

MONTEREY NEWS

July 2015

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The Town

By Jacob Edelman

Notes on select board meetings from June 1 through June 22.

Bridge Business

Several weeks ago, a concerned fisherman on New Marlboro Road took notice of structural degradation around the supports of a bridge. Director of operations Shawn Tryon investigated, and within a short period of time a state inspector arrived to survey the damage. Several state engineers inspected the bridge and deemed it dangerous and ordered it blocked off for traffic. This puts the town and folks beyond the bridge in somewhat of a bind. Any bridge longer than ten feet needs to involve the state, and while the New Marlboro Road bridge is short, it is lengthy enough to meet this threshold.

State representative Smitty Pignatelli sat in on a meeting with the select board on June 1 to discuss the problem of needing to replace the condemned bridge. Pignatelli noted that while Monterey's bridge is important, there are dozens of other bridges in the Berkshires that need just as much attention. Select board member Kenn Basler commented that the state is "very gung-ho to send three guys down to close [the bridge]," but is not as responsive in providing the resources necessary to reopen one.

Wishing to move as quickly as possible to find a suitable replacement, Tryon found a number of options for smaller, off-the-shelf bridges available for less than \$100,000. He noted that one of main reasons for not going ahead and ordering one is that state bridge regulations effectively prohibit many of the comparatively inexpensive bridges from being placed.

Estimates from engineers for the construction of a state-approved bridge ranged from \$500,000 to \$900,000, with a timeframe of a year or more between now and receiving state aid. Basler spurned the high figures, stating that the bridge in question is short, affects twenty homeowners and experiences very little traffic, while going on to say that the town "need[s] to figure it out in a cost-effective and safe way."

Visually frustrated select board member Steven Weisz recurrently brought up the point that the detour roads are unsafe, and that in the event of an emergency or evacuation would be very difficult for the town to send help to the area.

After several weeks of waiting, a much-relieved select board and highway department announced that Monterey managed to arrange for a temporary bridge to be up and operational by July 8. The bridge rental cost is \$1,650/month with a \$2,000 delivery fee. The bridge will span thirty-five feet and has been both measured and tested. Meanwhile, Monterey plans to receive bids to construct a permanent bridge within the next two to three weeks.

Cash or Credit?

Select board member Steven Weisz recently took the initiative to investigate the possibility of employing the use of credit card readers for small, one-time transactions with the town. Transactions such as these would include some fee payments at various offices in the town hall, the disposal of certain kinds of waste (tires or construction material) at the transfer station, and a "walk-up" fee that would allow the town to charge non-sticker holders per visit to the station.

Weisz also commented that in addition to collecting small fees more



Memorial Day with the fire company paying its respects at Veterans' Park.

conveniently, the digital transactions could be used to gather data about what happens at the transfer station so that the town could eventually become more efficient in its waste services. He noted as an example that it costs a good deal of money to empty a dumpster full of tires, and that it would be helpful to know whether the tires are coming from residents or being largely hauled in bulk by someone else. The most significant challenge facing the collection of these small fees, however, is the ever-present credit card transaction fee charged by card companies. Using suggested UniBank readers, a \$2.50 transaction fee would be applied per swipe, leading a \$5 tire disposal fee to actually cost \$7.50 total.

At the June 22 select board meeting, the board met with a UniBank representative to discuss the possibility of Monterey employing such a system. Implementing this system would take no more than six weeks. Currently the town is considering which is the best option in terms of handling the transaction fees – somehow covering the fees for card users, or allowing them to pass to card users.

Transfer Station Attendants

The select board interviewed several candidates for a town-employed attendant to manage the transfer station. In the end, the board decided to hire two attendants, Dave Gilmore and Ben Pac. They each bring different skills and interests to the position, which the board felt, in the long run, might save the town money. The current plan is to have both men available during the weekend hours, with Wednesday operations being alternated between them. See their pictures on p. 13.

Parks and Recreation

At the July 1 select board meeting, Kelly Tryon, chair of the parks commission, came in to discuss beach topics. She requested that the town allow a memorial bench to be placed at the beach in memory of a man who suffered a heart attack and passed away while at Lake Garfield. Family and friends would be paying for the bench. It would be reasonably sized and placed near the hedges by the boat ramp. The board gave the request a unanimous nod of approval.

Tryon also inquired about the possibility of employing boat ramp monitors, as the police are not always present when a boater is attempting to move a craft into the lake. The parks commission does not want on-duty lifeguards to have to handle monitoring, as they should be paying full attention to the swimming area. One idea floated was to train volunteers over sixty years old to serve as monitors and to credit their accumulated hours worked as a tax write-off. The volunteers could monitor boats entering the lake, distribute information, keep a log, and report issues to the harbormaster.

Town Hall Advisory Committee

At the July 8 select board meeting, members of the town hall structure advisory committee presented their findings to the board. Committee member Larry Klein spoke to the board on the details of the study of how the town hall has operated over the past twenty years and recommendations for how the town hall should restructure for future operations.

One of the recommendations made for immediate action was that oversight of all employees, departments, boards, and committees should be shared by all select board members, while each committee should also have a board member assigned to serve as their advocate and contact in town hall. Another recommendation suggested that the select board assume more responsibility in its own domain, taking up some tasks done by the administrative assistant and communicating with the town counsel. The report also suggested that the board must restore top-down management and not resort to micromanagement.

Klein commented that a directive should include that all department heads work with their department members, citing as an example that the police department rarely meets as an entire group. Another suggestion was that someone at town hall should be more often available to hand out transfer station stickers and give out information. The committee suggested that the town clerk holding Saturday hours would be helpful, and a select board member being available on Saturdays for a couple of hours would increase openness to the public.

The committee suggested that the town eventually hold a meeting to vote

CLAY LIGHT TEA

Tasja Keetman Michael Marcus

June 26 - August 8

Tea Ceremony:
Thursday, July 23, 6:00pm

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

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to change the elected offices of treasurer, town clerk, and tax collector to appointed positions, while maintaining the finance committee and board of assessors as elected to provide balance.

Perhaps the most significant recommendations was for Monterey to adopt a town administrator form of government. The responsibilities of a town administrator would be determined by the select board, but might include things such as assuming some select board tasks, handling the town's human resources, and working on other town management duties. The board may consult with local town management expert Joe Kellogg, who has held town administrative roles in the area, about the possibility of changing forms of government. The full report as a PDF can be found at: <http://goo.gl/v6XkAt>

Conservation Commission New Member Needed

The conservation commission is accepting letters of interest from residents to fill a vacancy on the commission for a three-year term. The commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat to wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless yet "free" services including:

- Drinking water purification
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Pollution prevention

The Massachusetts Conservation Commission Act, passed in 1957, authorized each town in Massachusetts to establish a locally appointed municipal agency to plan for natural resource protection, acquire important land and water areas, and manage these properties for conservation and passive recreation. Permitting for any development project begins with the conservation commission.

Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to admin@montereyma.gov or by regular mail to Monterey Conservation Commission, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.



The Bidwell House Museum is celebrating its twenty-fifth year. Pictured above are volunteers with twentyyears of service who gathered together earlier this spring to kick off the year.


Summer Services at Our Lady of the Hills Chapel

Our Lady of the Hills chapel will be open every Saturday beginning July 4 through the end of August. The Roman Catholic chapel is located at 70 Beartown Mountain Road. Masses will be held at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

—Mark and Mary Makuc

August "Monterey News" to be Late


The August issue of the *Monterey News* will not be available until later in the first week of August. Every effort has been made to gather and publish event listings through August 8. You will find events happening up to that date in the calendar on page 27, in the text of articles, and in some advertisements.



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Sizzling Steak Roast Plans Saturday, July 25

Tickets are now on sale for the Monterey Fire Company's annual steak roast on Saturday, July 25, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The steak roast draws more than seven hundred townspeople and summer visitors. In addition to the food—steaks, swordfish, assorted side dishes, salad, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks—there will be entertainment for the children and a live performance from the Berkshire-based band The Hayrollers.

And there's something new this year: the fire company's featured event "Dunk the Sergeant." Yes, Monterey police sergeant Mike Johnson has graciously agreed to don his swim trunks and brave a dunk tank. Bring some extra cash. For \$5, throw three balls at the target to drop Sergeant Mike into the drink.

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 on the day of the event. Your advance purchase helps the fire company plan accurately and limit waste of the fundraiser dollars.

Tickets can be purchased in any of the following ways:

- from any Monterey firefighter,
- in downtown Monterey and at the transfer station on weekend mornings during July,
- on Wednesday evenings at the firehouse, 411 Main Road, from 7 to 9 p.m.,
- by calling 528-3136 (leave a message, someone will get back to you),
- or online at montereyfire.org

We look forward to everyone coming out for a great time, some excellent food, and the opportunity to help the fire company maintain our fire house.

—Monterey Fire Company



- Environmental Permits
- Lake, Pond, and Fisheries Management
- Invasive Plant Management

Thomas Coote, Director: 413-644-4509
tcoote@simons-rock.edu

P.O. Box 9 Thank You Volunteers

In early April, my husband Alan and I returned home to Monterey from a trip to Florida. Alan had gone to a planning board meeting, while I proceeded to unpack our suitcases. On my way down from upstairs, I tripped and fell hard on a brick floor.

I tried hard to stand, but quickly realized how futile that attempt was. I managed to inch along on my back for about thirty-five feet to reach a table I could shake until a phone fell onto the floor. I called 911 and Alan's cell. (How thankful I was at that moment to those who voted to permit a cell tower in Monterey.)

In a matter of minutes, a police officer was at my door, immediately followed by what appeared to be every volunteer fireman from the town. The ambulance wasn't far behind, but by the time it arrived, I had already been in very good hands. It was extremely comforting to be treated so well, and though in pain, I felt totally calm by the time Del Martin turned me over to the ambulance medical team.

Two broken ankles and a broken left foot wasn't exactly the welcome I expected coming home to Monterey. What did welcome me home, however, was a group of competent, professional, and respectful volunteers. They are the essence of the wonderful town I live in, a community of neighbors who care.

I am so grateful to each of them.

—Jane Salamon

Fire Company Calls Continue to Rise

The Monterey Fire Company's emergency responses continue to rise. With the closing of the fiscal year in June, the fire company's emergency responses tallied 133 (as of June 25). That's an increase of 30 calls from the previous year and 40 calls over two years. This is nearly a 30% increase in just one year and a 43% rise over two years, in requests for the company to turn out in response.

The breakdown is as follows:

- 58 emergency medical service calls, including motor vehicle accidents, residential, and search-and-rescue calls;
- 50 fire alarms, also including carbon monoxide alarms;
- 21 fire calls, which include structure fires and brush fires.
- 4 service calls, which include state of emergency responses, trees on wires, and hazardous material containment.

As a reminder, remember to change the batteries in your carbon monoxide detectors every year when you change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

—Felix Carroll

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Memorial Day 2015

On May 25 at 1 p.m., townspeople gathered in the center of Monterey to commemorate our military's fallen. What seemed like a couple hundred people assembled, lining the sides of the road on the stretch leading from the library to Greene Park. An air of anticipation hung over the throngs as Steve Pullen and Mark Gordon announced the happenings to the crowd from atop the high steps of the church.

Meanwhile, at the intersection of Route 23 and Sandisfield Road, baseball players, schoolchildren, Camp Hume staff, representatives from Gould Farm, an old military truck, the Mount Everett marching band, the Monterey Fire Company (with polished engines fired up,) and others mustered in preparation for a march leading into the center of town. This assortment of marchers representing many aspects of the town were being led by a guard of veterans in uniform with flags raised, as well as members of the select board.

And so the walk began. The band played a series of patriotic songs, vehicles honked, marchers waved, and the camp tossed t-shirts into the crowd from their float. The display continued into the center of town where it stopped for words to be spoken by the emcees. They called to mind the sacrifices made by the often-young individuals who served and fell in combat.

A letter was read from Abraham Lincoln to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, a Massachusetts widow who lost two of her five sons (who was thought at the time to have lost all five) in a battle during the Civil War. A portion of the passage read, "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved

and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

The emcees reminded the townspeople that there is a time for mourning, and there is a time for joy—and that those who fell might have agreed that it would be good and appropriate to celebrate our freedom in such a joyful manner as was to come at the cookout.

At that point, wreathes were laid, and the procession marched onward, up the hill towards the firehouse. A musician played his guitar, the town provided free hot dogs, soda, chips, and even an ice cream truck whose driver handed out free frozen treats. It was a hot, sunny Memorial Day, which, combined with the parade and the earlier ceremony at our Veterans' Park, served as a perfect reminder of all of the good things our town and our nation are privileged to enjoy.

Many from Monterey have served with great distinction in the armed services here and abroad. The signage in front of the town hall serves to remind everyone of those who courageously fought in response to vicious aggressors and dictators during the World Wars. When a challenge confronted the United States that resulted in a military response, brave individuals from towns like Monterey to cities like New York and Boston answered the call. Many of these persons put the one life that they had down for the defense of others—friends and strangers they would ultimately never get the chance to meet and be thanked by. These individuals gave the greatest sacrifice one can be asked to make, and for that sacrifice a promise can be made that they and their memories shall not be forgotten.

—Jacob Edelman

From the Tax Collector's Office

The fiscal year 2016 real estate and personal property first quarter tax bills will be mailed on July 1 and are due August 3, 2015. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (528-1443 x117).

These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October (due November 2). However, if you wish, you may pay both the first and second quarters now.

Once again, online payment from your checking account for current real estate and personal property bills is available at montereyma.gov, "Pay Taxes Online," for a minimal charge. Credit card payments are also accepted online for current bills. Please note that the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for this service.

Credit cards are now accepted for payment of any bill in the tax collector's office. The card must be swiped in the tax collector's office so this service is not available online or over the phone. Again, a fee will be assessed to the taxpayer for credit card payment.

Questions regarding personal property, assessments, or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at 528-1443 x115.

—Mari Enoch
Monterey Tax Collector

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Conservation Commission Invasive Aquatic Plants

The word *invasive* conjures up thoughts of conflicts between civilizations for defense or control of territory. The Wikipedia definition refers to military invasion, invasive medicine, or invasive species. Wikipedia further refers to an invasive species as “a plant or animal that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species) and has a tendency to spread, which is believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy, and/or human health.” So an overpopulation of deer can be considered invasive in a given area. This definition would also include the overgrowth of a specific terrestrial plant population such as Buckthorn or Japanese arrowroot (also called kudzu) or the spread of aquatic Eurasian watermilfoil (milfoil) or the zebra mussel in freshwater lakes and ponds.

Since the focus of this article is invasive species, let's look further at the habitat-related impacts of a specific invasive aquatic plant in Monterey. The recent discovery of large patches of highly invasive milfoil, and to a lesser extent pondweed, in Lake Garfield has prompted the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG), with seed funding from the town, to implement a five-year action plan to eliminate the milfoil problem and to improve the health of the lake. Treatment options include chemical, biological, or mechanical removal. The FLG have chosen the mechanical option to deal effectively with this ecological threat. With guidance from Dr. Ken Wagner, the



plan includes several components: the continuation of the annual fall drawdown of the lake, mechanical harvesting along the shoreline in the small bowl portion of the lake, diver-assisted hand removal of plants from the lake bottom, and water quality testing and monitoring. In addition, consideration is being given to creative ways to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus moving into the lake from storm water run-off and septic systems. The plant material gathered during this multi-year project will be disposed of at a location outside of the Lake Garfield watershed, and avoid reintroduction. Lastly, efforts will be made to have volunteer-assisted monitoring of boats, canoes, and kayaks entering Lake Garfield to educate vessel owners thereby avoiding further introduction of this invasive aquatic plant species.

Why should we care about the milfoil invasion of Lake Garfield? The answer lies in understanding how milfoil spreads and changes the habitat that it has invaded. In general, the key ecological characteristics of invasive plant or animal species are that they are not naturally occurring, they reproduce rapidly, and they cause a reduction in the abundance and biodiversity (number of species) of native species in

an area. In effect, they outcompete existing native species. Milfoil is a submerged perennial plant and is extremely adaptable, able to tolerate and thrive in a variety of environmental conditions. Based on scientific studies and field observations, it grows in either still or flowing waters, tolerates salinities of up to almost half the concentration of sea water, grows rooted in water depths from approximately three to thirty feet, and is able to tolerate neutral to highly alkaline waters. Compared to other submersed plants, milfoil requires brighter light levels, has a higher rate of photosynthesis or plant production, can grow over a wide temperature range, and can even survive under ice. Presumably, its growth over a wide temperature range would suggest that it would not be as susceptible to climate change impacts as local aquatic species, though this would need further study. It grows best on fine-textured, inorganic sediments and poorly in highly organic sediments. In sum, milfoil is highly competitive as compared to local aquatic plants.

Milfoil adversely impacts aquatic ecosystems by forming dense mats in the water that can shade out and alter the




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types of native vegetation while providing a poor habitat for native waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife. Significant rates of plant production and decomposition at the end of the growing season can increase the quantities of nutrients, namely, phosphorus and nitrogen, in a lake or pond, which can further lead to rapid aging of the water body (eutrophication). Dense milfoil mats can negatively affect water quality by raising the acidity, decreasing oxygen under the mats, and increasing temperature, all of which may be detrimental to native aquatic plants and animals in the food chain. For example, reports show that the resulting reduction of oxygen levels, especially during the summer months, can cause fish kills. Milfoil mats also have the potential to become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. From a recreational point of view, the mats of milfoil can significantly curtail the enjoyment of boating, kayaking, swimming, water skiing, and fishing.

Needless to say, the above ecological impacts of milfoil have both human health and economic implications, which may be addressed in a future article. The FLG effort to maintain and protect the health of Lake Garfield is important to all taxpayers and visitors of Monterey.

—Conservation Commission
Friends of Lake Garfield

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In Remembrance Carol Ingher

Carol Berliner Ingher, 74, of Rockwell Road in Monterey, passed away on May 21, at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.

Born on August 27, 1940, in Mount Vernon, New York, she was the daughter of the late Jack and Betty "Tessie" Zaretsky Berliner. She was a graduate of Walton High School and Hunter College in New York.

Carol taught first grade for several years and then worked in Suffolk County government.

She had a passion for dogs, especially golden retrievers. She was involved in breeding, showing, training, and competing with them in conformation, obedience, rally, and field. She was a former secretary of the Great Barrington Kennel Club and on their board of directors. She was a former board member of the Southern Berkshire Golden Retriever Club. She was also active in several other dog clubs and volunteered with them.

When not with her dogs, Carol enjoyed reading, vegetable gardening,



especially the community garden, and swimming in the lake from the time the water warmed up until October when she could no longer stand it.

Her daughter Stacy Ingher of Valatie, New York, survives her.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Golden Retriever Foundation – Zeke Cancer Fund, through FINNERTY & STEVENS FUNERAL HOME, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to her family or to sign the guest book, go to finnertyandstevens.com

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The Meetinghouse White-On-White

As you may have noticed, the meetinghouse is, for the most part, bright white again!

We at the church have had a busy few months, raising money and hiring workers to do much needed improvements on the lovely building—painting and repair of the handicap ramp, the front steps, and the doors.

We feel very aware of the prominence of the meetinghouse in the village and of the importance of keeping it true to its intrinsic beauty. We feel this as a matter of faithfulness to God, whose presence we feel whenever we gather in that place (though not as exclusive to that place), and as a matter of being good neighbors to everyone in town, residents and visitors alike.

But in order to make good on all that, we need everyone's help. The cost of the improvements will approach \$100,000, which we set as the goal for our capital campaign. We withdrew a quarter of that from the church's endowment, raised money from among our church membership and participants (100% of whom gave), and then appealed to our wider community. In the six months since we began the campaign, we've raised about \$40,000.

If you're among those who gave, thank you.

If you're not among those who already gave and would like to be, you can make a fully tax-deductible gift by writing a check to the Monterey Church, making a note in the memo line that this for the meetinghouse fund, and mailing it to PO Box 182, Monterey, MA 01240.



Liz Goodman

The Piecemakers' "Bluebird Garden"

There are also a couple other ways to support the effort.

One is to buy raffle tickets whose prize is a quilt that the Monterey Piecemakers made and donated to the meetinghouse for us to use in our fundraising efforts. The quilt, "Bluebird Garden," features appliqué, embroidery, stitch-work, and quilting. Big enough to drape over a queen-sized bed or cover the top of a king-sized, but beautiful enough to make a striking wall hanging, this would be a lovely addition to any home. If you'd like to buy tickets, you can call or text me (413-329-3026), email me (liz@goodman.md), or call the church (528-5850). Tickets are \$2 each, or \$10 for 6.

Another way to support us is to come to the concert Adam Brown will host, which will be in the sanctuary later this summer and will feature the Easy Ridin' Papas (Adam Brown and Will Conklin) and

other local musicians. Details about that will be announced as the date comes closer.

Meanwhile, please know that we of the church love that the meetinghouse is widely used and appreciated. I, the church's pastor, enjoy the community's enjoyment of our gathering place. The quiet beauty of it, the fitting size of it, the usefulness of its fellowship hall and uplifting spiritedness of its sanctuary: this is an anchor to our village in more ways than just the obvious. So, in service of this, which benefits us all, please give as you can.

Also, receive as you need. Be in touch if you have need of the meetinghouse. It's here for everyone.

—Pastor Liz Goodman

Monterey Library Summer Programming

All the programs begin on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

July 11: Ed the Wizard—edthewizard.com

July 18: Tom Seiling—Singer and guitarist, search "Tom Seiling" on youtube.com

July 25: Book Sale—Children's Books available, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

August 1: John Porcino—singer/storyteller, johnporcino.com/

August 8: Jim Snack—magician, jimsnack.com/readingismagic.htm

Stop by the library to check out these events as well as the summer reading program!

Programs sponsored by The Friends of the Monterey Library and in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council.

Monterey Library, 528-3795, montereylibrary@gmail.com, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245

—Mark Makuc, Library Director



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July at the Knox Gallery

Knox Gallery's current exhibit, *clay. light.tea*, features the photographic and ceramic work of Monterey residents Tasja Keetman and Michael Marcus. The artists spoke briefly at the reception on June 27 about the work and Zen influences on their creative expression.

We are pleased that they have offered to present a special event as a part of this exhibit: on Thursday, July 23, at 6 p.m. they will demonstrate a tea ceremony utilizing craft objects of their making. Two attendees will be able to participate directly in the tea ceremony, and a few bowls of tea will be available afterwards for other attendees. We hope you will join us!



A native of Munich, Germany, artist and photographer Tasja Keetman realizes a dynamic photographic style that reflects exuberant energy. She grew up in a prominent photography family, and "invites equilibrium to the discordant," inspired by her fascination for the beauty of the abstract structures, forms, and the ephemeral essence of our existence.



Michael Marcus has been a potter for more than forty-five years. He apprenticed as a potter in Japan, studying wood-fired, glazed, and unglazed wares, along with the Japanese tea ceremony and sushi cuisine. His work has been internationally exhibited, culminating in two solo shows in Nagoya and Tokyo. His ceramics are collected internationally and used in Japanese restaurants such as Nobu and Hatsuana in New York City. His special passion is in harmonizing handmade tableware with food presentation, often using his own wood-fired dishes, newly born out of the kiln, to serve sushi delicacies. Proprietor and head sushi chef of Bizen Gourmet Japanese Restaurant and Bizen Kaiseki in the Berkshires, Michael has a gift for sharing his profound understanding of Japanese culture.

Please see the June issue of the *Monterey News* for more information about the exhibit.

clay.light.tea will be on view through August 8. Our next exhibit, *Aftermath: Meditations on a Penal Colony*, features ink drawings by Mariam Stephan loosely based on Franz Kafka's short stories. It opens Friday, August 14, with a reception that evening from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox_Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

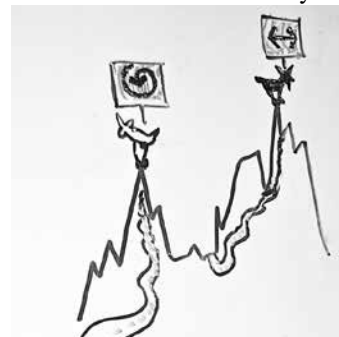
Council on Aging

On Sunday, July 19, at 4 p.m., the Pittsfield Suns play against the Worcester Bravehearts in Wahconah Ballpark. The council has reserved space beneath the tent at the first-base line. A picnic of hamburgers, franks, chicken sandwiches, pasta salad, watermelon, dessert, soda, iced tea, water, and coffee will be served, all for ten dollars per person with the council's matching subsidy. There's plenty of room for extra people. Drive by yourself or carpool. Gate opens at 3 p.m. Contact council chair Maryellen Brown at 528-1598 or mbrown007@earthlink.net for reservations. Checks should be made out to Monterey Council on Aging and received at town hall by Thursday, July 2.

The Erie Canal cruise on September 24th has not been totally arranged at this time.

Hume Camp is offering services to the town, including seniors. Campers will be available during July to perform chores and assist in projects. Hume Camp provides supervision and covers insurance. Contact Maryellen Brown or Andy Conli, Hume Camp, at 528-3604.

—Kay Purcell



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Monterey Community Center Tag Sale July 11

The annual community center tag sale begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. All proceeds benefit the community center. Save your items to donate and drop them off on Sunday, July 5, between 12 to 3 pm, or Thursday, July 9, between 12 to 3, at the MCC (468 Main Road).

Saturday, July 18: Wildflowers and field botany workshop, 10 to noon, with Bonner McAllester. Cost \$10, register at 413-528-1144.

Saturday, July 25 Outdoor Yoga, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with Connie Wilson, Cost \$10.

Interior and exterior construction are continuing on the Wilson McLaughlin House during the summer. Stop by and see the progress. We welcome your contributions to this community effort—all tax-deductible of course—by check to Monterey Community Center, PO Box 302, Monterey, or by credit card through our website, ccmonterey.org.

Thank you,

—Friends of Wilson-
McLaughlin House

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Maureen Banner

"Visionary Landscapes" workshop led by Kit Patten ("Try not using green," he said.), with (left to right) Joe Baker, Kit Patten, Peter Heller, Sally Lyon, and others not pictured.

Appalachian Trail in July Free Hikes and Activities

AT Family Day Hike

Sunday, July 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join us for a kid-friendly hike geared at helping families enjoy hiking the Appalachian Trail. Our two-mile round-trip hike will take young explorers past an ice gulch to a hikers' shelter for lunch with a fantastic view.

AT Community Celebration

Hikes & Community Picnic at Beartown State Forest

Saturday, July 25: Hikes at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Community picnic at 5 p.m.

Join us for the Third Annual Appalachian Trail Hike and Community Picnic at Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, Monterey, MA.

Did you know that Great Barrington is a designated Appalachian Trail Community™? Join DCR MassParks staff and

Great Barrington Trails and Greenways partners to celebrate the Appalachian Trail (AT) in our community. Come learn what it's all about and connect with others in the trail community. There will be four guided hikes that will all end in time to join the picnic. Bring plenty of your favorite picnic food to share with hungry long-distance hikers.

Hiking registration is required, and group size is limited. More detailed information is available at gbtrails.org and tinyurl.com/gbatday. For information and registration, email: info@gbtrails.org, or call 528-0904. In the event of rain or significant weather, the event will be cancelled.

These events are co-led by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Great Barrington Trails and Greenways in support of the Great Barrington Appalachian Trail Community, with additional sponsorship by DCR MassParks and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

**WiredWest**
go to **Register.wiredwest.net**
for Monterey
Make Monterey one of the first towns to get connected!

Otis Events in July

Faith Weldon Artwork

Faith Weldon has been an Otis summer resident since the age of two. All her life she has enjoyed sketching and painting. Primarily a self-taught artist, Faith has also taken numerous classes and workshops over the years.

The world of nature, landscapes, plants, and animals serve as Faith's inspiration. Musical themes appear as do scenes from exotic locales. Her pieces represent a personal interpretation of a subject, seldom a literal copy.

Ms. Weldon is active in several area art leagues. She has exhibited paintings in solo, group, and juried shows. Butterfly Garden Gate was shown at the Norman Rockwell Museum. Faith's work was featured in the February 2015 edition of *Art n' Soul Magazine* and can be viewed on her website, faithweldon.com, or on Facebook.

A reception will be held for artist Faith Weldon at the Otis Library and Museum on Wednesday, July 8, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Tomahawk and Knife Show

On July 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Tommy Whitefeather Tomahawk & Knife Show will be sharing a taste of colonial frontier New England at Mountain View Campground (south of the town center).

Experience a touch of the language and culture of the indigenous people of the northeast woodlands. Enjoy quality family entertainment that educates while bringing smiles and laughter. Witness the throwing of the long knife, the mountain man Bowie knife, and the tomahawk.

The show also includes an introduction to some of colonial New England and early American currency. Learn about the 1776 continental dollar, the first Massachusetts cent, and many others. Thomas is an experienced projectile artist who specializes in the disciplines of knife and Tomahawk throwing. His focus is always safety first. He is a two-time knife throwing world record breaker and a current Guinness World Record holder.

Oakes and Smith Free Concert

Friday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m. Berkshire folk duo Oakes & Smith will offer a free concert at the Knox Trail Inn, Route 23, Otis, with an optional buffet beginning at 6. Call 413-269-4008 for reservations.

Oakes & Smith perform original and traditional folk with voices blending in close harmonies. They sing soothing and soulful tunes inspired by nature, love, spirit, art, and poetry. The harmonious blend of their voices creates an ethereal sound and unique quality not often heard in today's popular music, and their songs evoke a sense of wonder, expressing

themes such as love, beauty, innocence, and mystery. Listeners and critics alike have received their debut album, *First Flight*, warmly.

This program is supported by the Otis Cultural Council.

Otis Country Fair

Saturday, July 11, the Otis Library and Museum will hold its country fair at the Otis Town Hall.

This fair attracts hundreds of tourists, second-home owners, and Berkshire County residents. The fair features over fifty vendors offering crafts, food, and fun. Also we will be drawing for our wonderful raffle prizes.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7-9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2-5 p.m.
Thursday.....4-6 p.m.
Friday.....4-8 p.m.
Saturday..9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
.....7-9 p.m.

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Monterey School

REGISTER FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Kindergarten: This program is for children who will be 5 years old before October 1, 2015.

Early Kindergarten: An early kindergarten program for children who turn age 5 between October 1, 2015 and May 1, 2016. These are both full-day programs.

Call Rose Glaszcz at 229-8754, ext. 377 or email rglaszcz@sbrsd.org to set up a time to visit the school.

Township No. 1 Day July 3 Free Community Celebration

The Bidwell House Museum is inviting Monterey and Tyringham residents and all friends to the Art School Road fields for a free celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history on Friday, July 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event is named for the earliest official designation of the settlement—it was called “Township No. 1 at Hoosatonnuck” in 1737. The name was officially changed to Tyringham at the town’s incorporation in 1762, and it included both towns until they split in 1847.

The Bidwell House is planning a full afternoon of programs and entertainment for all ages:

- Live music in the tent: Monterey’s own Easy Ridin’ Papas (Will Conklin and Adam Brown) as well as Steve and Pete Adams, and Moonshine Holler of Tyringham. Paula Bradley and Bill Dillof play ballads, blues, and breakdowns on more musical instruments than they can juggle—including fiddle, banjo, guitar, Hawaiian guitar, harmonica, and ukulele—and with some old-time flatfoot dancing to boot.
- Re-enactors: The Butler’s Rangers portray historic characters, including two Quaker refugees, Loyalist soldiers, and some baggage (the eighteenth-century war term for women and children). They will set up tents to show how they lived, dressed, cooked, and spent their days dur-

ing the time of the American Revolution. They tell the story of the Loyalist side of the Revolution, which at the time included most Native Americans and many established older people who were “loyal” to King George III. Representing the Patriots will be a member of Thompson’s Rifle Corp, Brigade of the American Revolution, with a long-rifle of the period.

- For the young and young-at-heart: Games, crafts, hat-decorating, face-painting, a scavenger hunt, and more.
- For the local history buff: “History Detectives: Investigating an Old House,” a talk by Steve McAlister; “Candidate for Eternity: The Tumultuous Life of Barnabas Bidwell (son of Rev. Adonijah)” a talk by current Yale student Jonah Bader on his research project; Photographs and the just completed comprehensive inventory of the cemetery will be exhibited by the Tyringham Historical Commission; and a “Historic Postcards” exhibit by the Monterey Historical Society.
- Historic crafts: The McAlisters of Monterey and John Graney of Sheffield will demonstrate metal forging. Wendy Jensen of Monterey will demonstrate basketweaving.
- For the baker (or the taster): Who’s the Best Baker in Township No. 1? Bring your favorite home-baked pies, cakes or cookies by 1:25 and enter them in the taste-off. Winners receive a ribbon and a beautiful Bidwell House apron. Entry forms can be found on the museum’s website.

- Food: Sausages from the grill, SoCo Creamery ice cream, beer, old-time soft drinks, lemonade, popcorn, and watermelon.

Township No. 1 Day is supported in part by grants from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils.

The Bidwell House is at 100 Art School Road, Monterey. Please note that the museum building is closed for tours this day. The museum is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. For more information, call the museum 413-528-6888 or go to bidwell-housemuseum.org.

Save the Date: August 15

Don’t miss the twenty-fifth anniversary party for the Bidwell House Museum. Live music by the Easy Ridin’ Papas, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, silent and live auction at a magical Monterey property. The party benefits the historic 1750s Bidwell House Museum. 4 to 7 p.m.

—Barbara Palmer
Executive Director



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Summer Bidwell House Museum History Talks

July 18: Jonathan Edwards

"The Mohican Influence on Jonathan Edwards." Rachel Wheeler, associate professor of religious studies at Indiana University, will visit the Berkshires to give a talk on her research of the Reverend Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) and the Stockbridge Mohicans. Edwards took over the pastorate of the congregational church in Stockbridge from John Sergeant in 1751. He was a philosopher, theologian, and preacher and is considered one of America's foremost intellectuals.

Wheeler, a former student of Professor John Demos, has researched Edwards's relationship with the Mohican community then living in Stockbridge. She is the author of *To Live upon Hope: Mohicans and Missionaries in the Eighteenth-Century Northeast* (Cornell University Press, 2008).

July 25: Indian Town

"50 Years in an Indian Town: Reflection on the Stockbridge Experience." Bonney Hartley, the historic preservation assistant of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohicans, will give a talk on Saturday, July 25, addressing the Mohicans' time in Stockbridge from the perspective of the tribe today. Hartley's talk will focus on how their short time living in Stockbridge (1735–1785) forever changed the tribe, and how they carry many of the lessons or consequences from that experience with them as a tribe today in Wisconsin.

July 18: William Pynchon

Author David M. Powers will give a talk about his recently published book, the first book-length study of William Pynchon, the founder of Springfield, MA. Two things stand out about Pynchon's life: he enjoyed uniquely positive relationships with Native peoples, and he wrote the first book condemned to be burned in British North America.

Entitled *Damnable Heresy: William Pynchon, the Indians, and the First Book Banned (and Burned) in Boston*, Powers's book tells Pynchon's story by tracing the stages of his momentous life: from his origins in England, a transatlantic crossing in 1630 to Roxbury, and a trek to Springfield (which he founded) to his forced return to England in 1652 and his end ten years later. Along the way, Pynchon encountered misunderstandings between races and hostilities between cultures, anxiety from living in a time of war in one's own land, being accused of profiteering when food was scarce, and unruly residents in a remote frontier community. Lastly, he was charged with speaking the unspeakable and publishing the unprintable.

David Powers is a native of Springfield. He is a graduate of Carleton College and Harvard University. Since retirement he has focused particularly on researching and writing on early New England history. He lives on Cape Cod.

Bidwell History Talks are held at Tyngham Union Church, Main Road, Tyngham, at 10 a.m. There is a suggested contribution of \$15/\$10 for members. For more information, please call 528-6888 or visit bidwellhousemuseum.org.



Steven Weisz

Monterey welcomes our new transfer station managers, Dave Gilmore and Ben Pac. These new town employees are available to answer questions and assist you at our transfer station.

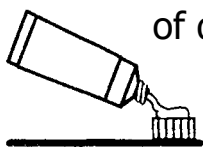


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- Or visit montereyfire.org

SWIM LESSONS

Anna Zdziarski, Lake Garfield's Head Lifeguard, will hold swim lessons:



- August 3-7
- kids ages 5-13
- Monterey residents : FREE
- out of town residents: only \$5

Anna is a Division III college swimmer and has been teaching swim lessons for six years. Sign up sheets will be available at the lifeguard shed at Lake Garfield beginning June 27.

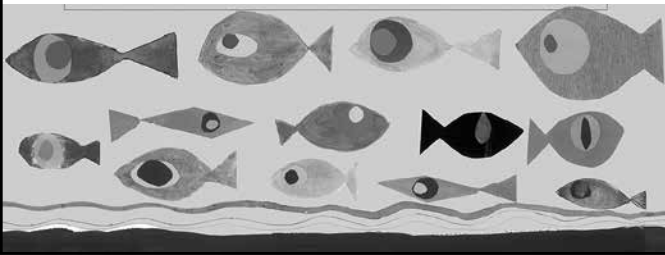
Any questions or concerns please contact Anna at 413-229-3557.

Sponsored by the Monterey Parks Commission

MontereyFest 2015

Saturday, August 22
Support a healthy Lake Garfield
Join us for music, food, games,
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Starts on town beach at 2:00

Bounce House, Boat Rides, Tug of War
Face Painting and Sand Castles
Ballon Man and Music
Hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones
BYO drinks and picnic
Campfire and Marshmellow roast



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Tree Swallows

Every meadow should be decorated with tree swallows,
Swooping and diving, soaring and dipping!
More than other birds they seem ebullient,
Exuberant, circling, gyring, then down again—
They rarely approach their nest box directly,
Without an extra, virtuosic flourish of wings,
A last circumambient, flaring, airborne lilt,
Then, like a candle snuffed, to vanish inside.

A split second before one goes into the nest
The other bursts out to take up the chase:
In a moment high against the clouds, and then,
Coming fast, skimming low above the grasstops.
Zigzagging, more kin to bats than to other birds,
Like the bats their every flamboyant swerve
Reflects the desperate, erratic evasions,
High and low and everywhere, of their insect prey.

—David P. McAllester
August 1994

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Cara Carroll



Stephen Moore

Sections of the large stone retaining walls being built by Palmer Paving on the steep downhill slopes alongside Route 23

“Raise the Roof” Berkshire Jewish Film Festival

“How often do you get a chance to reach deep into history and bring something back?”

That’s the question Rick Brown poses in the opening frames of *Raise the Roof*, a new documentary that screens on Monday, July 13, at 4 p.m. as the kick-off show of the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival through Congregation Kneset Israel in Pittsfield.

The filmmakers, Yari Wolinsky (director and editor) and his father Cary Wolinsky (writer and producer) will be on hand for a post-show discussion, joined by Barbara Emmel Wolinsky (production designer), whose family has generations-long ties to Monterey.

The lively, fascinating film traces the unlikely story of how Rick and Laura Brown—a husband-wife team of artists and inspired educators—led an international team of skilled woodworkers and hundreds of students to bring back to life the majestic roof and luminous and intricately painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec Synagogue, one of the most magnificent,



Jason Loik painting the ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue.

historic Polish wooden synagogues of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The Browns, who are longtime faculty at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, founded Handhouse (handhouse.org), an organization that creates dynamic projects that explore history by recreating large, nearly forgotten objects.

At one time there were some two hundred of these stunning wooden synagogues dotting the Polish-Lithuanian countryside, built during the Golden Age of Polish Jewry, a little-known piece of Jewish history long overshadowed by the

tragedy of the Holocaust. None of these architectural gems survived the Nazi occupation of Poland.

After nearly a decade of research and building models, the Browns’ big dream to one day recreate one of the synagogues in Poland came to life through a partnership with the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. The nearly full-scale re-created roof and painted ceiling is now dazzling viewers at the new museum where it is the centerpiece of the permanent exhibit. The structure was built and painted entirely by hand using traditional tech- >

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niques, materials, and paints that would have been used at the time.

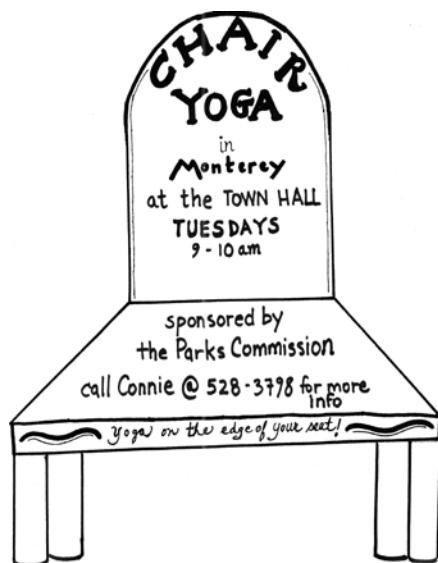
The eighty-five minute film, a Trilium Studios production distributed by the National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University, offers a window into the world of these synagogues with comments by scholars including Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, program director of the core exhibition of the POLIN Museum.

Also featured is Alicia Spence of Amherst, a long-time member of the International Timber Framers Guild based in New Hampshire, which partnered with Handhouse for the construction of the roof structure. Spence served as project manager, overseeing highly skilled professional timber framers and hundreds of students to transform, in just six weeks, two hundred massive logs into timber frames for the roof and ceiling structure.

"I remain in awe," she wrote in an email, "of what is possible to achieve with coordinated human effort."

The Emmel-Wolinsky family has deep roots in Monterey, with several generations summering in a cottage built by Barbara's grandfather. The Browns are also no strangers to the Berkshires and western Massachusetts. Laura earned her MFA at UMass/Amherst. Together, they have created many site specific sculptures for Chesterwood, the National Historic Trust Preservation in Glendale. For more information on *Raise the Roof*, go to polishsynagogue.com

— Penny Schwartz



Bernie Sanders for President Forming a Grassroots Campaign

A group of twenty-one Berkshire residents gathered to view Bernie Sanders's YouTube video announcing his candidacy as a democrat for president. The video articulated his twelve point plan:

- Invest in our crumbling infrastructure and create jobs to rebuild it.
- Transform energy systems away from fossil fuels to preserve the planet.
- Develop new economic models to support workers, instead of giving tax breaks to corporations that ship jobs overseas.
- Make it easier to unionize and bargain for higher wages and benefits.
- Raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25/hr, and to move towards a living wage of \$15/hr. so no full time worker lives in poverty,
- Provide equal pay for women.
- Reform trade policies that move jobs out of the US, closing more than 60,000 factories and costing decent-paying jobs.
- Make college affordable, and provide affordable childcare.
- Break up the big banks.
- Provide universal health care.
- Expand social security, Medicare, Medicaid, and nutrition programs.
- Reform the tax code, and eliminate loopholes that allow profitable corporations to pay little or no taxes.

We were thrilled by his plan and think many in the Berkshires agree that this is what we want our country to do. We learned that as he builds a grassroots campaign, funded

by small contributions from many, he will focus first on Iowa and New Hampshire, the earliest primaries. So at this time he cannot also mount a campaign in Massachusetts. Here he is enlisting the help of Massachusetts Progressive Democrats of America (PDA), chaired by Russell Freedman of Lanesboro, to build his base of supporters. But we want to help get his message out. We want to be the campaign that is discussing serious issues that matter to most people. So right now we invite you to jump on board and support the Bernie Sanders campaign. Their are several simple things you can do immediately:

- Go to the Berkshires for Bernie Facebook page, and LIKE it.
- Go to PDAmerica.org and join the Massachusetts campaign.
- Have a house party like we did to learn more about efforts here.
- Join friends and spread the information to neighbors about Bernie's run.

Call (413-644-8833) if you want to get more involved. We'll figure out what needs to be done together.

—Pat Salomon, MD

Kathy Potoski

Julio Rodriguez

Joyce Scheffey

Transfer Station Summer Hours

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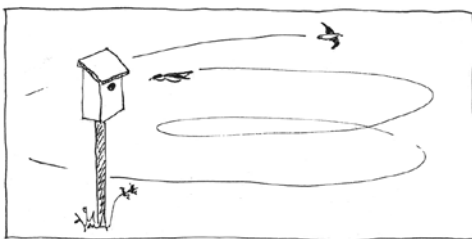
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Bird in the Box Tree Swallows

We enjoy looking at birds, and we entice them closer to our house, our orchard. They are inspiring, beautiful, sometimes understated, and, amazingly, they can fly. Here at our homestead we have knocked together a few nesting boxes, some duck-sized, some smaller. The building plans are often titled “for Bluebirds,” but there are other birds that are cavity nesters. They look for a little dark hole into a tree trunk, or box. Over the years, we have had Bluebirds, Chickadees, House Wrens, all sorts of mice, and Tree Swallows in our boxes. In the bigger one in the swamp we’ve never had a Wood Duck, but once a little Screech Owl moved in.

We folks get blindered by our intentions, sometimes. I will build a nestbox for Bluebirds. Now I will see Bluebirds around here. The result of this boxed thinking (sorry) is that when we see a bird that is blue we feel fulfilled. When we realize that this is a blue bird, not a Bluebird, we may be so unnerved as to take regrettable action. But the bird we see, too beautiful to name like all of them, is blue-green above, with pure white underparts, including the throat right up to the bill. This is a Tree Swallow. In Latin it was once called *Iridoprocne bicolor*. The species name is easy: two colors, white below and indescribable iridescence above. That genus name, *Iri-*

doprocne, is a good attempt. *Irido* means rainbow, which is iridescence, refracted sunlight. But *Procne* refers to the woman in Greek mythology who was turned into a swallow for her own safety and escape after she and her abused sister were about to be offed by the brutal and rapist king of Thrace, Procne’s husband. He had been very bad to Procne’s sister Philomela, but the sisters took a gruesome and maybe worse revenge. The details of this myth do not belong in a story about birds. We may think of birds as awful bullies when they are taking over a nestbox we built for some other bird, but the animals are nothing compared to us, I promise you. For badness, both in myth and in past and present history, we get the prizes.



Emphasizing the good things, as my old pappy used to advise, here is more on the Tree Swallow, now called *Tachycineta bicolor*. These name changes are confusing to us civilians, but the taxonomists have their reasons. I don’t think, in this case, it was about dodging the gory Greek story in which two ladies turn into birds at the end. More likely it was because someone

observant and principled determined that these birds were very like another kind of swallow found out west, and the two should be in the same genus *Tachycineta*, which means “fast mover.” That western cousin is the Violet-Green Swallow and has been called a “fast mover” since I bought my first field guide. In those days, the Tree Swallows were beautiful Greek women, capable of significant family carnage. Now they join the Violet-Greens and fly fast.

They do this every day in our orchard, swooping, dipping, diving. Earlier in the summer they would light on the bicycle-wheel bean trellis for love and twittering. Once, when I hadn’t seen them for a few days, I risked a look in the box. Three eggs, one of which had hatched into a sort of pink and gray blob. I touched it and it was warm, so probably a living thing. Screwing the box back tight, I worried I might have altered the course of evolution, or at least doomed these little birds. No such thing, though. The parents went back to tending them very soon. Since then I have read about a Cornell ornithologist who has been “farming” Tree Swallows for decades. One thing this involves is his opening many boxes and scooping out all the little “altricial” babies (helpless, blind, and without feathers) so he can put tiny bands on their legs. The kids survive, the parents seem not to mind, and this way we can find out if the same birds come back year after year. We may also find out where they spend the winter, if anyone is catching them down there to look at their bands.

Tree Swallow live on insects, mostly, so they can’t spend the winter in Monterey where it’s so cold. They do take a chance on an early Massachusetts return, though, sticking to the coast, because they are able to eat the bayberries that grow there. In March they can find the berries from the previous year, so they show up then in Plymouth sometimes, and on Cape Cod. They can also stay late over there, until

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November, because the new berry crop stays on the bushes. Here in the highlands, we won't see Tree Swallows until the middle of April. If we get a cold wet spell then, our birds will head for coastal bayberries for a few days, then come back when the sun comes out, to swoop around our orchard, grabbing insects on the wing.

Tree Swallows often fly low over lakes and rivers, finding good hunting there. They also skim their bodies against the surface for bathing and then rise quickly, shaking off drops of water.

Tree Swallows flock up for migration, sometimes in the hundreds of thousands. They gather in the marshes along the shore and then fly very high to head south along the coast. Edward Howe Forbush, a former Massachusetts state ornithologist, describes such a flock over the marsh near Indian River in southern Florida.

"A huge black cloud drifted rapidly in from the west, and as it came over the marsh it began to roll and gyrate as if tossed about by strong, erratic winds. Then we knew that it must be a vast flight of birds. As the mass veered about over the center of the marsh, there shot down from near its center a long black tongue, forming a column which, when it reached the reed-tops, spread out with a terrific roar of wings until the whole phenomenon resembled a great black cloud connected with a black sea by a water-spout of equal blackness, and down this spout the cloud itself discharged into the marsh. When the last of the birds were down, I waded far into the marsh until I came to the edge of the roosting flock, and found the tops of the reeds covered with Tree Swallows." (Forbush, *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Norwood Press, 1929.)

—Bonner McAllester

From the Meetinghouse Pigs?

Even as a girl I had a soft spot for the earthy scent of a clean barn full of horses or cows. But pigs? My mom hated pigs. Dirty and smelly, she insisted. My childhood forays into various western New York chicken coops convinced me that pigs hadn't cornered the market in either category, but still. Except as bacon, pork chops, pork loin or sausage, pigs stayed firmly outside my known world.

So when the Gould Farm pig enclosure showed up along Route 23 and Curtis Road a few years ago, I didn't think too much of it. Pigs, yeah. Mud, yeah. There they are. But when my friend Alecz and I drove past them on our way to the general store, she squealed in delight. (Yes, she does—think "valley girl" with keys to a new Corvette convertible.)

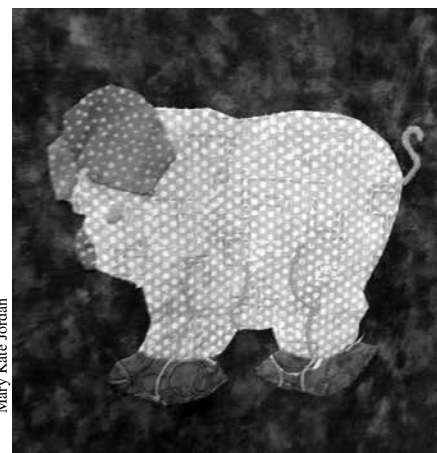
"Pigs! I love pigs! After lunch let's go see the pigs!"

"Ohhh... Kay..." I said. (My mom's first name was Kay. Was I agreeing to visit the pigs? or calling on my deceased mother to activate any celestial connections she may now have at her disposal to quickly provide another activity?)

Nothing celestial happened. After lunch I parked behind another car and followed Alecz to the slim wire fence separating us from the huge pig she was already petting. A teenager crouched nearby, also petting a pig. They and the pigs looked happy as, well, you know.

"My niece," the driver of the other car said, nodding to the teenager.

"My friend," I replied with a nod to Alecz. We smiled in perfect understanding as Ann Canning and I introduced ourselves and discovered we were compatible neighbors. I'd never suspected that pigs could



Mary Kate Jordan

This pig was one of many animals in a quilt the Monterey Piecemakers made years ago. Pattern source unknown.

be an extension of hospitality, let alone a catalyst for neighborliness.

A trek up the road to Gould Farm's pig barn dispelled another myth for me that day. Pigs were muddy, but these seemed clean under the day's mud. And the little ones were, well, you know—cute. As cute as the pig block in the animal quilt the Monterey Piecemakers made years ago to celebrate the arrival of Liz and Jesse Goodman's first son, Toby.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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No kidding... and good luck!

Monterey Trout Fishing

According to Dana Ohman, director of the state fish stocking at the MassWild-life western district office in Pittsfield, approximately five hundred rainbow trout and six hundred brown trout are annually stocked in Lake Garfield. The Konkapot River is also classified as a public access water and is periodically stocked during the spring and summer months.

The fish in the pools behind the post office and general store are historically understood to be reserved for children, as in other small Berkshire towns. The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery (berksfish.com) also stocks brook trout in the lower pond at the hatchery for children up to eleven years old. The hatchery also sponsors monthly Monterey fishing derbies, three of which remain this year. They will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, July 11, August 22 (in conjunction with MontereyFest), and September 12.

Youngsters may also fish there any day if accompanied by an adult. All the hatchery asks is that they sign in at the office to obtain a fishing badge that is then returned to report number of fish taken. The hatchery also reaches out to youngsters through fish and game clubs in Berkshire County by stocking our brook trout for derbies. According to hatchery manager Jeff Mosher, a number of clubs have added the fishing derby to their schedules.

Each species of stocking trout was chosen for its own unique sporting and



survival qualities. The rainbow trout, which originally came from an area around McCloud, California, is revered for its colorful rainbow body stripe and especially for its aggressive bait-taking and fighting. When hooked, for example by an artfully lofted Hendrickson dry fly (as in my drawing), a spectacle begins with great leaping out of the water and its colorful sides flashing in the light.

The brown trout was brought here from Bavaria, Germany in the early 1900s because it was adapted, to warmer water temperatures for streams and rivers that were being exposed to sunlight by the cutting down of waterside forest stands. Beaver dams were also slowing water flow for even more exposure. All over New England, habitat for the indigenous brook trout had been diminished where once a nice fish could be caught behind almost every boulder in streams such as the Konkapot. New England trout fishing was a big attraction, and it was fishing that brought wealthy financier John Sullivan Scully here, where he subsequently founded a cold water fishery in 1916 and called it a trout hatchery.

Lake Garfield, named after President Garfield who fished there with Ray

Tryon's grandfather, William Steadman, together with Brewer Pond also offered a diverse selection of warmer water species of perch, pickerell, bass, and hornpout. Near Bull Head Rock, a Monterey fishing landmark, fishing by children of all ages is in the tradition of Norman Rockwell's illustrations for Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer* and *Saturday Evening Post* covers. Perhaps his best fishing illustration was a portly, elderly would-be angler from the city with an empty creel, reaching for his wallet to buy a nice string of trout from a lad looking like Huckleberry Finn.

Just as Rockwell captured a fishing mindset to tell a tall fish tale, so I too would have you picture in your mind the history of our hatchery with an aquatic mission to preserve and perpetuate a traditional Monterey pastime.

— George B. Emmons

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Bear and the Snails

A Fable

Once upon a time there was a very old and very lonely bear. All of the bear's friends and brothers and sisters had long passed, and its children, as children are wont to do, had moved away to far away places. And this wasn't the only thing about the bear's life that was bad. A long time ago, when the bear was in his prime, a hunter had shot him in the leg. Though the bear was able to get away, he was left with a loathsome limp. The only real positive aspect of the bear's life was his home, which was a small cave on the top of a hillside overlooking a beautiful river valley.

One day, after the bear had spent the day at the river feeding on salmon, he came home to find a family of snails in his cave. At first, the bear was confused. He approached the snails and sniffed them. They seemed to be asleep. Then he licked them up off the ground and began to chew them in his mouth, but they were slimy and disgusting, so he spit them out! "What are you?" asked Bear. "Where did you come from and why do you taste so disgusting?"

"We are the snail family," said the father snail. "We come from the forest where we only eat plants. As for your last question, I can only reply by saying that we taste disgusting so that predators like you won't eat us."

Bear peered at the snail for a long time. "So you aren't afraid of me?" he asked.

"On the contrary," said the father snail. "We would like to live here with you in your cave. It is a lovely home."

Bear thought to himself, and decided that he was very lonely and the company might do him some good. So he allowed the snails to stay.

However, the snails began to multiply, and the cave was rather small. It became difficult for Bear because, when he slept, he had to be careful not to roll and crush the snails. Also, he had to be extra careful to avoid stepping on the snails when he wanted to leave the cave, which was very hard because of Bear's loathsome limp.

One day, Bear was leaving his cave to get a drink of water when by accident he stepped on several snails, squashing them. The snails became uproarious. They decided that Bear must be executed for his crime, so they jumped on top of him and began to eat him.

"Please!" cried Bear. "Don't eat me! I didn't mean to step on your compatriots. It was because I have this limp from when a hunter shot me many years ago!"

The head snail decided that he would

let Bear live. However, the bear must leave the cave and never come back. Bear lumbered dejectedly toward the exit of the cave. Just as he was leaving, a baby snail perked up and said, "Wait! Don't leave quite yet." The baby snail approached Bear and began climbing up his leg. It burrowed its way under Bear's skin. Bear was in agony, but he trusted the baby snail. Finally, the baby snail came out of Bear's leg carrying the hunter's bullet on his back. Bear began to flex his leg. For the first time in years, there was no pain.

"Oh, thank you, little snail! How can I ever repay you?"

The baby snail said, "You can repay me by staying." Then the baby snail turned to its father and said, "Isn't that right, Father?"

The father smiled and said to Bear, "Well, it seems you have a guardian angel. You can stay, Bear. All is forgiven."


And so Bear stayed, and he and the snails shared the cave for many years.

—Daniel Senser




Maureen Banner

Now *THIS* is a frog. Who blinked first?



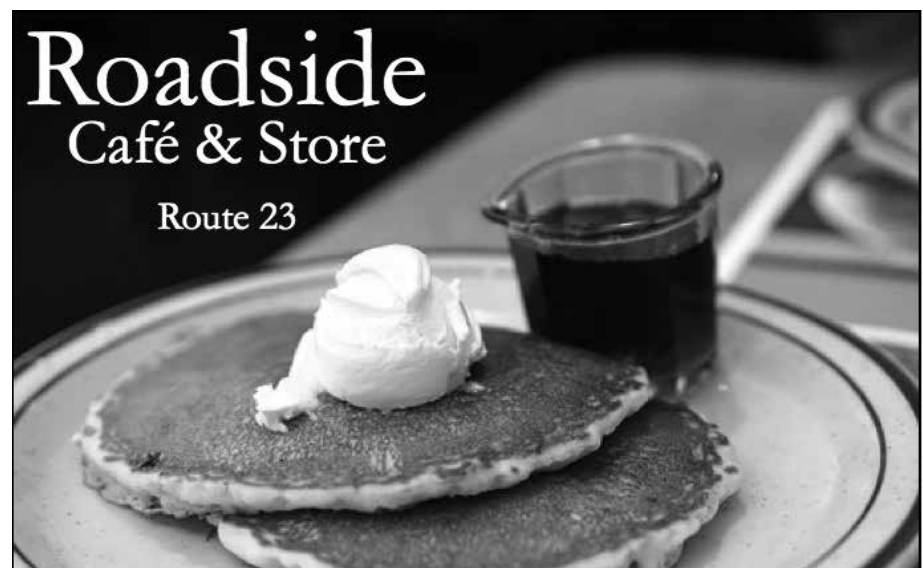
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Wildlife Report Mid-May to Mid-June

Janet Jensen saw a baby porcupine crossing Route 23 one evening in late May, and about a month later Michelle Arnot was driving on the detour route to Rawson Brook Farm and saw a handsome adult, of whom she got this photo.



Michelle Arnot

Bears this past month are reported by Elizabeth Maschmeyer, who saw a big one trying to get into the trash can just outside her bedroom window, and by Maureen Banner, on Griswold Road, who was on her bike when two bears crossed the road. One was an adult, the other a cub, smaller than the poodle who was attached to Maureen's bike by a leash. The dog never noticed the bears, nor vice versa, as bike, woman, and dog backed away. Wendy Benjamin saw an adult bear with four cubs in Tyringham at the end of May and got a photo of one cub starting up a sugar maple in a yard on Main Road, in the downtown area. I also have Myrna Schneiderman's account of a bear on their deck on Hupi Road, early in June. They no longer have their birdfeeder installed there, but the bear came, hopeful.

Maureen, of the bears-and-bicycle story in mid-May, saw more bears in early June. One was in the meadow beside Tyringham Road, down by the bottom where it crosses the valley, and the other was on Fairview Road, Monterey, a few hours later. Both bears were "small, healthy, and young-looking."

Meanwhile, in her home garden, Maureen has a large green frog (p. 21) under the lettuce and a small toad guarding the front steps of the house. Ron Goldfinger was driving home from work on Tyringham Road on May 20 and came upon a moose standing in the middle of the road. Ron got out of the car and walked slowly toward the moose, who was fifty feet away. The moose walked slowly away.

In the bird world, Steve Snyder told of a nest under the bridge on Diane's Trail, and I was happy to go see it, with little phoebes inside and parents nearby.

Kit Patten called late in May with a wonderful account of a hummingbird at his place, who takes a shower in the hose spray, when Kit holds it out for him. As Kit put it, "I felt like he was just a little friend."

In late June Wendy Jensen and Stephen Moore watched upwards of twenty young and mature bobolinks celebrating flight over a portion of Scheffey's field along Wellman Road.

In the world of insects, we have noticed a few tent caterpillars here, of the forest tent caterpillar variety. They "march en masse," according to David L. Wagner, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, but don't spin those familiar tents we see in the orchard. East of here, along Route 90, between Sturbridge and Charlemont,

the gypsy moth caterpillars have arrived and defoliated many trees, leaving odd, thin, green leaf midribs sticking out along the twigs and branches. You don't see this look when the leaves are off in winter.

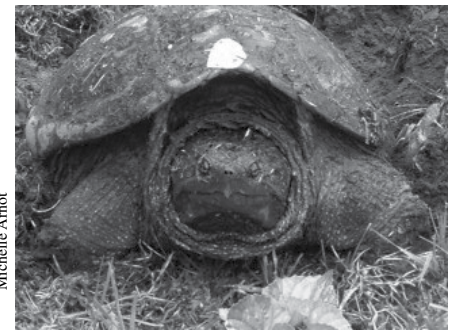


Ed Salsitz

Thank you to Ed Salsitz for this lovely photo of a polyphemous moth, also called a giant silkworm moth. The Silkmoth of textile fame is a different creature, though in the same family.

Keep on sending me your notes and sightings. Many thanks.

—Bonner McAllester
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Michelle Arnot



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Looking Forward

They just might be the saddest, most disturbing words in the English language: "I have nothing to look forward to." That's probably because all of us find pleasure in our lives when we have much to look forward to. Looking back, which we all do, presents a mixed picture, wonderful memories but also disappointments and "might have beens." Looking forward, on the other hand, is typically upbeat, filled with anticipatory delights coming your way.

Looking forward encompasses a time frame that can range from several hours to weeks and months and well beyond. Daily we're likely to look forward to our lunch break, to the end of the workday, to rejoining our family, and to getting into bed to watch favorite television programs. "TGIF!" tells us that the end of the workweek is a time as eagerly anticipated as the weekend when we're able to relax, take in a movie, head off to a favorite restaurant, enjoy a day trip, watch our teams in action on television, or be with friends and relatives whose company we enjoy.

Considering the longer term, there are the holidays to look forward to, major family events (anniversaries, significant birthdays, births, graduations, marriages, etc.), as well as vacations, concerts, and sporting events. There is also the purchase of a home and, for some, prison release, or

the end of a military tour-of-duty. Stretching the time horizon even further, most of us look forward to retirement, to pursuing hobbies, to lengthy vacation trips, to grandchildren, and, in the end, hopefully to our ascent into heaven.

While we live in the moment, looking forward to the future becomes very much a part of our present and has considerable bearing on the way we perceive our lives, our state of mind, and how we manage when times are difficult. Looking forward to specific events helps spark our imaginations, allowing us to relish a future happening many times over as the time draws near (the intervening period often regarded as an unwelcome delay). It's what buoys our spirits, sustains us, helps to infuse our sometimes-lackluster present with delights and satisfaction the future promises to provide.

—Richark Skolnik



Almost there...

Safe Boating Rules

The Friends of Lake Garfield would like to remind everyone about the state of Massachusetts safe boating regulations. These rules help to promote the safety of everyone, and help to conserve the lake environment.

- No one under 12 years of age may operate any motorboat, unless accompanied onboard by an adult (18+). Those age 12 to 15 may, only if they have passed an approved safe-boating course or if accompanied by an adult (18+). No one under the age of 16 may operate a PWC (personal water craft). No exceptions.
 - Be courteous to nonpowered boats as they have the right-of-way.
 - No watercraft shall be operated recklessly or dangerously.
 - No waterskiing/boarding/tubing without at least two people in the boat (driver and spotter).
 - Always travel in a counterclockwise direction when pulling a skier/rider and at other times when possible.
 - No operating a motorboat or PWC within 150 feet of any swimmer, waterskier, dock, float, or mooring area, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way. If you must do so, no operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph). This would include most of the small (western) portion of the lake.
 - No waterskiing/boarding/tubing on the small portion of the lake.
 - No wake in the channel. No operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph).
 - A skipper is responsible for damage caused by his/her wake, so reduce speed when appropriate.
 - US Coast Guard-approved life vests are required for each person.
 - No operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Report all unsafe boating activities to the Monterey Police (528-3211). Try to get the registration number of the offending boat. We've listed the most important boating rules. For more information about Massachusetts safe boating regulations: <http://boat-ed.com/ma/handbook>.

— Friends of Lake Garfield



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June 2015

Once again our readers (and you know who you are) responded to our annual appeal. This helps us with rising mailing costs and longer issues. Twenty-eight page issues are now the norm versus twenty-four pages. Thank you all.

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In the Gallery Aug 8 - 30
Robin Tost: "Not Your Grandmother's Quilt - Fabrications in Metal"
Opening Reception Sat, Aug 8 2-4 PM

SAT, AUG 8 4 PM
A Sandisfield Forum on History and American Culture - Bill Cohn on American Culture and Wartime Propaganda \$10

SAT, AUG 8 8PM
Easy Ridin' Papas \$15



Rookie baseball players ages five to seven from Monterey, Otis, Sandisfield, Great Barrington, and surrounding towns completed their spring season. The all-stars played weekly games at beautiful Greene Park in Monterey using tennis balls and wide "Flintstones" bats. Players were introduced to hitting, catching, running, throwing, sportsmanship, and the pleasures of playing ball in the park with friends. Over twenty players participated in the program headed up by Monterey's Coach Jim Edelman.

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. We use this page each month in the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. We welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, July 6 and 20, at 9 a.m. (NEW MEETING TIME). Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, July 14, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesdays, July 8 and 22 at 10 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, July 9, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, July 9, 9 to 11:30 a.m. by appointment. (Please call 528-1598). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, July 1, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, July 9 and 23, 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, July 6, 13, 20, and 27, 4:15 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Office/Town Hall Closings

The town hall will be closed July 3 and 4 for Independence Day.

The administrative assistant's office will be closed July 1, 2, and 10.

The town clerk's office will be closed on July 7, 9, and 11.

Individual office closings are posted on

the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend calling ahead.

Other News

Electrical Consolidation

Update on the Electrical Consolidation Agreement: Last month, Steve Weisz represented Monterey at a hearing between the Mass DOER (Department of Energy Resources) and Colonial Energy. This hearing was to answer questions and receive a timeline for Monterey's participation in a program of "Electrical Consolidation" that may lower your electric bills. Steve was told to expect a final determination by the state, around the first of the year. More details about the program will be reported when we get closer to the determination date.

Transfer Station Fees

On July 1, 2015, Monterey is reinstituting fees for bulky waste at the transfer station. All fees must be paid for with a check made payable to the Town of Monterey. (Once a system is setup, we will accept most major Credit/Debit cards). NO CASH will be accepted at the transfer station.

Schedule of Fees:

- Household trash & recycling can be disposed of free-of-charge with your dump sticker.
- The first barrel containing bulky waste (construction debris & items that will not fit in your kitchen trash can) is free of charge. Additional barrels are \$5/barrel. A truckload and/or small trailer (4x8) is \$20.
- Tires without rims are \$5 each. (Tires with rims will not be accepted.)
- Any car without a sticker must purchase a one-time "walk-up" permit for \$10 from the transfer station managers, Dave Gilmore or Ben Pac. (See p. 13 for photo.)

Route 23 Construction

Palmer Construction will continue to work on shoring up the steep slope areas through the first week of July (see photos on p. 15) This means one-lane travel in those sections. There will be delays and your patience is required. Please adjust your travel time appropriately. Keep in mind that the police officers are there

to make sure everyone (drivers, cyclists, construction workers, and police officers) is safe. Please—slow down and follow the officers' directions. And remember, this is a legal construction zone, so driving violations can carry higher consequences.

The town of Monterey will send out an email update on Friday for the upcoming week. This will allow all our residents to plan for the delays. If you would like to be included on the email list please go to montereyma.gov and click on "Subscribe to News" in the left-hand menu and then check "News & Updates." This is an opt-in service so you will need to confirm you wanted, to sign up for this. In addition we will set up a recorded message that will give out the information to those without email. Questions or concerns can be directed to the select board or the chief of police by calling 528-1443 x114 and 116 respectively.

New Marlboro Road Bridge

Plans are underway to address the closure of the New Marlboro Road bridge. Although discouraged by the attitude of the state towards our problem, we are being pro-active. We have found a number of companies that make modular bridges for both temporary and permanent use. Once we get some of the necessary engineering out of the way, our plan is to rent a temporary bridge and have it installed by the middle of July. This will allow us to get the engineering plans finished and submitted to the state for approval. The temporary bridge will get us through the winter if need be, but our hope is to complete the permanent bridge before the snow flies, dragging the state DOT kicking and screaming along with us. Hold on to your hats. It's going to get interesting!

—Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
montereyma.gov

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings, 4:15 p.m.. See p. 26.

Every Tuesday: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Every Tuesday, except July 14: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Through Saturday, August 8: *clay.light.tea*, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, see p. 9.

Every Saturday in July and August: our Lady of the Hills Chapel, mass at 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 5:

Friends of Lake Garfield meeting, 9:30 a.m., town beach.

Community center tag sale drop-off, noon to 3, see p. 7.

Township No. 1 Day, 1 to 4 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, see p. 12.

Thursday, July 9:

Council on Aging, foot care clinic, 9 to 11:30 a.m., town hall meeting room. Call Maryellen Brown at 518-1598 for an appointment.

Community center tag sale drop-off, noon to 3, see p. 7.

Saturday, July 11:

Berkshire Hatchery fishing derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Monterey Library program, 10:30 a.m., Ed the Wizard, see p. 8.

Tag sale to benefit Monterey Community Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See p. 10.

Sunday, July 12: Appalachian Trail Conservancy day hike to Ice Gulch, off Lake Buel Road. See p.10.

Thursday, July 16: Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m. at town hall.

Saturday, July 18:

Wildflowers and field botany workshop, 10 to noon, Monterey Community Center—register at 528-1144. See. p 10.

Monterey library program, 10:30 a.m. singing with Tom Sieling. See p. 8.

Bidwell history talk—Jonathan Edwards, “The Mohican Influence on Jonathan Edwards.” 10 a.m. Tyringham Union Church, Main Road., Tyringham. \$15, members \$10. See p.13.

Lenox Contra Dance, live music by Tidal Wave, with calling by Will Mentor, 8 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. All dances taught. Lenox Community Cen-

ter, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Sunday, July 19: Council on Aging, meet at Wahconah Park, Pittsfield—game and picnic. See p. 9.

Monday, July 20: *Monterey News* deadline

Thursday, July 23: *clay.light.tea* Japanese tea ceremony, Monterey Library 6 p.m. See p. 8.

Saturday, July 25:

Annual Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monterey Library.

Appalachian Trail Community Celebration, Benedict Pond. See p. 10.

Bidwell history talk—“50 Years in an Indian Town: Reflection on the Stockbridge Experience,” by Bonney Hartley. 10 a.m. Tyringham Union Church, Main Road., Tyringham. \$15, members \$10. See p.13.

Outdoor Yoga with Connie Wilson, 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., Monterey Community Center See p. 10.

Steak Roast, to support the Monterey Fire Company, 5 to 7 p.m. See p. 4.

Monday, July 27: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library, will discuss *Last Days of Summer*, a baseball novel set in the 1940s, by Steve Kluger. Please join us.

Saturday, August 1:

Monterey Library program, 10:30 a.m., John Porcino, singer and storyteller. See p.8.

Family Movie Night, Greene Park. See p. 14.

Monday thru Friday, August 3 to 7:

Swim lessons. Sponsored by the Monterey Parks Commission. See p. 14.

Saturday, August 8:

Friends of Lake Garfield meeting, 9:30 a.m., town beach.

Select board meeting with second-home owners, 10 a.m. at town hall.

Monterey Library program, 10:30 a.m., Jim Snack, magician. See p. 8.

Bidwell Museum History Talk, Author David M. Powers on William Pynchon, founder of Springfield, MA. 10 a.m. Tyringham Union Church, Main Road., Tyringham. \$15, members \$10. See p.13.

Save the Dates

August 15: 25th anniversary party for the Bidwell House Museum. See p. 12.

August 22:

MontereyFest. See p. 14.

Berkshire Hatchery Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

September 12: Berkshire Hatchery Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

September 24: Possible Council on Aging trip on the Erie Canal. Stay tuned.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

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Contributions from local artists this month:

*Goat artist, Hannah Bracken, pp. 8, 9; George Emmons, p. 18;
Bonner McAllester, p. 20.*

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