

MONTEREY NEWS

May 2020
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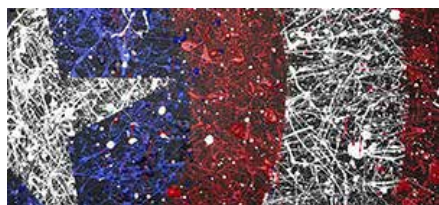
Pick up locations for now: Firehouse Pavilion and the Transfer Station



The coffee club is meeting online, folks are playing daily bridge with friends, teenagers are finding ways to keep active, and folks are finding ways to help each other. See page 3 and beyond.

"A fleeting, purposeful joy fills human beings in the face of disasters... Everyday concerns and societal strictures vanish. A strange kind of liberation fills the air. People rise to the occasion. Social alienation seems to vanish."

Weathering the Storms page 16



We are always reading one another, and we are surprisingly often correct in our reading, because we're reading texture, not just text.

From the Meetinghouse page 22

But, when the reality started setting in, I think everyone, including us students, realized this certainly wouldn't be anything close to an extended summer vacation.

Teenagers in the Pandemic page 3

Do rivers have legal standing? Sheffield is testing the waters.

The Rights of Rivers page 21



Amidon Music and Stories page 5

If we were conscious of it all the time, we'd need to nap as much as babies do.
From the Meetinghouse page 18

"Monty John McCarron was born on the 22nd April 2020. He's named after the town of Monterey which took such great care of us during the COVID-19 pandemic."
Welcoming Monty McCarron page 11

Fill it out! Go to [My2020Census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) today if you haven't already.
US Census page 2

There are a number of local initiatives going to make and provide face masks for folks who need them. If you need some masks but might have trouble paying for them, call anyway and masks will be provided.
Face Masks page 6

It's spring—time to think about new growth and positive actions. Please join us at the Monterey Community Garden.
Community Gardens page 10



There are numerous food options available for those in our community needing extra support at this time, especially our senior population, those who have lost their jobs, and those otherwise financially struggling.
Free Food Access page 7

Need some help? Want to offer some help? Connect through Monterey Community Aid.

Monterey Community Aid page 26

Dennis Lynch

US Census My2020Census.gov

This month we will concentrate on the US census.

April 1 was census day—that was the day everyone was supposed to be counted. At the time of this writing, the response rate of Monterey is the lowest in Berkshire County, and 343 out of 349 among towns in Massachusetts. The rate as of the end of April is 13.5% return. Monterey will never get to 100% because the rate is of households responding to the census out of the total residences in Monterey. As we all are aware, there are many more second homes in Monterey than full-time residents. However, in 2010, Monterey's self-response return rate was 39%, so there is a lot of room for improvement. The way in which the census bureau has chosen to get the word out also is contributing to this poor return.

Everyone should be aware that the preferred filing method is online at My2020Census.gov. To facilitate this, most Americans received an invitation through the mail to respond. But it was not mailed to PO boxes or to residences with addresses that don't match the physical location. Most people in Monterey get their mail at their PO box, if they even get it in Monterey. If you don't receive your mail in Monterey you won't be getting the invitation in the mail.

However, if you somehow received that letter, there is an assigned Census Identification (ID) which you enter into the online census form. That verifies to the census bureau that you live at that address. The other way in which the census tried to reach people, especially in areas like our town, was by direct delivery to your door of the invitation. They actually started to deliver those just before the virus shut down all door-to-door efforts. Some of you may have gotten that paper form. That ID works just as well as the mailed one. I have heard from some that they received neither invitation. Unfortunately since you

don't have paperwork, you won't be able to fill out and return a paper form. Even so, the preferred filing option is online. The site is secure, and once you enter the information and submit it, the device by which you sent it deletes your information and does not keep any record.

For those who have their Census ID, please put my2020census.gov in your browser and follow the directions. The census consists of a few questions that take about ten minutes to answer. Someone told me they must have filled out the wrong form because it was so short. This is the shortest census in quite a while, so don't worry. One thing to know is that if your session filling out the form times out, you will need to start over. You don't have to rush, but don't start it and then think you will finish it after dinner.

If you do not have the ID, you can still go online. Underneath "Login" it says to click if you do not have the census ID. Please click! They may or may not follow up later because of the lack of an ID, but at least your data will be recorded. If you have not received an invitation with an ID, it is time to get online and respond. Do not wait any longer!

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions that might be of help.

Some of you have filled out, even very recently, the American Community Survey, which was also sent out by the census bureau. That does not take the place of the 2020 census. You still need to fill out the actual 2020 census.

Even if you do not know if someone at your residence has already filled out the form, please fill it out. If there are

two responses from the same address the computer will take care of it.

College students and people who are incarcerated have already been counted at their institutions.

If there is a birth at the residence, and it occurred on April 1, please record that information. The rule for someone who is deceased is different. If someone who passed away during the last year was a full-time resident then that person is to be counted.

If someone was traveling as of April 1, but clearly Monterey is their residence, fill it out as though they were here April 1.

A recent poll said only 75% of Americans planned on filling out the census. There is a distrust of the government, and many believe there will be negative consequences to filling out the form. First, there is no citizenship question on the census. So—if you live in Monterey—fill it out. Second, by law, this information cannot be used for any other purpose. That means you do not jeopardize your benefits, whatever they maybe, or your voter registration, or your tax returns. Nothing bad can come of this. Fill it out!

It is important for many reasons to count all the residents of Monterey. Congressional seats, grants, and all kinds of statistics rely on the number generated by the census. Every person counts wherever they are, but even a handful of people missed in Monterey will make a big difference to the town since we are fewer than one thousand residents, not many thousands or millions of people.

Fill it out! Go to My2020Census.gov today if you haven't already.

—Mark Makuc

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Monterey, MA — David Brown, Owner

Teenagers in the Time of the Pandemic

An adult right now might be finding challenges with work, scheduling, caring for dependents, and it's no exaggeration to say your life has been turned upside down. Even getting food can feel like we're in a dystopian movie. So what are teenagers doing in all this?

Just over a month ago I was practicing for the tennis season, thinking about Driver's Ed, and even looking at prom dresses. Now, my life looks a lot more like Zoom classes and staying inside the house. When this all began as a two-week school closure, a lot of my friends were excited. I know that personally, it felt like I got more sleep in one week than I had gotten the previous month. But, when the reality started setting in, I think everyone, including us students, realized this certainly wouldn't be anything close to an extended summer vacation.

You may have seen the school bus making the round every two weeks, dropping off remote learning packets. Our days are filled with a hodgepodge of spotty Zoom classes and printed out packets. Most classes have the materials both on Google Classroom and paper copies, but let me know when you find a way to print out gym class. Some teachers are using online learning platforms like Kahn Academy for math, or Commonlit for English, but nothing can replace a face-to-face Socratic seminar. I have to hand it to some of the teachers: our chorus director, Mr. Clark, found recordings of our songs and has us sing along, and on occasion we send him our own solo attempts—this would be passable, except for my classmates who have no internet connection at home. While most have tried to stick to the curriculum, it's complicated with the mix of people who have broadband and those who don't at their homes. As for extracurriculars, there've been no robotics, Interact, SADD, student government, or Radio Show to be heard of. It was a joy to have our sports uniforms come in—and then five hours later, Governor Baker announced school would be closed for the rest of the year.

There's no doubt been a loss of camaraderie and normal socialization. It's especially strange, considering I've

had classes with the same people for five years. I miss everything, from the people interrupting just to get a word in, to the meaningful discussions that would often spontaneously arise. Just as much as I miss my friends, I wish I could see my teachers. Often, by the end of the year we know just as much about the teachers as we do each other, although sometimes not willingly. I even miss getting crushed by the crowd walking off the bus, and especially our Economics class fish.

While this has certainly changed my high school career, the saddest part of my sophomore year will be a rushed goodbye to the Class of 2020. I feel worst about their missed senior experience. I know even when there is a graduation ceremony, nothing can replace their last few weeks of high school. I wish they could have had one last opportunity to try to beat Lee in tennis, complain about marching in the parade, or high five our principal in the morning. The hardest goodbyes are the ones that never happened—next year we will go into school with a new set of faces to replace the people we saw in the hallways every day.

The truth is, I have it good. I have all the roads to walk and bike, and hikes to hike. I've enjoyed getting outside and spending time with my siblings (perhaps too much time.) Fortunately, I don't have the biggest problems to worry about, like keeping my job or being in a high-risk population. I know many others have suffered so much, so I am truly grateful for my current situation. I certainly miss normal life, but I think we all do—it's worth the sacrifices knowing that we're doing our part. We don't know how this




Nadia Makuc

Gym Class: Lake Garfield Edition

will fit into the story of our lives, but it's a chapter sure to be remembered.

—Nadia Makuc

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Monterey Coffee Club Goes Bi-Coastal

The Monterey Coffee Club recently joined the ranks of many people and organizations in an effort to stay in touch with their members during the nationwide pandemic and social distancing.

During past winter seasons, many members become “snowbirds” and take flight to warmer climes including Florida and even California. Unlike the typical morning meetings in the basement of the Monterey Church, the group decided to have their morning chat via Zoom to see if the latest interactive technology really worked as well as many people have said.

More than half of the club members were able to attend the online gathering for almost an hour. As usual the conversation ranged over a variety of interests including the happenings in town, the current status of the Monterey General Store renovations, the social distancing requirements, the upcoming town election and annual meeting, and, of course, the latest golf scores of the members who were lucky enough to “go south” for the winter.

Coffee Club President Steve Kahn was so impressed with the technology that he called for weekly gatherings and said, “Although we would rather get together in the basement of the church in town, our first time using this technology was so good that we are planning to set up weekly meetings with our members to continue to enjoy the friendship and mostly the laughter that brought us together over a cup of coffee in the first place.”

Let’s all hope that we all stay well and that the coffee club members can meet each other in person again before the next winter season. Be well, Monterey.

—Dennis Lynch

Editor’s Note: I can’t help but wonder if they are filling the donation can with virtual bucks or bitcoins...



The Monterey Bridge Group, which met at the Monterey community center on Tuesdays and Fridays prior to the coronavirus, now gathers frequently at bridgebase.com on the internet. Thanks to organizer Kyle Pierce and Relaxed Bridge Club host Roy Carwile, players from Monterey and surrounding towns meet almost everyday at 1 p.m. in the comfort and quiet (no talking in bridge) of their own homes. Monterey players plan in advance to meet at the website. Lots of fun and impressive use of the technology from a “not such a techie crowd.” The activity is free and open to all levels of players —Steve Graves

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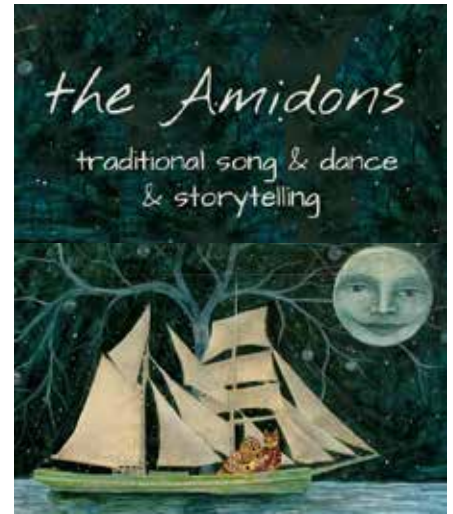
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MONTEREY NEWS

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 Firehouse Pavilion



Amidon Music Music & Activities for Children

Mary Alice and I have been using our Covid-19 time at home to film and record some of the work we have been doing with children over the years: storytelling, picture books with music, fingerplays for young children, singing games, and other music/movement activities. We hope that these might be useful for children at home and for teachers doing online teaching. We are also including a few select stories and activities from other folks.

We have put all the activities on one page on our website. The easiest way to get to this page is by going to our home page at amidonmusic.com and clicking on the link "Stories & Music Activities for Children At Home."

We will be adding activities to the webpage daily. Please feel free to pass this around.

Here's to staying safe, healthy, and sane,

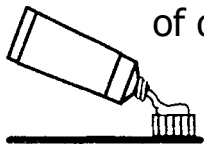
—Peter (and Mary Alice)
amidonmusic.com
amidonpeter@gmail.com

My name is Shira Sawyer, and I am an eighth grade student at Mount Everett. Since school has been closed, I have filled my time with homework, riding my bike outside, playing with my sisters, lots of Zoom calls, and lots of art. I love painting and with all this free time, I find myself doing lots of art. Most of my paintings are of Captain America, but I also enjoy painting things for my friends. Thank you!

— Shira Sawyer

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Tracking Pollinators

Do you want to learn about your backyard or do something lockdown-friendly with your kids? Check out this pollinator tracking sheet from the Philadelphia Orchard Project: bit.ly/2wyv3gM.

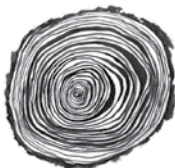
Tracking pollinators can be a great way to practice your scientific observational skills. And you'll get to know your own yard a little better!

—Joe Makuc

Editor's Note: The Philadelphia Orchard Project has extensive resources for folks who have home orchards and would like to learn more about identifying issues, and managing their trees.

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Face Masks

As many people know, there are a number of local initiatives going to make and provide face masks for folks who need them. A local Monterey group, the Monterey Mask Brigade has just recently joined up with the Berkshire Mutual Aid network. If you need some masks but might have trouble paying for them, call anyway and masks will be provided.

Monterey Mask Brigade

A group of Monterey volunteer stitchers are working separately, in their own homes, to sew masks for health care providers and civilians.

Carly Detterman, Baystate Medical Center nurse practitioner and midwife; Jennie Andrews, Fairview Hospital emergency room nurse; and Wendy Tryon, Berkshire School nurse, have let us know how we can help support employees and others serving those workplaces. Folks who are either donating fabric, researching mask patterns, delivering materials, and/or sewing include: Ellen Coburn, Nancy Kleban, Susan Cain, Mary Kate Jordan, Wendy Tryon, Julie Neu, Elizabeth Silk, Dianna Downing, Sally Petrick, Roy Carwile, Andrea Dubrow, John Kistler, and Barbara Cohen. More real good news is that there are others out there like Christine Martin and Emily Johnson (and likely others!) stitching up a storm independently.



Two ways of wearing a mask that has cloth ties. —from Suayla.com

We salute our stitchers and of course our medical providers who are on the front lines. Let us know if you need a mask or want to help sew or donate fabric, elastic, or filters. Masks are available both for front line workers and anyone else who needs one. Leave us a message through Berkshire Mutual Aid at (413) 200-8545.

Boxxa Vine Masks

You can order adult (\$6) or children's (\$4) masks being made in Monterey. Place an order through BoxxaVine.com and they will be available either by being shipped or picked up inside the Monterey firehouse pavilion. Lots of fun fabrics for kids and adult masks are available and updated. For more information, email at facemasks@boxxavine.com.

Suayla Masks

You can get plenty of information on making your own mask through suayla.com and their community mask coalition. You can download a pattern, and instructions if you need them. Go to Suayla.com.

Mask Usage

Following is some information recently put together to hand out with the masks, particularly the masks that were made with pockets to accommodate filters:

1. Wash this mask in warm soapy water before using and daily after use (or if it becomes damp). Dry the mask thoroughly.
2. Filters can be inserted in the mask pocket.
 - Some stitchers have enclosed Scott Shop Towels to use as filters. These towels are not washable. We do not know their relative protection.
 - You may also use coffee filters, paper towels, and other materials as filters. We do not recommend vacuum cleaner filters or furnace filters as these may contain fibers that are harmful to breathe.
 - Filters can be doubled, as long as the mask does not become too thick to breathe through.
 - Remove and discard the filter after use.
3. Mask Dos and Don'ts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the *New York Times*:
 - Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it becomes damp.
 - Don't wear the mask below your nose, or leave your chin exposed.
 - Wear it up to the bridge of your nose, tightening it if it has a built-in pipe cleaner or wire.

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Transfer Station Access Rules

The Monterey Board of Health has issued the following rules when accessing the town transfer station:

1. Only four cars are allowed in the parking area at a time.
2. Please sort your recycling before coming to the transfer station.
3. Dump your trash, recycling, and compost quickly.
4. Keep a safe distance from other users and attendants.
5. Only one person at a time is allowed in a compactor area at a time.
6. Please don't linger on the premises to visit—get in and out quickly.
7. Make as few trips as you can per week.
8. Use hand sanitizer provided at the transfer station and then wash hands after returning home.
9. Use of face covering is at your discretion but encouraged.
10. The swap shop is closed until further notice. You may use the clothes drop-off bins.

On Recycling Black Plastic

We can't. The recycling center does not want black plastic. Their scanners cannot tell the difference between the black plastic and the conveyors, so it messes up their system. Black plastic has to go into household trash. Sorry.

—Dave Gilmore and Beth Parks

- Wear it tight enough so there are no gaps at the sides where air can get in.
- Don't pull it down below your chin.
- Always wash your hands before and after wearing a mask.
- Use the ties or loops to put your mask on and pull it off.
- Don't touch the front of the mask when you take it off.
- Remove and discard the filter, and wash and dry your cloth mask daily. Keep it in a clean, dry place.
- Don't have a false sense of security.
- Masks offer limited protection, and work best when combined with hand washing and social distancing.

—Nancy Kleban and Mary Makuc

Free Food Access Grocery and Meal Distribution

There are numerous food options available for those in our community needing extra support at this time, especially our senior population, those who have lost their jobs, and those otherwise financially struggling.

The People's Pantry: 5 Taconic Avenue, Great Barrington. Open to shoppers Mondays, 5 to 6:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Due to coronavirus the pantry has replaced its usual self-selection model of shopping with pre-packed bags of staples and fresh foods. Go to: saint-jamesplace.net

WIC Great Barrington: 442 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington. Food distribution once a week, Tuesday 9:15 a.m. Go to: chpberkshires.org.

CHP Great Barrington: 444 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington. Food distribution once a month on Wednesdays. Check their website for date. Go to: chpberkshires.org/calendar/.

Sheffield Food Assistance: For residents of Southern Berkshire Regional

School District, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Mondays, Old Parish Church, 125 Main St., Sheffield, 413-229-2624.

Berkshire South Regional Community Center: 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. Berkshire South is introducing the Nourishing Neighbors emergency meal supplemental program. Each Wednesday five hundred cold meals from local restaurants will be available through a non-contact drive-thru pick-up distribution program at Berkshire South.

Meal pick-up is from 1 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Please—no early birds and be prepared to follow traffic routing. Reservations for delivery for those who are home bound can be made each week before Tuesday at 10 a.m. Call 413-717-2674. For all reservations for delivery, or any questions about volunteering, please email email_meals@berkshiresouth.org.

Doorstep Delivers: Free store-to-door volunteer delivery service for elderly and immunocompromised community members during COVID-19 outbreak. Go to: doorstepdeliverers.org.

—Andrea DuBrow

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Food Access - Groceries

Last month's issue included information on food access, and shopping for and handling of food safely. Many comments of appreciation were sent in, so much of it is being included again with a few additions and information on shopping hours for seniors.

Restaurants

Some restaurants have closed, but many are offering takeout service. Consider the value of patronizing area restaurants so they will still be in business when this threat has passed. Contact them directly for their menus.



Individual Vendors



Farm New Marlborough: Tom Brazie produces meats and some prepared foods. Their farm store is now closed but will deliver. "Please take advantage of our delivery service on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To place an order for delivery please go to our website thefarmnm.com. We have included a farm store collection to expand the goods we are able to provide to our community and will continue

to increase essential product availability through the farm." Phone: 413-229-2350



Mill River Farm/Equinox organics: From a reader: They have a variety of fresh organic greens (pea shoots, kale, spinach, arugula, mescalun), organic sweet carrots, dried beans, chickens, bacon, etc., organic honey, honey products and surprise items from time to time. They have a shed on their farm located on Hayes Hill Road in Mill River. It is the honor system and open 24/7. Their website is millriverfarm.org. Check or cash put into a locked metal box.



Berkshire Grown: Berkshire Grown is an association of small farms and food producers. They have a list of farms, their products, and contact information. Click on "How to Support Local Farms from a Distance." Berkshiregrown.org

Travis Brecher: A baker in Mill River. His store is closed but will deliver weekly. Email contact: travis.brecher@gmail.com. Travis does not wish to publish his phone number. He also accepts Venmo for payment.

Berkshire Organics: They come through Monterey once a week with boxes of food that can be customized by pre-ordering. Berkshireorganics.com/. No response to my request for a phone number.

Rawson Brook Farm: Susan Sellew has closed the self-serve store at the farm.



North Plain Farm: The farm produces a variety of meats and raw milk, and maintains a store featuring food from other producers. It is located at 342 North Plain Road (Route 41 north from Great Barrington). They advertise free delivery with a \$50 order. northplainfarm.com 413-429-6598.

Delivery Services

A note about delivery service: Order in advance of immediate needs as delivery may take several days depending on vendors.

Instacart: Instacart works with Price Chopper, Big Y, and CVS. Go to instacart.com. Pick the store you wish to order from, and then build a cart by viewing specific items. The Big Y online store was extensive, with opportunities to choose replacement items if your preferred item is unavailable. There are some minimal service charges applied, as well as an option to add a gratuity for the driver (as you would do in a restaurant).

The Berkshire Valet: Offering grocery delivery from Guido's in Great Barrington. All ordering and payment, including gratuity, is done online. We do your shopping as if it were ours. If we have a question, we call or text. We are offering this service at special pricing—\$10 for delivery, plus 3% to cover credit card fees. We also offer add-on services such as going to the Co-op \$10, and Great Barrington Bagels, \$10 (just add to "special notes"). Soon we will be offering "Heat and Eat" deliveries through collaborations with Berkshire Mountain Bakery and Farm Stand Soups. If you have additional questions, please call Kim, at 917-242-9001.

Grocery Store Services

It is advised to have only one family or household member shopping at a time to reduce the number of people in the stores, which allows for more social distancing.

Price Chopper curbside service:

Curbside service is offered through Instacart (see above.) Go to [instacart.com](https://www.instacart.com) to place an order and arrange time for pickup. Price Chopper has dedicated parking spaces for curbside pickup and carts will be brought to your car. They have also opened the store from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. exclusively for seniors and disabled. They close at 10 p.m. Price Chopper has an in-store pharmacy as well. 413-528-8415.

Guido's Fresh Marketplace (Great Barrington): Beginning Monday, March 23, Guido's will reserve their first hour, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., for seniors and immuno-compromised customers. They are working on establishing a curbside pickup service. They are monitoring numbers of people in the store to provide for social distancing, so some waiting outside may be necessary. Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sundays. [Guidosfreshmarketplace.com](https://www.guidosfreshmarketplace.com), GB phone number 413-528-9255.

Big Y (GB): Big Y has Instacart service (see above). Not sure if this includes curbside delivery. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with exclusive shopping for seniors and immuno-compromised from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Big Y also has an in-store pharmacy. Big Y in GB, 413-528-1314.

Berkshire Co-op: The Berkshire Co-op hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. They offer curbside pickup by filling out an online order form for up to twenty items. Orders must be made by 10 a.m. for pickup no later than 4 p.m. They take credit card or owners tab number over the phone. [Berkshire.coop](https://www.berkshirecoop.org), go to "Shop" for information and the order form. 413-528-9697.

Taft Farms: Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Go to [taftfarmsgb.com](https://www.taftfarmsgb.com), or call 413-528-1515, for curbside pickup. Small store, good selection of food choices.

Reusable vs. Single-Use Bags

The Great Barrington select board, and the governor's office, has suspended the use of reusable shopping bags.

Food Safety

An excellent video on bringing groceries and take out food into your house: On YouTube, search for "Jeffrey VanWingen Safe Grocery Shopping." A family physician in Michigan with twenty years of working with families. Thirteen minutes long.

A podcast, SplendidTable. Go to splendidtable.org and search for "Episode 704." This episode features a food safety writer and restaurateur, Kenji López-Alt, talking about the work he's been doing to research and compile real information with regards to the novel coronavirus. The interview directly addresses food shopping, transmissibility of the virus, and personal precautions.

In addition, on the podcast page for episode 704 there is a link to "Food Safety and Coronavirus: A Comprehensive Guide," which is being updated on a nearly daily basis as a result of ongoing research around the world.

In the podcast, López-Alt reports that as yet, there is no concrete evidence that viral transmission happens as a result of handling goods, however, that does not mean that one shouldn't be careful around foods selected, purchased, and brought home.

Safe Shopping

By now it is likely that everyone has established their own safe protocols for being in public and specifically for their grocery purchasing and food handling needs. Last month's issue had specific information in this regard.

Senior Shopping Hours

Great Barrington

(with thanks to the *Berkshire Edge*)

Berkshire Co-Op Market: 34 Bridge St., 10 to 11 a.m., 7 days a week;

Big Y World Class Market: 700 Main St., 7 to 8 a.m., 7 days a week;

Big Y Pharmacy: 7 to 8 a.m., Monday thru Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday;

Bizalions's Cafe and Market: 684 Main St., 10 to 11 a.m., Sunday thru Thursday 9 to 10 a.m., Friday and Saturday;

CVS Pharmacy: 262 Main St., 8 to 9 a.m., Monday thru Friday, 9 to 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday;

Gorham and Norton: 278 Main St., 8 to 9 a.m., Monday thru Saturday, closed Sunday;

Guido's Fresh Marketplace: 760 S. Main St., 9 to 10 a.m., Monday through Saturday;

Price Chopper Market: 320 Stockbridge Rd., 7 to 8 a.m., 7 days a week;

Price Chopper Market Pharmacy: 7 to 8 a.m., 7 days a week;

Shiro Asian Market: 105 Stockbridge Rd., 11 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Saturday. closed Sunday;

Taft Farms: 119 Park Street North, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. everyday (No special hours listed on their website, but some are required by the state.);

Walgreen's: (formerly Rite Aid); Main St., 8 to 9 a.m., Monday thru Friday, 9 to 10 a.m., Saturday and Sunday.



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Monterey Community Center

The Monterey Community Center remains dark and empty at a time when we could all use a bit of social interaction and camaraderie. But just as spring brings signs of life and hope, the MCC is showing some signs of life, albeit in unconventional ways.

The choral group, headed by Oren Rosenthal, is meeting via Zoom. The pandemic came at a particularly inopportune time for the Monterey Community Chorus as they were about to do a concert at the Landing at Laurel Lake, and the very day of the concert they locked down the facility! Undaunted, the group continues to lift their spirits in song, in spite of the severe limitations presented by the online platform. As we have seen so often during this difficult time, people find ways to carry on and connect with one another.

And what is better than gardening to soothe the soul? The Monterey Community Garden is open and ready to fulfill your need to nurture. Plots are available to new gardeners as well as those who have previously made use of the garden. If you have not used gardening therapy before, this may be the time to give it a try. (See article by Chris Goldfinger at right.)

Although the MCC is not currently hosting programs, there are tentative plans in the works for activities in the fall, pending approval for small gatherings. Having gardened all summer, you may be wondering about the best way to clean up your plots and put them to bed for the season. If so, we have a plan in the works to help answer your questions.

There are also plans, tentatively for September, for a talk by Sue Farnum on tea and its relationship to former first ladies, with a tea party to follow.

So while we are all stuck in our homes at the moment, better times will come and we will be able to enjoy the use of the Monterey Community Center, and its many programs, once again. If you have any ideas for new programs or groups for the fall, please contact our coordinator, Mary Makuc, at 528- 3600, or at calendar@ccmonterey.org.

Be safe and well until we are together again.

—Laurie Shaw

Monterey Community Gardens

It's spring—time to think about new growth and positive actions. Please join us at the Monterey Community Garden.

I just visited the garden today. It's looking wonderful and if you've not had a spot in the community garden, this may be the time for you to start. We have wonderful soil, plenty of sun, and water to grow your garden. Grow your own veggies, skip the food stores. Put in a cutting garden for your soul. Time to get out into the fresh air. Gardens are available.

The yearly garden fees are nominal at \$35 for Monterey residents and \$40 for those from out of town. If you have financial difficulties the fees can be lowered to \$20, or another arrangement may be possible. All the gardens are eight feet by sixteen feet. One can grow a lot of wonderfulness in that much space.

If you had a garden last year and want to continue again this year, or if you would like to have a garden for the first time, please contact the Monterey Community Center and leave a message. The community center can be reached either by phone at 413-528-3600, or by email at calendar@ccmonterey.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you this year!

—Christine Goldfinger



Thai Yoga Bodywork

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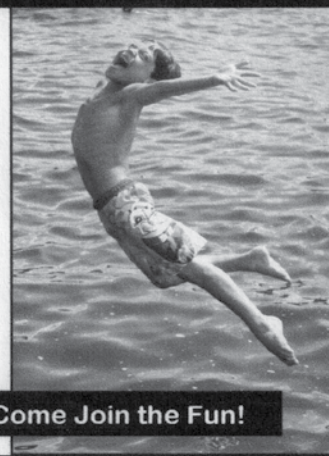
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Letters

Welcoming Monty McCarron

This message comes with an enormous and heartfelt thank you to Monterey. In mid-March Paul and I made the decision to invite cousins from New York City to come to Monterey and live in our house on Elephant Rock Road. These cousins, former Canadians, who live in the Chelsea neighborhood in NYC, and their eldest daughter and husband, who live Brooklyn Heights, were extremely anxious to leave the city, and we were anxious to get them out, because the daughter and husband were expecting their first child on May 1, and things were getting bad in the city. They all arrived in Monterey on March 27. They had been self-quarantining in the city of course, and tightly quarantined for two weeks after moving up.

We had made our decision based on the needs of our extended family, but after a short while we began to realize what the

impact was on towns in the Berkshires of second-home owners coming to the Berkshires during the pandemic. We are relieved that Monterey is one of a few Massachusetts towns with no cases of Covid-19, and we are relieved that our family is safe here. But most particularly we take special pride and feel deep gratitude that Monterey, our family's haven since the 1920s, has been welcoming, caring, and pulling together to help one another in this crisis.

During the evening of April 22 we received this email message from Fairview Hospital: "After 16 hrs, Monty John McCarron was born at 5 p.m. EST on the 22nd April 2020. He's named after the town of Monterey which took us in and took such great care of us during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Thank you Monterey, you are a hearty community,

With love,

—Delight and Paul Dodyk

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Letters

Thanks to the Fire Department

In response to Don Coburn's discussion of the Monterey Fire Department's budgetary needs, I just wanted to give a shout out to our volunteer force. Their April 1 response to a problem at Brookbend, just next to the Monterey Library, was outstanding.

When I arrived home that afternoon, the smell of petrochemicals assaulted me. We traced it to an oil leak in the furnace area, called our oil company to find out what was going on, and alerted the fire department as well. In less than five minutes, Fire Chief Shawn Tryon and Captain Jim Hunt pulled into the driveway in the red fire department SUV. Within the next couple of minutes, sirens blared and Monterey fire engines No. 7 and No. 172 showed up, lights flashing, along with a crew of nine or ten volunteers, suited up in their insulated personal protective gear, backpacks and helmets. I was flabbergasted at how quickly they arrived, ready for almost anything, it seemed.

How do they manage it? I asked Shawn. The calls go to the response center in Lanesborough, he told me, which has the capacity to page the entire force. Most

of our firemen live or work close to the firehouse, so they dropped everything, headed over, suited up, hopped on the trucks, and arrived at our place in record time. After checking out the basement and furnace room, they assured us there was no real danger, and we got back to our lives, pleased to know how soon help can be on the way.

—Janet Jensen



"Dinosaurs"—BoxxaVine's face mask fabric for kids of any age. (See pages 6–7.)

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Knox Gallery News

We are very much looking forward to reopening the Knox Gallery at the appropriate time. Although we do not know when that will be, we want to alert our community to our planned, if tentative, schedule.

Every Day, paintings by Katherine Ryan Waiveris, will open on Friday, June 5, and will be on exhibit through July 18. If we are able, we plan to have the artist speak at 6 p.m. on the opening day, with a reception following from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Waiveris, an artist who works predominantly in oils and watercolors, studies the local flora and fauna that surround her Monterey home, and often adds whimsy and humor to bring the natural world to life on the canvas and paper. As the modern world seems to quicken its pace, the artist strives for work that offers a refuge from the digital world by drawing viewers back into nature.

Our second summer show, *Crosscurrents*, will open in early August, just after the annual book sale, and feature recent work of Knox Gallery co-founder and co-director, Julie Shapiro.

Stay tuned for more details on our exhibits and events, which are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; [Facebook.com/KnoxGallery](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery).

—MaryPaul Yates



Early Bird, 22 x 48 —Katherine Ryan Waiveris

Bidwell House Museum

This spring has been unlike anything the Bidwell House Museum has ever experienced. If someone had said in December most of the world would spend the spring confined to their homes due to a pandemic, many would have thought that was crazy. However, that is reality for now and likely for many months to come. It is due to these unprecedented circumstances that the museum has made the difficult decision to not open for guided tours of the house in 2020. As much as we love interacting with all of our visitors each year, we feel that leading groups through the confined spaces of the house, even later this summer, may not be safe or comfortable for our visitors.

In addition, the museum has also decided to cancel the opening concert with Diane Taraz that was scheduled for May 24, and the Bidwell Country Fair that was to take place on July 12. Both of these programs are wonderful community events that draws hundreds of people, young and old, to the museum each year. These are two of our hallmark events each season and the decision to cancel them was not made lightly.

We will continue to monitor the situation in Berkshire County and around the

world, and will make a decision at a later date about other events and programs scheduled for August and September. In the meantime, we are working behind the scenes on some new programming and lectures that can be experienced remotely. We are also expanding our outside experiences, with new self-guided interpretive tours of the Bidwell gardens and grounds. Once we have more details about these programs, we will share them on our website, on our Facebook page and in future issues of the *Monterey News*.

These are challenging times, and we thank our many members and friends who have already renewed their annual memberships. We really appreciate your vote of confidence. If you are able, we hope you will become a new member or renew your membership this year, and help sustain the Bidwell House Museum for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Don't forget, our four miles of hiking trails remain open every day, free of charge, we only ask that you please observe social distancing on the trails. The leaves are just starting to appear and the gardens will begin flowering in a few short weeks. Enjoy!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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Housing Rehab Loan Program TRI during COVID-19

In an abundance of caution, the TRI staff moved their offices to work remotely the week of March 16, 2020 and suspended all in-home site visits and general contractor walk-throughs at that time. The safety of our residents, contractors, and staff is of the utmost importance. Subsequently, in accordance with the Massachusetts Governor's Declaration of March 23, 2020 the TRI offices closed March 24, 2020, and will remain closed at least through May 4, 2020. We are working remotely, checking and responding to emails during this closure.

While it may sound dire for the progress of our program and projects, our highly experience staff has found safe and creative ways to keep things on track within the specific guidelines of our municipality. Monterey construction projects are still ongoing with some modifications in place. Projects that are currently under contract involving outside work have been progressing within the guidelines and comfort zones of the homeowners and contractors. So far, so good—the work is getting completed and the money to the general contractors is flowing. While we are hopeful that the stay-at-home order is lifted by early May, we will be monitoring the Governor's guidance closely.

Have an application in with us already? Please review the status bullets, and contact Dawn Odell Lemon for more details of what is happening:

Your application has been submitted, but you have not received an acceptance letter: We are working on your qualifications and reviewing your supporting documentation. This process is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Your application has been submitted and you received an acceptance letter but not an in-home intake with the rehab specialist: These site visits are on hold until the stay home advisory is lifted. We are monitoring these developments closely.

You have had a visit from the Rehab Specialist: You should be receiving your Work Write-Up (WWU) shortly for your review and approval, however, all contractor site visits are on hold until the stay home advisory is lifted. Once

we have received your approval on the WWU, we will place you in the queue to conduct a site visit when the restrictions are lifted.

Your WWU has been approved, a site visit was conducted, and your project went out for bid prior to the enactment of the restrictions: We are working with each homeowner to devise a plan to close your loan while observing social distancing. Your program manager will contact you individually to form a plan that will work best for you, your contractor, and the TRI staff to ensure progress and safety.

Your loan has been closed and you have had a remote meeting with your contractor: Depending on your scope of work, some aspects may proceed (outside

work – replacing a roof), some may need to wait (window replacement—partially indoor work). In either situation, work will proceed only if both parties are comfortable with the plan and progress.

Currently the tentative “reopen” date we are following is May 4, 2020.

The Good News: We still have some funds left in our grants and while you are at home, this is a great time to contact us for an application, gather your supporting documentation and submit it to us (we can help come up with creative solutions!) When this all passes—the demand for our program will be stronger and more vital than ever.

—Dawn Lemon
The Resource, Inc.



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Here's a Thought

It's the middle of April as I write this. Daffodils are blooming, trees are budding, and we're expecting an inch of snow overnight. Pots of indoor flowers act as welcome precursors to hoped-for May flowers. It's strangely reassuring in these uncertain times, to know that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

As we quiet the noise and clutter in our minds about what the future may, or may not, hold, some of the best navigation advice around comes to us in a Max Ehrman's 1927 poem, *Desiderata*. It's stood the test of past events, including the 1929 market crash, the ensuing financial depression, World War II, and the Korean conflict of the early 1950s. Maybe it's time to have it up on our walls, framed as they did, again.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender
be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons,
they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain and bitter;

for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.

Especially, do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love;
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is as perennial as the grass.



Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful.

Strive to be happy.

Letters – Life is like a movie.

A month ago, in our life made into a movie, contagion would flash on the screen; that scene is not shown anymore.

Please consider instead a Hallmark show, maybe with romance, a baby. Or visualize with the seniors in the Council on Aging a network of concern, then some action to show caring and neighbors acknowledging each other.

The finale would have smiles all around town, plenty of food, a neighbor to call for a chat or for help, lights in the library.

As the film fades we'd know that the virus was contained, gardens are blooming, exercise classes restarting, a van being prepped for a museum visit and real films on Tuesday nights again.

When the credits roll you'll recognize names and faces, familiar because they are us.

—Kay Purcell

Green Dancer

Alas-

keep your sights on the season
 name of the game is change
the poems inherent in new leaf,
 full leaf, falling leaf, and buried leaf
 are potent and instructive
find your way to stay enchanted:
 cut new branches of forsythia
 for dancing and laying
 at the foot of the May Pole
manifest Green Jack
 in your hearts, minds, and spirit
 and in your own two green feet
and dance vigorously
 upward and outward
 like the first green shoots
 all around you
 joyous
 grateful
— Green Jack, a.k.a. Boney Oscar
 (from down by the riverbank)

Tanglewood

Like buckskin and broadcloth and strange American shillings,
Like samplers and pistols and dry Plymouth mayflowers,
The lovely, various music of our people
Is gathered now and treasured here in Berkshire.
Shrill on the wind the fifes of Lexington,
The riot of the fiddles in the backwoods tavern,
The spinet's elocution in a Gramercy parlor,
Implicit in the sighing, wind-wroth trees.
Here where the clouds have room to cast their shadows
As wide as townships on the far, bright water,
In these sweet meadows tilted from the lakeside,
Where Hawthorne's daughters gathered ox-eyed daisies,
American has built a place of song.

— Francis Sweeney, 1951
(Thanks to Mary Makuc)

With Tanglewood's season suspended at least for the month of May, Jacob's Pillow canceled for the entire season, Shakespeare & Company's summer schedule canceled, and the Berkshire Theatre Group's show season delayed until August 1, it will be a different summer in the Berkshires for many.

Deus Ex Diorama

In the dim museum
a nook holds what you'd see
if you dove beneath the scum
beneath a sunken tree.
Your eyes are quickly filled
with minnows playing dodge
and beavers as they build
a weedy dam or lodge.
Lonelyish and glum,
you haunt the lively scene
until your eyes become
adrift in algae green.

A tiny painted bird
dots the canvas sky,
too distant to be heard
if it were to cry.
The bird will never dive
down where turtles creep.
As long as it's alive
the dot of paint must keep
its path across the sky
and never reach its nest,
the canvas can't say why.
Just, Somebody knows best.
— Don Barkin

Weathering the Storms

I'm continually grateful for having gotten through these many decades without suffering real hardship or deprivation. How lucky I've been to be born when and where I was, to escape, so far, the tides of war and utter disaster.

I have, however, weathered a few storms, starting with the Chicago Blizzard of 1967. It killed 29 people and took the city weeks to clear. Finally trainloads of snow were sent south to melt along the way. But for me that period felt like a long holiday, given the record number of days we enjoyed with no school.

Then there was the 1982 explosion of Mount St. Helen's, three hundred miles west of Northern Idaho, where I was living at the time. On that bright spring day in May I was floating down the Kootenai River on a rubber raft with a group of seven or eight friends. At least it started out a bright and sunny day. After lunch we began noticing a weirdly dark band of clouds to the west. It was only much later, after we had gotten back to our cars, that we learned that the mountain had erupted and that the ash was headed our way. Poor Chris was driving one of the cars back to where we had set in the water. The local student radio station he was listening to kept referring to the uncertainties and unknown consequences of the fallout—without specifying that it was volcanic ash. For a very long half hour, he lived with the knowledge that a nuclear bomb had fallen and an unknown fate awaited us all.

In that time before the internet brought most of human knowledge to our screens, very little was known initially about what effect the abrasive particles of volcanic ash would have on our lungs or how to clean it up. The biggest long-term consequence, as far as I know, was improved soil fertility. The shorter-term consequences included widespread distress, depression, suicides. About half an inch of the abrasive grey dust had rained down from the sky on my little town, draining the color from the landscape for days. Animals were bewildered, people were scared. A hundred miles to the west, in central Washington, farmers were dealing with six inches of the stuff. They tried using snowplows to turn it under, but it



Those of us of certain age recall the image of Mt. St. Helen's erupting. It altered reality for those living near it, just as the novel virus that Nature has unleashed is altering so many of our lives in subtle and not-so-subtle ways.

billowed away and played havoc with air filters and fan belts.

And then there was, of course, 9/11, and its aftermath. I lived about a mile directly east of the implosion. I'm not sure why I watched the towers fall on my neighbor's television screen instead of running outside to witness the real thing. I suppose it was from a need to hear a narrative rather than experience the vast reality of the moment, to feel that I was part of a larger audience trying to make some sense of the event together.

In the weeks after the blasts, life on the Lower East Side seemed as close as I ever hope to come to living in a war zone. The smell of death and chemicals lingered for a month or so. One needed to present

an ID to guards in camouflage in order to cross the barricades at 14th Street to come home. Sirens filled the air day and night, each one a reminder of the bell tolling for some unlucky soul.

Trucks loaded with rubble and bits of human remains plied the streets. Special dedicated lanes on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway made way for the convoys of the beige Army dump trucks driving back and forth for months from where the World Trade Towers had stood to the landfill on Staten Island. Signs of people searching for their loved ones were posted on storefronts and construction sites. I recall riding my bike through the empty streets, wondering what would come of it all, failing to imagine just how badly our national responses would play out.

There was also a shared tenderness. "New Yorkers behave very well in crises," a friend who had lived in the city for decades told me. It was true. Politeness reigned. People were very gentle with one another. Rebecca Solnit's excellent book, *A Paradise Built in Hell*, gives one example after another of the way in which disasters, from the San Francisco earthquake to Hurricane Katrina, seem to bring out the very best in people, contrary to the narratives often promulgated. As a *New York Times* book review put it, "A fleeting, purposeful joy fills human beings in the face of disasters... Everyday concerns and societal strictures vanish. A strange kind of liberation fills the air. People rise to the occasion. Social alienation seems to vanish."

Many do seem to have risen to the occasion of this pandemic and its discontents, starting with those who face infection



every day in line of duty providing care or keeping essential goods and services moving. Last Saturday night I watched part of the One World concert in which musicians from many countries, in many genres, offered songs capturing many different moods, in a chorus that had a single message: Love and support those who are in the front lines of this crisis. But the eerie, attenuated suspension that colors this particular emergency feels to me more like the days and weeks after Hurricane Sandy battered New York City in 2012 just before Halloween.

Walking out afterwards the city was quiet, subways and traffic halted. There were hundreds of downed trees in East River Park. Birds lay lifeless in the streets. A substation explosion created a blackout in Lower Manhattan that lasted for days, trapping elderly people without power or water in the upper stories of taller buildings nearby. No one was sure when things would get back to normal.

For months after the hurricane, the sound of generators pumping out basements and subway tunnels echoed downtown. It took six years and half a billion dollars to repair two of the tunnels. Just as the COVID-19 crisis is revealing the weakness of our health systems and safety nets, the aftermath of Sandy clarified how vulnerable Manhattan is to the water that surrounds it, with its vast underground subway system, tunnels, and electrical systems.

There is also that kind of eerie liminal quality to this time of a crisis that is invisible to many of us in the Berkshires. While sheltering in place, I have so much to be grateful for on a personal level. Before things closed down, Bradley and I had made an early run to the grocery, hardware and package stores, Agway, and the pot shop. We were fortified with plenty of toilet paper, cat food and reading material. I had a number of work projects, but procrastinated endlessly, distracting myself by emotional snacking, obsessively checking the surreal news stories, and ranting on Twitter. The emerging spring, the sound of the birds and the needed garden tasks offered respite. Bradley renovated the bathroom in our little cottage, chopped wood and kept upbeat, providing solace and succor.



Julie Johnston called a meeting of at least twenty-two snowpeople to discuss how best to practice social distancing at home into the spring and beyond.

It was illuminating to realize how many things we can cut back on or cancel. At first, all that time liberated from not-strictly-necessary trips to Great Barrington and other locales seemed useful. Time to catch up with old friends by phone. To read. To garden. But the hours passed surprisingly quickly, and things were left undone, the days blurring into one another without the usual five/two, work-to-weekend rhythm.

With fewer episodic memories to break them up, the days and hours merged into an indistinct flow. Why was it so difficult to carve out a half hour for meditation each morning or to forge on with the thirty-day decluttering challenge? Friends reported similar declines in productivity. In the absence of the usual kinds of stimulation, they were overcome by earworms or flooded

by vivid memories by day and dreams at night. And then there was all the grief and anxiety in the air, ambushing me in waves.

I know I'd feel better if I stopped paying so much attention to the news. But it's hard to look away from a slow-motion train wreck. Given it's my own country, our only world and our shared future, I feel a responsibility to witness the twists and turns of this unfolding disaster. I try to imagine that this will be a global pause, as New York's Governor Cuomo envisions, a time for reflection and reconsideration of what we really want, what we really need. I try to focus and kindle that ray of hope but am not always successful.

— Janet Jensen



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Moles on My Mind

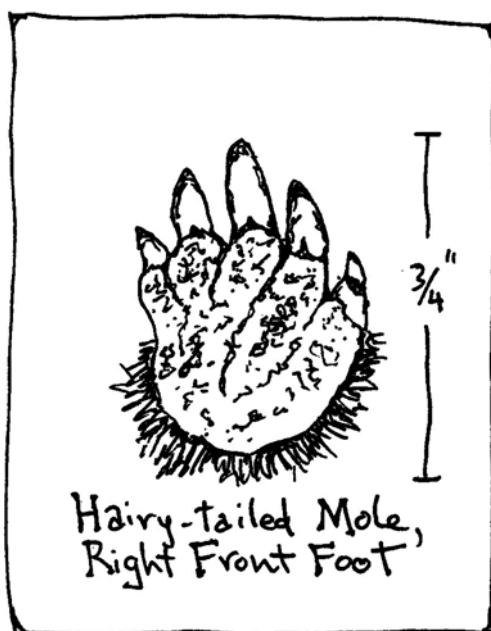
During the winter we stay inside more, “hunker down,” as the saying goes. The nights are long, and there’s time to read and think about things, imagine things. Then one day the tilt of the axis wakes us up with days that run early to late. The changes every day are dramatic, irresistible, and somehow we just don’t want to miss a thing. All this is familiar, reliable and right, and yet each year it comes around new. Is this because we get so caught up in the “hunkering down” that we forget what is coming, what we woke up to just a year ago and every year? Where do we stand, and who are we, really?

Right now I am a mole. Moles have blossomed up for me this year and the more you pay attention and think about a mole, the more you get a chance to handle a mole and notice the places a mole has been, then the more you can identify. I have so appreciated Donald Kroodsmas words in *The Backyard Birdsong Guide*, Chronicle Books, 2008:

“... This book is not a mere guide to identifying particular species; no, my goal was instead to create a guide to *identifying with birds*...” (The italics are the author’s.)

Moles are warm-blooded mammals just like us. These are not seed-nibbling rodents like mice and chipmunks, but real hunters with the right kind of teeth for catching and eating other living things. They also are specialists and have perfected over generations of natural selection the perfect body and behavior for life underground, where the prey you find are earthworms, centipedes, slugs, snails, sowbugs, and beetle larvae (grubs). Not all of these are insects, but moles are classified as “insectivora,” an order they share with the shrews and hedgehogs.

There are three kinds of moles in these parts and they have similar lifestyles. The ones we have been seeing here lately are called hairy-tailed moles and they are about six inches long, sturdy and silver-grey, with short plushy fur and long delicate noses. The eyes and ears are hard to find but the front feet are their glorious shovel blades, sticking right out from the sides on short stout legs. These feet are broad and rounded, with five toes and



strong claws. They look more like paddles than feet and sometimes I think of moles as swimming through the ground. They muscle along just under the surface, scraping and digging with those side paddles, while propelling with the hind feet, which look like typical mouse-style little feet on downward-oriented legs.

I doubt I will ever see mole tracks, but in the field guides the artists have drawn both hind and front tracks as just sets of claw marks, with no “registration” from any toe pads or heels. The front shovel-feet would never register at all except that a mole moving across the surface of the ground has to roll from side to side to get any purchase with those side-jutting feet. Even so, only three of the five claws on each foot leave a mark.

If a mole finds itself on the surface, for any reason, it can’t move fast and it can’t see, except for light and dark. Lately I have spotted a live mole on the surface twice, and I am pretty sure each time it was roused out by our new young dog. Twice we have intervened with rescue and relocation, surprised to find the mole unharmed. Rocky is a digger who loves to turn up a prize and then make a parade, with prancing. He will do this with your hat if you leave it lying around, or with a piece of firewood. Recently his greatest treasure was a dead mole. We don’t know what killed it, but it has remained intact for several days, showing up here and there where the dog has gotten distracted

and dropped it. I have wondered if a mole roused out of its tunnel is doomed on a sub-freezing night. But the books say they can burrow right down nearly anywhere and make a fresh 15 feet of tunnel in an hour. This includes stopping to eat and to rest. Moles eat 2/3 their body weight in a day, which can mean a lot of shallow-tunnel digging to find those grubs. One writer did the simple math: it’s like 100 pounds of meat per day for a 150-pound person. It could mean even more if you live on corn, beans, and squash, like us, but that is trickier math.

Moles make two kinds of tunnels. Those shallow ones are for hunting and are the ones we see, humping up the lawn in ridges. The moles don’t usually come back to these, but other creatures use them, like meadow mice (voles) who don’t have the tools for serious digging. They don’t eat up the beetle larvae and centipedes but they are really the ones who nibble on bulbs and move things around. This year we have a daffodil blooming right in the middle of last year’s potato patch in our big garden. There are daffodils over in the orchard, and along a stone wall. I feel sure a mole would not bother to carry around a daffodil tuber, but maybe a mouse would, and would travel along an underground mole highway.

The deep tunnels moles make are for living quarters and can be two feet underground. The ground is not soft down there and digging is slow. All the dirt has to be removed, since it can’t be humped up. As she digs, the mole shovels the dirt behind her, then does a slow, fluid somersault and works her way back to the surface, pushing the load of dirt in front and spilling it out above to make a molehill.

Moles mate in March and give birth in the deep tunnel six weeks later, to one to five babies. They are weaned in a month, and after two months are nearly full-grown and independent. Most small mammals have more than one litter in a season, an evolutionary tactic to offset high rates of infant mortality. Not moles. Theirs is a much safer lifestyle because it is underground.

We don’t see them much, but moles are strong and successful. There is an old song from the mountains of North Carolina, where rural people understand

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the power of the mole.

*I wish I was a mole in the ground
 I wish I was a mole in the ground
 If I was a mole in the ground
 I'd root that mountain down
 I wish I was a mole in the ground.*

—Bonner McAllester

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Remembrance

Arnold Arthur Hayes

Arnold Arthur Hayes, 89, of Monterey, peacefully ended his long battle with debilitating illness on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at VA Boston Healthcare Systems in Brockton, MA. Arnie was born on February 23, 1931 in Cleveland, OH, son of August and Helen (Mlinarik) Hayes. He was a graduate of Wickliffe High School in Wickliffe, OH, class of 1949. Music and service were themes throughout his life. His early life was influenced by his family history—he came from a family of musicians, and his grandfather had served in the Hungarian military. He told the story that as a child, his parents once gave him a choice between two gifts...one musical and the other an item of militaria... and he simply couldn't choose, as he loved both. This remained true throughout his life, where he seamlessly built careers in both fields. He was a career military serviceman and a career musician who played trumpet, keyboard, string bass, and the occasional melodica and accordion. He had the privilege of playing with many notable musicians during his career.



Arnie joined the R.O.T.C. while in high school and continued serving his country in the US Army for thirty years, attaining the rank of Command Sergeant Major. He was serving in Korea in 1968 when the Navy vessel USS Pueblo was captured. He was involved with various Army bands during his military years, including the Army Field Band and the United States Armed Forces Bicentennial Band. In addition to his stateside service,



Above: Arnie and the band played at the steak roast around 2012.

Below right: Arnie and Judy at the lake by her mother's house circa 1964.

he was stationed in Japan and Panama, and performed with bands on tour throughout Central and South America. While the family was stationed at Fort Amador in the Canal Zone of Panama, he would be away for weeks at a time with the band tours. His daughters would beg to "wait up" past their bedtime to see him when he would return, and he always brought exotic gifts from South America, such as Honduran cloth dolls and wood carvings. He expected to retire when he left Panama in 1973 but was called to help put together the newly formed Bicentennial Band, which played throughout the states in 1975.

After retirement from the Army, the family moved to Monterey (his wife Judy's childhood home). Arnie fell in love with Monterey and Lake Garfield the first time he came to the Berkshires. At that time he told Judy, "I want to retire here." And so he did, though he didn't slow down for long. While his own service was complete, he continued to advocate for veterans, becoming the Southern Berkshire District Department of Veterans' Agent for many years. Arnie was a member of the James A. Modolo VFW Post #8348, the Sheffield American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and Association of the US Army. He was committed to helping veterans get the benefits they were entitled to, and at times even put up in his own home those who were down on their luck or had no place to go until they could get back on



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their feet. He was proud to be involved with the forming of the Monterey Veterans' Memorial Park and Memorial Day Services, and took part in many of them over the years, even after he became disabled.

Musically, Arnie's first love was the trumpet, which he began playing as a boy in school. During his military service years he also played private gigs, and while stationed at Governor's Island, formed a trio that made frequent performances on the Arthur Godfrey Radio Show. One night while playing string bass at Quay Club in New Jersey, he met Judy. After his show they talked outside for hours under the moonlight. They married on February 13, 1965, and danced to "their song—Misty." Music was ever-present in the Hayes home. His daughters recall they often woke or fell asleep to the sound of his piano music. After retirement, he played with various local Berkshire bands, on trumpet and string bass. He loved big band, jazz, "standards," and also played Dixieland style with the Royal Garden Jazz Band. He later formed his own group called the Lazy River Jazz Band, which played for the Monterey Firemen's Picnic for years, as well as throughout the area. He played primarily keyboard and bass by then, but continued to play taps for military funerals throughout Berkshire County.

For many years he hosted a potluck-and-musicfest on Memorial Day weekends with both local and out-of-state long-time musician friends each taking turns playing a set of songs. The food was always good, and the music great.

Arnie's joy in life, beside his music, was helping people and fixing things. His mother-in-law (Helen Shaw) nicknamed

him "Mr. Fix-It." He was an avid collector of militaria early on, and later antiques. He loved trading at the Great Barrington Flea Market, visiting area antique shops, and opened his own shop for a while. He treasured all his collections, and particularly enjoyed working on antique lamps. He was always puttering with something which needed putting back together. His regret was not having enough time to complete his many projects. He also had a soft spot for animals, and beside the family dog, Prince, took in other animals needing a home over the years: Muchka, Bambi, Muffin, Toby, Fred, Mercury, Lucky, and finally Buddy (who still lives with Judy today). Arnie had numerous interests and hobbies. He was a creative cook who made delicious soups and stews, and his family's Hungarian dishes without using a recipe. He could always be talked into a rousing card game of Shanghai Rummy and maintained his keen sense of humor, even throughout his illness.

He was a devoted husband and father and is survived by his wife Judith Bidwell (Shaw) Hayes, two daughters, Karen Traynor and husband Chris, of Halifax, MA, and Linda Lentz and her partner John Horrigan, of West Milford, NJ, as well as five grandchildren to whom he was "Grampy"—Jesse, Eric, Ryan, Robert, and Briana—and his beloved Chihuahua Buddy.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made by a donation to the First Responders of the Monterey Fire Company, in care of the Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

The Rights of Rivers

Do rivers have legal standing? Sheffield is testing the waters. Last week we celebrated fifty years since the birth of the modern environmental movement, as enshrined in the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

The celebration may ring a bit hollow, however, as these laws have failed to prevent the sixth extinction, the climate crisis, widespread fracking, and excessive toxic chemical use. We see our planet careening toward ecological collapse.

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund argues that while environmental laws have won narrow victories, we are losing the war. The strategy they advocate for is to level the playing field in the courtroom so that natural systems can enjoy the same legal standing that corporations have been granted.

A group in Sheffield has been working with that strategy, and the first rights of nature initiative in Massachusetts has qualified for a town-wide vote in our neighboring town.

The initiative, advanced to the annual Sheffield Town Meeting by community members concerned about the health and wellbeing of the Housatonic River, calls for recognition of the right of the Housatonic River to "exist, flourish, regenerate, evolve, and be restored."

The proposed Sheffield law would elevate the river's protections above those currently provided by state and federal law. The law would essentially give the river legal standing, including the possibility for residents of Sheffield to sue on its behalf to recover damages based on the amount of harm that had been caused by projects or activities. It could theoretically affect upstream waters and tributaries, including the Konkapot.

Sarah Natan, a Sheffield organizer, said, "It is our hope that Sheffield will lead the way for all Berkshire towns with water running through to follow suit. As all water is connected, we are indeed all in this together."

The Sheffield Town Meeting will be rescheduled due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Those interested in learning more about or supporting the initiative may contact berkshirerightsofnature@gmail.com.

—Janet Jensen

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From the Meetinghouse

Celebrating Easter while sheltering in place was strange, to say the least. How to honor the resurrection while cut off from one another? How to celebrate this most incarnational day of this insistently incarnational faith when we can't gather in body, can only do so virtually, with the assistance of a lot of technology?

How, indeed. "Immediately" is a favorite word in the gospel narratives. According to them, especially Mark's gospel, and Matthew's, when it comes to Jesus, a lot of things happen "immediately." It's as if to imply that immediacy of experience is something we should attend to, we who want to follow Christ, though I'd argue this is true for any who aim to be human. It's as if to insist that unmediated is the mode of transmission for that which is deep and true. These days, though, immediacy is hard to come by. These days everything that happens is mediated; everything that happens is thanks to a lot of technological mediation. It's a bummer. It cuts at what congregational life is all about—and not just in the obvious ways.

When we were all deep into week two of sheltering in place—which had felt like a long time at the time, but was actually, apparently, just the beginning—I had a thought, that what I missed most about my life from before was the texture of it, that now it was all just text. Email, texting, more email, a post on Facebook, a reply on Twitter, more email, and everything on the flat plane of my laptop: it was all text, there was little of texture.

That also got me back on a favorite hobbyhorse of mine: slamming social media. Isn't it a wonder, I often think,

how nothing has been more conducive of conflict in recent time than the rise of "social media." Turns out connecting the whole world but via text only connects people just enough to make us hate, misunderstand, and fight each other. Turns out what makes for communication, in contrast to mere connection, is something of the mystery of the flesh—the softness of the body, the nuance of the face, the tone of the voice and urgent reality of someone else's eyes and their gaze, the subtlety and peculiarity of gesture; the bitten nails, the pinked cheeks, the chapped lips, the nicked-from-shaving chin, the clinging scent of the cold outdoors or of smoke or of alcohol; and our amazing capacity to take it all in, to interpret and to respond to more information than another puts off than any of us could possibly be conscious of.

If we were conscious of it all the time, we'd need to nap as much as babies do.

We are always reading one another, and we are surprisingly often correct in our reading because in presenting ourselves to one another, in our mutual presence with one another, there's a soft but firm foundation of generosity, grace, mutual vulnerability.

We are always reading one another, and we are surprisingly often correct in our reading, because we're reading texture, not just text.

Now, though...

The mystery and power of mutual presence is the quality being explored in the resurrection of Christ. Whatever else you might think is true or fantasy or confabulation about the many accounts of the many encounters with the risen Christ following the much more historically plausible fact of his crucifixion and death,

there is a striking consistency among them all, and what's implied in that consistency is something about the mystery and power of mutual presence.

This isn't always true, by the way. Scriptural accounts of remembered occurrences often vary in their details and contexts, and therefore in their implied meanings. When it comes to the many accounts of the unexpected encounters with the skittering, surprising, sudden presence of the risen Christ—here in an upper room, there on the road to Emmaus, a while hence on the road to Damascus, once on a beach making breakfast—there's a striking consistency in all these varied accounts, and this is what's consistent: he was physically present. From the earliest in Paul's letters to the latest in John's gospel, Jesus resurrected is experienced and remembered as becoming physically present among the people—though also changed, as in the twinkling of an eye, he was physically, really here.

Strange! So strange, in fact, that it really should make us stop and think, make us stop and ask, what is being implied in this utter strangeness?

It's become something of an assumption that all these appearances are about the afterlife, somehow suggesting something to us about what's also assumed to be the whole point of the life of faith, that is, "getting into heaven." But Jesus in all these many encounters never speaks of heaven, certainly never speaks of "going there" as if it's a place. In one, he speaks of returning to the Father, and in another he's remembered to have risen as if on a cloud, harking back to the rising of Elijah to heaven. In a few others, it's said he's not in the tomb because he's gone ahead of the disciples to Galilee, that there they will see him. But the risen Christ per se has nothing to say about heaven, neither about getting there nor failing to get there. Instead, he seems to have doubled down on the urgency of life in the world, returned to it himself, returned physically even when no one expected it, even when he had every excuse to take his leave of this mortal coil, this leash that experiences pain and houses shame, that ages and decays and disappoints and betrays.

The resurrection narratives simply insist upon his return being bodily—not

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just ghostly, not just as a visual trick on the eye, which would dissipate upon closer inspection. These stories involve Jesus eating and walking, involve Jesus' friends touching his hands, his feet. This is to say these stories have much less to say about the afterlife or heaven, much more to say about the mystery and power of being embodied in this world—present to ourselves and to one another, presenting ourselves as created and sustained in all our vulnerability and all our need and all our eternal being and lofty aim.

We of the church are figuring out how to worship together though not together in body, not gathered in the same place at the same time. We're figuring out how to sing hymns via cloud conferencing, which must be done with us muted to one another and which is therefore a distant second best. We're figuring out how to break bread together though each with our own personal-sized loaves, made digitized images then to be shared with ourselves. It will do for now, and anyone reading this who wants in on it should be in touch with me via the church website (montereychurch.org). One truth that it does make present to me at least is the truth regarding presence which is implied in absence—that something is missing when we're not gathered together, when texture is drained so to be mere text.

But we'll make do and we'll look forward, anticipate in hope what return is coming. Turns out worshipping in the cloud is not nearly as profound as worshipping full-bodied here on the ground. No surprise there, though. Isn't that what Jesus was getting at when he kept returning to his friends even when what was possible for him was no longer so severely limited? He could have been surfing clouds. Instead, he wanted to gather with friends.

Things to look forward to.

Stay safe and well, friends. I look forward when we can all return to us all.

—Pastor Liz Goodman



Construct Inc.: Mayfest

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While the Mayfest has always been a gathering of friends while enjoying delicious food from local restaurants, this year, we are asking you to stay home, enjoy a festive meal, and say thanks for the shelter, the food, and for friends, family, and neighbors.

The reasons that we can't gather are the very reasons why giving is more important than ever.

Like every small community in the country, the most vulnerable have become even more so. Your generosity will go a long way to provide the assistance that is so desperately needed. In addition, this year, 20% of the proceeds will be divided

among the restaurants and their employees that have always supported us.

- Physical distance does not have to mean social distance!
- Invite others to join you over social media.
- Order in from your favorite Mayfest restaurant.
- Post to your Construct community through social media.

Buy a "ticket" (\$95.00 each), make a donation, or buy "bricks" (\$25.00 each) to honor someone. All we ask is to please be as generous as you can. Construct is such a vital life-line to our community.

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Ruffed Grouse Wing

When we lived in Monterey, my afternoon walk along Main Road often tempted me to turn off the so called “beaten path,” to explore a woodland trail, not previously taken. One day, lost immediately, the tranquility of my scenic passage toward Lake Garfield was rudely shattered by the loud explosion of rapid wingbeats of a flushing Grouse. My reaction woke me from my tranquil mindset to recall that this performance is a well known ploy of Grouse distracting the focus of an intruders attention into the direction of its flight. For this wily strategy, a Grouse has been accused of being a “heart attack” bird. A mother Grouse will also practice deception by feigning a broken wing. She will drag it over the ground after her, while crying, for a predator to follow away from her nest or newly hatched brood. Both devoted parents will later return when they feel danger has been led far enough away from their secret corner of the forest for reproduction.

As a ground-nesting bird, a Grouse may be described as an earthbound inmate. Most of its range is within less than one day’s travel from where it was hatched. When it breaks the eggshell, it is already imprinted with the flora and fauna markings of its habitat. Yet also somehow retains genetic flexibility to morph and mutate with variations of seasonal or regional requirements for survival. For example, about half of adults develop a gray shade of plumage to match northern conifer forests. Others, further to the south, morph to a rusty tint to emulate the red brick colors of Earth tones there. The seasonal influence on annual adaptations is orchestrated and timed by solar cycles.

Before winter comes, a Grouse will grow tentacles on its feet to act as snow shoes. The length and width of the tentacles’ development may seem to predict the severity of winter precipitation. In blizzard accumulations they can scratch through a crust of frozen layers for ground feeding. They can also dig a hole into a deep drift to dive down in for isolation and protection out of the wind and cold, to sleep the long winter nights away. The Ruffed Grouse gets its descriptive title from the dark ring of feathers around its neck, as



illustrated. This ruff is visibly lifted up by the furious wingbeats when it cups wings against chest to drum a tattoo to attract a mate in spring. It is like the discharge of male macho ego, when a barnyard rooster beats its wings to impress a harem of laying hens. Avian demonstrations of mating dominion are portrayed in Chaucer’s classic *Canterbury Tales*, with Chaunticleer, a rooster with seven wives, who outfoxes a fox. In John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*, the drama of welcoming the first light of day, with the male bird calling out his dominion over his flock: “The cock’s crowing shews also, that day is coming on: let then the crowing of the cock put thee in mind of that last and terrible day of judgment.”

Our woodland Ruffed Grouse has a latin designation of *Bonassa umbellus* in the ornithological family of Phasianidae. The common name for Ruffed Grouse is Partridge. When we sing the Christmas lyrics of “The Twelve Days Of Christmas,” the “partridge in a pear tree” is correct and true to their foraging habits. I have seen several times, in January, one or two partridge high in a fruit tree, climbing from limb to limb to fill their crops with the mast forming the next spring’s blossoms. To conclude my tale, I will elevate the image of the Grouse up into the treetops of

seasonal gift giving, to rank with “swans a swimming,” and “french hens a laying.” With poetic license, these share a cadence with “wing beats a drumming.”

—George Emmons



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Wildlife Report: Birds, Bears, Bobcats, and Bugs

Late in March Steve Snyder wrote about “resplendent bluebirds” near East House at Gould Farm, a cardinal, a big flock of red-winged blackbirds, wild turkeys, and some common mergansers at the confluence of the brooks along Diane’s Trail. He also told of waking up one morning to the sound of a “porcupine crying under my cabin” and of a black bear’s having visited Noel Wicke’s birdfeeder. Steve saw a red fox on Barnum Flats and five deer in the fields along Curtis Road.

More recently, Steve writes of a porcupine eating new growth among the willows by the Gould Farm pond, turkey vultures at the gravel pits, a woodcock doing its “sky dance” on the Flats along Route 23, and many another spring sighting. He has seen spotted salamanders migrating to their natal pools for egg-laying, which is welcome news to me, since I’ve seen no sign of these “mole salamanders” this year. Steve has heard a hermit thrush singing in the woods.

David Blasky wrote of a bobcat crossing Route 23 near the Roadside Store in late March, and so did the Sawyer family a little farther west on Route 23. The bluebirds are back at the Sawyers’ place and they have seen many goldfinches, turning yellow (at right). Birds are coming to their feeders in droves and there have been two Carolina wrens among them. Bruce Wilkins had seen one of these wrens back in mid-February at his place which is even farther west, near where the Stevens Pond Road meets Route 23.



Shayna Sawyer saw egg masses in the wetlands at their place, late in March, and they could have been from wood frogs or else salamanders. Suzanne wrote in mid-April of seeing a Bullock’s oriole (above) at the feeder. It is an orange bird, much

bigger than a goldfinch, and not so common in these parts. She sent a photograph.

Back in March, the Edelmans on Hupi Road found the bird feeders “dismantled” one morning and got a good photograph (below) of the footprint of the visitor. There had been a little new snow.



Joe Baker has seen a brown creeper around the place “creeping” and Steve Moore writes that the cedar waxwings are back along New Marlborough Road where he and Wendy go for a walk. They also heard spring peepers in a pond by Wellman Road.



Karen Shreefter reports a “very healthy-looking” red fox crossing Blue Hill Road the last day of March, and Nancy Beach of Brett Road called about this same time to tell of wood ducks and geese on her pond. She has seen an otter on her pond, and a bear came and knocked down her bird feeder. A visiting friend discovered what could have been the bear’s winter den.

Chris Goldfinger has had a Cooper’s hawk sitting on a trellis very near the bird feeder. Micky Jervas called in late February about a bear at her bird feeder, also a hardy chipmunk she has been seeing all winter.

Roz Halberstadter saw a rabbit cross the road back on March 10, as she drove to the last Monterey Movie Night for a while. She also saw frogs crossing the road that night.

We have seen several big moles since late in March, when the ground had thawed and earthworms were moving about. Moles hunt for these. A week or so later, the Banners saw clusters of tiny invertebrates on the surface of their pond (below). These are springtails, collembola, also called snowfleas. They are not really considered insects. Out west, folks called them “Jesus bugs,” since they do walk on water.



Here, I have just seen my first bright little red mite of the spring, walking on dead pine needles, and have heard the white-throated sparrow singing “sweet, sweet, Sam Peabody, Peabody.”

Thank you folks, for keeping us wild.

—Bonner McAllester

528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com



MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Online worship is available on the

Lenox website blog:

lenoxucc.org/blog

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information

or Assistance:

413-528-5850

www.montereychurch.org

Find us on Facebook too.



Select Board Corner

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

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town. Use the website to access a calendar for upcoming meetings, and how to log into them. While the state's Open Meeting Law still applies, recent legislation has provided flexibility for online or conference call meetings to allow public participation.

All non-essential meetings have been canceled. Go to "Boards & Committees," select the group, and click the agendas listed in the right column for the call-in instructions.

Police Notice

With the stress created from the current economic times, residents are being asked to lock their vehicles, outbuildings, and garages, and to not leave valuables in your vehicles or visible in out buildings and garages. We have been experiencing some unlocked vehicles, outbuildings, and garages being rummaged through in the area. As always, report any suspicious vehicles or persons to the Monterey Police Department immediately by calling 528-3211.

Thank you.

—Monterey Police Department

New Town Meeting and Town Elections Dates

Town Meeting

Moderator Mark Makuc and the select board have agreed to postpone the annual town meeting to Saturday, June 27, at 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse. Massachusetts bill No. 4617 allows towns to postpone up to thirty days without first opening the May 2 meeting, and if necessary it can be rescheduled for another thirty days.

Elections

The last day to register to vote for our local elections is Saturday, June 20, from 2 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m., at town hall.

Local elections will be held at the Monterey Town Hall, on Tuesday, June 30, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots for local elections are available. Please contact Monterey Town Clerk, Terry Walker at 413-528-1443 ext. 113, or by cellphone at 413-329-4185.

—Town of Monterey

Notice to Monterey Taxpayers Extended Taxes Due Dates

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, the Monterey Board of Selectmen voted the following provisions as allowed by Sections 10 and 11 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 recently signed by Governor Charles Baker:

The due date for all FY 2020 fourth quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes has been extended from May 1 to June 1, 2020. Payments received in the tax collector's office on or before June 1 will be considered on time. Payments received after June 1 will be subject to interest and late fees.

Fees and interest on any motor vehicle excise tax bill that was due on or after March 10, 2020 will be waived if the tax is paid on or before June 29, 2020. No fees or interest will be waived on any bill that had an initial due date prior to March 10, or is paid on June 30 or later.

These provisions are available to towns as part of the Commonwealth's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and are tied to the current state of emergency.

Monterey Community Aid Council on Aging Supports

The formation of this effort started with two phone calls that led to a town group interested in needs of neighbors during this pandemic. Those two calls resulted in quick assistance given by six people with satisfaction for all—a jump start. Phone checks were started, folks sewed masks, offers of assistance came from all over. What gave this gathering shape and facilitated conversation was a conference telephone line supplied by L. Michael Johnson to the Council on Aging.

This working group consists of representatives of the council, the community center, the select board, the *Monterey News*. Among the group are social workers, nurses, teachers, editors, community organizers, businesswomen, and computer savvy people. This group consists of townspeople who have offered their time, knowledge, and experience to assist their neighbors if needed.

The goals of the Monterey-Community-Aid survey are to identify community needs and possible volunteers to support meeting these needs. We hope to be able to help our neighbors with food access, prescription pickup, medical appointments, transportation, wellness checks, and perhaps other needs.

The Monterey-Community-Aid survey can be accessed by going to the town website home page (MontereyMA.gov) and clicking through the "Coronavirus Disease Updated Information." You can also get to the survey directly via this link: tinyurl.com/monterey-community-aid

In addition, messages to the council's phone number, 413-528-1443 ext. 247 are monitored several times a day.

—Kay Purcell

Monterey Council on Aging

Please contact me, by emailing montereytax@yahoo.com, or by calling 413 528-1443 ext. 117, if you have any questions.

—Mari Enoch

Monterey Tax Collector



Carol Edelman sent in this photo of a male cardinal during an April snowfall.

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528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118

buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136, chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department.: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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

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 or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at 413-528-4007 or email.

Police Emergency Contacts

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

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us

- Police dispatch service number:

413-236-0925.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

528-3211.

PETER S. VALLIANOS ATTORNEY AT LAW

New Address:

312 Main Street, Suite 4, 2nd floor
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MONTEREY LIBRARY

The Library is temporarily closed during the COVID-19 crisis.

For information, or to access online library services, please go to:

MontereyMassLibrary.org

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 23; George Emmons, p. 24;
Bonner McAllester, p. 18.*

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