dismissal of the complaint against Don Coburn helps to clarify that portion of the Walker lawsuit.*

## Letters

The *Monterey News* welcomes letters on a wide range of topics. Commentary on events and town affairs, notes of appreciation, or alerts for upcoming activities that might be of interest to Monterey readers.

Submit your letters to [MontereyNews9@gmail.com](mailto:MontereyNews9@gmail.com), or mail them to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Please include your full name and contact information.



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## Historical Society News & Notes

### Revolutionary War Veterans, New Acquisitions and Upcoming Exhibit

On October 20, Barbara Swann gave a fascinating talk entitled “Township No. 1 in the Revolutionary War.” Her talk illuminated the experiences of the Monterey (Tyringham) men who fought in the French and Indian War (1750s) and the War of Independence.

Barbara explained that, until recently, our knowledge about Monterey’s (and other towns’) early War veterans has been very limited, confined to a few rare instances of veterans’ diaries of that time, such as that of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell’s published 1754 diary of his experience as chaplain of the Massachusetts and Connecticut colonial fleet that captured Fort Louisbourg (Nova Scotia) from the French. Recently, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) scanned and indexed Revolutionary War pension applications. (These records are now available online at Fold3.com, which requires a subscription.)

Most of the pension applications were not submitted until the 1800s–1830s; Congress did not pass laws authorizing pensions to the militiamen until then, and the terms were very restrictive until most of the veterans had already died.

Barbara Swann researched and transcribed a number of these records that give first-person recollections (albeit decades after the fact) of the experiences



View looking southerly from atop Beacon Hill showing the British stronghold in occupied Boston in 1775, drawn by Lieut. Williams of the British Royal Welch Brigade. Image courtesy of the British Museum. Caption #4 reads: “Dorchester Neck & Lines & Redouts of the Rebels”; #5 (to which we have added an arrow) is Dorchester Heights; this is where the cannons were strategically positioned overlooking Boston Harbor and the British Fleet. The cannons were captured from the British at Fort Ticonderoga in late 1775 and hauled to Boston by Col. Henry Knox, passing through Tyringham on January 10, 1776. Upon seeing the artillery in position, Lord Howe, British Admiral in charge quickly agreed to General Washington’s proposal that the British evacuate Boston.

and enlistments of townspeople who were involved in various of the important battles of the Revolutionary War: Boston in 1775 (see image below), the Attack on Quebec in 1776, Battle of White Plains in 1777, and Yorktown in 1781. Among these are the familiar town names of Brewer, Langdon, Chapin, Garfield, Jackson, Dewey, Wheelock, Herrick, Dean, and, Barbara’s favorite, Azariah Orton.

Barbara read from several of the pension affidavits. The following is an extract from the testimony of Joseph Bird who served in the Tyringham militia with Seth Langdon: “[Joseph Bird] was stationed at Mount Hope near Ticonderoga in the summer and fall of 1776 with the company ... which was attached to the

Massachusetts line. ...[I]n the early part of September a company of Massachusetts Militia commanded by Captain Noah Langdon of Tyringham ... was stationed at Mount Independence, nearly opposite Ticonderoga, and that he then saw Seth Langdon who was he said [in] Company as a private. They were often together and in the practice of visiting each other by means of a floating bridge which connected the two posts. The said Seth Langdon continued in the service until very late in November or first of December when he was discharged and went home. ... soon after the said Seth Langdon returned to Tyringham, he was seized with small pox and was sent to the pest house where he was confined some more than one month... In 1777 [Joseph Bird] was stationed [again] at Ticonderoga and was there from March until the American Army retreated from that post in ... July... [Bird] saw [Seth] Langdon very often, sometimes daily in said service, until the surrender of Burgoyne’s Army on or about the 17th of October of the same year.” [Note: Col. Giles Jackson of Tyringham is reputed to have “engrossed” the Articles of Capitulation signed by General Burgoyne.]

The testimony of these Revolutionary War veterans from Tyringham gives voice to their wartime experiences. At least nineteen Revolutionary War veterans are documented as being buried in the Monterey cemeteries.



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The talk was recorded and will be made available for viewing on YouTube. We will send out the video's web address to the *Monterey News* and the Monterey Community Google Group once it is processed and ready for viewing.

The Monterey Historical Society will be putting up some new exhibits and a few new additions to the collection in the vitrine in the library multipurpose room during November. Stop by and take a look.

We hope that you will join the Historical Society and help us to share Monterey's stories. It's easy. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An Individual Membership is only \$15, Family Membership is \$25. Memberships received during November and December will apply to 2023 as well as the rest of 2022. Thank you.

—Rob Hoogs



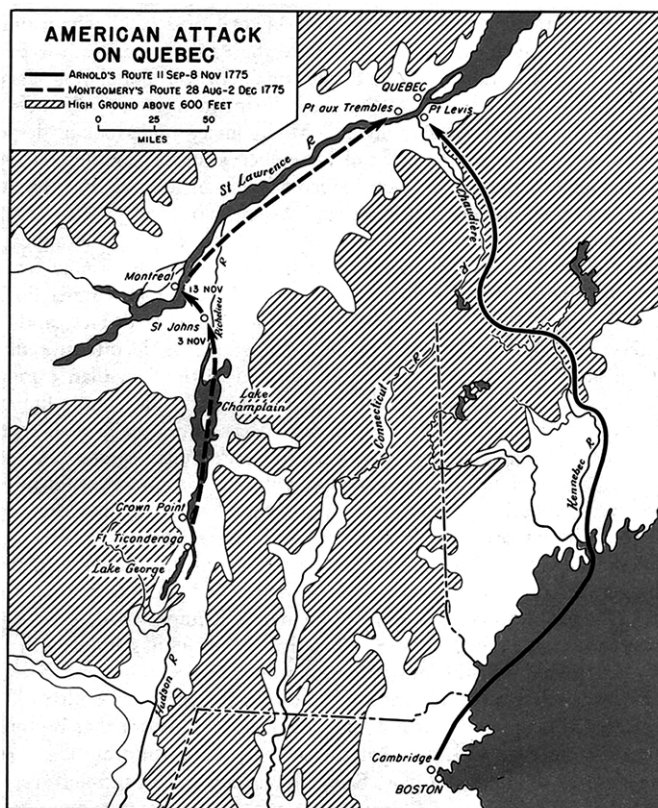
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*American Attack on Quebec, 1775, and the routes taken by several men from Tyringham in the attack; also showing Fort Ticonderoga where Joseph Bird and Seth Langdon were stationed.*

## Bidwell House Museum

There is something magical about visiting the Bidwell House Museum in the early evening, the rooms lit in flickering candlelight and the November twilight visible through the abundant south-facing windows. This month we are excited to offer a unique opportunity to take some special candlelight tours of the museum on November 11 and 17. Led by local antiques experts, Charlie Flint and Sam Herrup, these tours will focus on the furniture and decorative arts, with each tour providing a fresh look at the house and the collection. At the end of the tour there will be wine and cheese and time to ask questions of your guide. These special tours are part of our fall fundraising activities, and registration will open on the museum website at the beginning of November. Don't miss this chance to see the Bidwell House Museum in a whole new light.

Speaking of light, as the days get shorter and the leaves fall, spending time outside is even more important. The Bidwell House Museum has six miles of trails on 194 acres that are open daily, free of charge, from dawn until dusk. You can walk from one end of the property to the other for an exhilarating multi-hour hike or simply stop by for a quick stroll with your dog. When the snow begins to fall visitors can still enjoy the trails on snow shoes and cross-country skis. You can also walk the Native American Interpretive Trail or take the Outside the House tour to learn more about the local Mohican history and Bidwell Family. Maps for all of the museum's trails can be found on the front porch of the museum but also downloaded on the museum website at [bidwellhousemuseum.org/the-museum/guided-tours/](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org/the-museum/guided-tours/).

Happy fall from the Bidwell House Museum.

—Heather Kowalski  
Executive Director



Photo of the Bidwell House Museum by Rob Hoogs.

## "What's in a paint color?"

**How a two-year journey for just that is a window into Monterey General.**

If you have driven through the center of Monterey recently, no doubt you may have noticed the store, "our store," no longer the same faded gray it was since the early 90s, and not white either. Soon after we bought the shuttered store we met with a very talented historic colorist and Chapin picked the color from a historic palette, and there the process paused. Confronted with the fact that the building, a general store since about 1780 or 1790, had undergone multiple decades with owners who were not for all intents and purposes the operators of the store, we knew the building needed significant work, but the infrastructure itself was in bad shape.

If we may revisit what Kevin and Chapin wrote back when we bought the store, effectively becoming the newest "stewards" of the property in it's nearly 250 -year history, we said:

"We believe functionality and beauty should go hand in hand. The general store from generations past emanated a timeless charm and served as the hub of the community. It is our hope that Monterey General will bring that tradition into the present day and provide our neighbors, visitors, and friends with a warm and inviting place to eat, shop, and gather—where everyone is welcome. We believe our businesses share a common theme 'to help provide and create beautiful spaces that enrich the enjoyment of time spent with loved ones.' Monterey General is a natural extension of those goals that we hope will enhance people's lives and our community as a whole."

Thankfully, over Chapin's twenty-year real estate career in the Berkshires, we have been successful enough that we have been able to be the very best stewards we can be of this iconic property thus far. Each time Chapin sells a historic home he emphasizes how a home or farm or "general store" (in this case), that has existed for 150, 200, or even 250 years, never has one owner. The current owner is merely the steward, or the "one" responsible to take care of that property to the best of their ability. No doubt there have been a



*Scott Cole, the last proprietor, painted this image of the store in December 2017.*

long line of people who have done just that—they took care of this building, that has for generations been the core of our community—to the best of their abilities.

Given the copious amounts of water, mold, fungi, and deteriorating stone work in the basement; the fact that there was a ten-foot section of basement wall below grade adjacent to the septic field built of only plywood with a membrane covering the wood; the ridge cap was leaking along the length of the building; there was no proper grease trap, no proper safe kitchen; the main part of the building was not handicap accessible; and there was significant rot in the infrastructure; we certainly were aware that significant work was needed on the building when we became the latest stewards of the property. The many decades of wear and tear, weather and water and more took their toll. All this is to say that we are committed to making sure our general store should be in a prime position to last another 250 years because "functionality and beauty" does go hand in hand.

Over the next many months, after our collective first two years of Covid; inflation hitting the cost of everything and especially building materials insanely hard; the difficulty in scheduling contractors to be working at the store; the more we look forward to updating you with what is progressing as we sprint to being

able to open—we hope before next summer. What has been paramount for us is this—get it right. We have a strong vision for what the building should look like, and how it should function for the benefit of the community, while thriving as an economically viable entity. Circling back, getting the color right, which is historically accurate, involved two years of work during Covid, reaching out to restoration experts and traveling New England with our three little kids to see similar colors on historic properties. That, in a microcosm, is our commitment to doing the best we can with "our store."

Please look for our updates here in the Monterey News, in our Instagram feed, or on our new website when it comes out. Share your questions, ideas, and thoughts with us please, and we look forward to welcoming you soon to Monterey General.

—Chapin and Kevin, with Ella, Nate, and Soren Fish





## Foolish Tune

A man is like a goat hung with a bell,  
“Here I am,” his only news to tell.

A man is like an actor in a play  
who never says the things he’d never say.

A man is like the shoes beneath his bed.  
Some days he dreams and sends them on ahead.

A man is like his heart stuck on a pole,  
a lightning rod for pain its only role.

A man is like his body in a box  
untroubled by the wrinkles in his socks.

A man is like the village in his dreams.  
It’s coming dusk. His whitewashed village gleams.  
— Don Barkin

## Still There

Years have passed, I can still see you  
Shadows gracing across my room  
Without your embrace, my life askew  
Your presence after death dealt doom  
But how can one forget your face?  
Pale and sweet yet bold and strong  
Your beauty woven like a lace  
Weeks feel like years, you’ve been gone for too long  
And although I cannot hold your hands  
Lost to time you’ll always be  
In the room I can feel you stand  
Close by and always with me  
I loved you in life and still in death  
On my neck I can still feel your breath.  
—Aidan Harrigan-Wells, 15

*After a very dry August we had some heavy rains. Natalie Manzino went down to the Konkapot River along River Road and took these wonderful photos of the rushing, swirling water.*

©Natalie Manzino



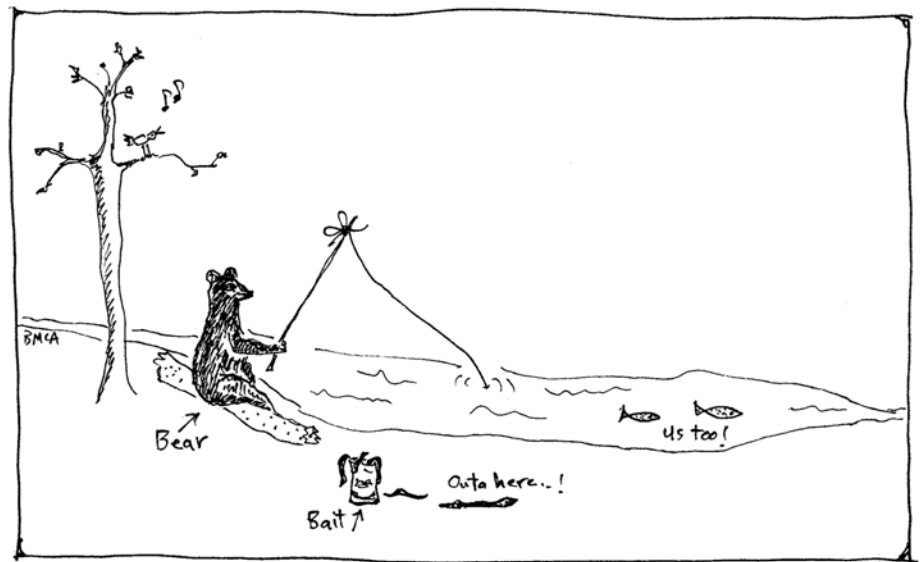


## Bear Bait

Old friends in Wyoming had a short plank nailed up on the outside of the house, near a window. They put food scraps from the table out there just to see what would come along. This was a family of biologists, Alaska wildlife researchers, mountaineers. That feeder on the wall was just one place they got a look at wild animals: birds, squirrels, chipmunks, maybe a marten they told me. They didn't deal in birdseed.

Back east here I read in the paper that some folks are speaking up for keeping the wild animals wild, not tempting them in close to us with birdseed or suet. These folks are not concerned about birds staying wild and unfed by us, they really are just thinking about bears. About bear bait. To a bear, these feeders are full of food. Folks will leave food around the place: in garbage cans, in the car, in the house. Bears are big and strong, used to ripping up rotten logs to pick out the ant larvae inside. Those long claws are good for fine work, also for putting plenty of muscle into taking the door off a refrigerator, a house, a car, a chicken coop. All these things are starting to look like bear bait.

I read of town ordinances making the feeding of bears punishable by fines. Not only must we not be teaching the bears to come in close to our homes, but we must in general let the wild animals be wild. We must not be tempting them and taming



them, rather keep the line drawn between us and them, the people and the animals.

This raises the question for all us civilized folks: what do we mean by wild? The chickadee that lands on your hand as you are pouring more seed onto the feeder, is this a creature less wild than it ought to be? Have we or has it crossed some line that should remain drawn?

Something pulls us to the animals. Look at our wall calendars, the nature shows. Look at our happiness when we spot a moose, a deer, a great blue heron. Something speaks to us, and I think it is connection. Why else do we invite house pets into our lives, sit beside them, call the cat up into our lap to enjoy the purring,

the feel of that warm fur. What a privilege, what a coming together, animal to animal.

Not everyone wants to touch and pat these animals. Some folks like to watch the colors and behaviors of fish in a tank, for instance, the way they move, how they interact. Think about life in the water, about swimming, that motion. And though we might not think of goldfish as "wild" animals, we could. There is a romance in "wild."

The wall calendars sometimes assure you that the wolves in the photos are wild ones, not tame wolves in some controlled place, fed by folks, tame enough to get close for a good photo. No, these are the real deal, the wild wolves of the mountains or the wilderness places. They take us there. Gazing at that remarkable creature and the landscape, assured by the publisher that this photo was taken in the Brooks Range, or the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone, we feel transported to a world that is at once exotic and familiar. Those wolves are our ambassadors to a place that calls to us.

I think our house pets are ambassadors, too. They fit with us somehow. Kipling's cat in his famous story says, "I am the cat that walks by himself, and all places are alike to me." He comes into the cave, as our housecat lies at the foot of the bed. We can call him sweetly and he will come within reach, turn on his side, his back, purring as we enjoy the feel of his fur and his legs and fit body. Still, he is wild, and a hunter. Even if we never were to let him outdoors, he would stalk the mice in the house with many a

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successful hunt. Our pet dogs are social and companionable, like the wolves in their packs. But the pet dog has her wild side, too, and so do we.

In his essay “Walking,” Thoreau writes “In wildness is the preservation of the world,” and we might think he is not talking about us. Rather, those wild places he has visited, studied, written about in his journals and elsewhere. Taken out of context, also much misquoted, that famous sentence should be understood as it was written. It refers to the wildness within each of us. This means we are wild, we are connected. We are the bear, the ant, the pine marten, the goldfish. We can identify and we do, whether we are conscious of this or not. We are loaded with receptors and processors, just like the cat, the moose, the blue heron. The more we hold still and watch our ambassadors, the more we will discover ourselves. The more we will find a home with all of them.

Of course, we need to be sensible, responsible, in our interactions with the four-leggeds, the feathered, the swimmers and all the land, air, and water we share. There is so much for us to learn, and it is a thrill to do so, an ability all of us wilds have. This includes the way we are with each other, our wild selves and our communities.

Just now some folks are considering the “baiting” of wild animals. This is not so far removed from feeding the cat, the dog, the goldfish. Certainly, we have put out the birdseed for years and years precisely because we do love the birds and want them close and think we are supporting them. But if this brings the bears in close, gets them in trouble, and then maybe even trapped and removed from their familiar home territory, or taken off and shot. How do we feel then about our love of the birds at the feeder?

In Wyoming I worked at a dude ranch. I led nature hikes on horseback, I was the wrangler/naturalist. But when fall came, the tourists took their cameras and went home. The ranch stayed open as a hunting camp, and hunters came with their guns. Guides took them out into those mountains to shoot animals: elk, deer, moose, bears. Days before, hunting guides took the oldest, weariest horse up the trail and shot him. His name was Bear Bait.

—Bonner McAllester

## Fiber Connect Update

### Town-Wide Build

With 110 premises left to pass with fiber optic cable, we are targeting spring of 2023 to complete fiber infrastructure construction under the terms of the MBI grant to Monterey. The following roads will round out the town-wide build: Brett Road, Swann Road, Fairview Road South, Beartown from Fairview to Forest, Royal Hemlock, Mt. Hunger East, Norwalk Acres, Sandisfield Road #74 South, New Marlborough Road #39 South, Wellman Road, Gould Road, and Harmon Road.

National Grid has targeted the end of October to complete their “make ready” work for these locations; Verizon has yet to inform us of a completion target. Once both pole owners complete their respective make ready, Fiber Connect will be able to start fiber construction. You may see our trucks doing some pre-construction work in the meantime.

### Conduit Installations

Fiber Connect has also started reaching out to underground customers in the above-mentioned areas to install conduit for those who need and want it and to

install fiber into existing conduits before the frost settles in. Next, we will start reaching out to aerial customers to offer an early installation for those interested in expediting turning-up service once the infrastructure construction is completed.

### New Services

Exciting news—Fiber Connect is preparing and testing better-than-gigabit services based on the latest XPON (10gbps capable) technologies. Our goal is to have offerings available in the second quarter of 2023. Additionally, Fiber Connect has been exploring a relationship with DirectTV Stream, which is a traditional DirectTV service with a set-top box, without the need for a Satellite Dish and a clear view of the south sky. This relationship will allow our crews to install and troubleshoot their equipment, easing the transition of cord-cutting customers to a streaming service.

Please remember, if you experience service issues, email [support@bfcma.com](mailto:support@bfcma.com). Your email will automatically open a ticket with our technicians and allow us to resolve your problem as soon as possible.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Fiber Connect family.

—Adam Chait and Mary McGurn

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## October at the Knox Gallery

Please visit the Knox Gallery during November to see *Michelle Arnot: Think Ink*, which opened on October 28, 2022, and will be on view through December 3.

Arnot, a Sandisfield resident since 1980, is a ranked master practitioner in the traditional Japanese arts of *shodo* (brush writing) and *sumi-e* (ink painting) who works with ink on washi paper. After living in Tokyo for four years the artist joined the New York chapter of Nihon-Shuji, a.k.a. the Japanese Calligraphy Society, under the tutelage of *sensei* Seikou Kaneko (b. 1922).



Michelle Arnot in her studio, with Time Flies.

Members of calligraphy societies submit monthly projects for evaluation and receive a rank equivalent to a karate *dojo*. In 2013 Arnot ranked as a beginner in *kanji* (Chinese characters) and has since advanced to *5-dan*. Her award-winning work has been included in exhibitions in Tokyo and at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City, among other venues.

The artist hosted a small reception and spoke about her work on October 29. Once again, we appreciate the support of the Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Councils for supporting our artists' discussions.

Our traditional wintertime community group show will be back this next month. Any and all Monterey artists and friends are invited to submit work on the theme of "Common Threads." The exhibition will open on December 10 and



Arnot's exhibition, Think Ink, in the library's Knox Gallery.

—Julie Shapiro

be on view through January 21, 2023. Work will need to be dropped off at the library Monday evening, December 5, from 7 to 9 p.m., or Tuesday morning, December 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. (We do not have space for storage so work cannot be dropped off early.). Work will also have to be picked up during specific hours after the show is de-installed. Maximum overall size accepted is 18" x 24", and work must be ready to hang.

We hope that the "Common Threads" theme is a useful jumping-off point for new work, whether you approach the concept as subject matter, medium, technique, or any other inspiration. We look forward to seeing exciting and innovative new work from our community!

If you plan to participate, please submit an "intent to enter" form. Traditionally, the form is on paper and then submitted directly to us, but we are hoping that this year we can set up an online document so that you can enter your information directly into a database that will be used to form the price list. For instructions, please check the Knox Gallery page on the Monterey Library website (MontereyMassLibrary.org), and your inbox if you have participated in the past.



All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). At present, masks are required in the library, but we encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates



## October's Mushroom Walk

In mid-October I was treated to a review of fungi, a.k.a. mushrooms, in a taxonomic kind of way. The morning mushroom talk-and-walk at the MCC was sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council, and featured John Wheeler, a founding member of the Berkshire Mycology Society. John had collected some mushrooms and laid them on a table to identify and discuss in the bright Saturday sunshine for about twenty participants. He talked about each mushroom, its family, its characteristics, and its edibility or not.

We then moved to Bob's Way, east of the Monterey Community Center, on Route 23, and walked off on the marked trails. The newly fallen leaves made finding fungi a bit of a challenge. Your eyes usually adjust after many trips to the woods so you can see them better on the forest floor or up a tree trunk. It's an acquired skill. John, collecting all the way, turned us around after a while and we followed another path in hopes of more samples. We then returned to the MCC again to review the modest collection. John was magnificent as he had some Hens of the Woods, portions of which he gave out to those asking. He recommended the Audubon mushroom book as a nifty way to think about mushrooms starting with color. A very good beginners manual. It was a lovely couple of hours.

Mushroom identification and collection, in the past, occurred as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins tutored the following generation. In large part here we have lost that skill set.

Note to readers: Do not eat mushrooms you picked unless you have been tutored by an experienced mushroom forager in your region. LBM (little brown mushrooms) are very difficult to tell apart. You can use spore prints to begin to identify them. The offenses from eating toxic ones may be diarrhea, gastric distress, kidney failure, or paralysis and death. Be exceedingly careful.

—Chris Blair



*Above: John Wheeler is talking about the collection of mushrooms from their walk. Below: Hoof fungus or tinder fungus, among other names. For more information on this fungus, see Bonner McAllester's wildlife report on page 29.*

—Photos by Wendy Germain



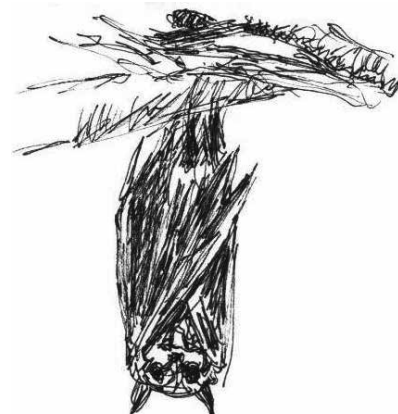


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## Eastern Coyotes Thrive on The Edge of Suburbia

The neighborhood coyote visiting our backyards, or seen running along country roads in the headlights of our cars, has evolved through cross-breeding to be nearly as large as a German shepherd. It has become so much bigger than the small twenty-five-pound western canine I saw as a Walt Disney cartoon character! Researchers have estimated the eastern coyote to be 60% western coyote (a smaller canid that hunts alone for smaller prey), 30% gray wolf (larger, hunts in packs for larger prey), and 10% domesticated dog (varying sizes but habituated to people). They have been variously called “coy-wolves” or “coy-dogs.” Some biologists consider them sufficiently distinct from each of these other canids, the result of a “hybrid swarm,” that they might be considered a separate sub-species. Typically, hybridization is thought to weaken animals, but this mix has been very successful for these animals.

Judging from the recent population growth, it soon will appear to be too close for comfort. At the drop of a hat the coyotes can move around at forty miles an hour, adding to its typical eleven-square-mile range in just a short time, adapting its diet to include rabbits, woodchucks, wild turkeys, and feral cats. Eastern coyotes with larger body sizes and stronger jaws (from the wolf side) will even hunt in packs for larger prey like deer. Unfortunately, the coyotes diet often includes pet tabbies and small dogs let outside for a brief opportunity to relieve themselves, making these coyotes very unpopular anywhere. At the last coyote den I visited I found a wide variety of bits of fur and feathers including evidence of white-tailed deer fawns.

Just last week, while looking out my back picture window on Little Bay in Fairhaven, I was astonished to see a very large coyote looking back at me with a wild gaze, and apparently not disturbed by his proximity to me.

My nearest neighbors along Indian Way leading down to our beach report hearing howling at night from a family of coyotes, which starts off with a blood curdling howl followed by a wavering



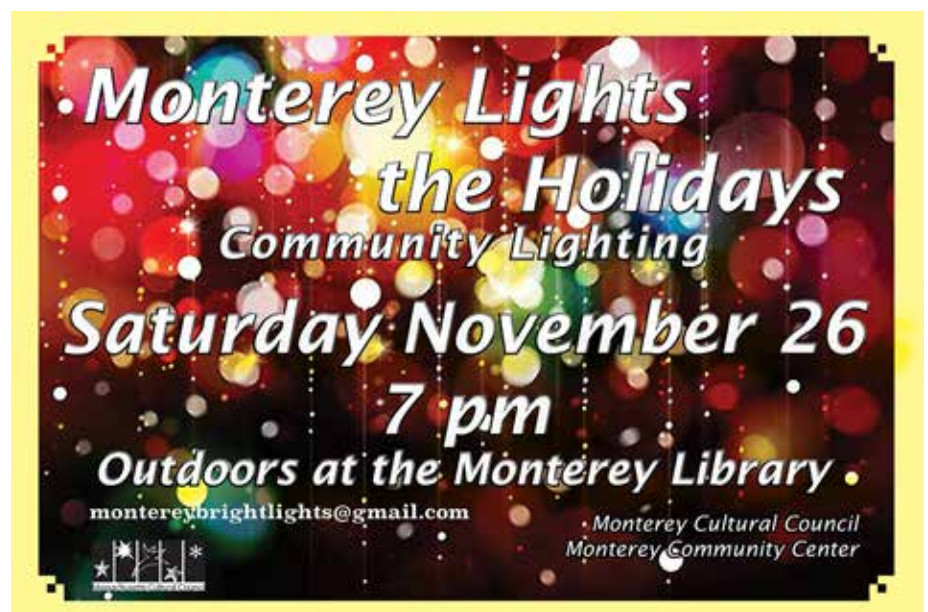
harmony, to another den far off in the distance. (Researchers think the deep howls are remnants of wolf traits, while the wavering harmony comes from the western coyotes.) They seem to be inspired by a full October moon rising over the horizon. Although their motivation to sing seems to be a primitive pleasure of orchestration, and can lead people to be fearful, coyote attacks on people are historically very rare and preventable by human caution.

An angry, dangerous coyote attack that results with being bitten can happen by someone trying to rescue pets from attack, or if the coyote is being fed by someone.

Under no circumstance is the killing of a wild animal as an act of retribution justified. The eastern coyote is thriving today on the edges of suburbia, and people should evaluate a specific situation before taking action.

My daughter Elizabeth helped with my illustration looking across at Ashley Island, showing the colorful deciduous autumn foliage of salty rust crimson and seaside burnt orange. Nearby is a wooden osprey nest platform abandoned last month as they migrated south for the winter.

— George B. Emmons





## Here's a Thought... Water is Wide

Crossing the country by air, I never think of the Mississippi River, unless it's a clear day, I have a window seat, and glance down while the river's in sight. That blasé attitude doesn't correspond at all to the awe that overwhelmed me the first time I saw that magnificent flow.

I was twenty-four, traveling with friends. We were footloose for a summer, on our way to Mexico, ready for adventure. Ready for adventure, yes, but I wasn't prepared for the reality I encountered. My knowledge of the Mississippi was mental, not physical. My repertoire was limited to elementary school geography, Mark Twain's descriptions, road maps, Al Jolson singing "Ole' Man River" on film, the Trip-Tik from AAA we had in the car with us (ask your grandparents), and occasional national news photos. Those news photos always showed a huge expanse of water.

Of course the water was wide; the news was always about how badly the Mississippi had flooded the surrounding area. But as our car approached the bridge we had to cross, it was near noon on a beautiful summer day after a string of beautiful days. We were about to encounter "The River" in its natural state.

I was excited. We were going to cross the mythic Mississippi River! I'd grown up near the south shore of the Niagara River, so substantial river water ran in my blood. So did a sense of history, and a penchant for finding the sacred and metaphorical in the mundane. I was happy to not be driving.

I stared through the window and devoured the river with my eyes until I was full. And yet the expanse of water ahead still had no visible shoreline. Outside the car, the world was water and sky. My mind grew soggy, awash with awe. I was in the presence of river, the living meaning of the word. The first two lines of an old Scottish folk song called "Water is Wide" surfaced from the bottom of my heart:

*The water is wide; I cannot cross over.  
Neither have I wings to fly...*

The song has roots in the eighteenth century. Popularized again here centuries later, notably by Pete Seeger, it was also recorded by the Indigo Girls and others. It tells of the troubles and dedication of a pair of lovers, so it speaks to the core of our common humanity. Just like the Mississippi does.

A few days ago, I saw another Mississippi news photo. Awe's not in play this time. Ole' Man River's shrunken with drought. He looks like that last flow of bath water down the middle of the tub when most has already fled down the drain.



*Hope is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul.  
This month I'm grateful for hope.* —Emily Dickinson

On the face of it, this isn't particularly new news. There was reason that nineteenth-century paddlewheeler crews would toss out a knotted, measured rope to test the depth at certain spots along the Mississippi. But its current situation was a real problem for barges shipping grain along the river last month.

That fact, and prophecies about the next few months regarding the Mississippi's plight, appear in an October 21 article in the Illinois Farm Policy News, including: "Above-average precipitation... expected in the Midwest and the Ohio River valley may provide some relief to the drought-parched

waterway later in the winter," NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) said. However, that prediction was for the upper reaches of the Mississippi. The paragraph that immediately followed that acknowledges that the drought that touched more than half of the country in 2022 "is expected to continue or worsen in the middle and lower Mississippi River valley as well as in much of the West and the Great Plains."

Snowfall and snowmelt may improve the situation, too. It may take some tiny Ice Age to restore the melting Canadian glaciers which also feed the rivers, though.

*Cont. on page 24*



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Cont. from page 23

They were, until recently, a stable resource for annual water renewal. And we're in the third year of a La Nina low precipitation cycle, with predictions of its persistence into early 2024. La Nina cycles generally last nine months to two years.

While the rivers in more than half of the country are at risk from drought, our political water's more like the Mississippi when the floodwater begins to breach the sandbags. It's full of debris, like the Connecticut River decades ago. Politics is clogged at various locations with intolerance, illusion, self-righteousness, laziness, impatience, greed, stubbornness, and immaturity. A lot of the water stinks. It's an international dilemma, too, but it doesn't have to stay this way.

Cleaning it up is a challenge even larger than the challenges faced by the lovers who were the focus of "Water is Wide." Those two give us a clue to the way through this mess, though, with the rest of the verse:

*Give me a boat that will carry two  
And both shall row, my love and I.*

So I wonder—am I willing to row a boat when I'm not the only one at the oars? When the other doesn't row very well, or rows better than I do? Am I willing to love someone I don't like? Willing to realize there are waters of misconception and intolerance within myself?

And I wonder, How well do I try to listen when someone disagrees with me? Can I stand my ground? Can I walk away when that's my best response to another's rage, or intolerance? Am I willing to see myself with the eyes of fierce compassion? Will I do my best to offer that same glance to someone who doesn't care to understand me? Whether I fail or succeed, am I willing to try again? And, am I willing to acknowledge when trying again is beyond me and give myself time to recuperate? If I'm willing to give some of that my best shot, that's a boat that can carry two: my fierce compassion and I.

And I wonder—are you willing to ask yourself the same questions? And acknowledge the answers? If we both can, then both shall row, both you, and you, and you, and I.

—Mary Kate Jordan



## Contributions

For the first month in a long time, the *Monterey News* has no contributions to report. These typically do wind down towards the end of each year.

This is a good opportunity to pass along what it actually costs to produce the *News* each month, whether you get it mailed, pick it up around town, or receive it via email.

The *News* gets excellent printing and mailing service through KwikPrint in Great Barrington. The printing cost per copy is close to \$1.10 right now, but the paper market is extremely tight so this could well continue to rise, along with postage. To offset this the *News* increased our ad rates about 10% this year (first time since January 2015), with ads contributing about \$.90 per copy, or about 35% of costs. If you ask to get the paper via the mail, that adds another \$.85. Finally there are editorial expenses that come to \$1.35 month per copy.

A simpler way to look at this (*after ad revenue*) is:

- A year of mailed copies \$ 30
- A year of picking up \$ 20
- A year of emailed pdf... this certainly saves money, and trees, but it is difficult to say exactly how much. It is a different product with color pictures, and some folks like to get both the physical and digital versions each month.

We are certainly grateful when folks send any amount, whether it is \$5 or \$100 per year. It is a significant contribution to the life of our community.

Thank you to everyone who contributes time, and content, and financial support year after year.

—Stephen Moore

a row of houses  
each with a lighted doorway  
in the cold blue dusk

very late at night  
a cat's bell tinkling faintly  
in the neighbor's yard

—Laura Denman

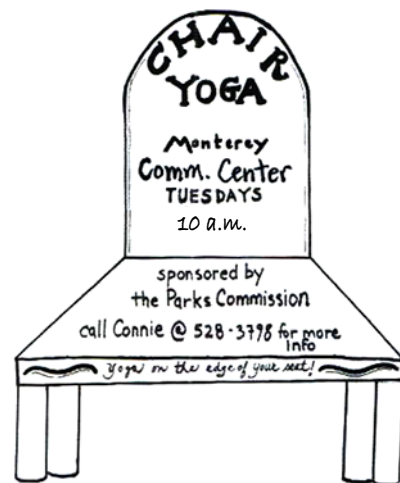
## Beth and Dave's Travels Month Six, and Coming Home

Time sure has gone by fast! By the time you read of our past month's adventures we should be home, back in Monterey.

When we last wrote we had just left Yellowstone National Park and were heading to the Grand Tetons. The mountains certainly were grand—rising up to 13,775 feet above the valley below. Surprisingly enough, some of the tallest peaks still harbored a small glacier. Among the sights of the Grand Teton National Park that we visited was the long abandoned Mormon Row. This is a collection of buildings that were once owned by the Mormons when they lived in this valley and are now being preserved.

A personal note here would be that I (Dave) enjoyed visiting the laid-back town of Jackson, just south of the Tetons, some thirty years ago. Not now. The town was so grown up and so busy that Beth and I walked around five blocks looking for dinner. We found nothing. Every place was busy with long wait times or so expensive we couldn't afford them. All the restaurants we found had entrees starting at \$40 and going way up from there. Ouch! We settled for picks and nibbles back at our Airbnb.

After spending a night at a motel we arrived in Hurricane, Utah. From here we were within driving distance of three of our "must see" places, Zion, Bryce, and Grand Canyon National Parks. Zion was our first stop. Here we were, at the end of September, and the park was so busy that we would have to park over two miles from the park entrance and take a bus back. We decided to wait until the next day. We got up early the next day and just







made it into the park before we would have been turned back. Zion was beautiful with its multi-colored rock walls that tower above you. We took several short walks which we enjoyed but decided that to fully enjoy Zion park you would have to have more hiking abilities than what Beth and I have.

The next day we were off to Bryce Canyon (above). This is the third time that I have visited this park. Of all the fantastic places the west has to offer Bryce remains my favorite. After leaving the visitor center the road rises along the canyon edge for eighteen miles with your last stop ending up over nine thousand feet above sea level. Every mile or two there are convenient parking areas and after a short walk you are wowed by a vista of hundreds of tall, multi-colored spires, called hoodoos, of rock rising up from the canyon below. By the time we got to the top overlook our brains had run out of adjectives to describe this beautiful canyon and the vista beyond.

Leaving the best for last, our third day in the canyonlands, was visiting the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Our trip was a little long but the drive was worth it. Not

only the grandest of canyons, but we were there just at the right time to see all the aspens dressed in their finest fall colors of bright yellows and reds. The aspens are easy to describe compared to the Grand Canyon. Down on the canyon floor a mile below, and requiring binoculars to see, is the mighty Colorado River. For the first time we were left without words to describe this canyon; truly there are no words to justify the grandeur and majesty of the Grand Canyon. No wonder it is considered one of the seven wonders of the natural world.

After leaving the canyonlands, we headed to Phoenix, Arizona to visit Beth's daughter, and then my first cousin, who also lives in the area. While in Phoenix we decided that we would start making our way back home, though we would take our time and make some stops along the way. Some of the stops included visiting another of my cousins in Los Alamos, New Mexico and seeing some sights of the city where she lives. Along the route home we stopped at Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado, the Great Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, and some other smaller stops.




We do want to share some of our thoughts that we have taken away from our trip so far. The first and saddest, is that our eyes have been opened up to the amount of homelessness there is in this country. We took some time to talk with a few of these people and their stories are, for the most part, the same. Even if they are working, they can't make enough money to afford the cost of today's housing, never mind the cost of food, transportation, clothing, and other basic needs—things many of us take for granted. Second, from the mighty Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, the lack of water is real. Reservoirs are low, rivers are drying up, lakes are low and some are drying up, wells are getting low, water rationing is happening in many towns, and many farmers are not able to irrigate their crops. Crops we all depend on. The third thought is that there are many wonderful people. There always seems to be someone around to help, whether it's to change a tire on our truck, offer suggestions about places to see and go, or to sit and chat with. The people we have met have been an uplifting and valuable part of our trip.

After a time back in the Berkshires taking care of various doctors appointments and other life things that need our attention, we hope to continue our trip as we have yet to discover the wonders of the South.

We want to thank everyone who emailed or commented on our adventures. We appreciate each one.

—Beth and Dave Gilmore



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## American Chestnut 3rd Annual Talk and Roast

Is there a possibility that the American Chestnut tree, once considered the king of forests all along the Appalachian range and beyond, might make a comeback? Many have been working hard to make that a reality. Doug and Josie Miner, have started a Chestnut seedling orchard on West Street, not far from Chestnut Hill (top right).

Fifty-two volunteers showed up at the Miner's place, west of West Street in Sandisfield, to help him plant five hundred hybrid American Chestnuts in a breeding program being conducted under the auspices of The American Chestnut Foundation.

To learn more, come to the 3rd Annual Monterey Chestnut Roast & Talk at the community center. Then sample our local nuts across the way on Eaton Road, courtesy of Kevin West. This free event, sponsored by the Native Plants Working Group, begins at 2 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center.

— Janet Jensen



*Above: These chestnut trees, in a preserve at the southern gateway to Stockbridge, may not look hale or hearty, but these hybrids (1/16 blight-resistant Chinese Chestnuts) have been inoculated with the Chestnut blight. The survivors that show the most resistance will be crossed with other hybrids in an ongoing and widespread effort to restore the Chestnut tree to our forests.*  
— Two upper photos by Janet Jensen

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*The chestnut roast put on by Kevin West in 2021.*



## Indigenous Peoples ceremony in Great Barrington

There was representation from fifteen tribes and welcoming the Mohicans back to their land at the Indigenous Peoples ceremony.

The ceremony started with a drum circle. The speakers stressed that “We are one people, we are one earth, we are all indigenous somewhere, the need for peace, protecting the climate, and protecting indigenous women from harm.”

The children led the parade because the children will lead us into the future.

The walk ended at the Housatonic to bless the river.

This was a culmination of activities during the weekend in support of these people and the climate. It was a very moving and powerful experience.

—Natalie Manzino (text and photos)





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## October Wildlife Wherever You Look

We have the familiar bears, birds, deer, and bugs to greet in this wildlife report, but the most exciting thing for me is a brand-new acquaintance, right on our kitchen table. This is a creature neither Joe nor I had ever seen before. Right in our kitchen. Joe had spotted it earlier in the day and snapped a photograph (below), but the details were not good. Wings, yes. But how many? One pair or two? Hard to tell. And what about legs? It looked like about eight or ten, but there were wicked shadows on the tabletop just below those hairy black legs, and the shortened body.



Studying that photograph, we decided it was some kind of never-before-seen-by-us fly. Or maybe a winged spider? Unlikely. To our amazing good luck, it put in a second appearance on the table, hours later. The thing scooted fast, sideways like a crab. Could go very well either left or right, but not so much forward or back. No antennae. Overall, it was black. Joe got a somewhat better photograph, and we decided it must be a “louse fly.” We feared for its welfare, maybe falling off the table and getting stepped on. But it did not fall off anything, just sidled fast right over the edge and around to the underside. Still, we engineered a rescue after dark, took it outside, with a good flashlight, and “let it go.” I worried this was the last thing it wanted, but to our surprise, the thing could actually fly, and that’s what it did. Off into its next chapter somewhere in the great outdoors.

As a louse fly, it is not a louse. It is a parasitic fly, looking for a meal, most likely on a bird, but maybe a mammal. When it finds the right place, it will shed those wings and settle in for a good fill-



up. After that, who knows, but no more flying, just scurrying sideways.

We know a few blood-sucking wild creatures around here, but this year it seemed the ticks would not be making their usual late-summer reappearance. It turns out they had set their calendars back or something because they walk among us just lately now, starting out small but hungry. This is late-late summer. Maureen Banner sent a photo of a happy tick, fully engorged. I think we all know what this looks like. Maureen also sent a photograph (above) of a “leaf-footed bug” which she says they call a “slow bug.” These do move slowly, and we had one visit us on our bed recently. We were careful to move it. Slowly.

That’s it for insects and arachnids. Joe Baker saw a perfect inspiring red-tailed hawk soaring over a local beaver pond on a fine day of fall colors. This pond had been down to mud during our hot dry weeks, the beaver house abandoned, no sign of activity. Now the pond is full up, the house itself refurbished with improvements every day. The beaver (or some beaver) is back, getting ready for winter, which must surely come.

Deer have been visiting the community garden, also the home garden here on Hupi Road. We still have a bed of sungold cherry tomatoes up on tall trellising, not yet hit by frost. Our deer discovered tomato foliage is edible and has been pruning the upper reaches of those plants. Steve Snyder saw a buck with eight-point antlers and Kyle Pierce watched two buck deer recently. I won’t say where.

Down by Brookbend, Janet Jensen writes that the handsome skunk neighbor “that had been peaceably hanging around” the place has met its end, just off the paved road. She feels it must have been hit by a car and managed to move or had been moved a little bit off the pavement. Now it has been taken down by the Konkapot, to settle in the woods there for its next incarnation. It had lots of white.

Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have a great place for birds where they live and have been happy to see the local family of five bluebirds still in their “natal” patch. I saw quite a good flock of ten or twelve bluebirds over in Great Barrington near the Quaker Meetinghouse, out by the pond

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there. Walking along New Marlborough Road late in October, Steve was accompanied by a flock of sparrows, off to the side in a field. There were forty or fifty of them, “flying up and then settling just a bit ahead, and then again, and then again,” keeping pace with him, he writes. Steve also tells of a sharp-shinned hawk that made a long horizontal flight right past his place. He got a wonderful long view of this small hawk moving fast.

We have one major amphibian sighting, a bullfrog from Stevens Pond, well-nourished and held up for a portrait thanks to Bonsai Cox (can’t miss it at right). She also continues to take photographs of the critters that come to eat birdseed scattered under the feeder. This month’s handsome prize is a perfect grey fox, seen from above (but shown below).



Another glorious portrait this month comes from Wendy Germain (see page 21): two kinds of fungus on a rough patch of bark. The big solid stupa-like one is called hoof fungus or tinder fungus. It is also called “the iceman fungus” and therein hangs a tale. It was found in the “tool-bag, along with a flint and pyrite for making sparks,” of Otzi the “Ice Man.” Otzi is or was a mummified man who died more than five thousand years ago. (These tidbits gleaned from the website of BeaconHillMushrooms.co.uk.) It makes good tinder for starting fires, but of course the mushroom has medicinal uses also, and Otzi would have needed medicines because he had a big gash on one arm and other injuries.



Hippocrates described using it to stop bleeding, even to cauterize wounds. Also, it discourages tumors by inhibiting the new blood vessels that feed tumor cells. Besides this, it reduces the motility of tumor cells. Somehow these effects target tumor cells only and are not toxic to any of our normal cells.

Thanks for the photograph, Wendy! But as for the other, delicate mushroom surrounding the big hoof or ice man fungus, I don’t know what it is. Joe Baker says it looks like coral. Maybe it is. I could not find it in my mushrooms book.

Thanks for your notes and interests, your photographs and accounts.

—Bonner McAllester

(413) 528-9385 bonnermca@gmail.com



*An unidentified moth.*

—Bonsai Cox



*Northern tooth fungus.*

—Bonner McAllester





## Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit articles to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone informed about town news and projects.

### MontereyMA.gov

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

— Steven Weisz, Chair  
John Weingold and Justin Makuc  
Monterey Select Board  
(steve@montereyma.gov)  
(weinjohnsb@gmail.com)  
(justin@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click “Contact Us” at [www.montereyma.gov](http://www.montereyma.gov).

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

## Progress in Cabling Monterey with Fiber

Fiber Connect has approved and paid for all of the remaining “make ready” costs necessary to finish cabling the rest of the town with fiber, as obligated under its contract with the town. After this final push, Fiber Connect will have completed its contractual obligation to offer service to all of the town except for nine excluded homes: three homes on River Road closest to New Marlborough, four homes on Co-rashire Road closest to New Marlborough, one home on Tyringham Road closest to Tyringham, and one home on West Otis Tyringham Road. (The Massachusetts Broadband Institute grant permits some exclusions based on logistical issues.)

Beginning in October, Verizon and National Grid (and sub-contractors) began the physical work of the make ready: moving wires, installing new poles, and all other related work. This make-ready work is being completed on the following roads: Beartown Mtn., Harmon, Mt. Hunger, New Marlborough, Wellman, Gould, Brett, Sandisfield, and Swann. Fiber Connect is hopeful that the make ready will be finished in the next few months, and that Fiber Connect will then be able to do its part to cable these remaining roads this winter and into the spring of 2023.

— Monterey Select Board

*Editor’s Note: For further information on Fiber Connect, see pages 19.*

## Late Breaking Town News

*(Not part of the Select Board Corner.)*

Director of operations, Jim Hunt, and our town administrator, Melissa Noe, have obtained a \$1 million grant from the commonwealth for the improvement of Beartown Mountain Road. That road’s deterioration in recent years has been costing the town a disproportionate amount of money. The grant will be a great advance for all.

Sergeant Brian Fahey, presently second in command of the town’s police department, has been designated by the select board to become chief of the department after Gareth Backhaus retires in December.

(Thanks to Don Coburn for this text.)

### Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

**[dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us](mailto:dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us)**

- Police dispatch service number:  
**(413) 236-0925**.
- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

**528-3211**

### Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

#### Town Administrator:

528-1443 x111

[admin@montereyma.gov](mailto:admin@montereyma.gov)

#### Assessor: 528-1443 x115

[assessors@montereyma.gov](mailto:assessors@montereyma.gov)

#### Building Department: 528-1443 x118

[buildingsafety@montereyma.gov](mailto:buildingsafety@montereyma.gov)

#### Community Center: 528-3600

[calendar@ccmonterey.org](mailto:calendar@ccmonterey.org)

#### Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136, [chief@montereyma.gov](mailto:chief@montereyma.gov)

#### Highway Department: 528-1734

[dpw1@montereyma.gov](mailto:dpw1@montereyma.gov)

#### Library: 528-3795

[montereylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:montereylibrary@gmail.com)

#### Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

[mpdchief@montereyma.gov](mailto:mpdchief@montereyma.gov)

#### Post Office: 528-4670

**SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778**

#### Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

[montereytax@yahoo.com](mailto:montereytax@yahoo.com)

(for questions about your tax bill)

#### Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

[clerk@montereyma.gov](mailto:clerk@montereyma.gov)

Town website: [Montereyma.gov](http://Montereyma.gov), under each department, for office hours.



Natalie Manzano

*A giant gourd on display at the Berkshire Botanical Garden’s harvest festival.*



## Pavilion Rink Set-Up

Once again the Monterey ice rink needs to be set up for winter skating and hockey. If you'd like to help, come to the pavilion behind the firehouse on Saturday, December 3, at 9:30 a.m. Light work, no skills necessary.

Please bring a cordless drill if you have one.

Also, if anyone could bring a two-wheel hand truck—that would be helpful.

Setup usually takes an hour and a half, but any time you can give is greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance!

—Peter Poirier

## Calling All Ice Hockey Fans

Coming in late January, the inaugural Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic (BPHC), a sixteen-team round-robin pond hockey tournament, will commence on Lake Buel in Monterey.

The event is already at capacity for teams, but free for spectators. There will be a food truck and local sponsors including Berkshire Bank, Barrington Brewery, The Great Barrington Bagel Co, Extra Special Tees, and more.

This event supports a celebration of community, love of the outdoors, health of mind, body, and spirit, and of course the joy of playing hockey in its purest form—on a natural, frozen lake surrounded by the sounds of nature.

## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to [montereynews9@gmail.com](mailto:montereynews9@gmail.com) or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245.

For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413)528-4007 or email.

BPHC's inaugural one-day tournament will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Lake Buel in Monterey, near the Lake Buel boat ramp. (If necessary the tournament might move to the firehouse pavilion rink.)

All safety precautions will be in place. Go to [BerkshirePondHockeyClassic.com](http://BerkshirePondHockeyClassic.com) for any questions, if you want to volunteer, or to stay tuned to the news about the tournament. More details to follow in the January *Monterey News*.

—Alex Regent

*Editor's Note: Alex's family has owned a cottage on Lake Buel for forty years and it's the place where he learned to skate, and to love hockey.*



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*Contributions from local artists this month:*

*Rachel Jo Arnow, p. 21; Maureen Banner, p. 16;*

*George Emmons, p. 22; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.*

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