

MONTEREY NEWS

November 2021
Est. 1970 Vol. LI · Number 11



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



Various pumpkin people from Naumkeag's Pumpkin Show. Photo by Natalie Manzano.

Please come to light up and enjoy the upcoming holiday season by joining your friends and neighbors on November 27! Monterey Lights the Holidays page 10

We do not have the possibility to recall them for dereliction of duty, yet, but we do have the power to make our views heard. Letters: The People Yes! page 7

It is not always clear where one's loyalty to justice and righteousness ends and his own ego begins. In My (re)View page 3

The DASH operation spent ten days removing invasive milfoil from the densest patches surveyed, resulting in twelve hundred netted bags of milfoil. Lake Garfield Working Group page 4

Jim Hunt will be taking over at the worst time of year with winter road conditions. New Director of Operations page 3

Today, when we went for our booster I felt so grateful to be in a community that cares for its members. Monterey has a history of being a caring community—it is wonderful to see. Letters: Vaccination Clinic page 11

This year you bought 1,619 dozen ears of corn (19,420 ears!). You also purchased 4,354 tomatoes. Letters: Thank you! page 6

Millions of people around the world would give their lives for the chance to govern themselves democratically. The opportunity is a rare gift, and I bet our pettiness would shock them. Letters: Politics! Strife! Reality! page 6

The commission would like to get any suggestions or input on this plan. Please let us know your opinion and whether or not you approve. Town Beach Monument page 2

Daylight Savings Time "Falls Behind"

Sunday, November 7, at 2 a.m.

Thursday, November 11 is Veterans Day. The memorial ceremony will be held in front of the monument at the town library. Veterans Day page 4

This is an opportunity to try and improve the situation before the town gets to that point. Letters: Recall By-law page 8

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will present on an ongoing town project to mitigate pollutants in Lake Garfield. Lake Garfield page 4

Now one hundred years old, the structure is no longer conducive to meeting the needs of our guests and customers. Roadside Closing...for now page 5

I asked how it felt to have four daughters. Immediately, Tom replied, "What would it feel like not to have four daughters?" Who's Who-Tom Sawyer page 20

In a word: generosity.
In a word: relationship.
In a word: community.
Here's a Thought page 12



Find the loggers!
American chestnuts page 16

Special Town Meeting Saturday, November 6, 1 p.m.

The town is called to gather for a special town meeting on Saturday, November 6, and 1 p.m., in the fire house pavilion.

The warrant for the meeting includes the following items:

Article 1. To vote \$91,500 from free cash to cover remaining costs for self-contained breathing apparatus for the Monterey Fire Department. A grant provided \$30,000 of the cost.

Article 2. To vote two revolving funds for the conservation commission. The revolving funds would assign fees, receipts, and expenses from two types of activities (wetlands protection and permitting, and regulation and protection of properties).

Article 3. To vote \$300 for a town clerk bill submitted after the deadline.

Article 4. To vote \$10,000 to hire an investigator for independent investigation of personnel issues.

Article 5. A citizen petition to approve an addition to the town by-laws authorizing recall elections in accordance with procedures stipulated in the petition.

To read the warrant, go to the town website, montereyma.gov/town-meeting-warrants, and click on "Special Town Meeting Warrant."

Parks Commission

Another summer in Monterey has ended. Once again we were all fortunate to spend the season surrounded by beauty, with parks and a beach for the whole town to enjoy. This summer the Parks Commission oversaw projects such as repair and replacement of existing fence posts at the beach and installation of a new fence separating the boat launch from the beach area. This new fence is a good, solid safety measure as well as a nice place to hang your beach towel while you swim. Beach sand was partly replenished, with more to come next spring, and the boat launch area was carefully resurfaced to resist erosion. We hope you will continue to use the beach on your walks all year long. We do depend on the honor system to enforce our "no dogs on the beach" rule. Thank you for respecting it. Please remember that any vessels remaining in the storage racks must be removed. Besides regular upkeep of the baseball field, we will address the standing water that collected in front of the storage shed this season. Let's continue to enjoy our parks all year long.

—Tracey Brennan



Town Beach Monument

In the center of the Monterey Town Beach stands a monument dedicated to the creation of the beach. This monument recognizes that the property was set aside by townspeople and second-home owners.

The structure has badly deteriorated and is also in a precarious spot. The Parks Commission proposes replacing it with a bench and incorporating the existing plaque in the area near the bench. This area, at the northeast corner of the beach, would also include a raised flower bed.

The commission would like to get any suggestions or input on this plan. Please let us know your opinion and whether or not you approve. Send a note to the Parks Commission, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

—Gerry Clarin

Monterey Parks Commission



Maureen Banner

Community Garden 2021

In the community garden we had a successful crop with twenty plants of a great variety of sweet pepper plants. Peppers need a long season.

—Maureen Banner

After wintering over with straw, after pulling out all the weeds from last summer, I planted beans first, then onions, and flowers. Everything came in!

—Maggie Barkin

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In My (re)View



The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957 film) is a valuable exploration of how men understand justice when pushed to the limits of stress and survival. While each of the main characters struggles to understand and apply his own principles, there is a clear juxtaposition at the outset between Colonel Nicholson and Colonel Saito in particular.

Nicholson clings tightly to the rules of the Geneva Convention, despite the immense suffering it causes himself and his men. He refuses to compromise his principles for any practical or personal gain, and even discourages his men from escaping the brutal prisoner of war camp due to the finer points of legal war theory. On the other hand, Saito defies the laws and mocks lawfulness by exclaiming "This is war! This is not a game of cricket!" Nicholson's response to Saito's illegal and cruel actions: he intends to make a full report of them when he is no longer a prisoner of war. He refuses to engage on Saito's illegal terms, on the basis that civility can only be upheld by following the law.

This stark contrast between a rigid rule-follower in Nicholson and a lawless leader in Saito is complicated as we learn

that Saito is committed to a code of honor including even ritual suicide (*harakari*). Moreover, Nicholson's obsessive pride in his work surpasses his commitment to principle and leads to his aiding the enemy in a betrayal of his country. In intense circumstances, the two men struggle to find sanity and order through some understanding of justice. It is not always clear where one's loyalty to justice and righteousness ends and his own ego begins, but it is very clear that both are at work.

I doubt lessons from this film could be usefully related to problems that we face today, given the different era and setting, but it is a perceptive exploration of justice and civility in the midst of lawlessness and chaos nonetheless. If you have any questions or comments, I'd like to hear from you. Email me at justinmakuc@gmail.com, or call me at (413) 429-5854.

—Justin Makuc
Select board member

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

New Director of Operations Jim Hunt

After Shawn Tryon's resignation as director of operations last month, the town posted the job. Several applications were received, some of which were from individuals who live considerably far away with no plans to relocate, including one person from Dennis, MA, on Cape Cod. Town administrator Melissa Noe and Shawn Tryon interviewed candidates, and then made the recommendation that the town hire Jim Hunt.

Jim has been working for the Monterey Highway Department for three years. During an interview at the select board meeting on October 27 with chair Steven Weisz and Justin Makuc (John Weingold was not present), Jim talked about his previous work experiences before coming to Monterey. He has handled planning and budgeting for large projects. He was with the Red Lion Inn for twelve years as manager of buildings and grounds, and worked as facilities manager for Lenco Industries. He joined the Lee Fire Department in 1986 and retired this year after having served as a captain for his last ten years with responsibility for training. He has joined the Monterey Fire Company.

As of this writing, Hunt has asked for changes to the offer, and so has not formally accepted the position.

—Stephen Moore

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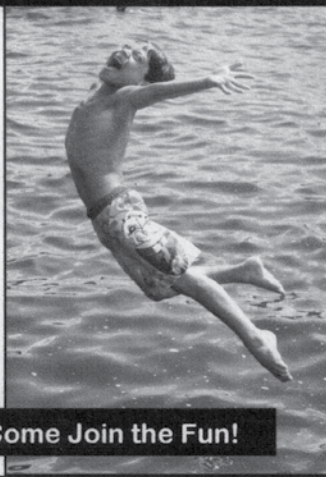
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Parkinson's Support Group Forming

Monday, November 8, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Library, is the first organizational meeting of the new Southern Berkshire Parkinson's Support Group. It will be for both those with Parkinson's and their caregivers. We hope to meet monthly; a lot of this first meeting will be planning for the future mission statement, dates, times, and discussion of needs from those present. For the first meeting, we will need vaccination cards, and Covid precautions will be maintained throughout; please wear masks. Please call the Monterey Council on Aging at (413) 528-1443, ext. 247, and leave a message to register or express interest.

Movie Night

Movie night is Tuesday, November 9, 7 p.m., in the library. The movie is *LaLaLand*, an academy award-winning romantic musical, starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, about life in LA for aspiring artists.

Regular Calendar items:

The following items are going to be listed on the calendar page in future issues.

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

Transportation: For seniors and disabled folks to Great Barrington/ Pittsfield through the Great Barrington Council on Aging. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hour notice required.

Safety Vests: Vests for walkers and bikers are available free at the town hall through the council on aging.



Lake Garfield Working Group

At the October meeting of the lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) it was reported that two boats and crews from the Connecticut-based New England Aquatics spent ten days removing invasive milfoil from the densest patches surveyed, resulting in twelve hundred netted bags of milfoil. These were transported to the Gould Farm composting site which, incidentally, supplies the town transfer station with garden-ready compost for residents use. While the efficacy of this diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) is subject to divergent opinions, those studying these efforts throughout the country are convinced that it is analogous to the efforts and results of any gardener dealing with the vagaries of plant life and weather.

Detailed reports on the progress of the work as well as the lake scientist report of lake conditions are pending.

—Steve Snyder

Chair, Lake Garfield Working Group



Veterans Day

Thursday, November 11 is Veterans Day. The memorial ceremony will be held in front of the memorial at the town library.

Beginning at 10:30 please enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts provided by the Council on Aging. Pastor Liz Goodman will welcome everyone at 10:50, followed by the ringing of the church bell at 11 sharp. Liz will provide closing words.

If you have questions, please call me at (301) 213-2271, or (413) 644-8833.

—Julio Rodriquez
Retired, US Army

Lake Garfield Pollutant Mitigation Presentation

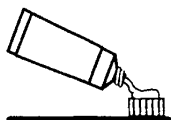
Courteny Morehouse, of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, will present on an ongoing town project to mitigate pollutants in Lake Garfield on Monday, November 15, at 7 p.m., over the community center's Zoom account. She will present what phosphorous can do to a lake ecosystem, how phosphorous is getting into Lake Garfield, and recent grant-funded projects to help address the pollutants along Hupi Road. In addition, Courteny will talk about what actions can be taken to reduce phosphorous and other pollutants on your own property.

To register for the event email cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org, or call (413)-442-1521 x26. Please include your name and an email address in the message and you will receive a Zoom link for the event.

—Courteny Morehouse

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Library Notes

Thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library for all their help in making Halloween a special holiday for the children of Monterey. It's great to see new faces helping out.



It's been a while since we discussed Wowbrary. This service is a fun way to see the newest library acquisitions every week. As you read the list, you'll notice a button to click if you'd like to "borrow" the item. DVDs, audios, and books for all ages are included. Click on "Borrow" and follow the prompts as you see them to have the item put on hold for you. If the item is available you might get an email early Saturday

morning that it is already on the hold shelf for you. To sign up for the weekly email, go to wowbrary.org and enter your zip code (01245). You'll get to a screen where they list nearby libraries, you'll click on Monterey, enter your email, and submit.

The library will be closed on two Thursdays this month, November 11 for Veterans Day (but please join us at the library to observe this day and honor our Veterans!), and November 26 for Thanksgiving.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

Roadside Closing...for now

Dear customers, neighbors, and friends,
Gould Farm's Roadside Store and Cafe has been a fixture in Monterey since 1978. For over four decades, we have been serving up farm fresh food for the community, and providing a healing work environment for people with mental health challenges. Now one hundred years old, the structure is no longer conducive to meeting the needs of our guests and customers. We have concluded it is time to close Roadside for good and focus on its replacement. Saturday, October 30 will be Roadside's last day as we have enjoyed it for decades.

"Closing for good" means that we are closing *until* we have raised the funds to build a new Roadside. We think it is a good thing to build a new building:

- That will be spacious enough for us to provide a safe, supportive and positive work experience for our guests who are gaining skills for their mental health recovery;
- That will have a larger dining area for customers to dine safely indoors or in a covered area outdoors;
- That will feature a retail area to pick up Harvest Barn treats, Gould Farm products like maple syrup, and essentials like bread, milk, and eggs.

We think a new Roadside will be good for the Gould Farm mission and good for the Monterey community. In many ways



The Roadside Cafe, by Frank D'Amato

the Roadside is Monterey's cafe and meeting spot. And we hope you think so too.

We have the schematic designs and a project budget. As soon as we raise the funds, we can begin construction. If you are interested in making philanthropic investment to help us rebuild and open again, please contact Melanie Brandston at roadside@gouldfarm.org, or call 413-528-1804, ext. 27.

With appreciation for the past and excitement for the future,

—Francie Leventhal, Roadside manager, and Lisanne Finston, executive director, Gould Farm



Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local
References



Sliding
Scale

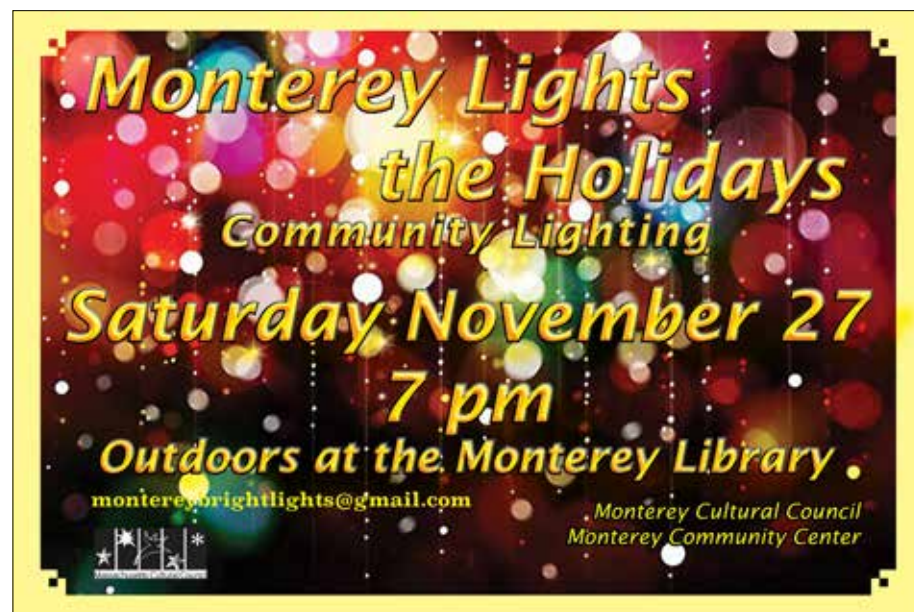
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Letters

Politics! Strife! Reality!

Editor's Note: This letter is reprinted from the Monterey-Community Google group by permission of the author.

(Just wanted my subject line to warn readers who need a content alert.)

Like a few others on this forum, I am encouraged by the recent commitment of town officeholders to resolve disputes, and their measurable, if tentative, success. I hope and believe we can build on it.

Forty-odd years ago I participated in the energy contest featured in the film Virgil Stucker mentioned here (*on the Monterey-Community Google group*), titled "Monterey Lights the Way." I can report that while the competition was inspirational, it was also, practically speaking, inconsequential, more show than substance, a bit self-congratulatory. Subsequent events significantly tarnished the community spirit highlighted in the film.

Our community is human.

Meanwhile, after forty more years of global population growth, winner-take-all consumption and greed, willful ignorance, etc.—all those nasty human attributes writ large—our world is a rapidly shrinking habitat threatened by floods, fire, heat domes, migration, and war in nearly every form, at all levels of endeavor.

We face a staggering amount of real, hard work. Our neighbors have done their share. Over most of a decade, individuals and town officials in Otis worked to fund and build a state-of-the-art wind turbine that now generates substantial electricity free of fossil fuels, and provides the town with revenue. The effort was vigorously opposed by some, yet succeeded.

In Monterey we might consider, say, covering the spacious and well-exposed roofs of the firehouse, pavilion, and town shed with solar panels. This is a casual notion; I haven't researched such a project. Doubtless it would take years of work and robust common purpose, but it might succeed. To do the work, and enjoy its real benefits to our tiny polity, we would need to forego squandering our time, funds, energy, and good will on arrogant, ill-conceived, wholesale proposals for the complete revision of town government (as at town meeting last summer), and on kicking up ordinary contention into personnel dramas that drive away competent, dedicated officeholders, and discourage others from seeking office (as recently).

Instead of whining about how unpleasant it can be to govern ourselves, we might offer a note of thanks to the many folks who crowded the select board meeting a few weeks back to object, passionately, to a destructive step taken by a few elected officials, to Steve Weiss for his patient persistence, and to Justin Makuc for listening, and responding with courage in his early trial by fire. Together we reversed a bad act. This very forum, with its annoying, tedious controversy, also played a crucial role in that situation.

Millions of people around the world would give their lives for the chance to govern themselves democratically. The opportunity is a rare gift, and I bet our pettiness would shock them. It shocks me, but I'm still hopeful. Life is a mess, but the hard work of cleaning up a human mess has its satisfactions. In any case, it never ends.

—Peter Murkett

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Letters

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

Submit your letters to Monterey-News9@gmail.com, or mail them to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Please include your full name and contact information.

Letters

To my patrons,

I wish to thank you all for patronage of my farm stand, Bracken Brae Farm. It was a pleasure doing this to bring you all the freshest produce I could. It was a hard year with many things happening, but with your support I made it through. This year you bought 1,619 dozen ears of corn (19,420 ears). You also purchased 4,354 tomatoes of varying sizes. I did bring in mushrooms after I figured out how to get them to grow. I'm glad that you enjoyed them and will have more next year for your enjoyment. The farm stand will open in June of 2022. Hope to see you then.

Thank you,

—Anna Duryea,
Bracken Brae Farm



Milkweeds bursting. Photo by Bonsai Cox.

Letters

The People Yes!

Author's Note: The title is taken from Carl Sandburg's epic poem praising the perseverance of the American people.

The select board's impetuous and contemptuous decision to place Melissa Noe, the town administrator, on administrative leave seemed to have been done without regard to the crippling consequences to the town, to the town's employees, and to the townspeople.

More than seventy Monterey residents participated in the October 6, 2021 select board meeting—in person and online. For nearly two hours, select board members John Weingold and Justin Makuc sat stoically, refusing to answer the people's questions. (See the YouTube link below.) They were asked multiple times how town employees were going to be paid and how the roads would be plowed in the coming weeks should it snow.

Although Melissa was temporarily reinstated by the end of the meeting, the board members never answered these crucial questions:

- Who would process the town's payroll?
- How long would an employee be expected to work without getting paid?
- Why would employees want to work without being paid? And if they all resign, who would perform their duties?
- How would emergency vehicles be able to assist people in need for police, fire, or ambulance services if the roads are not plowed and passable?



Kate and Brian's New Chairs

The white house on the corner of Tyringham Road and Main Road lost two very beautiful mature maple trees to National Grid's three-phase circuits clearing project. It's a loss for the whole town. Kate Lascar and Brian Budak, who bought the house last year, were heartbroken at the loss of these trees and wanted to find a way to give new life to the remains of the trees. They had the tree cuts marked high, and searched for someone to bring some creativity to the situation. They found Shane Griffin, Lost Mountain Woodcraft, from Ghent, NY, who helped design and then carved two chairs from the stumps. (Photos by Shane Griffin)

The chairs and other planned features aren't completed yet, but when they are there'll be more to the story in a future issue of the *Monterey News*. (P.S., Kate and Brian discovered that the trees had significant defects and are relieved that this didn't result in them coming down on the house.)

—Stephen Moore



It was unimaginable that these consequences were not considered, and when asked to explain them, they had no answers. They violated the trust the people place on their elected officials.

We do not have the possibility to recall them for dereliction of duty, yet, but we do have the power to make our views heard. The board's intransigence was nothing short of belligerence. Waiting to remove them in future elections might be too late. Make your voices heard by attending as many board and town meetings, including the upcoming November 6 special town meeting (see page 2), as you can tolerate; by voting; by emailing the board members with your opinions (email addresses below); and by writing

to the newspapers. This is our town, not just theirs, and we need to save it before there is nothing to save.

—Hillel M. Maximon

Email addresses: Steven Weisz, steve@montereyma.gov; Justin Makuc, justin@montereyma.gov; John Weingold, johnweingold@gmail.com.

YouTube videos: Search in your browser for "10.6.21 Select Board Meeting." You can also search YouTube.com for more recent meeting videos. Search "Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings" and click on videos.

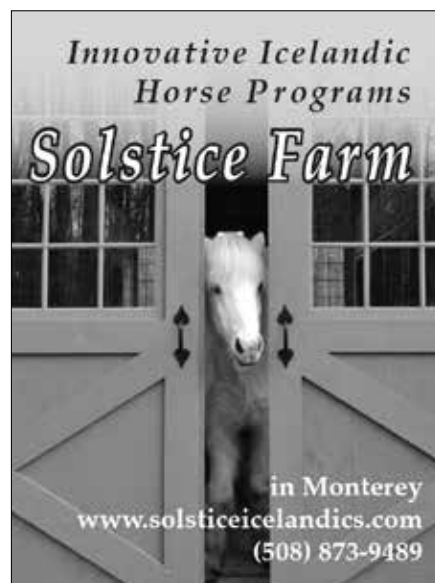


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Letters

Recall By-law

At the special town meeting on Saturday, November 6, voters will be asked to consider adding a recall by-law to our town rules. Different folks have different reasons for wanting, or not wanting, to be able to recall elected officials. My reason is simply stated, for good governance. Simply stated, perhaps not simply understood.

Elected officials are largely responsible for how they will carry out their official duties. While technically they are employees of a public body, there are no performance requirements as most employees have. Attendance, production, ability to work with others, problem solving criteria are left to the judgment of these elected persons. Typically their "evaluations" happen at reelection time. We don't have to tolerate truly lousy employees, but we may have to tolerate a wide range of elected officials.

But there are circumstances where waiting until regular election time is not tenable. Persons who become physically unable to carry out their duties, whether to health or physical concerns, having to relocate, perhaps being incarcerated—if they refuse to resign their office—cannot be removed by the public without the ability to recall. Elected folks who create atmospheres of fear, intimidation, grossly false information, criminal activity, or abuse may need to be removed.

However, I can't help thinking that any recall election that does not produce overwhelmingly clear results might be far worse than no recall at all. Attempts to reverse an election because of purely political disagreements is contrary to our democracy.

Over 170 Massachusetts towns have recall election by-laws. Good governance requires accountability. For that reason I support the current effort to adopt a recall elections by-law.

It May Take a While

A practical word to folks hoping for a recall election by-law to be adopted at the special town meeting. Once approved at town meeting, it may be a long time to arrive at an actual recall election. A customary by-law must be sent to the attorney general's office. However, a recall by-law involves elections, so the town-adopted by-law must be submitted to the MA General Court (state legislature) for approval, and must, as with any other law, pass in both houses and be signed by the governor. While the general court can make minor edits, the by-law must be properly written in accordance with Massachusetts General Law. Once passed and signed, it becomes law.

As the by-law is written in the warrant, folks who want to call for a recall election must first write a petition (in accordance with requirements stipulated in the by-law) and gather thirty certifiable signatures of


town voters to present to the town clerk. The clerk then produces registered petitions on which the organizers must gather certifiable signatures for 15% of the registered voters. Twenty-one days are allowed for gathering these signature and for filing the petition with the town clerk. The signatures must be certified by the town clerk before forwarding the election petition to the select board.

Once received by the select board, if the official being recalled does not resign within five days, the select board would have to call an election no sooner than sixty days ahead, and no later than ninety days ahead.

However, if receipt of the recall petition is received within one hundred days of any other town election, the select board can postpone the recall election until that time.

Looking forward then, it could well be a long time before the town-adopted by-law could result in the election of a new person. This is not an argument for not adopting the by-law—but rather pointing out the interim opportunity to try and improve the situation before the town gets to that point.

— Stephen Moore



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SAT., NOVEMBER 13, 8 PM \$15

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"KAREN ALLEN GIVES THE PERFORMANCE OF A LIFETIME" - LA TIMES


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Don't Discard Good Boots That Just Need Some Polish.

Author's note: These words below were relevant when spoken at the October 6, 2021 select board meeting following the suspension of the town administrator two days before; and they are relevant now even though Melissa Noe was temporarily reinstated. The toxicity is palpable and counter-productive.

Some of us might remember that Melissa Noe and Don Coburn aired their differences in a tense and contentious meeting in this very room a number of years ago. If my memory serves me correctly, that was during Don's first year on the Select Board. You would hardly know that they ever had an issue between them during Don's third year. This is a tribute to both Melissa and to Don—that they were able to resolve their differences and work seamlessly afterwards for the betterment of our town.

Having resolved her issues with Don—there is no doubt in my mind that given the opportunity, Melissa would be receptive to bridging differences with others. Differences are not one-sided—and there needs to be a meeting-of-the-minds between everyone involved.

We talk about returning to civility in our town, but the recent action of the select board did the opposite. It further fueled the toxic environment that everyone complains about. My hope is that this board would reverse its decision to put Melissa on administrative leave—and hire outside consultants to help all of our town employees work better together.

The select board owes it to the residents of this town to take the high road and reduce toxicity. That is fair, and that is just.

— Hillel M. Maximon

Notice of Passing Ron Goldfinger, 75

Ron Goldfinger passed away on October 4. He and Christine were longtime residents of Monterey. Dr. Goldfinger practiced internal medicine and was also a passionate artist. A full obituary will be available in the December issue.

Letters Why I Stay

How does one write something positive given the current climate in town? The more I pondered I realized there are plenty of positive aspects to write about: crime in Monterey is low (almost non-existent) thanks to the superb police department we have; roads are some of the best in south county because of the amazing highway crew we have; emergencies in town are responded to in record time because of the dedicated fire personnel (and yes not all of them are Monterey residents); town hall continues to be successful in securing 90+% of the grants we apply for; and we have a lot of employees, volunteers, and concerned citizens who support us and are crucial for making this such a successful town.

All of those folks mentioned above should be applauded (standing ovation actually) for all that they have done and continue to do, especially during the last few months. Municipalities aren't like private businesses, and unfortunately we cannot reward these folks with large bonuses as some companies can. We try to remain competitive in salary and benefits to retain employees, but I am saddened to say right now that may not be enough. Word is getting out and candidates that may have applied for open positions before are not now because they don't want to become targets of slander, false accusations, and frivolous lawsuits.

During my sixteen years working for Monterey, I have occasionally been asked, "Why do you stay?" but recently I have been asked this question by many folks numerous times each week. The answer has many elements, some of which are for personal reasons, but the main reason is that I love Monterey. The staff (employees, board and committee members) I have worked with during my time here are truly exceptional and I am saddened and frustrated beyond what words can describe to see some of these people become so worn down from the current atmosphere that they have chosen to leave Monterey and pursue other ventures. I wish them the best but recognize that I have been helpless in trying to change the course of events so that they wouldn't have had to even consider leaving. I am also proud of all of our accomplishments together and am committed to continue that path. I stay because I am hopeful that the more than 10% of our voters who have become vocal over the last month grows exponentially and demands that this abuse of employees stops and that elected officials will no longer be allowed to even consider their manipulation of individuals and attempts to use them as pawns in their twisted game to destroy Monterey. I stay because I am going to continue to stand up to the bullies and protect the staff that remains...I hope you will too.

Thank you to all those that come to fight the good fight and continue to support us during these difficult times; you are all amazing!

—Melissa Noe
Town Administrator



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Mary Makuc

Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker will again bring us music.

Monterey Lights the Holidays 2nd Annual Village Brightening

Last year was the inaugural year of the Monterey community celebrating the holiday season by lighting up our town center along Main Road and Tyringham Road, thanks to a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council given to the Monterey Community Center. Last year from Thanksgiving through mid-January, hundreds of energy efficient, warm LED white mini-lights were placed along fences, on shrubbery, and along front porches in an effort to brighten up and bring joy to those who live in, visit, or travel through Monterey. This year another grant from the council has enabled the project to continue with the purchase of additional LED lights and green extension cords for those property owners who wish to participate in Monterey Lights The Holidays (MLTH) during the holiday season.

The MLTH project works this way. A property owner contacts the Monterey Community Center at (413) 528-3600 and leaves a message that they wish to participate, along with their name, physical address, and telephone number, no later than Wednesday, November 17. A representative of the Monterey Community Center program committee will return the call and arrange for the delivery of up to two hundred outdoor mini-lights on a sixty-foot green string and, only if needed, one sixty-foot outdoor extension cord on a loan basis. The property owner is responsible for the placement at ground level and maintenance of the MLTH lights on their respective property on Main Road between the Monterey Fire Station and further east at the Sandisfield Road/ Main Road intersection as well as a portion



Natalie Manzino

of Tyringham Road. The project is based on the availability of lights and cords though the Council grant, so please call at your earliest convenience. Then as part of the grant during mid-January, the participating property owners will be contacted again to arrange for the return of the lights and extension cords to the Monterey Community Center.

To kick off the Monterey Lights The Holidays this year, a community lighting ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 27, at 7 p.m., outside the Monterey Library. The first fifty participants will receive individual, hand-held battery powered lights and all will be invited to enjoy the music of Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker. Finally, all participating property owners are asked to activate their loaned lights just prior to attending the ceremony on November 27. If you put out your own lighting, join the joy and light up by the 27th!

Please come to light up and enjoy the upcoming holiday season by joining your friends and neighbors on November 27 for the second annual Monterey Lights The Holidays event. Be prepared for winter weather that evening.

—Dennis and Elaine Lynch



Mallards over Lake Garfield.

Photo by Lin Saberski



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Letters

CHP Vaccination Clinic

Dear Montereyans,

A deep sense of gratitude filled me as my wife Lis and I lined up with so many others this morning (October 25) to get our Covid-19 vaccine boosters with the help of the kind and expert staff provided by Community Health Programs in their mobile van at the Fire House Pavilion.

I remember some forty-plus years ago that my wife and I turned to what was then the Children's Health Program, led by Dr. Thomas Whitfield and nurse practitioner Linda Small, for the medical care of our four young children. I was later on the board of CHP when it secured a federal grant that launched its capacity to serve the medical needs of many people, not just children, throughout the Berkshires. (CHP physician Dr. Lara Setti is also our PCP today, the best we have ever had.)

Today, when we went for our booster I felt so grateful to be in a community that cares for its members. The massive CHP van drove to Monterey because the Monterey Council on Aging cared enough to work with the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative to invite CHP. It also had a place to provide its testing and vaccine clinic because of the community members from long ago who cared enough to raise the money to build the pavilion near the fire house—which was also built largely by community donations and is still staffed by community volunteers. The staff were able to serve over one hundred folks, but unfortunately had to turn a long line of people away as they were scheduled to be set up in Stockbridge by early afternoon.

Monterey has a history of being a caring community—it is wonderful to see that the caring has not stopped. Expressing our community gratitude today may help to assure that our history of caring will have an even greater future.

Gratefully,

—Virgil Stucker

P.S. We just visited chpberkshires.org and made a donation to CHP.



The outside line got to halfway up to the fire house and wound around inside the pavilion as well. Folks chose which Covid vaccines they wanted, and to get the seasonal flu vaccine as well. Thanks to Virgil Stucker for the photo above, and to Carol Parrish from New Marlborough for the photo below.



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Here's a Thought...

As I began trying to write this month's article for the third time, one of the other tasks I was trying to accomplish was fall housecleaning. That clearing out also included editing of stored emails. Much to my surprise, I came across an email from our most recent previous editor, Will Marsh, letting me know he'd received my November 2013 article.

As I read through what I'd written eight years ago, I found I had a half-smile on my face. Not bad, not half-bad. Better than what I've been wrestling with this cycle. So I polished up the old article instead of writing a new one. Here's the result.

Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hahn is well known for developing a practice known as "mindfulness," which includes a way of mindful-breathing. When training others in this opportunity to step out of whatever rut we happen to be in, he suggests we use our inhale to set the timing for a regular pattern, and that we time our exhale to be a bit longer. Perhaps start with inhale 1-2-3; exhale 1-2-3-4-5.



Mary Kate Jordan

There was no snow on the ground on November 13, 2012, when this local scavenger stopped halfway down the driveway to pose for this photo. I wonder what weather November 13, 2021 has in store!

Why? He didn't say specifically at the conference I attended in Boston in 2013, but I wonder if it's this: Breathing in, I receive. Breathing out, I give. Breathing in, I receive. Breathing out, I give to you. Breathing in, I receive. Breathing out, I give to the world.

1-2-3, 1-2-3-4-5: a bit more giving than taking. In a word: generosity. And this: Breathing in, I hold on. Breathing out, I let go. In a word, flexibility. Breathing in, I smile. Breathing out, I

speak. Both acts are for both of us. Nowhere is my breathing only for you, or only for me. Breathing in, I. Breathing out, you. Can't have one without the other.

In a word: relationship. In none of those equations is breathing just a physical act focused on getting air from the nasal passages into the lungs and moving the diaphragm. Even on a simply physical level, the contents of every breath we take in becomes a part of us, and every breath we release offers a part of our lived experience back to the world. One species' carbon dioxide is another's oxygen. In a word: community.

Speaking of community, isn't awareness of breathing also a way to become aware of the way we live? Though some caution we couldn't have imagined in 2013 is still advised about connecting in person, connection is still possible.

Thich Nhat Hanh is ninety-five years old now, confined to a wheelchair and unable to whisper more than a word or so at a time after a stroke six years ago. Photos of him show a man physically diminished but living a strong inner life. I don't mean he's smiling all the time like a plastic kewpie doll (Google the term if you're younger than sixty). I simply mean that this poet-monk-scholar-teacher who once traveled the world teaching peace, and who now requires assistance with the most basic human necessities, is still teaching me about gratitude, one breath at a time.

Simply put, in the middle of hell, personal or collective, he's proven to me that gratitude is still possible. So here I am, a writer, inspired to exhale words. You, the reader, are inspired to take time to read them. I'm grateful for both parts of that equation. Whether we connect by means of print on paper or pixels on a screen, the connection is real. Thanks for that. I'm grateful for you.

Grateful for you as my reader also means grateful for our *Monterey News* editor, and the illustrators, advertisers, volunteers, donors, other writers, all who make this publication what it is. Not only the people, but also the substances and processes involved: the trees and ink, or electronic systems and pixels, that make up the paper in your hands or on your screen. You're all going to be present in the cornucopia of gratitude on my Thanksgiving table later this month, along with a hearty Salud!

—Mary Kate Jordan



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Monterey Community Center

On October 2, John Wheeler from Berkshire Mycological Society met with folks at the MCC to go foraging at Bob's Way. Seven people trekked up and down and found many varieties of fungi. John knows all about which mushrooms are actually edible and how to identify them. See Erin Kaplan's report on page 15.

Our upcoming events are once again a combination of in-person, Zoom, and hybrid.

Friday, November 5, at 4 p.m.: Mindfulness Meditation for Turbulent Times, with Sandrine Harris of Kinesoma. This is the second part of a very relaxing three-part series. The November program will be a hybrid—in person (masked) at the MCC and also on Zoom. Call or email the address at the bottom to preregister. A donation is requested, payable to Sandrine.

Friday, November 12, at 5:30 p.m.: Game night with Aldeth, board games for all tastes and for all ages. In person at the MCC. You don't need to preregister, but if you have questions please call or email.

Monday, November 15, at 7 p.m.: Lake Garfield Pollution Mitigation on Zoom. See Courteny Morehouse's notice on page 4.

Thursday, November 18, at 7 p.m.: Frank MacGreur will talk to us from his shop about furniture restoration. Frank is an *ebenist* and does antique restorations. Contact us for the Zoom link.

Saturday, November 20, and Sunday, November 21, at 2 p.m.: Join us for a very special production, the reading of a poem/play entitled "A Perfect Storm" at the MCC (masked and vaccinated). Stephanie Sloane of Monterey is the author and also acts in this play. The other actor is Kim Bradley, who plays a ghost.

This play reading is directed by Linda Josephs, and Brian Budak, another Montereyan, will be filming it. This production is being sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Community Center.

Friday, November 26, at 2 p.m.: Second annual Monterey chestnut roast. See Janet Jensen's notice on page 16.

Saturday, November 27, 7pm.: Monterey Lights the Holidays kickoff at the library. Please see page 10 for the details. It will be held outside the library.

All programs are free except for Mindfulness Meditation, which is a sliding donation scale of \$10 to \$20.

To preregister, or if you have questions, please call (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.

Note—there are separate registration contacts for Courteny Morehouse's program on Lake Garfield pollution mitigation and the American chestnut program. You do not register for them by contacting the MCC.

Many thanks to JoAnn Bell, who helped the ghouls and boys get their grab-and-go treats last week. We will always be grateful to Roy Carwile: bridge player, firefighter, and board of health member, pantry volunteer, and more.

—Mary Makuc
Monterey Community Center coordinator



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Bidwell House Museum

The trees may be bare but the late fall forest is still a beautiful place to be in Monterey. If you are looking to spend some time outside this month we have two guided walks coming up. First, on Sunday, November 14, from 10 a.m. to noon, join museum friend and local naturalist Thomas Lewis as he guides you along the Bidwell trails for his third guided walk with the museum this season. Informative and fun, you will definitely enjoy a walk with Mr. Lewis. Then on Saturday, November 20, from 10 a.m. to noon, we are happy to present "Unveil the Trail" where we introduce you to our new Loom Brook trail. Built by the Greenagers this past summer using a grant from Mass Trails, this beautiful new trail along the eastern edge of the property will allow hikers to walk a full loop of the property, and it connects trails on the northern and southern sides of the museum's 192 acres. Board of trustees president Rob Hoogs will lead the walk along the new Loom Brook trail and answer questions about the construction. For start times and details on how to register for either walk, head to the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/events.

As we mentioned last month, we plan to continue guided tours of the house on

a limited basis as long as there is no snow on the ground. For the month of November you can make an appointment for a tour on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, at 1 or 3 p.m. Tours must be booked twenty-four hours in advance either via phone at 528-6888 or via email at bidwellhm2@gmail.com. All visitors to the house must wear a mask and we advise dressing for the weather as the first part of the tour is outside. We look forward to sharing the house with you this month.

Finally, as always, the grounds and gardens are open all year, free of charge. There are now over four miles of trails on the Bidwell House Museum grounds where you can take a brisk walk in the woods, exercise your dog or learn about the Native American history of the area. Trail maps, an "Outside the House" tour, and maps of the Native American interpretive trail can

be found on the front porch of the house. You can also go to the museum website and download pdf maps at bidwellhousemuseum.org/trails and bidwellhousemuseum.org/the-museum/guided-tours/.

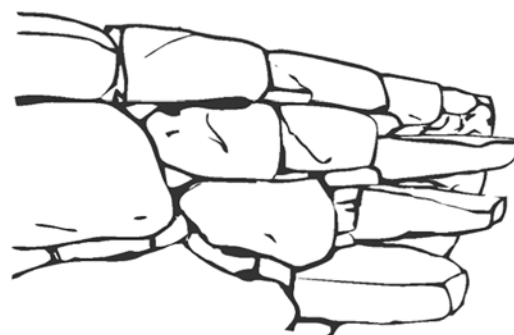
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Mushroom Walk

On October 2, a small group of us gathered at the Monterey Community Center, including my son Patrick, 11, and were introduced to local mycologist, John Wheeler. John shared his passion for mushroom foraging and showed us a basket of mushrooms that he had found that morning. We were inspired to find our own, so we plotted a hike at Bob's Way Trail. Just a few steps onto the trail, we found our first mushroom and then our second and then our third. The moist fall weather made it easy to find a huge variety of mushrooms. We asked lots of questions along the way and learned about the best ways to identify the different kinds. We returned to the community center to continue identifying our haul and discussed books and resources for future foraging.

—Erin Kaplan

Photos by Erin



Second Annual Monterey Chestnut Roast

Learn about and sample the bounty of this legendary native tree.

I'm old enough to remember the shock and sorrow that accompanied the loss, from a fungal disease, of millions of American elms, the tall, graceful, fast-growing trees that lined Main Streets across the nation, including here in the Berkshires.

But a generation or two before that, forests across the East—from Appalachia throughout Massachusetts and up into Maine—sustained an even greater loss: the demise of the American chestnut, the magnificent species that has been called the eastern redwood.

What better way to honor Native American Heritage Day (November 26) than by learning about the natural history of the American chestnut and the ways in which the tree was used by indigenous people? On that day, a talk will be offered at the community center, followed by a meander (or drive) across Route 23 to Eaton Road, where Kevin West will be roasting some of this year's harvest from two surviving American chestnuts planted decades ago.

As we will discuss, the loss of the American chestnut began around the turn of the twentieth century, when a deadly fungus hitchhiked to New York on imported Chinese chestnuts (a shorter species that provides most of the nuts found in grocery stores this time of year). By the 1940s the blight had wiped out virtually all American chestnuts—perhaps three and a half billion trees. Their loss significantly altered forest structures, the lumber industry, human livelihoods, and habitat for creatures large and small.

Although the forest canopies have filled in with other species, and the absence of the chestnuts is no longer obvious, native plants guru Doug Tallamy notes that the current mix of trees does not support the former density of wildlife. In his book *Bringing Nature Home*, he writes that the chestnut was “the primary nut producer of eastern forests, dwarfing the contribution of oaks, beeches, and hickories as wildlife food sources. Squirrels, chipmunks, deer, elk, black bears, turkeys, passenger



Note the man on the left and one in the center.

pigeons, doves, blue jays, and mice were just some of the animals that depended on copious quantities of chestnuts to make it through the long winters.”

And the American chestnut supported perhaps 125 different species of moths and butterflies, whose larvae are so crucial to the reproductive cycle of songbirds.

Chestnuts were also crucial to the wellbeing of indigenous people, as Rob Hoogs will discuss at the talk. In addition to roasting the nuts, using them in flour, broths, and breads, Native Americans found the tree to be a kind of pharmacopeia for remedies to treat coughs, sores, bleeding, and other maladies. Chestnut gathering in the fall often provided sustenance for families to get through the winter.

Tree-lovers have not given up on the tree. Efforts to restore American chestnuts into their native landscapes have been ongoing for half a century, using everything from basic botany to biotechnology. A local example is the American Chestnut Preserve off Route 7 just south of Stockbridge, established by Craig Moffat, under the direction of The American Chestnut Foundation, which retains ownership of the germ plasma. Those trees have been cross-bred, over generations, to retain the size and shape of American Chestnuts along with the blight resistance of the Chinese species. They have been inoculated with the fungus to see how they respond, and the seeds of the most blight-resistant species become part of the ongoing work to create a more resilient tree.

The two trees whose nuts we are going to sample after the talk are also hybrids that were planted by Mark Makuc, more than three decades ago in an individual effort to bring back the trees. While two or three others he planted have since died, these two trees, though they do have cankers characteristic of the blight, seem to be thriving, and produced four or five pounds of delicious nuts for the last couple of years, West said.

And just this year, a chestnut seedling was planted as a memorial on the Bidwell House property.

To learn more, stop by the Monterey Community Center, at 2 p.m., on November 26, for the talk, which is sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group and the Monterey Community Center. Because the community center has a capacity of only twenty vaccinated people, we ask that you register by emailing Janetjensen@verizon.net. Kindly bring proof of vaccination when you attend. If more people are interested, we will also offer the talk online. All are invited to sample roasted chestnuts and sip apple cider, starting around 3 p.m. on Eaton Road.

—Janet Jensen



Kevin West roasted some of the chestnut harvest at last year's gathering.



The Catbird's Feline Meowing Call

The very common catbird is a frequent and friendly visitor to our backyards, even in suburban Mattapoisett. The gray catbird has very light gray plumage, a black hat on its head, and a long tail that it flickers and flexes when wanting attention. Catbirds are friendly companions to human beings and talk to us by revealing their presence nearby in shrubbery with their familiar cat-like meowing call.

The name “catbird” itself has become a much-used metaphor, “sitting in the catbird seat,” indicating absolute control of a situation. The catbird fits the bill of a strong character, and is strictly monogamous most of its normal life as a breeding parent, like Canada geese. The female of the faithful pair lays three to six greenish-blue eggs with yellow spots, which are easily identified as their own, thus helping them identify any invasion of unwanted cowbird eggs, which they will push out on the ground.

The catbird is a very vocal species and a close cousin to the outspoken mockingbirds and loud brown thrashers. However, they do not similarly imitate a wide variety of different successive calls. They are very disciplined and end any long-winded conversation with a terminal sounding “chit or chat” after having spoken their mind. Catbirds can be attracted to come right up to humans by hand-feeding raisins possibly luring their attention away from climbing stalks of fruit to get black or red berries, as in my illustration.

The more you get to know and appreciate the company of catbirds, the more you may elevate the inspiration for storytelling equal to that of the barnyard tales of Beatrix Potter's *Peter Rabbit* and *Jemima Puddle Duck* in the children's section of Mattapoisett Library. I hope my article and drawing will shape your awareness of



the catbird as both curious and interesting, and be entertaining to children of all ages.


—George B. Emmons

Editor's Note: Currently on display through November 14 in the Mattapoisett, MA library is a retrospective of nearly fifty of George Emmons's nature drawings spanning his decades of interest in the natural world. George, now 95 years old, shows no loss of interest in bringing topics to our readers' attention with both text and illustrations.

Correction

In the October issue, describing the job of the director of operations, it was stated that the director oversees the parks. This is not the case. The parks commission oversees the parks, and the cemetery commission is in charge of the Veterans Memorial at the corner of Blue Hill Road. Thanks to Linda Thorpe for the correction.

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November at the Knox Gallery

Since *Foxy Wool*, recent work by Mark Olshansky, opened at the Knox Gallery on October 14, visitors to the Monterey Library and Knox Gallery have been greeted with a crescendo of color upon entry. Olshansky's needlepoint, created with stitches worked across a small grid ground cloth, oozes color, which the artist obviously loves to explore. Although the grid ground defines the geometric structure, his motifs range from geometric to abstract to more representative allusions to portraits, landscape and architecture. His complex stitching utilizes both long and short lengths so as to create color blending, shading, and texture. The yarns function just as a painter's pigments do when manipulated on a palette.

Viewers can surely discern that Olshansky's countless hours of needlework have insured his mastery of his medium. He is both an artist and a tireless worker.

Foxy Wool will be on view through Thanksgiving weekend.

Group Show

Yes! We are organizing a group community show for December, so please participate! *Tracks & Trails* will open on Friday, December 10. We hope all artists and friends will consider this theme an impetus and inspiration for an exciting new work. We plan to assemble a diverse and stimulating group of pieces that express many interpretations of the theme, represent a range of mediums, and reflect our community. We look forward to seeing your work.

The dictionary defines "tracks" as a rough path or minor road, typically one beaten by use, rather than constructed. A "trail" is a mark or series of signs or objects left behind by the passage of someone or something. How might you interpret or expand on these definitions?

Needless to say, we have plenty of both tracks and trails etched in the Berkshire earth. Additionally, both terms are used in a variety of ways that evoke inspiration: animals tracks; following tracks; track an animal, criminal, or storm; railroad tracks; to run track.

As a verb, trail can mean to lag behind, or to follow. Trails in science describe anything drawn to a length: a trail of a meteor, smoke, or blood.



In art? Why not consider the marks made by a pencil, or paint brush or needle stitch as trails?

If you intend to submit work for this community show, please download the form on the library website montereymasslibrary.org, labeled "Tracks & Trails entry form 2021." Please fill in your information on the first page of the form, save, and then email to pdepreter@yahoo.com. We need to receive the form via email by November 15.

The second page shows two small labels. Please fill those out. Attach one so that it is visible on the front of your artwork (which will be removed after hanging), and one securely to the back of it. This helps us confirm that the work is correctly labeled.

Each artist may submit one piece of two- or three-dimensional, ready-to-display work, with maximum outside dimensions of 18" by 24" (or 430 square inches in a different shape). Work will need to be hand-delivered to the library Monday evening, December 6, 7 to 9 p.m., or Tuesday morning, December 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (If you cannot deliver your own work, please arrange for a friend or relative to do so. We cannot accommodate artwork for longer stretches, and we cannot pick up or deliver.)

Tracks & Trails will run from December 10 through January 22, 2022. Due to Covid and library regulations there will not be a reception.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. 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

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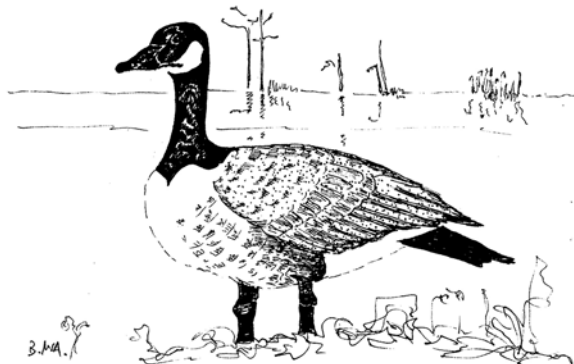
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Two Big Birds and Us

Compared to most birds, we are very big. There are other differences, too. Most of us have arms but birds have wings instead. Then there are the feathers! Most birds have feathers and most of us do not, though at least two of us, famous in legend, tried feathers. Daedalus the inventor father, stuck the feathers on with wax, as I recall, and next thing you know, he and his beloved son were flying. We know how that ended and not many of us have tried it again, unless you count skydiving. But if it were not for the little parachutes strapped to our backs, we would all end up like Icarus when his wax melted. Done for.

Not all birds fly, especially the very big ones. They have long strong legs and can run fast and far. There are smaller flightless birds and some of these are good swimmers, even under water. Some others are extinct now, which looks like it could happen to any of us, with or without wings.



We have two big birds of the season here in our northeast bioregion. The Canada goose is overhead, often out of sight, flying alone or in family groups. Aldo Leopold noted that sometimes geese fly singly, but the flocks are likely to be present in groups of six or in multiples of six, since six is the most common number for a goose family, and geese are family creatures. A flock of many makes a marvelous music, random both in rhythm and in pitch. A lone goose strikes us as lonely, with its solo honk honk honk. I should say that Edward Howe Forbush, our state ornithologist about a century ago, pointed out that the call is said to be a honk, but “I have never heard the h or the k.”

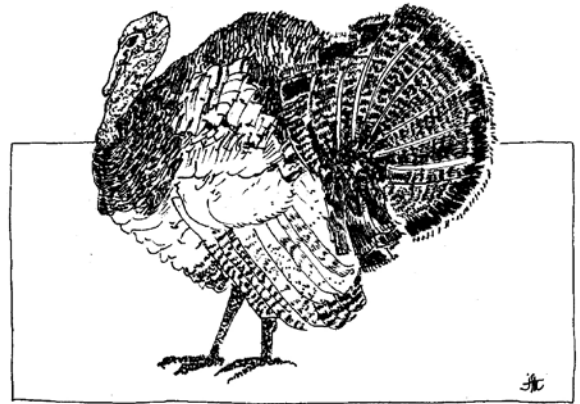
The other big bird of note in autumn, but really anytime, is the wild turkey.

Somehow the turkey got linked to Thanksgiving in our legends and our selective understanding of fairly recent human interaction here in the Bay State. We learned that the friendly Indians welcomed the weary pilgrims after their long sea voyage in the Mayflower and cooked them up a feast of cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and baked turkey with stuffing. The turkey became the symbol

of this myth and as kids in school we did our best to draw pictures of Squanto and maybe Miles Standish sitting down to a turkey dinner together, one man wearing feathers on his head and the other a sort of hat like you can still see on signs for the Mass Pike. These used to feature a pilgrim hat with an arrow sticking through it, implying that bows and arrows were brought to bear. The implication also is that the Indian was not such a good shot and only managed to put the arrow through the hat. This is insulting. The Indians were expert archers. So the arrow has been removed from the pilgrim hat signs in these recent decades. There's no hint of the Indian at all on the Mass Pike signs now.

In our childhood we drew what we learned from the storybooks. We knew turkeys mean Thanksgiving, and these birds are big, with remarkable details like a “snood” and a “brush” or “beard.” Some also have spurs. These are good details to note about the turkey, the snood being a “secondary sexual characteristic” of the male, a long dollop of skin that hangs over the beak and can get much longer very quickly, also change color: blue, red, white. In fact the warty bald head and neck of the turkey can flash these color changes, too, in a glorious show meant to impress ladies and discourage lesser males. Those bumps on the skin are not really warts, they are called caruncles.

Besides all this, the male turkey can famously spread his tail in a huge fan nearly circular, each feather equipped with a sheath attachment to the body and with special muscles to raise and spread that



tail fast, and hold it there. In the storybook examples we saw of the turkey tail fans, the tips of the feathers were white.

Our New England wild turkeys do not have tail feathers with white tips. If you can't get a close look at a turkey tail feather, you can always check out the label on a bottle of Wild Turkey in the liquor store. This is an accurate painting. The feathers are banded black on brown, with a brown or chestnut tip. The banding is not hard-lined, more like a woven or batik pattern with soft edges.

It is our domesticated turkeys that have white tips on the tail feathers. They are a different sort of turkey, with their own history.

When Cortez came to the New World he was looking for gold. Disappointed, he committed genocide on the native Arawak people and took into slavery many, many of them, to sell back in Europe. He took other things, including the local wild turkeys, the kind still found wild in what we now call Mexico, and in the southwestern United States. The tips of the tail feathers of these turkeys are white.

Turkeys were a big hit in Europe and survived there as domesticated farm animals. When religious persecution drove some white folks to cross the sea to New England, they brought turkeys along to raise here. The well-travelled white tail-tipped turkeys did not thrive, not adapted to our rugged climate. Neither were the pilgrims, and many did not survive. Those who made it did so thanks to the generous people who already lived here, and to the native turkeys, like the ones on the bourbon bottle. The rest of the story is history and we need to learn it, so we can tell true stories, draw accurate pictures, and not repeat it.

—Bonner McAllester

Who's Who in Monterey

Tom Sawyer

When asked if he had any idea why he had been asked to be profiled in the Who's Who for this month, Tom Sawyer, a twenty-year Monterey resident, whose linebacker build belied his mild manner, offered: "I guess it has something to do with citizen volunteerism." And right he was.

For more than ten years, Tom has served on the Planning Board, about half of which as chairperson. In his typically self-effacing manner, Tom explained: "Somebody put my name on the ballot, and I was elected." Later he offered: "I don't like to say 'no' when someone asks me for something." Tom's role model of this trait was his mother. She would drive him to and from swimming practice, and later volunteer for tasks around the pool, even to judge events. She also volunteered at her church. For those of us who were overjoyed to have had smooth ice on the pavilion rink this past winter, for ten years-plus Tom has been Mark Makuc's right hand man. This, despite the fact that Tom is not one of the town's hockey-crazed skaters.

One might think that being named Tom Sawyer would come to feel burdensome, putting up with the same tired jests his name is likely to elicit. (Worse perhaps, being named Clark Kent?) But Tom takes it all in stride. "I never let it get to me." More to the point, Tom, with good reason, is proud of his heritage and the name that carries it. He can trace his family history through twelve generations of male Sawyer relatives (thus the last



Phil Gladstone

The Sawyer family: Top—Shira, Tom, Devorah; Bottom—Shayna, Suzanne, Donovan

name) dating back to the 1618 birth of his great (ten more greats) grandfather. One of Tom's many hobbies is researching Massachusetts history, especially his ancestry. With twelve generations on the family tree, there is much here to mine. A photo above shows Tom and brother Ralph at the gravestone of the first Tom Sawyer (sic) near Lancaster, MA. Tom found references to massacres with indigenous tribes and frequent family resettling elsewhere in Massachusetts.

His interest in Massachusetts history embraces more than his family's involvement in it. It was on a trip with Ralph when actually being in places he'd heard of im-

pacted him in ways reading history never did. He has researched many historic sites, describing the town, and significant events associated with it. Might there be a Knox Gallery event awaiting us? Who knows?

Tom and wife Suzanne met in Bennington, VT, virtue of a blind date. Suzanne was looking for an apartment, and a co-worker's ex-husband had a room for rent. The co-worker steered her away from the room, but toward the guy who was leaving. That guy was Tom. Here they are, almost thirty years later with four terrific daughters, happily ensconced in Monterey.

I wondered how Tom felt that the namesakes of twelve generations had ended; sadness, disappointment? I asked how it felt to have four daughters. Immediately, Tom replied, "What would it feel like not to have four daughters?" expressing perfectly how blessed he feels and proud he is of them: Devorah, 26, marketing director of the Co-op in Great Barrington; Shayna, 23, a clinical doctoral student in audiology at Salus University; Donovan, 21, a criminal justice major at Nichols College and an MP in the MA National Guard; and Shira, a sophomore and varsity volleyball player at Mt. Everett High. And that's only part of the reason why Tom can't imagine not having them in his life. All four women were bat mitzvahed at Hevreh Synagogue, each designing and making her own prayer shawl.

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Brothers Ralph and Tom in Lancaster, MA.

Tom was born in Marlboro, MA, but spent most of his early years in Laconia, NH. Tom became a swimmer, accomplished enough later to have captained his high school team. He earned state championship medals in freestyle and individual medley events: 100, 200, and 500 meters. “Huck,” as he was called by his teammates (no surprise there), was good enough to earn a scholarship, albeit a modest one, to the University of Maine. He went on to complete a degree in mechanical engineering. A long, rewarding career followed, with firms in Maine (Poland Spring), Adams, MA (Holland Company), and most recently in Rockland County, NY.

Since March 2021, Tom has been Vice President of Engineering at Star Kay White in Rockland County, NY, living in an apartment there during the week and driving home for the weekends. He has clearly enjoyed a challenging and successful career, attributing this, a bit tongue-in-cheek, to “...a short memory and a good attitude.” I saw little evidence of the short memory during our conversation. As to the good attitude, that was there in abundance.

When he’s not working, you can find Tom “puttering around the house and garden.” But he quickly acknowledged that the garden is really Suzanne’s bailiwick. “The garden” is actually an array of them ringing almost the whole property and the house, as well; each with its own story and its own demands. How Suzanne, who can spot a weed at fifty paces, has managed to tend them while raising four girls and maintaining her career as an occupational therapist is perhaps best explained by this bit of managerial wisdom: “If you want

something done, give it to the busiest person in the office.” Suzanne, no less than Tom, is an exemplar of citizen volunteerism. She and Tom have been long-standing volunteers at Hevreh, and from 2015-19, Suzanne was President of the Hevreh congregation’s board of directors.

A further note on volunteerism: it helps to give in ways that reward and please you. Tom smiled when talking about his work on the Monterey Planning Board, which is one member shy (big hint here). He positively beamed when describing his nine-year service with the South County Breaking Bread Kitchen. Tom has led volunteers from Hevreh in planning and preparing a meal served every six to eight weeks for as many as seventy to eighty folks at the Sheffield American Legion Hall. He loves to cook and to wash dishes. But I got the sense that schmoozing with the folks he serves is what he loves most.

There is a magical spot on Main Road (Route 23), east of Corashire Road and just past a yellow house, where in springtime traffic slows. Cyclists dismount and stagger in drunken wonder in lilac heaven. You have reached the Sawyers’ house. Digging up small shoots from bushes in a neighbor’s yard (with permission, Tom being a straight-shooter), he and Suzanne replanted them around their house. Eighteen years later: lilac heaven.

As if all the above were not enough, there is something else brewing in the Sawyer household. Hard cider. For seven-plus years, Tom has been fermenting apples and ginger. He brought a sample of each to our second chat, and as advertised, the cider provided a delicious, bubbly buzz. Devorah, ever the busy marketer, designed and produced labels—“Tom Sawyer’s Cider.” But don’t look for it at the GB Co-op, or anywhere else. Alas, it’s for home consumption only. With all that Tom and family give to our community, I guess we can live with that.

—Bob Cutick

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Bullhead Rock Drill Holes

Drill holes were a standard way of marking property lines along shorelines in early days, so there are other rocks all around the lake that are now underwater but at one time indicated boundaries (personal communication, Linda Thorpe).

Another common use of drill holes was to reference and record water levels in bodies of water.

In 1847, Frederick D. Ingersall, representing the Tyringham, Hartsville, and Mill River Hydraulic Association, was seeking flowage (flooding) rights on land to the east of Brewer Pond (so called). (See note on names at the end.) The deed between them and James M. Fargo read in part as follows, "the rights to flow the lands of the said James M. Fargo adjoining the Brewer Pond (so called) to the lower hole in a large rock which hole is six-and one-half feet higher than the ordinary level of the pond... covering about three acres and a hundred and nineteen rods of land." (*One acre equals 160 square rods. One rod, 16.5' squared equals 272 square feet.*)

The deeds of the other property owners affected on the east side of Brewer Pond all agreed, and signed deeds that referenced the specific rock on the Fargo property. I know of two stone walls that were flooded by the raising of the water, so the area was open fields at the time.

An increase in the number of mills along the whole Konkopot River during



1933 Postcard image of Bullhead Rock. Friends of Lake Garfield website

the next twenty years created a growing need for more waterpower. By 1870 the Marlboro Paper Company went back to the landowners surrounding Brewer Pond and requested a raising of the water level. The new deeds read in part, "as will naturally be flowed by raising the water of said pond as high as two drill holes in the northerly side of a large rock, on my land at the easterly side of the bay, which holes are four feet higher than a hole in said rock made in 1847 to indicate the height to which my land might be flowed under a deed dated December 8, 1847."

In 1900 the property was purchased by the Parker family of Parkersburg,

West Virginia. Ownership is still retained by their descendants and is now called Bracken Brae Farm, which people are familiar with as the vegetable stand on Route 23 east of the village.

Heights of the Drill Holes

Beginning at the ground level upon which the rock sits, lowest hole is 27" above the ground, the middle hole is 54" above, and the top two holes are about 78" above the ground. (For reference the ski pole in the photo is 54" and the handle is 3 1/2".)

The "ordinary level of the pond," the water level of the natural impoundment, was 51" below the level of the ground at the

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<Top 2 holes
78" above ground
129" above "ordinary level"
(pre-dammed) level of lake

<Middle hole
54" above ground,
105" above "ordinary level"

<Lowest hole
27" above ground,
78" above "ordinary level"

Winter drawdown level
15" above ground,
66" above "ordinary level"

base of the rock. The "ordinary level" was 93" (nearly eight feet) below the current high water mark today, and 129" below the upper two holes, which were the highest permissible level of the 1870 deed. For reference, we currently draw down 72" (six feet) each fall. This is about one foot below the culverts under Tyringham Road (there is a drain at that depth).

During the summer, when the lake is at its maximum height, the middle hole is about one foot above the water, and the double holes are about three feet above the water so you can paddle over and view them.

The current high water level is 4" higher than the lake level was with the pre-1972 dam. The maximum permissible flowage of the 1870 deed would have required a dam that was an additional forty inches higher than the old pre-1972 dam (36" higher than the existing dam), so perhaps they never did this even though they had the rights.

Editor's Note: In paragraph three the body of water is called "Brewer's Pond." What is now called Lake Garfield was mostly a smaller pond and wetland in the eastern part of the current lake. What we now call Brewer's Pond lies to the west of the dam over which Tyringham Road crosses, and was created with the construction of the current dam in the 1970s. The original Brewer's Pond was named for Colonel John Brewer, an early proprietor (land-owner) in Monterey.

For more details and pictures, read the chapter on Monterey in Bernard Drew's superb book on the eighteenth and nineteenth century, *Waterpowered Industry in the Upper Housatonic River Valley*. The book is available in the Monterey Library. Also, on the Friends of Lake Garfield website (friendsoflakegarfield.org), under the "History of Lake Garfield," is the excellent four-part article on the lake and dams researched and written by Linda

Thorpe which was published in 2020 by the *Monterey News*.

All the research for this article was done by Linda Thorpe. Without her help and Bernard Drew's book, it would not have been possible for me to write this. Bernard Drew and Linda Thorpe have given permission for me to use the pictures here.

—Michael Germain

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October 2021 Wildlife Report

Birds, Bears, Mammals, One Amphibian, and Acorns Galore

October's bright colors are still with us in the valleys and on the hillsides, but more and more they have drifted to the ground, brightening the woods floor. Deciduous trunks stand bare, relieved of their canopies, and liven the view with fine patterns against the sky.



Also in the sky now are some birds organizing for travel south. The hummingbirds are long gone already. Down on the ground birds and mammals alike are feasting on a bumper crop of acorns. Steve Moore saw a big porcupine up an oak tree, nipping off branches so they'd drop to the ground making the acorns easier and safer to scoop up. Kit Patten took a photograph (above) of a handsome porcupine on the ground, working over some small oak branches. Kit writes, "His/her name is Jim."

Our bear reporter south of here near Chestnut Hill watched her big mama bear (whose photo was in last month's wildlife report) munching on acorns, biting them in half. She sent a photograph (below) of a quantity of these chomped acorns, left on the lawn. Michael Storch saw a bear with two cubs this past month, too.



There are two local mammals who swim and eat fish. Malcolm and Linda Griggs were lucky to see one, an otter, sporting in Lake Garfield. "It was curious and came as close as twenty feet from us, looked us over, and then "huffed" and dove under," Malcolm writes. Also it was "a gorgeous creature, and such elegant movement in the water." They sent a picture (above).



Carl and Elise Hartman reported the other fish-loving mammal, a mink, visiting their rock garden. They took a photograph (above) of the visitor, up on its hind legs. Mink are in the same family as otters, the mustelidae. This includes weasels, skunks, fishers, pine martens, and even the big northerners, the wolverines, never seen around here.

A great blue heron has visited Paul DePreter, walking around the yard and garden, hunting for food, maybe voles, and generally beautifying the place. Paul calls this the Blue Buddha and sent a photograph (top right). Barbara Dahlman reported on a visiting barred owl, right outside her window. Though it was dark, she got a great photograph (right). "It was so handsome. Looked right at me." Late



in September, Bonnie Beard saw a bald eagle soaring over Lake Garfield and sent a photograph. (page 25 top left.)



The geese are crossing the sky these days, announcing their presence, maybe organizing for a trip south. I saw a flock of six at sunrise in mid-October, heading up to the beaver pond across the valley from us. Speaking of waterfowl, Ed Salsitz has been seeing free-ranging ducks along his route through Mill River, most recently a mixed flock of four white ones with orange feet, and two others looking a little more related to wild relatives, like mallards. He took their picture (right, above).

Some of us have been missing the big groups of turkeys in recent weeks, but





lately we are seeing them again. Early in the month a flock of fourteen to fifteen crossed Wellman Road while Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen were walking along, and I have seen a couple of larger groups, too. They must be feeling well-fed thanks to all these acorns.



Kit Patten saw a glorious spotted salamander on a big hen-of-the-woods mushroom and sent in a close-up photograph



(above). This is a fine and unusual photo. Those spotted salamanders generally stay well-hidden in damp leafy places. They are one of several species of large salamanders known as “mole salamanders,” because they have a safe life out of sight, under the surface.

At the end of September, Liz Sanchez sent in a wonderful video and account of a fox trio, romping in the yard (above). She says they were playing “joyfully.” They had elegant black legs, and bushy white-tipped tails. *(Image from the video—not clear but shows body posture of them playing.)*

Thank you, everyone, for staying in touch about what you see in the wild, and for sharing your enthusiasm and spreading the word. I mean, the love.

—Bonner McAllester

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Who would guess that Wendy Jensen’s variety of sunflowers are called “Mammoth?”



Fall stream, by Natalie Manzino

Fall sparks, by Bonsai Cox



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For agendas and links to watch public meetings of towns and boards, go to the town website (above), select the board or commission of interest, and choose “Agendas” or “Minutes.” Links for online viewing are listed in the agendas.

You can also search YouTube.com for more recent meeting videos. Search “Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings” and click on videos.

Stephen Moore



Field's crane reaches a maximum working height of 160 feet, which is why the top of the crane is not visible in this photo.

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

528-3211

See You Next Year!

Hume Pancake Breakfast and Cookie Exchange

Hello neighbors and community friends. Each November we look forward to offering our annual free pancake breakfast here at our camp, as well as hosting our annual Christmas cookie exchange at the community center in early December. Due to ongoing cautions with the Covid pandemic, we are not planning to host these events this year. This disappoints us as we enjoy seeing so many of you at this festive time of year, but we look forward to hosting these events again in 2022. We hope to see you then.

Blessings,

—John Szablowski, Hume New England Camp Director



Stephen Moore



On October 3, John Field Tree Service removed two large trees close to the community center using his sixty-five-ton crane which permits a long reach into a site.

Contributions

This month was quiet in PO Box 9, but we appreciate the donations just as much.

Thank you to:
Barbara Swann
Karen Allen
Dennis Downing

Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., MCC.

Bridge and cards, 1 p.m. MCC.

Wednesdays: Ping pong, 3 p.m., MCC.

Saturdays: Ping pong, 2 p.m., MCC.

Friday, November 5: Mindfulness Meditation for Turbulent Times, 4 p.m. Zoom and in MCC. See page 13.

Saturday, November 6: Special town meeting, 1 p.m., in the fire house pavilion. See page 2.

Monday, November 8: Organizational meeting for Southern Berkshire Parkinson's support group. 2 to 4 p.m. See page 4.

Tuesday, November 9: Movie night in the library, 7 p.m. *LaLaLand*. See page 4.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Town Administrator:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443

x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136

chief@montereyma.org

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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.

Thursday, November 11: Veterans Day ceremony beginning at 10:30 a.m., outside the library. See page 4.

Friday, November 12: Game night with Aldeth, 5:30 p.m., at MCC. See page 13.

Sunday, November 14: Bidwell House Museum guided trail walk, 10 a.m. to noon. See page 14.

Monday, November 15: Presentation on mitigation of pollutants in Lake Garfield. On Zoom at 7 p.m. See page 4.

Thursday, November 18: Frank MacGreur, furniture restorer, 7 p.m., MCC. See page 13.

Saturday, November 20: Bidwell House Museum guided trail walk, "Unveil the Trail," 10 a.m. to noon. See page 14.

Saturday and Sunday, November 20 and 21: "A Perfect Storm" poem/play with Stephanie Sloane. See page 13.

Friday, November 26: Second annual Monterey chestnut roast and presentation, 2 p.m., MCC. See page 13.

Saturday, November 27: Monterey Lights the Holidays, at 7 p.m., outside the Monterey Library. See page 10.

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.

Council on Aging Services

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

Transportation: For seniors and disabled folks to Great Barrington/ Pittsfield through the Great Barrington Council on Aging. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hour notice required.

Safety Vests: Vests for walkers and bikers are available free at the town hall through the council on aging.

Returning Home from Exile

You, who dreamed of finding your way back home
to the wild-flowering fields of childhood,
a garden near Eden where you'd raced and roamed.
Oceans away — where that small boy had stood

at one with pine hills, endless sea and sky.
Not a stranger caught in a dark labyrinth of streets
dreamt — left behind. Name taken — heart gone astray.
Where is that boy waving — who would not forget

Haifa below aglow at night, the pure light
mornings, waking to that infinite blue sea
flowing endlessly with possibilities?
Not exiled — days ebbing with the tide at night.

Will you ever again know the love that was home,
feel the sea dance, waters flowing — sky aflame?

— Amos Neufeld

(First appeared 2021 in *Voices Israel*, a poetry anthology)

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pgs. 2, 16; George Emmons, p. 17;
Joan Kleban, turkey, p. 19; Bonner McAllester, goose, p. 19.*

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