



MONTEREY NEWS



May 2021
Est. 1970 Vol. LI · Number 5

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



An astonishment of daffodils! See page 2.

Pauline and Laura will reach out and bring bags filled with new craft items, games, and other at-home projects that are fun to do and build friendships.

Outreach Workers for Seniors page 13

What we do know is there are still quite a few people in town who have not been vaccinated. If you know of anyone, speak to them.

Vaccination Appointments page 8

The other daytime squirrel is the red squirrel, known to the Anishinaabe (or Ojibway) people as *adjidaumo* or tail-in-the-air.

Red Squirrels, Small and Fiesty page 12

My wife saw me fall and *informed me* that blading in the Berkshires was over.

A Life on Skates, Part 3 page 23

“It was fun. Never in all my years have I seen it. On TV or newspapers but never in person.”

Wiernemobile page 15

Monterey has a collection box at the transfer station where you may retire your worn-out, unserviceable American, state, or POW flags of any size for proper disposal.

Dignified Flag Disposal page 9

We are excited to have some new programs in May and more in June. Our 30' x 30' tent will be erected around Memorial Day.

Community Center page 6

I had a moment of, Kathleen Doyle! *Maybe I'll change my name back again—but, no.*

What's In a Name? page 9

Town Election Results page 14

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The calendar is back. page 31

Monday, May 31, Veterans Memorial observation at 10:30 a.m. page 3

More than twenty-five community volunteers pick up food from our suppliers, sort it for distribution, and, in many cases, deliver it to our neighbors who are unable to come to the Pantry.

Pantry PickUp page 8

During the week of April 5, three cars and a motorcycle were stolen from the southern Berkshire area. If you see something, say something.

Monterey Security page 5

It looked as though a giant eggbeater had come along both sides of the road and chewed up the vegetation willy nilly: bushes, branches, saplings, all equally destroyed.

Roadside Brush Removal page 18

Pam was there, right where it was hardest, right where she was most needed, week in and week out, enthusiastic and patient and smiling.

Volunteer Appreciation page 4



Spring is still coming on! So are they...

An Astonishment of Daffodils

“Murder?”

“Yes, that’s what a group of crows is called. You can thank Homer* for the name.”

“Wow.” Remi shook her head. “I’ve heard of a flock, a skein, even a parliament of owls. Never...”

—Clive Cussler, *Wrath of Poseidon*

“What do you call a group of turkeys,” asked Bradley one afternoon, after spotting a rafter of them.

At the time I didn’t know, but I knew exactly where to find out: in a dog-eared copy of *An Exultation of Larks*, an enchanting book that my mother had acquired in 1977 and that I have kept close since she died. Sure enough, there it was, alongside a *tiding of magpies*, a *bouquet of pheasants*, a *padddling of ducks*, and the onomatopoeic sound.

James Lipton, the book’s author, revisited, re-imagined, and re-popularized the world of collective nouns, as they are sometimes called, or nouns of multitude or assembly. Lipton prefers “terms of venery,” that is, related to hunting. His book is subtitled, *The Venereal Game*.

And it was, or is, a game. These terms arose as the result of wordplay and a certain intellectual rivalry among upper class Englishmen in the late fifteenth century, those with plenty of leisure time and a taste for wit. This was also a period when the language was undergoing an efflorescence as it shifted from Middle to Modern English, picking up words as needed from other cultures. Its improvisational expansiveness was reflected and accelerated in the writings of William Shakespeare, who is credited with the first recorded use of seventeen hundred words and new uses for older ones.

Apparently, among the hunting set in Renaissance England, applying the correct term for a group of animals had considerable social cachet. For that reason a number of lists were created and publicized in so-called “books of

courtesy,” a kind of early guide to etiquette for gentlemen. Knowing the proper words was important. In 1476, just a year after printing was introduced in England, a book called *The Hors, the Shepe & the Goos* included a list of 106 venereal terms, according to Lipton. That was followed by the *Book of St. Albans* with 164 such terms, “some surprising, some amusing, some arrestingly beautiful.” Some of the most apt include a *string of ponies*, a *charm of finches*, a *plague of locusts* and a *swarm of gnats*. The book’s author, whom Lipton posits to be a Dame Juliana Barnes, a nunnerly prioress, goes beyond beasts and fowl to wryly capture, or caricature, a number of professions and social roles: a *sentence of judges*, a *prudence of vicars*, and a *blast of hunters*. In *Ulysses*, James Joyce got into the game, with his description of a *scream of newsboys*.

Many collective nouns remain common: a *pod of whales*, a *pride of lions*, a *gaggle of geese*, a *host of angels*. Everyone is familiar with a *school of fish*. The term seems quite appropriate, given the regimented and synched movements of groups of minnows and other small fish. But it actually evolved from the earlier “shoal of fishes”, which is related to the shallows in which they are typically observed.

Although such terms have no scientific currency, the Palomar Audubon Society lists a hundred or so examples on its website, ranging from a *peep of chickens* to a *flight of doves* to an *unkindness of*



ravens. It does seem like the playful and highly intelligent corvids get a bad rap in this regard. Perhaps this is because they eat carrion. Or because a group can seem a bit ominous and can certainly create a noisy “cawcophony.” This often happens, I have read, when one of their own dies. Researchers think it is a way the group can learn from the death and improve their own chances of avoiding murder.

Lipton sees these terms as a way to liven up the language, and the last part of the book relates to phrases he has coined: a *trance of lovers*, a *piddle of puppies*, a *glut of commercials*, a *flight of yesterdays*.

This time of year, enthralled by the exuberance of spring, I find it fun to take

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Monterey Veterans

This is a special invitation to all veterans to join us on Monday, May 31, at 10:30 a.m., at the Veterans Memorial Park, on the corner of Blue Hill Road and Route 23, in Monterey, in the observance of Memorial Day, and for the Town of Monterey to thank you for all you've done in the service to your country.

If you come early we'll add you to one of several morning details.

Sincerely,

—Julio Rodriguez

Command Sergeant Major, Retired
Monterey Veterans Memorial Day
Committee

a botanical perspective on the game. My first, eponymous effort was spurred by the early arrival of daffodils—an *astonishment of daffodils*—bursting forth straight out of mud season, with their astounding force and brightness. If one imagines the vibrant yellow petals of a daffodil as a face, the mouth forms a wide “Oh.” With a bit of a squint, the upper petals conjure raised eyebrows. And the upright posture seems alert to the novelty of spring, after the long months of winter.

After that, the glories of season and the friendship of a young poet spurred other efforts:

A galaxy of cosmos,

A salutation of sunflowers,

An intimation of baby's breath,

A déjà vous of forget-me-nots,

An embroidery of pear blossoms,

A crescendo of rhododendron,

A climax of azaleas,

And a delirium of narcissus.

If you enjoy playing with words and imagery, it's your move.

—Janet Jensen

** I initially thought this was a reference to the ancient Greek storyteller, but a little research points to the Simpson patriarch.*

Editor's Note: This issue contains a veritable astonishment of daffodil photos sent in by many folks. I hope I don't forget anyone: Bonsai Cox, Janet Jensen, Wendy Jensen, Mary Kate Jordan, Heather Kowalski, Stuart Litwin, and Natalie Manzino, Lin Saberski. Thank you, everyone.

MCC Volunteer of the Month Roz Halberstadter

This month we would like to say thank you to an enthusiastic, steady, reliable volunteer—Roz Halberstadter. Roz is a great listener, acts as one of the liaisons to the Council on Aging with Kyle Pierce, and enjoys helping in a multitude of ways, including inviting friends and neighbors to community center events and programs. The interview took place over the phone, and when I expressed some wishful thinking about being able to get together face-to-face in the not-too-distant future, Roz said, half-face to half-face!

From New Jersey to Monterey: In her teen years, Roz spent a summer at a camp in Stockbridge. Pete Seeger came a few times to lead singing around the campfire, and Roz began to develop a love of folk music as well as a love for the Berkshires. A few years later, a friend of her then-fiancé offered the sharing of a house in the Berkshires. She knew it was a place she wanted to return to. At that time, she lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Roz now lives year-round in Monterey.

Connecting to the Community Center: When Roz heard from Kyle Pierce, Joe Baker, and Bonner McAllester about plans for a community center, she was attracted by the idea of a warm, welcoming place that could help the community grow even closer, providing a space and activities for people to come together. She especially enjoys the building, the non-competitive bridge games, the many lovely people she has met, and the community garden, as well as outdoor ping-pong and events under the tent.



Something we didn't know: A little-known fact: Roz can play the guitar! Songs, that is, that can be played with the D, C and A7th chords. She loves folk music.

Ideas for future events: A winter festival of some kind. A sculpture contest or an exhibit with found objects. Outdoor movies, if we're able to set up a sound system.

Thanks so much to Roz for her steadfast support, enthusiasm, and good ideas!

—Nancy Kleban



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April was Volunteer Month, and this letter of appreciation for Pam Johnson was received in time for the April issue. However, there was way too much content, so Maria Rundle generously agreed to having this published in May.

Letter- Volunteer Appreciation Pam Johnson

This is an ode of appreciation for one of our town treasures, Pam Johnson. April is volunteer appreciation month and Pam is the Queen of Volunteers. This letter has been written and rewritten in my heart for weeks, months, years. And yet I still can't get it just right. There is so much that Pam has done to make our community a better place and so many times that she has made my life better, that I find myself flailing as I try to enumerate them all.

Instead of a comprehensive list of all the ways and times and places Pam has volunteered and made my life better, let me share a scene from our recent past. It is September. The local school districts are not able to fully reopen, leaving working families with three days out of the week that they need childcare and someone to help with remote learning. Desperation sets in.

I'm lucky enough to find myself at the heart of a coalition of nonprofit organizations that come together to offer full-day, five-days-a-week childcare and remote learning to students in grades K-8. We call the program



CLuB. We open our doors to the children of healthcare workers, first responders, essential workers, and immigrants. The schools direct children to us who fell off the grid in the spring or who need a safe place to go when they aren't in school.

Who's one of the first people to hear about this project and offer her services? Pam Johnson. She shows up, masked and ready, to give our most vulnerable children attention, love, and tutoring. Do I make it easy for her? No, I do not. I give her the hardest kids, the ones who are hurt and ready to lash out. The ones who have protective behaviors and a lack of enthusiasm for remote learning. She patiently sits with them, doesn't give up, stays steady and present.

I'm not going to lie. I'm scared for Pam! I keep hassling everyone to move away from each other. Don't let the aerosols build up! I spray sanitizer on everyone. Pam is, as always, cool and collected.



The secret to CLuB's Covid safety is that it's outdoors. Imagine campfires and port-a-potties and tarps. As September turns to October, Pam is there, bringing us an old vacuum hose for our physics investigations. November, as Covid reaches a crisis point in the Berkshires, Pam is there, finishing math worksheets. December, in the snow. Hot soup and hand warmers and blankets. January, as both school districts go fully remote and CLuB is full to bursting. February, in the ice. March, sheltering from the wind. She even brings the staff chocolates!

No one who hasn't been with us this year will ever know what it took to make CLuB happen. But as always, Pam was there, right where it was hardest, right where she was most needed, week in and week out, enthusiastic and patient and smiling.

Maybe poet Marge Piercy can better convey what I'm trying to say about Pam; my admiration for her, how she inspires me, and what I love about her (page 5):

Warmly,

—Maria Rundle



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To Be of Use

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

“To Be of Use,” from *Circles on the Water*.
Copyright © 1982 by Marge Piercy.



Monterey Security

During the week of April 5, three cars and a motorcycle were stolen from the southern Berkshire area. One from Alford at the beginning of the week, and on Thursday April 8, one car from New Marlborough and one car and a motorcycle from Monterey. Several vehicles in Monterey were entered, but nothing was taken other than a handful of change.

I completed stolen vehicle reports on the car and motorcycle and had them entered into the National Crime Information Center. Within approximately two hours, the car from Monterey was located in Hartford, CT. I spoke with an officer from Hartford Police Department. He told me that juveniles are stealing these vehicles. He said the police don't arrest them anymore because the court system in Connecticut dismisses these cases—a common problem.

From what we know about these juveniles, they look for unlocked vehicles. They look through the vehicle quickly for valuables, checking glove boxes and consoles, and then leaving. So far they are only taking vehicles with keys in them. My advice to everyone is really common sense: Don't leave valuables in your vehicle, including money and credit cards. Don't leave your car keys or spare keys in your vehicle where they can be found. Lock your vehicle. And while we are talking about basic security, as safe as Monterey is, lock your doors. A locked door deters many incidents.

Look for us on Facebook at Monterey Police Department!

—Chief Gareth Backhaus



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Community Center May and June Programs

Welcome to spring and a preview of the start of summer at our community center.

We are excited to have some new programs in May and more in June. Our 30' x 30' tent will be erected around Memorial Day. We hope you will check out our offerings. Just keep in mind that for most events, preregistration will be necessary as space is still an issue. We are following all of the Governor's Covid protocols in order to keep everyone safe.

All the upcoming programs are free, except for card making, for which there is a nominal fee for supplies.

Blood pressure and wellness checks will be held on Thursday, May 13, from 2 to 3 p.m., and every second Thursday afterwards. These will be inside the community center. Nancy Slattery, RN, will be there to check your blood pressure, review medications, and answer questions. No need to preregister. If we are reaching the space limit we will have you wait in your car or outside.

Elder Law and Estate Planning with Attorney James Loughman, on Wednesday, May 26, at 1 p.m. See the Council on Aging article, page 7.

“What’s Happening” Series: Starting on Monday, May 24, from 4 to 5 p.m., under the tent, the Monterey Cultural Council will present a series of conversations hosted by Maggie Barkin. These ongoing conversations will include interviews, short readings, and discussions, to share what we’ve seen, heard, felt, and learned in the performance spaces in our region. This will be a regular event on Monday afternoons.

We will share our knowledge and our continuing curiosity about the arts, with a particular focus on the performing arts. The Monterey Cultural Council has funded three theater pieces for this summer. Some of our discussions will be with the artists who created these pieces. Preregistration required—see below.



One Vicki MacDonald's cards.

All-Occasion Card Making: with Vicki MacDonald, on Sunday, June 6, at 1 p.m., under the tent.

Vicki has been an avid card maker and paper crafter for over twenty years and has taught classes for the last ten years. In this class you will create four handmade, hand-stamped beautiful cards to share with your loved ones.

There will be ten card designs for you to choose from. You will be able to make the four cards that you like best. The cost is \$10, materials supplied. Please bring cash or check. Preregistration required—see below.

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Length and Strength: A Movement-Based Approach to Bone Health, with Jill Esterson, physical therapist, on Saturday, June 12, at 1 p.m., under the tent.

This presentation will provide a brief outline of bone physiology, followed by a series of simple movement experiences. The objective will be to provide participants with an understanding of how their everyday choices impact their bones. We will talk about posture in sitting, standing, and in relation to the various electronic devices which we use throughout our day. A variety of exercises will be presented along with the rationale of why certain choices stimulate bone health more than others. Participants are encouraged to email your questions to Jill jemspt@comcast.net ahead of the course so that they can be included in the content.

Jill is a Certified Orthopedic Manual Therapist (COMPT) who has had her own practice in Great Barrington for over fifteen years. Prior to moving to the area, she worked with professional dancers in New York City. Preregistration required—see below.



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Multimedia Presentation: “The Making of a Protest Artist,” presented by Pops Peterson, on Sunday, June 27, at 3 p.m., under the tent.

“Protest Artist” is a label often pinned to outspoken artists through the decades. But what constitutes protest art? Who are artists who have worn the title? And what conditions drive these artists to speak truth to power through their paintings, novels, dances and songs? Pops Peterson explores these questions in this riveting multimedia presentation, “The Making of a Protest Artist.”

Nationally known for his award-winning painting series, “Reinventing Rockwell,” Pops is a Berkshire artist who has been celebrated in such media outlets as CBS Sunday Morning, the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times*. He is also the Artist-in-Residence of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. The collection is currently featured as a solo exhibition in the Norman Rockwell Museum (until Memorial Day), renamed “Rockwell Revisited.”

This cavalcade of historic imagery, music, and video will center on those artists whose artwork itself was devoted to making political change and advancing civil rights, from Picasso to James Baldwin to a host of others. Peterson will examine the reasons why these artists were prompted to devote their work to activism and, in the second part of his presentation, will discuss his own personal journey from landscape and portrait painting to activist art. Preregistration required—see below.

Hopefully returning soon: Connie Wilson’s chair yoga at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, and David Crowe’s tai chi at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Coming up in July or August: Jewelry making, plus we are looking forward to genealogy, more mushroom hunting, and possibly a talk on fermentation.

To preregister for any of the programs: Please email calendar@ccmonterey.org, or leave a message at (413) 528-3600.

Hope to see you soon!

—Nancy Kleban

Council on Aging

The Monterey Council on Aging is continuing to open up a little at a time. Our foot nurse, Beverly Dunn, is continuing to make home visits. The CoA will pay \$10 towards her fee. Beverly does not expect to go back to a community setting like the town hall. Please call her directly at (413) 446-2469. The Berkshire Visiting Nurse, Nancy Slattery, will have her wellness clinic every second Thursday at the Monterey Community Center from 2 to 3 p.m. This month it will be on Thursday, May 13. No appointment is necessary.

Every May, we have a presentation on elder law sponsored by MassBar and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Last year, it was canceled due to Covid, but this year we will have a Zoom presentation and a presentation at the community center for those who do not have Zoom access. Attorney James Loughman of Donovan O’Connor & Dodig, LLP, in North Adams, will be presenting. Elder law includes asset protection planning, Social Security retirement planning, estate planning, and many other aspects of elder alternatives. It sounds dry, but we all need it, and it’s always interesting. It will be on Wednesday, May 26, at 1 p.m. We will have the link published closer to the date.

We heard recently that a local senior was scammed by someone saying her grandson was in jail, etc. Please everyone—be careful! Report anything that seems out of the ordinary to the Monterey Police Department.

We hope to have positive news about the Pittsfield Suns ballgame this year.

Happy spring!

—Kyle Pierce

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Pantry PickUp

The Saturday morning Pantry PickUp at the Monterey United Church of Christ has been a tremendous success helping those in our community needing extra support. To date we have distributed more than six hundred boxes of food, serving at least twenty households per week.

This effort has been made possible through generous food and financial contributions from Monterey community members and through the work of more than twenty-five community volunteers who pick up food from our suppliers, sort it for distribution, and, in many cases, deliver it to our neighbors who are unable to come to the Pantry.

If you would like to participate in this effort, please consider donating food or making a financial contribution.

The food items most needed right now are:

- Crackers
- Cereal: Healthy brands like Big Y Corn Flakes, Toasted Oats, or Raisin Bran
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Tuna
- Peanut butter
- Toilet paper is also needed.

We currently have a sufficient supply of canned fruit and vegetables. Please do not contribute anything that has expired.

Food donations can be dropped off in the church basement during daytime hours, but please avoid the Saturday morning 10 to 11:30 a.m. distribution time.

Financial donations are tax deductible and may be made to the Pantry, via the Monterey United Church of Christ in two different ways. You can donate online on the church website, montereychurch.org, click "Support," and write Pantry PickUp in the notes. You can also donate with a check to the church. Please write Pantry PickUp on the memo line. Mail checks to: Monterey United Church of Christ, PO Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245. Again, please indicate either way that it is for the Pantry.

—Andrea Dubrow



Vaccination Appointments Help

The group who have been working to help folks get appointments for vaccinations are still doing so, but not for much longer. If you need help, or have questions, stop into the library from noon to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, until May 20

On May 20 the Community Health Program's mobile vaccination unit will be in Monterey. As of this writing the time and location have yet to be fixed, but it will be somewhere in the village area. You can call the number below for more information if this is a good option. Pre-registration would be helpful.

Call the dedicated phone number, (413) 429-4568, and leave your name, a number, and a brief message.

Opportunities for getting vaccinations are expanding. The local Berkshire clinics held walk-in, no-appointments-necessary clinics during the first week of May. Availability of appointments is much



better than it has been since early March. Soon children twelve to fifteen years old will be eligible.

Go to getvaccinatedberkshires.org to get information about the Berkshire clinics, when the appointments will open up, and any other Covid-related questions. This will connect you to the state website as well.

We cannot say with any real assurance how many people residing in Monterey have been vaccinated at this point. Our best guess is around 85%. The state provides statistics by towns, but this is not complete data for a few reasons.

If you know of anyone who has not gotten vaccinated but wishes to, speak to them. Give them the phone number, or encourage them to come to the library.

On behalf of the whole group it has been very rewarding working together to help the people of Monterey, and many from the surrounding towns.

— Stephen Moore
Vaccination Appointments Support group



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Come Join the Fun!

Here's a Thought What's In a Name?, Part 2

I looked up from a hand of solitaire as Bonsai came in through the front door.

"I picked up the mail," she said. She handed me a thick white envelope. "Is that what I think it is?"

I glanced at the top line of the return address: *Department of Health, State of New York*. My eyes widened a little and the start of a smile played on my lips. It was here, weeks earlier than I'd expected.

"Yes..."

"Take a deep breath," Bon said softly as I opened the envelope. Or maybe, with my whole attention focused on the packet in my hands, I just heard her softly. Anticipation bubbled in me like a freshly poured glass of Pelligrino. Then, there it was: my pre-adoption birth certificate.

I took it in as a whole first, stunned at both the immense importance and the ordinariness of the document. Then, hand-printed on a paper otherwise filled with printed text and handwritten responses, two words jumped out at me, once visible, not ordinary at all.

Kathleen Doyle. My birth name. *Kathleen Doyle*.

Everything else fell away. I had a moment of, *Kathleen Doyle! Maybe I'll change my name back again*—but, no. Even though she's always been so deeply a part of who I am, I'm no longer just Kathleen in the incubator, or Kathleen in the orphanage, or Kathleen in foster care. Same truth, next verse, I'm no longer adopted Mary Kay in kindergarten or Katie jumping into a raked-up pile of fallen poplar leaves.

But I'm a different Mary Kate from who I was before Kathleen Doyle came home to me. I feel new roots and tendrils reaching down from the soles of my feet into the earth, singing, chanting paeans



The woman on the left is my mother, Marie. Next to her is my grandmother, Peggy. No one knows anymore who took this long-ago snapshot.

of joy, the clicka-clacka-clicka-clack of a moving freedom train ringing in my ears.

There were other legal forms in that packet as well. One named my later-adoptive parents as my foster parents from the time I went home to them until my adoption was finalized almost a year later. And on Mom and Dad's application to have my birth certificate amended to their names and name I knew growing up, I read the phrase, "the child, Kathleen Doyle."

It hit me hard, in the best possible way. Kathleen Doyle was a real child. New York State knew it. Mom and Dad knew it. I lived it, my body knew it, but my conscious mind didn't know it, until now.

So here I am again, almost four years after embracing a genetic relative for the first time, holding another beloved stranger to my heart, taking in the reality of Kathleen Doyle. She's invisible, but not ephemeral at all.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Dignified Flag Disposal

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

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

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

—Linda Thorpe

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Reducing Pollutants for Lake Garfield

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is supporting Monterey with two grant possibilities to help reduce pollutants flowing into Lake Garfield. It is hoped that the two grants explained below will be approved for insertion into the Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant application by June 30.

1. Watershed-Based Plan

The Town of Monterey is teaming up with BRPC and their engineering consultant Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI) to complete a Watershed-Based Plan (WBP) for Lake Garfield. This plan, at no cost to the town, builds on the study completed in 2018 by Water Resource Services Inc. that looked at phosphorus loading and sources of nutrients in the lake that may be leading to algal blooms. In addition, the WBP will look at effective ways of controlling the aquatic, invasive weed Eurasian watermilfoil.

Watershed planning characterizes water quality and impairments in a waterbody—in this case, Lake Garfield. It takes a systematic approach to assessing all the possible causes of pollution and outlines best management practices that will most effectively address phosphorus and invasive, aquatic plants in the lake. In the case of Lake

Garfield, this may likely be a combination of education to help reduce phosphorus on private property, and green infrastructure aimed at capturing and treating stormwater runoff along the Hupi Road area.

The WBP serves as a roadmap for implementing those projects identified by outlining a timeline, milestones, and funding sources available. Once completed, the WBP allows Monterey to apply for state funding allocated through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 319 grant program. This program works to address nonpoint sources of pollution. That is, pollution that can't be traced back to one specific source.

With this funding the town will be able to address phosphorus pollution, mitigate invasive, aquatic plants, and improve overall water quality in Lake Garfield for the Monterey community to enjoy. A draft of the WBP is scheduled to be completed during the week of May 16.

Comments—We'd like to hear from you.

The Lake Garfield Watershed-based Plan draft will be posted soon on the Monterey town website, montereyma.gov, under Lake Garfield Working Group, for review and comments. Comments can be sent to Courteny Morehouse at cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org, after which a final Lake Garfield WBP will be completed and also posted.



2. Clean Water Section 604b

The Town of Monterey applied for grant funding a couple years back to improve water quality in Lake Garfield with a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) Clean Water Act 319 grant. The Town's application was highly rated but unsuccessful that year, however, they received great feedback from the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and are trying again this year. In preparation for that, Monterey was awarded a grant through the Federal Clean Water Section 604b program administered by the DEP. Funding has been used to hire engineering consultants Foresight Land Services to perform comprehensive site assessments and design conceptual plans for key areas to reduce pollutants flowing into Lake Garfield.

Not only will the conceptual design plans lay out what management practices will best reduce pollution in the Lake, but they are a key piece of the Lake Garfield Watershed-based Plan that BRPC is helping put together this spring (referred to above).

3. Federal Section 319 Grant

Both the design plans (604b) and the watershed plan will set Monterey up to be very competitive when reapplying for Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 funding this year. If awarded, the 319 grant will fund the full completion of green infrastructure designs and eventual installation of structures that filter and treat stormwater around the lake. This project will serve to improve the water quality of Lake Garfield for all to enjoy.

—Courteny Morehouse,
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

**Due to health, safety and staffing during the pandemic,
Roadside will remain closed until Memorial Day.**

We can't wait to serve you again. We will also be bringing back the Gould Farm Market so you can purchase all of your Harvest Barn goodies as well. Until then, please stay safe and well. We so appreciate your business and support and we look forward to seeing all of your faces.

ROADSIDE

Roadside Store and Cafe.

Monterey Water Company Digital Mapping

The Massachusetts Rural Water Association (RWA), specifically Jonathan Tibbetts, Circuit Rider, and Bruce Young, Water Resource Planner, have been working with Mark Makuc, the Monterey Water Company's licensed operator, on locating, tracing, GPS marking, and developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the entire water distribution network of the water company. The company is a cooperative, public water system that provides potable water for the approximately seventy residences and some commercial and governmental buildings in the village.

Tibbetts and Makuc have successfully field located, traced, and marked each of the water services, main valves, and hydrants in the system. The GPS positions were collected using a Trimble GeoExplorer GeoXH receiver; the points have been corrected, exported, and mapped using Trimble Pathfinder and ESRI ArcMap software. These tools communicated with up to thirty satellites to accurately establish locations. Base maps are currently being developed using USGS Color Ortho Imagery and MassGIS data layers. The corrected positions are accurate to 0 to 45 centimeters (0 to 18").

The use of drinking water distribution maps has always been essential for the delivery of safe, clean drinking water in the village area of Monterey. The Massachusetts Rural Water Association has assisted before with paper maps. Today, the highly accurate digital maps created using GIS technology will not only allow the continued delivery of safe, clean drinking water, but also enable the Monterey Water Company to quickly view, identify, and share data in the field using standard mobile devices. This is especially important because often these valves need to be found under snow or in other conditions that do not make it easy.

The Monterey Water Company has been a member of the RWA for many years. They have assisted in leak detection, mapping, technical aspects of operating

a water system, operator training, and paperwork to comply with governmental regulations. For a nominal annual fee, the water company has been able to take advantage of all these services. The Monterey Water Company has survived by the cooperation of its members since 1969. The assistance of the Massachusetts RWA has been a very important part of ensuring that not only has the cooperative met the state and federal standards, but also provided safe, potable water to many residences and other buildings that would not have been able to have their own wells because of current Board of Health regulations requiring larger lots.

—Mark Makuc

Editor's Note: Many people might not realize this—Mark is the licensed operator for several small public water systems in Monterey.



A Note to the Readers Late Postal Delivery

Sometimes the *Monterey News* does not make it into our USPS mailboxes until far into a given month. This is inconvenient and discouraging, also intermittent and mysterious. A recent note on the subject to readers of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* made the point that though Covid-19 has slowed down some aspects of the mail, this does not explain what's happening to our community papers. As the *NM5VN* staff put it, "This compounds a long-existing situation where some of our monthly mailing is sent off to the Springfield Post Office, where it may languish for a week or two."

Our paper is always printed and ready to read right at the start of the month. Papers are distributed, hot off the press, at the library, town hall, and transfer station for anyone to pick up. In summer also at Duryeas' farm stand.

Many *MNews* readers have chosen to receive the paper in pdf form, promptly through email. You can get on this list by emailing us at montereynews9@gmail.com. If you still love the paper in your mailbox, with its unpredictable arrival time, you can stay on the USPS mailing list, too.

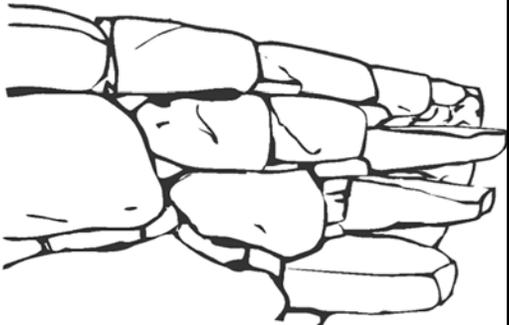
Another avenue is to go to the montereychurch.org website and look under "Community." Look on the upper left and see the *Monterey News* banner, the current issue, and an archive going back nearly ten years.

—Bonner McAllester

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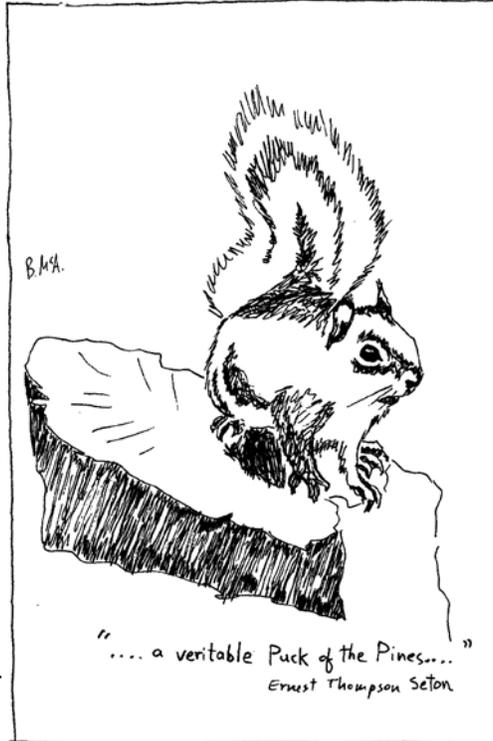
We have three kinds of “tree squirrels” in these parts. Anyone with a bird feeder will have seen two of them by day, and the third only at night, or perhaps never at all. The night visitor is the flying squirrel, said to be our most common mammal! And yet many folks think only of the cartoon character, or perhaps something mythical, when they hear of a “flying” squirrel.

Of the two diurnal species, the big ones are the grey squirrels, which come also in handsome black. The other daytime squirrel is the red squirrel, known to the Anishinaabe (or Ojibway) people as *adjidaumo* or tail-in-the-air. The red squirrel is highly vocal, and folks hearing all that chattering and chipping find it to be saucy or scolding. Ernest Thompson Seton felt the red squirrel to be “an embodiment of merriment, bird-like activity, and saucy roguery.”

So we writers and speakers identify with others. We think, “If I were scampering about the trees with my red tail up in the air, chattering away like that, it would be a sure sign I was scolding, saucy, and full of roguery. I’d be telling everyone all about myself.”

In his book *Life Histories of Northern Animals, an Account of the Mammals of Manitoba, 1909*, Seton gives a detailed account of a red squirrel dragging an “enormous mushroom” through the woods. It caught on something and the squirrel gave it a strong jerk but then it broke. This squirrel gave off much chattering and scolding, grabbed part of the big mushroom only to have it break again. “It now exploded in wrathful sputterings,” Seton writes. Even we readers a century later identify readily with the frustrations of our little cousin. Seton assures us the squirrel was not so mad he couldn’t make three separate trips carrying the pieces of this treasure to a safe storehouse.

Besides mushrooms, red squirrels eat a great variety of things: all sorts of buds and flowers from willows, aspens, poplars and birches, also seeds and twig-tips and flowers from pines, larches, butternuts, hickories, oaks, cherries, plums, apples, maples, ashes, and basswoods. They like the seeds and fruits of shrubs like elderberries, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries, also wintergreen.



In the late winter and spring, they will drink sap from sugar maples and black birches, cutting depressions in the upper side of a branch so the sap collects there. They have also been known to follow a sapsucker and drink from the horizontal rows of holes these woodpeckers make.

Usually red squirrels live somewhere near white pines and spruces, and they eat the seeds from inside the cones. This involves climbing way up the trees and nipping off the cones before they are fully ripe. Once the cones ripen at the tops of

these trees, their bracts will open wide and the seeds drop out and be carried off in the wind. Red squirrels snip them off green, before this can happen, then scurry down to the ground and pick up the cones to carry off for storage.

One year here in Monterey Kit Patten called about a stash of such cones in his garden and tool shed. They had been carefully laid up and it seemed clear they were not intended to fully dry out and open any time soon, rather to keep for later.

Red squirrels have certain places where they like to sit and open cones and eat the seeds. The cast off bracts and inner stems pile up in such places, which are called middens, and these heaps can be three or four feet across, and high. They also make a good place in which to bury more cones for later on.

Besides all these kinds of food, red squirrels do like mushrooms, also insect larvae, moth pupae, and grasshoppers. They pick up bones and antlers in the woods and drag them to a high spot where they will chew on them for the calcium.

None of the tree squirrels are hibernators. They have good protection for winter, and good food storage strategies. By April or May the red squirrels give birth to their babies, three or four of them, and in a couple of months they are weaned, all set to learn about foraging and enemy evasion.

There are two kinds of agile hawks in the woods which are a danger to the squirrels, the Cooper’s hawk and the goshawk. When one of these comes hunting, a red squirrel will lie flat on the upper side of a branch. At the last second, when the hawk stoops with talons ready to grab, the squirrel slides quickly around to the underside and clings there. The hawk may regroup and come back, and then the squirrel will spiral fast down the trunk of the tree, often with the hawk in a tight spiraling pursuit. One may live another day, one may get a meal.

This is life on the edge every day in the woods. The red squirrel brings a good measure of spice, most times coming out on top, thanks to what Seton calls, “vigor, pluck, and pertinacious aggressiveness.”

—Bonner McAllester



Outreach Workers for Seniors

State Grant for Social Isolation and Loneliness begins in Monterey

The Monterey Council on Aging (CoA) applied for and was selected in a competitive process for a \$15,000 field demonstration by the Massachusetts Council on Aging. The grant is specifically geared to address social isolation and loneliness in residents who are over sixty-years old.

Currently, there are 367 Monterey residents, or nearly 39% of our total population (of 976), who are sixty and older. Our town has no local services (even though many of us like it like that) such as gas stations, grocery stores, or public transportation. The lack of services can be a burden for our aging community.

Loneliness and isolation affects everyone. This can result from uneven online access, social distancing exacerbated by Covid, fear of driving in the dark, and changing schedules of those we count on.

What's different about this effort?

We will be bringing fun programming right to our seniors in their homes. Pauline and Laura will reach out and bring bags filled with new craft items, games, and other home projects that are enjoyable. Just because you are alone, doesn't mean you can't have new at-home fun activities to do.

Please welcome our new workers, Pauline Banducci and Laura Knoepler! You may know Pauline from her many years in Monterey and her work at Gould Farm. She is an avid birder, loves hiking and works to find bipartisan solutions for changes in our climate. Laura has been a long-time resident of the Berkshires and loves singing, music, and dance, and if the time is right, can bring out her hula hoop to help in her work!

Our goal is to reach out to sixty randomly selected Monterey seniors with our goody bags, good will, and friendly faces. If you get a call or a note or a visit from Pauline and Laura be assured that they are official and here to get to know you.

All Artists: If you have any projects or small gifts that we can include in our goody bags, that would be welcome.

Thanks to the Monterey Library for providing the bags for the various craft projects and goody bags.



Stephen Moore

Pauline Banducci and Laura Knoepler will be making their way around Monterey with friendly faces visiting folks out of interest in their well-being.

If you have any questions, contact the Council on Aging at (413) 528-1443, ext. 24.

— Ilene Marcus
Council on Aging



Letters

Vaccination Appointment Help

I would like to thank Kenn Basler, Mary Makuc, Kay Purcell, Kyle Pierce, Lin Saberski, Roz Halberstadter, Roy Carwile, and Stephen Moore for the stellar job they are doing helping people in the community sign up for Covid vaccinations.

As of April 9, seventy-eight people have contacted this group of volunteers, the Covid Vaccination Support Group, to either receive information they needed or to get help signing up. The majority of people requesting help have received their appointments through this wonderful service.

Thank you as well to Adam Chait, who donated the phone for this service.

With admiration and thanks,

— Colleen Johnson



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Town Elections

269 of 696 registered voters turned out for town elections that were held on Tuesday, May 4. (Last year 195 voters voted.)

Contested Seats

Finance Committee (3 years)

Katrina Fitzpatrick 150

Rebecca Wolin 110

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)

Ann Canning 181

Ron Nelson 53

Cheryl Zellman 193

Select Board (3 years)

Susan Cooper 121

Justin Makuc 144

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)

Michael Banner 232

Board of Assessors (3 year)

Teresa Steibel 213

Board of Health (3 years)

Roy Carwile 225

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

Linda Thorpe 236

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc 246

Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)

Tracy Brennan 204

Thomas Mensi 198

Parks Commission (1 year)

Write-in: Gerard Clarin 18, 3 scattered

Planning Board (5 years)

Chip Allen 195

Planning Board (4 years)

Write-in: Justin Makuc 1

Tree Warden (1 year)

Kevin Fitzpatrick 218

Write-in: Roger Tryon 2



Letters - Vaccination Help

In our lifetime, the word *pandemic* was only used to describe and report on plagues that happened in other places and in other times. Now, unfortunately, we are living it. Just the word pandemic conjures the worst thoughts: fright, illness, disability, suffering, pain, and ultimately, untimely and inexplicable deaths.

Now that we have effective and approved vaccines, we face a new uncertainty—who wants the shots; who gets them; and how we reach herd immunity.

As troubling as this period of time is, there is a bright side. Many of us have been fortunate to have been vaccinated at the WEB DuBois School Center in Great Barrington, MA. Volunteers worked quietly, effectively, and efficiently, in what appeared to be a well-oiled machine. To all of the people who are dedicated to have our families, friends, and neighbors vaccinated, you have our appreciation and admiration. And a special shout-out to Heather Barbieri, Fairview Hospital's emergency management director, for assembling, organizing, and managing this effort. This is all new for us, and in our opinion, it could not have been executed any better.

Thank you to all of the wonderful people who participated in this epic achievement.

—Janet & Hillel Maximon

Letters - My Vaccination Epiphany

One March evening I was in a long line of mostly seniors at Berkshire Community College that wrapped around two corners of the field house. There were a lot of people, even with the line spread way out to keep our distance. As I saw many others doing, I chatted with a woman behind me, and then with a man in front of me. Lots of people have described their experience at these public clinics as having been very well organized, efficient, friendly, and that was exactly my experience.

But during a quiet moment I realized something else. There were a lot of people there, an embodiment of “all walks of life,” although we were a particular age demographic (eligibility was still sixty-five and older). Everybody was polite and respectful. Everyone wore good masks, kept their distance, and had ready smiles—at least with their eyes. This was not a political event, not a political statement. We are literally all in this together.

So much has been politicized in our country that is in no way political. The Covid crisis is obvious. But we've also politicized childhood poverty, gun violence, drug addiction, spirituality, and the way people look and love.

Standing in that line, chatting and hearing other people just naturally connecting, I couldn't tell how anyone felt about anything aside from being grateful for being there in that line. The abject polarization has only succeeded in preventing solutions, but that Tuesday evening an important step in a solution was very much in evidence without regard to politics. It was lovely for that.

—Stephen Moore

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Letters

Thoughts from an Outsider

I don't live in Monterey but I have had the privilege to work there for the last six years or so. For most of my life I have lived in the Berkshires but have also traveled extensively around the country. After witnessing the upheaval around Monterey this last year, I guess I'm not understanding any of it.

Your fire department is the best trained and equipped in the Berkshires and beyond, for its size. I was a long time fireman in Lenox and for a short time an assistant chief for a small town in NY. It's because of your firefighters extensive training and its up to date equipment that if I were to have a fire at my house, a car accident in town, or a medical emergency, I would hope that it would be the Monterey Fire Department that would respond, not Otis, Becket, Tyringham, or any other small department in the Berkshires.

As for your highway department, they perform tasks in your town that most other towns hire outside contractors to perform. Other town highway departments don't replace bridges, install major culverts, take on paving projects, etc. that your highway department does, saving the town thousands and thousands of dollars each year. Sure, it costs money to buy the equipment needed to be able to carry out

this work but in the long run the savings are well worth it.

Your state-of-the-art transfer station, swap shop, and recycling center are the envy of the county, and the most surprising part is your transfer station stickers are the least expensive also.

Let us not forget your police department. It seems there isn't a month that goes by without someone taking the time to write a letter to the *Monterey News* thanking one of your police officers for giving them a helping hand. As with the fire department, they are always there when needed.

If things in the town could be improved or money saved, of course it should be looked into, but don't save money just for the sake of saving money. Stop and think of what you really want to give up. Think of your town as you would your own home. Think of what the money is being spent on and the benefits that you gain from it through peace of mind that you're safe in your home at night, your highways are plowed and well kept, and your trash, to the best of everyone's ability, is recycled through careful planning or reused through the swap shop. Have pride in your town. Work together to make Monterey even better than it already is.

—Dave Gilmore

Co-manager, Monterey Transfer Station



Wienermobile

Summer resident Mickey Freundlich reports that she stood in front of the last Blockbuster store in the world with the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile in Bend, OR. Mickey wrote, "It was fun. Never in all my years have I seen it. On TV or newspapers but never in person. Looking forward to coming back to Monterey this year after missing out from last year. First time in sixty-five years I missed."



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Bidwell House Museum

May in the Berkshires is always lovely and we hope that all of you have been able to enjoy the blooming gardens and verdant trails at the Bidwell House Museum this spring. As always, the gardens and grounds are open year-round, dawn until dusk, free of charge. We are working hard to plan our summer season and the museum is excited to share news about house tours and an online concert to be held later this month.

Continuing on the cautiously optimistic theme of our April article, the museum is hoping to begin hosting guided tours of the house in late July. However, we will be making a few changes, most notably that we will be requiring all tours to now be booked in advance. This will allow the museum to more efficiently plan staff hours in the summer and to limit the number of people in the house at any one time. We will also likely be changing the days and times of our tours. More details will be shared in the next issue of the *Monterey News*. We can't wait to welcome you back to the house.

Memorial Day weekend usually marks the opening of the museum's season and we have a long tradition of hosting a concert with singer and historian Diane Taraz. While we are not hosting any in-person events this Memorial Day, we will be sharing Diane's new show *Top to Toe* in an online concert via Zoom on Saturday,



May 29. In this program, Diane Taraz explores the hats, shoes, and everything in between that have been an intrinsic part of cultures around the world. The ancient origins of spinning, weaving, and sewing are fascinating, and there are many songs and stories about them. Taraz will detail how clothing has both created and responded to social issues through history.

Taraz offers programs that use music to illustrate historical eras, including the American Revolution and the Civil War, or to examine a topic through history, such as *Top to Toe*. She has made over twenty albums and her original songs and

interpretations of traditional ones enjoy a worldwide audience. Visit her website at dianetaraz.com.

The concert will be held via Zoom. Registration is required and can be done on the museum website, under "Events," for "Top-to-Toe." The Zoom details for the event will be sent via email a few days in advance.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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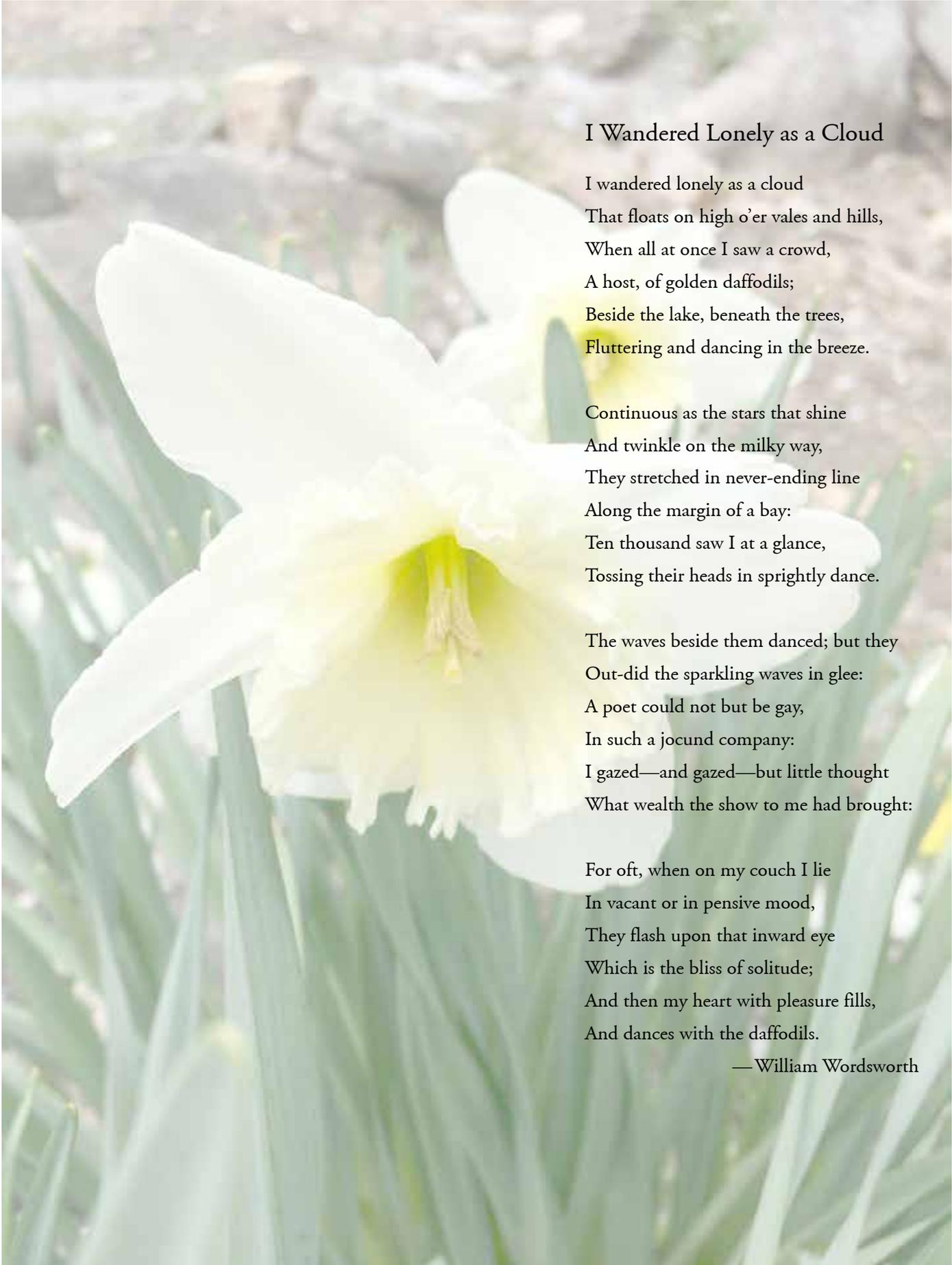
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I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

—William Wordsworth

Letters

Roadside Brush Removal

Dear Select Men and Women, Department of Roads, and the Town of Monterey,

Several years ago I was working on a short film in the town of Sandisfield. I drove there from my home in Monterey every day for several months. One spring morning I was driving on West Street and along Route 57. I noticed terrible damage along the roadsides. It looked as though a giant eggbeater had come along both sides of the road and chewed up the vegetation willy nilly: bushes, branches, saplings, all equally destroyed.

It reminded me of how our roadsides had looked when the 1995 tornado ripped through our landscape, or how damaged our forests were by the ice storm that hit Monterey and Sandisfield fifteen years ago. The roadsides looked like a war zone. It took years for the landscape to heal from those events and now here was another event, but one unknown to me.

I had no idea what could have caused what I was seeing. I asked around. No one seemed to know. Then a few days later while I was driving, I saw a strange tractor-like machine moving down the road. As it traveled, a large claw-like metal bar was being manipulated by the driver to move in on the plants and rip, sever, chew up, and destroy the roadside plants in a random way, with no discrimination, care, or plan. It was clearly the cause



of the damage, and it was continuing down a new stretch of road causing more destruction. It left a raw path of carnage in its wake. I pulled over and felt suddenly ill as I watched it do its damage.

This machine (someone told me not long ago it is referred to as “a shredder”), I thought must belong to the town of Sandisfield as the destruction stretched down miles of roadside in multiple directions. I wondered how and by whom the decision to do this had been made. Had anyone involved in making the decision had any idea what the repercussions would be on the landscape or how long the damage would last? Did anyone wonder what effect it would have on the people who lived in the area? It begged the question of how overgrowth along the roads had been managed over the past thirty-two years I had lived here. I remembered seeing road crews along the sides of the roads from time to time in the spring and summer; pruning trees or clearing brush, but why would anyone think this was preferable to whatever method had been used in the past?

I also remember thinking “thank God I live in Monterey,” and found myself feeling profoundly grateful and confident that Monterey would never sign on to doing something like this to their roadsides

Flash forward a year. I was outside on a spring morning working in my garden. I heard a loud, awful, and unfamiliar sound on the road and I stopped what I was doing. On Cronk Road, a mostly residential, unpaved road, I saw a large tractor-type vehicle that took up most of the road, chewing up the roadside brush of my neighbors house and property as it traveled slowly down the road. I followed the vehicle and called up to the operator who threw it into idle to speak with me. I asked what he was doing and he explained that he worked for

the town of Monterey and was clearing roadside brush. My neighbors were away and had no idea this was happening. I asked him if he had their permission to so destroy their property. He reminded me that the town owns everyone’s property ten feet back from the road and that he didn’t need their permission to do what he was doing. I looked at the swath of war-torn roadside just beyond their house and felt heartbroken, horrified, and angry on my neighbor’s behalf and for the mangled plants all around me.

I do not understand this practice. I can’t in any way wrap my mind around the need for this or why anyone would want to kill trees and plants in this manner. What is the imagined benefit? I am not aware of any of these plants creating an impediment to anyone. Cronk Road, which used to be a quiet, low traffic road, is a favorite road for walking, running, dog walking, and cycling. A section of the road now has a good deal more traffic due to the construction at the Hume Camp but remains a beautiful and much beloved road in Monterey for its serene beauty. Now, as I stood there, it was being utterly destroyed.

I have lived on Cronk Rd for thirty-two years and my property has road frontage both on Cronk Road and Sandisfield Road. Most of my road frontage does not have brush or saplings very close to the roadside and very little of my property has ever been directly affected by this nightmarish machine, but my neighbors’ properties do have beautiful woods along the road, as do the roads I drive on in Monterey every day. They are being negatively impacted all around me and I feel compelled to speak out against this.

Call me a plant lover, but I have at times burst into tears while driving when I have seen the ugly destruction these machines are causing. And to add insult to injury, no one seems to ever return to clean up the mess that has been made. The tangled destruction is left for all to witness for weeks and months afterwards.

Are there not alternatives to this way of dealing with overgrown vegetation if that’s indeed what this is meant to be managing? Can individual property owners opt out if they are willing to clear their own brush or hire someone to do it in a more aesthetic and environmentally friendly way? Did the people of the town of Monterey have



a chance to vote on this? Was I somehow not aware that I could have been part of the conversation before this decision was made? Is this what the townspeople want? Did they vote for this? Did they understand what they were voting in favor of? I wouldn't have had a clear understanding of what a machine like this could do had I not seen the horror of it in Sandisfield the previous year.

The real surprise was that this would impact our individual homes and private properties. In Sandisfield I saw this being used on sections of road without residences. I never dreamed it would also be used in residential areas, around and in front of people's homes.

I have a beautiful stream that runs along the edge of my property down towards Sandisfield Road. The stream runs under Cronk Road from my neighbor's property to mine through a large concrete conduit that was put in before I moved here in 1988. On my side of the road at the mouth of the stream lovely wild bushes grow and protect the area from the dust that kicks up in the spring and summer. The bushes create a shelter from the road visually as well. I have for many years placed a couple of chairs, a small table, and a hammock between two trees right there at the roadside mouth of the stream. It's a lovely spot. There's a deep pool of clear water that forms there and people often stop and let their dogs have a swim in the summer after a walk. My family, friends, and I love to sit there and read or talk or meditate and listen to the stream as it gurgles over the rocks. I have spent years gently pruning those bushes and caring for them and last spring they were eaten alive by this frightful machine: literally torn to pieces. It now pains me to look in their direction and I'm not sure that they will survive the damage done to them. Nor am I sure what I will do if the machine comes back this spring while I am here and I have a chance to try and stop it from devouring them again. What are my rights in the face of this machine? Why are we doing this? Can we re-think this? Are there others in Monterey that feel the way I do about this?

Sincerely,

— Karen Allen
Cronk Road, Monterey

May at the Knox Gallery

Our current exhibition, which features drawings and photographs of Michael and Maureen Banner's work in silver vessels, will be on view for a few more days. If you haven't toured *Silver: Michael & Maureen Banner*, we hope you will do so before May 15. Please see the March and April issues of the *Monterey News* for more information on the exhibition.

On Friday, May 21 we will open *Habit, Geoffrey Young: Selections of Drawings and Paintings from 1970 until Easter, 2021*. This show is curated by Monterey residents Sue Muskat Knoll and Phil Knoll, who are both artists and are also curators. Young, who hails from Southern California and has lived in Great Barrington since the 1980s, is an artist, a poet, a writer, a publisher, and was proprietor of his well-respected, eponymous gallery in Great Barrington for over twenty years. This man of many talents exploits his upbeat personality by supporting many artists who work in various disciplines within the Berkshire arts community, and is known for tirelessness in prolific production of his body of work—poems,

books published, and visual art. Young has previously exhibited in a three-person show at the Knox, which also featured Mark Olshansky's needlework compositions and Peggy Reeves' multimedia images.

In conjunction with the exhibition Young will offer an outdoor poetry reading at the library on Saturday, June 12, at 5 p.m. Covid protocol conditions will apply. Please check the June *Monterey News* or call the library to learn the specifics, which we will establish closer to the performance date due to the evolving nature of the pandemic and the governor's directives.

We look forward to this exhibition of the work of an accomplished and generous Berkshire artist, and hope you will join us to see the show, and to attend the reading.

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



Brightly Colored Mergansers

Few ducks in the Berkshires are more eye catching in spring than the male Common Merganser. The boldly black and iridescent green crest on its head is supported by a pristine pure white body, which itself is offset by a bright orange bill up front and webbed feet in the back. Like the green-headed mallards, Common Mergansers are among the first to appear after the ice is out in our local waters such as the Konkapot River behind the general store as well as above beaver dams in Rawson Brook. A female is vastly different in color, painted with earth-bound shades of brown by mother nature. However, she is similarly crowned as the males, with a flowing wind-swept crest that flares behind the movement of her head, as illustrated.

Mergansers are diving ducks. They are excellent swimmers and use their saw-toothed bill to get a grip on fish and gulp them down. As high-profile competitors in local waters, they have learned to survive by quickly ducking out of sight, diving below the surface of the water, with the flash of a fisherman's gun. Sometimes, when in danger, they will take to the air, gradually rising from the water using both feet and wings to patter upward over the surface before getting enough impetus to lift into the air. Otherwise, they spend much of their time on the water hunting, loafing, even sleeping in small flocks.

Like the Wood Duck, the new hatchlings are precocious, because shortly



after they are born they are called by their mother to climb out of the cavity high in a tree, such as the ancient maples along Curtis Road on the way to Gould Farm, to drop like a stone one by one, frantically flapping tiny wings, if only to hit the ground running toward the nearest water.

Mergansers are very sensitive to changes in their environment. If there is a break in the food chain of their local waters, they will be the first to know. Their most common health problems are caused by toxic chemicals that get into the water due to soil erosion, runoff, or acid rain (created by air pollution). Their carnivorous diet may vary from small fish, water insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and a few frogs. All are dependent on a healthy aquatic environment.

Common Mergansers are short migration waterfowl, among the first to

arrive in the spring, and the last to leave in the fall. Their re-appearance in Monterey in the seasonal reaches of Lake Garfield and the Housatonic watershed of both males and females portend another season of nesting and reproduction. The preservation of our water conditions and aquatic habitat for waterfowl like the colorful Merganser is essential, and will allow future generations to appreciate them.

—George Emmons

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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We are so very grateful to folks who are continuing to send in their support for the coming year in response to the annual fund appeal. It is a remarkable demonstration of support for a small, local publication without subscriptions.

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Myrna & Hy Rosen



Fiber Connect All Contracts Concluded

Having recently signed agreements with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and the towns of Monterey and Egremont, Fiber Connect is moving ahead with pole applications and make-ready estimates to extend our existing fiber optic networks. The MBI agreement requires Fiber Connect to pass 96% of premises, but we are targeting 100%. With the grant monies from MBI plus our own investment in Monterey and Egremont, both towns will realize town-wide, high-speed, low-latency internet access for all residents who want it.

Achieving this milestone for the town took the patience and perseverance of residents and town officials. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the residents who stepped up to help Monterey achieve a 51% take-rate of our service—a MBI prerequisite for releasing the town’s grant allocation. We are grateful to recent select board chair Don Coburn, the town’s chief negotiator with MBI, select board member Steve Weisz, and Kenn Basler, previous select board chair and member of the broadband committee. We also wish to thank Cliff Weiss, B.J Johnson, George Cain, and Larry Klein who served over the past years on the broadband committee. Larry dedicated his last decade to secure broadband access for Monterey, first with Wired West and then serving on the MLP

and broadband committee. We wished he could have witnessed the joint signing of the state/town/provider agreements.

To answer your questions on our construction timelines for Route 23, our self-financed build, and the MBI subsidized neighborhoods, please join Adam Chait for a Zoom Q&A, Sunday, May 23, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Subscribers and those registered for our service should watch for an email invitation. We will also post the Zoom Q&A to the Monterey Community group. Or, you can check our Facebook page (facebook.com/FiberConnectBerkshires) as the date draws near.

Finally, Fiber Connect is hiring additional linemen and technicians. Experience in telecommunications, electrical engineering or other related fields is preferred but not required. Fiber Connect will train suitable applicants. If you or someone you know may be interested in applying, you can email a resume plus letter of interest to adam@bfcma.com.

—Mary McGurn
Fiber Connect



In My View

Thanks to the hardy souls who braved the unseasonably cold weather to attend the annual town meeting, we have an operating budget and the approval of all the monetary special articles. So, our finances are in order for FY2022.

What’s left are the many proposed bylaws. The town meeting unanimously adjourned consideration of the bylaws until June 12. I urge you to retain your copy of the warrant and bring it with you to the June meeting. (You can also get another copy from the town homepage.) Many of the proposed changes are important, some are demonstrably unwise, and they all deserve your informed consideration and judgment.

May 4 marked the end of my term on the Select Board. I am particularly grateful to the people of Monterey for permitting me to participate in our local government. The work has been interesting, sometimes quite challenging, and often satisfying.

I also want to express my very deep appreciation for the work of the town employees and for the assistance many of them gave me as I went about my job. They are remarkably able and dedicated public servants. I salute them all.

—Don Coburn

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A Life On Skates, Part 3

“Who climbs with toil whereso'er, shall find wings waiting there.”

—Henry Beeching

My story thus far has told of the joy skating has given me. But that joy has come at some cost. Parts 1 and 2 described falls taken; on Madison Square Garden ice the first time I tried to stop; and the second, careering downhill on my maiden rollerblade experience in Brooklyn. Fortunately, neither resulted in injury. But these were not my only falls, nor has falling been the sole price I've paid for the joy of my life on skates. Each time I set out, whether from Brooklyn to Manhattan's west side or to shop in the neighborhood, I knew I was putting myself at risk.

City streets are dangerous. Sharing them with cars, cyclists, scooters, and skateboarders, I quickly learned the safest, smoothest routes to take. Still, there was always the risk of falling, or of being “doored”; i.e., having a car door suddenly opened in front of you. Another danger was “man's best friend.” Dogs hate wheels in motion. Ask cyclists, and they'll tell you of narrow escapes, or worse. When skating on sidewalks, if I saw a dog, I'd slow to a crawl, giving the dog a wide berth. But skating in the street, I'd sometimes be ambushed and had to abort the impulse to veer away and risk being hit by cars behind me. Being mindful of these hazards and always wearing a helmet (above) was risk reduction, not elimination. Ever present was the worry that should something happen to me, my loved ones would suffer. That said, the joy-to-worry ratio has remained decidedly on the plus side.

The dangers were not limited to the city. Figuring that Sandisfield Road would provide a fun downhill ride, I decided to visit friends living on West Street. The uphill was brutal, and they were surprised to see that I'd skated to visit. After a rest and a drink, I headed back to Monterey, discovering anew how much rougher the road is on the Sandisfield side. Though I had to brake often, the swooping, coasting downhill was well worth the uphill struggle. From Sandisfield Road to our house was mostly uphill, draining what little reserves my legs had. I was



looking forward to coasting down the driveway to the lake. Everything was fine until the last twenty yards, which was far steeper and rock-strewn at the bottom. I braked as hard as I could but hit the rocks and pitched forward to a hard fall. Luckily, the only injury was a bruised shoulder. It could have been a lot worse. My wife saw me fall and *informed me* that blading in the Berkshires was over.

But city blading was still a big part of my life. If anything, the smiles, the “thumbs-up,” the impromptu conversations with strangers, were more frequent. Apparently, the older I got, the more unusual a sight I'd become. It was also true that bladers were by then rarely seen on city streets. To my surprise, my helmet intrigued people. I had duct-taped a small bike handlebar mirror to it in order to see traffic behind me. For some reason, it amused and puzzled folks. One woman, viewing it from a distance, told me that she thought I was chasing a cookie, just out of reach. I should have gotten to know her better. What a wonderful imagination!

One skate to Manhattan was unforgettable. I got a late start on a weekend jaunt and worried about

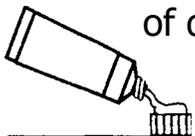
coming home when it was getting dark. I decided to wear my most visible yellow Gore-Tex pants and jacket. As I was coming off the Brooklyn Bridge on the Manhattan side, whizzing south on Park Row, I noticed two men on the sidewalk watching me. Nearing them, I saw smiles light their faces, and just as I was about to pass, one of them looked directly at me, waved, and yelled, “Hey taxi!” I laughed out loud and gave them two thumbs-up for adding this special treat to my skate.

This outing had an unexpected bonus. As a clinical psychologist, I'd often wondered how some of my former patients were doing. But reaching out to them is not a good idea.



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A Life on Skates, cont.

The taxi story, however, published in the *NY Times* "Metropolitan Diary," prompted a few to call. I was delighted to reconnect, briefly reentering their lives.

Another highlight: a redemption of sorts for my second-place finish to Philip Keller in the Silver Skates race decades earlier. The occasion was my granddaughter Willa's eighth birthday party held at an indoor rollerblading rink: a small crowd, mostly kids, and a few adults. There was Willa, her skate boots almost at knee level, legs akimbo, doggedly running on her skates as if on a mission. I spent most of the afternoon giving the kids fast rides, pushing them from behind. At some point the rink was emptied to allow for birthday party activities. Three adults stayed on the ice; me and two twenty-somethings. Freed from the grandpa role, and minding my own business, I took the opportunity to speed up and skated past them. This, no doubt, triggered their drag racing gene. They revved it up, passed me, and the race was on. It was clear to the onlookers that a serious competition was in progress. As I was chasing them, slowly narrowing the gap, I heard cheering from the sidelines. It wasn't clear whom the cheers were for until, rounding a turn and nearer the crowd, I heard shouts of "Go old man!" I drew abreast of the skaters, and hit the afterburners. Goodbye twenty-somethings! Take that, Philip Keller.

In November 2016, I celebrated my eightieth birthday. With my immediate family visiting for the holidays, we drove to New Jersey for a supposed reunion with nephews, nieces, and cousins too seldom

seen. On the drive there, Cousin Ellen, who with my daughter Lisa, had arranged the gathering, called to say that her car had broken down. We were to pick her up on the way to the restaurant at a nearby ice rink. We parked and went inside to find Ellen. What I found instead was an empty rink. I followed someone to a changing room in the back. Surprise!! Balloons, happy faces, some I hadn't seen for years. I was floored and didn't grasp what was going on. Lisa brought me my skates and said we had the whole rink to ourselves. Cuticks and Bernsteins all over the ice. Pairs, trios, whip lines...a family laughing on skates. What an unforgettable treat.

While I continued rollerblading in the city, I hadn't been on the ice until a brief outing on Lake Garfield in January. Skating on a small patch we had cleared felt like a tease. I recalled from years past that there had been a rink in the firehouse pavilion, but I had no idea if it had been set up or if the ice was skatable. Happily, both were a resounding yes! To my surprise, some of my old hockey chops were still there. Sharing the ice with some skilled hockey players was a treat. True, the pavilion wasn't Madison Square Garden, but in some ways it was more rewarding. Seeing happy families together on the ice, little ones chasing their older siblings, falling, scrambling up and resuming the chase, I felt a special joy and kinship with them. Their life on skates was just beginning.

Note: With deep gratitude, I'd like to acknowledge all those responsible for setting up and maintaining the pavilion rink. This, and the amazing story of Monterey hockey, deserves telling. Foremost among

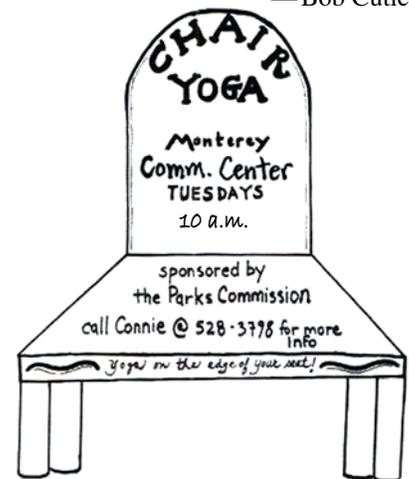


Sometimes black bears have some white markings, and the chevron on this one makes him look like an Asian sun bear.

—Bonner McAllester

them would be Jim Thomas, who chronicled the amazing story of Monterey hockey in the *Monterey News*, February 2018. If you'd like to read that story (again?), email me at bobcutick@gmail.com.

—Bob Cutick



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Annual Town Meeting Saturday, May 1

If the calendar had not said it was the first day of May, one might have thought this year's annual town meeting was taking place in January. Due to Covid-19 precautions, the meeting was held outside at the firehouse pavilion and as people gathered, wrapped in winter jackets, hats and gloves, the temperature was 37° with a strong breeze. The prospect of sitting on cold, metal chairs for the next few hours was not appealing. In spite of this, 108 of the 696 registered voters showed up masked and ready to do their civic duty.

The meeting, which usually begins precisely at 9:30, was delayed a bit as the town moderator, town counsel, and members of the select board discussed whether or not to postpone the meeting due to the cold. This decision to cancel due to weather is within the purview of the moderator, but it seemed in the best interests of the town to proceed. When the meeting was convened at 9:41, there was the usual moment of silence for those Monterey citizens who had passed away during the past year. This included Laurie Epstein, Dick Tryon, Etta Dugan, Jack Ryder, Carol Sue Donelan, and Jan Emmons. A motion was made to waive the reading of the warrant and then moderator Mark Makuc announced some changes in the procedure. Given the length of the warrant, Article 48, which was an announcement of the town elections to take place on May 4, was read first. This allowed the elections to take place on schedule in case the meeting ran too long and some articles were tabled for another date. Then Makuc announced that Article 21, the town budget, would be considered next as it is crucial to have a budget in place for the upcoming fiscal year. Before that could take place, Rebecca Wolin raised her hand and made a motion to table all articles that did not concern money until a separate meeting could take place at a warmer time. This was readily agreed upon by the shivering crowd and thus immediately removed twenty-two non-monetary articles from the meeting, with the exception of a few "housekeeping" items which needed to be addressed.

The town warrant was particularly long this year and notable in its size at thirty-four

legal-length pages, including an explanatory letter from two members of the select board. This letter recommended to table eighteen by-law amendments submitted by John Weingold, who did not sign the warrant and who did not attend the town meeting. As it turned out, the cold weather resulted in those articles, as well as some others, being addressed at a later date. The warrant also included for the first time in this writer's memory, copies of most of the citizen petitions for adding articles to the meeting warrant complete with the names, legal signatures, and addresses of those signing the petition. Those citizen petitions not instigated by John Weingold, such as Articles 39 and 41, did not have the original petition included in the warrant.

Having made these logistical modifications, Article 20 was the next item to be discussed which fixed the salaries to be paid to elected officials. There were no questions about this and it passed unanimously with a voice vote. The budget was up next and while this is usually a time-consuming article with



A persistence of dandelions.

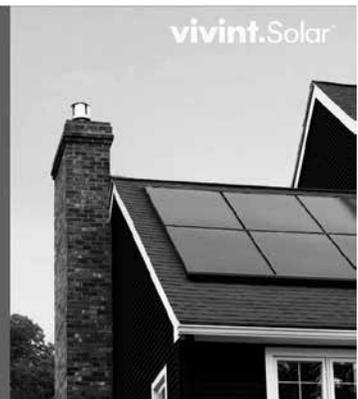
many holds, there were only two items up for discussion. Susan Cooper, a candidate for select board, questioned why the grant writing wages were being decreased by \$2,500, saying that there were many grants that could be applied for with extra grant-writing time. Don Coburn, outgoing select board member, said that everything that was needed could be applied for with the proposed \$7,500 limit. Jonathan Sylbert supported the reduced amount saying that some of the grant-writing responsibility has been shifted over to the town administrator and will be part of her salary. Susan Cooper made a motion to reinstate the line item >

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Annual Town Meeting, cont.

to \$10,000 and when a voice vote proved to be inconclusive, a show of hands with green cards resulted in approval of the motion with a vote of 40 to 33.

The second hold was put on the school budget but the hold really had to do more with the proposed changes at the New Marlborough Central School than the budget. Laura Rodriguez spoke on behalf of other parents who have children at NMC and are opposed to moving the current third graders to the Undermountain School in Sheffield for fourth grade, on top of the tumultuous school year they have just experienced. She asked for a pause in this plan to give the students some continuity for the next school year. Ms. Rodriguez wondered if the budget could be passed with the provision that the New Marlborough School would stay the same for next year. Town counsel Jeremia Pollard said this was not possible because there is no line item in the budget that is specifically related to the changes at NMC. Beth Regalbutto, SBRSD School Superintendent, said that she was happy to continue the discussion of this subject but that the proposed changes are a programmatic issue not a financial one. The proposed budget, said Regalbutto, is "efficient and effective" and the possible changes at NMC are not relevant to the budget. With that last hold decided, the discussion ended, and the entire budget for the town of \$4,519,359.00, plus the addition of \$2,500 for grant writing, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The next few articles that were associated with funding passed with no discussion at all. Whether this had anything to do with the participants rapidly decreasing body temperatures or if the articles were just too mundane to comment upon is up for debate. In short order Article 22 fixed the maximum amounts to be spent in various revolving funds; Article 25 appropriated \$15,000 from free cash for the Bridges, Roads and Culverts Stabilization fund; and Article 26 appropriated \$30,000 from free cash to a stabilization fund for Retiree Health and Life Insurance. In a similarly efficient manner, Article 27 was passed appropriating \$15,400 from free cash for Retiree Health and Life Insurance benefits; Article 28 provided \$5,000 from free cash for the Southern Berkshire



Volunteer Ambulance Squad; and Article 29 appropriated \$3,000 from free cash to the local cultural council. Article 30 sought to appropriate \$54,874 from free cash for the purpose of purchasing a new police cruiser. While there was no discussion about this, select board member Steven Weisz volunteered the information that the new cruiser would be a hybrid vehicle and would be another step towards having the designation of a green community. Murmurs of approval followed this announcement and the article was unanimously passed. Article 31 asked to appropriate \$19,000 to pay for estimated extra expenses for the transfer station for this fiscal year. When asked why this was

necessary, finance committee member Jon Sylbert said that there has been much more use of the transfer station due to the many visitors who have chosen to ride out the pandemic in our beautiful town. Another easily passed article was number 32 which appropriated \$6,173 from free cash for the purchase of solar-powered speed signs to be located at either end of the beach at Lake Garfield. Approval was also given for Article 33, allowing a sum of \$6,048 to hire an outreach worker for the council on aging.

Article 34, which also passed with minimal comment, authorized the select board to apply for, accept, and expend an Assistance to Firefighters grant and to



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transfer \$10,000 from free cash contingent to the grant being awarded for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire department. Steve Moore asked if the grant was not received if the fire department would be coming back to the town for the full funding. Don Coburn said that was the case but there was good reason to believe the grant would be awarded.

The subject of a human resource manager, something new for the town, came up in Article 35. The request was for \$6,500 to hire someone for this position who would be shared with several other towns, including Great Barrington, New Marlborough, and Sheffield. Karen Shreefter asked about the responsibilities of the new position. Steve Weisz explained that without an HR person on staff, employee reviews must be held in public and this would ensure more privacy around sensitive topics such as salary. Ms. Shreefter responded that she was in favor of public employee reviews, saying “ I want to know, as I am paying their

salary.” Weisz replied that this was being done in an effort to be not less transparent but to fulfill a recommendation that has been made repeatedly over the years. Jon Sylbert chimed in to say that HR does some important work such as mediation, providing information about federal employment laws, and making sure people are being treated fairly. There was a bit more discussion and then Michael Germain made a motion to call the question which was passed with one lonely “no” vote. The article also passed, with a few more no votes heard.

The subject of consolidating the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District has been explored several times over the last thirty years and has once again become a topic of interest. Article 36 asked the town to appropriate \$8,000 from free cash to study the financial and educational advisability of such a consolidation and this was passed without discussion. (The request for \$8,000 was

made to each of the five towns in the district.)

Article 37 asked for an appropriation of \$30,000 for capital improvements to the fire company property. Scott Steibel asked what exactly this money was for and Jon Sylbert explained that the funds are for the fire company, not the fire department, a fine distinction between the private and public entities. He said that the fire company has been giving up their training salaries in the amount of \$30,000 in order to maintain the building. Don Coburn added that Fire Chief Shawn Tryon has given the select board a list of repairs that need to be done on the building and that the board has agreed to spend \$30,000 a year until the work gets done. The article was passed unanimously.

It seems that at every town meeting a truck of some sort needs to be replaced and this year it was a dump truck. Scott Steibel asked about the \$200,000 expenditure and Jon Sylbert replied that the town would be replacing a fourteen-year-old single-axle truck with a bigger two-axle truck that had more capacity. This article required a two-thirds vote by secret ballot in order to pass which meant that everyone had to get up from their seats, get a ballot, and put it in the ballot box. This provided a much welcome opportunity for the voters to move around and try to coax some warmth back into their extremities. When the votes were counted, Article 38 passed with a vote of 66-7.

The topic of Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Garfield has been a constant presence at town meetings for many years. Article 39, which was a citizen petition, asked the town to appropriate \$30,000 for non-chemical control of the invasive weed. Steve Weisz immediately asked to amend the article to read “appropriate from free cash,” explaining that free cash is money that has already been raised through taxes. There was a question about why the warrant indicated that the select board and finance committee did not support the article. This resulted in comments from Jon Sylbert, Don Coburn, and Michael Germain that veered into a discussion of the formation of a possible lake district rather than the topic at hand. Bonner McAllester stated



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Annual Town Meeting, cont.

with the formation of a lake district and that discussion of this should stop. Greg Carnese noted that our taxes pay for a lot of things that may or may not be used by every citizen. He said that the lake is important to everybody and we should not undo the work that has been done for the past six years. Steve Weisz stated that if we don't want to use chemicals in the lake, the only other option is diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH). He gave the example of Stockbridge as a cautionary tale, saying that Stockbridge did nothing about the milfoil in Stockbridge Bowl for many years and is now facing \$3 million worth of work to clear the weed-choked water. Weisz said this appropriation of already taxed funds was a worthy investment. That's when Michael Johnson made a motion to call the question, which was passed. The amendment to the article was passed as was the amended article.

Article 40 requested \$29,000 for lighting at the Monterey Community Center. Mary Makuc, the MCC coordinator, addressed the issue saying that most of the users of the community center are over fifty years of age and that nighttime activities at the community center will be resuming soon. She explained that the previously installed lighting is no longer working and indicated that this request will provide a safe environment as people are entering and leaving the MCC. Rob Hoogs, who designed the proposed plan, offered to take questions from the audience. Michele Miller commented that she certainly couldn't argue with the safety issues but wondered if this plan had fully explored the use of the equipment already in place. She also questioned the aesthetics of the plan. Rob Hoogs replied that his plan was simply a conceptual one and that the final plan will take those issues into consideration. When asked by Janet Jensen if the lights would be dimmable, Hoogs responded that while not dimmable, the lights would be low level, dark skies compliant, and would only be turned on when the MCC was in use. Steve Moore commented that while many townspeople put much money and physical labor into the creation of the community center, the project was

Wildlife in April Wildcats, Foxes, Tree Blossoms, and Bears

Some folks use the common name "wildcat," others say "bobcat." Some say "ruffed grouse," others "partridge." Then there is "towhee" and "chewink." And we have a marvelous sighting of a "gray ghost," also called a "northern harrier" or even a "marsh hawk." Common names like these can evolve or change over time and with local parlance, which is why scientists like to use the Latin names, to make it clear which species we are talking about. But then not so many can understand, and even these taxonomic names can change over time.

Clearly this is spring, no other name required. Cindy and Rob Hoogs saw ring neck ducks and scaups late in March, near the island in Lake Garfield, and more recently both common and hooded mergansers in the lake. Michael and Maureen Banner have their first hooded mergansers on the pond at their house and sent in photos of the female reared up out of the water (above right). In early April, the mallards and wood ducks were back on the Banners' pond, and late in March they were visited by a very pale mourning dove, which may be the "white dove of peace," they suggest. It was white with a pink head (right). Bonsai Cox sent in a close-up photograph of a hairy woodpecker on the suet (page 30).

not really completed because adequate lighting is not in place. Once again, Michael Johnson made a motion to call the question and this was passed. Article 40 was unanimously passed by a voice vote.

Following that, the aforementioned routine "housekeeping" articles, which appear at the end of the warrant at every annual town meeting, were addressed and Articles 42 through 47 were speedily passed. The final bit of business was a motion to adjourn and to reconvene on Saturday, June 12, at 9:30 a.m., to deal with those articles that had been tabled. This was readily passed and the crowd hastily made their way to their cars and homes seeking some warmth for their very chilled bodies.

Now warmly submitted,

—Laurie Shaw



In the first week of April, the tree swallows were back and "actively bombing the boxes" at Paul DePreter's place, and they made it out east to our place on Hupi Road just at the end of the month. Our bluebirds also came very late, looking things over in the orchard. The towhee is here, and down on New Marlborough Road Peter and Anna Poirier have seen a palm warbler. Paul DePreter has a red-bellied woodpecker at his feeder and we have yellow-bellied sapsuckers coming around. Right at the end of April, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen heard and then saw, in the willow and the quince, their first Baltimore oriole. Paul DePreter who lives nearby, saw one too, about the same time.



The Banners have had redwing blackbirds and purple finches at their feeder (page 30), and have been discouraging



A conflagration of forsythia.



squirrels by putting out suet laced with red pepper. Their report is that a bear licked the feeder clean and did not hesitate to eat the spikey suet.

Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen watched a gray ghost (below) devouring a chipmunk on the ground. Some asking around and research told them this big pale hawk was a male northern harrier, a species once called a marsh hawk, and known for flying low over fields and marshes. These birds have white rumps which often can be seen from above because they fly so low. Another distinguishing thing is that they can hover, often just before they stoop, or dive to the ground to grab a meal.



In the bear department, we have reports of a feeder taken down, across the road from us, and twice lately I have seen a fine black bear crossing Hupi Road, not far away. In late March, Ed Salsitz saw a bear in New Marlborough, at a distance across a field, and our favorite bear family (at top) is back on the scene just south of here, but I won't say where right now. In privacy there is safety.

Carol Edelman tells of a visit from a large handsome deer and a big red fox at the same time, and not far away from each other. She thinks the fox is the same one she saw early in the month, which was "glorious, fluffy, bright orange with black legs and ear tips and white on the end of its bushy tail."

This is spring, and a red fox family somewhere near Mark and Mary Makuc's house has pups. Mary took photographs of a charming youngster (top right), the third week in April. Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen got a good long look at their neighborhood red fox, coming through the field, and Ethan McCarty of Chestnut Hill Road saw a most handsome fox in the woods near his house (lower right). Lin Saberski and Bob Cutick saw a red fox in their backyard and think there is a den nearby.

Cos and Margery Spagnoletti saw a fox along Sandisfield Road, and they felt that it was "very lean." They also report a porcupine coming slowly along their driveway on Chestnut Hill Road, then climbing a tree and moving "across a branch until it found a cozy spot." Liz Sanchez and Rosanne Murray saw a porcupine up a tree near Blue Hill Road, and we have one or two around our place. They move slowly but make life exciting for all of us here. Julie Johnston got a good photograph of



a porcupine (page 30) in her yard, headed over to Hume she thinks, for some of that green grass by the pond over there.

The bobcat or wildcat report this month comes from Janet Jensen who saw one run across her land on Monument Mountain Road.

With warm weather the insects are joining the party. Ed Salsitz saw a wooly bear caterpillar in the green grass amid fallen red maple blossoms, and Colleen Johnson noted the first mosquito of the season early in April. This was in the library parking lot. Though not insects, ticks now do abound, keeping us on our toes for the slightest movement of eight tiny feet on our skin. We call this tick paranoia, or tick-anopia. Pun intended.

Frogs and turtles are on the scene, salamanders too. I stopped by the Quaker Meetinghouse in Great Barrington to check on the beaver pond and for the first time in my life watched the slow and graceful mating of two very big snapping turtles in the water. Sometimes a huge pale front or rear paw would wave up out of the water as one or the other turtle rolled sideways. They were in no hurry.

Take time to enjoy the season, and thank you for all your interest.

— Bonner McAllester,
528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com.



The Banners's purple finches (above) and blackbird (below).



Skunk cabbage blossom in early April, from a swampy place along New Marlborough Road. The flowers emerge first, then big leaves come up in a glorious clump. There is a corm underground, which is "...as large as the human fore-arm, perpendicular, and strongly anchored by pale, cord-like fibers," (Fernald and Kinsey, 1943). Bears love to eat the big green leaves. Like all of us, they are eager for the first spring greens. We should not eat any part of this plant without first boiling it forever. Bears are different.

—Bonner McAllester



Above: Porcupine at Julie Johnston's
Below: Liz Sanchez and Roseanne Murray's porcupine up a tree.



Below: Bonsai Cox sent in this hairy woodpecker on her suet feeder.



Town Administrator Notes

The select board will make appointments/reappointments to town boards, committees, and commissions for fiscal year 2022 prior to June 30. Incumbents interested in being considered for reappointment are asked to notify the select board in writing no later than Monday, June 14.

Other residents interested in appointment to any of the following are requested to fill out an "Appointment Application Form" and submit it to the select board by Friday, June 4. This form may be obtained on the town website at montereyma.gov/select-board, or by emailing admin@montereyma.gov.

Below are the open seats: for FY 2022:

- ADA Coordinator: 1 year term
- Conservation Commission: 3 year term, 3 seats of 7 total
- Council on Aging: 3 year term, 5 seats of 7 total
- Cultural Council: 3 year term, 5 seats of 9 total
- Fence Viewer: 3 year term, 1 seat
- Field Driver: 3 year term, 1 seat
- Historical Commission: 3 year term, 5 seats of 5 total
- Lake Garfield Working Group: 1 year term, 5 seats of 5 total
- Memorial Day Coordinator: 3 year term, 1 seat
- Memorial Day Parade Committee: 1 year term, 6 seats of 6 total
- Monterey Community Center Committee: 1 year term, 14 seats of 14 total
- Veteran Service Officer: 1 year term, 1 seat
- Veteran's Memorial Committee: 2 year term, 3 seats of 3 total

Respectfully,

—Melissa Noe, Town Administrator



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

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

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

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

Town Meeting Continued June 12, 9:30 a.m.

The May 1 town meeting voted to take up only articles that involved the budget. (It was chilly and windy.) This basically tabled a number of articles on the warrant.

Select board member John Weingold had authored eighteen articles that address various aspects of town government. These were all attached to the warrant as citizen petitions. Many of them are substantial, and would have real impacts on how town government would be structured and function. The first article asks if the town would vote to form a town charter committee. The remaining seventeen articles are all proposed changes to the town bylaws.

Two other articles remain to be considered as well. As listed in the warrant, Article 23 addresses responsibility for developing the annual budget. Article 24 asks the town to adopt a bylaw permitting recall of elected officials.

The delay in addressing these many questions offers an opportunity for discussion. The *Monterey News* invites letters of opinion, or articles of facts about how other towns function with these bylaws, etc. Think of this as crowd-sourcing information in advance of the June 12 meeting. I would appreciate any submissions to be received by May 21 for the June issue. Email submissions to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or mail to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

— Stephen Moore, Editor.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be emailed to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at (413)528-4007.

Calendar

MCC- All Monterey Community Center events listed are on pages 6 and 7.

Thursdays: Vaccination Appointments Support group, noon to 4 p.m., library. See page 8.

Sundays: Monterey softball begins again. Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30. See page 2.

Thursday, May 13: Blood pressure and wellness checks, 2 to 3 p.m., MCC.

Friday, May 21: Knox Gallery opening, *Habit, Geoffrey Young*. See page 19.

Monday, May 24: “What’s Happening” series, from 4 to 5 p.m., community center.

Wednesday, May 26: Elder law and estate planning talk with Attorney James Loughman. 1 p.m., MCC. See page 7, under Council on Aging.

Saturday, May 29: Diane Taraz show, *Top to Toe*. Zoom concert sponsored by Bidwell Museum. See page 16.

Sunday, June 6: All-Occasion Card Making, with Vicki MacDonald. 1 p.m., MCC.

Saturday, June 12: Annual Town Meeting reconvenes, 9:30 a.m., firehouse pavilion.

Length and Strength, with Jill Esterson. 1 p.m., MCC.

Poetry reading by Geoffrey Young, outside at the library at 5 p.m. See page 19.



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*Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 12;
Glynis Oliver, p. 13.*

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