



MONTEREY NEWS

January 2021
Est. 1970 Vol. LI · Number 1



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



Jacob Edleman captured this same scene two seasons apart. Joe Baker's upcoming show, *Serial Attraction*, in the *Knox Gallery*, explores this same theme. See page 10.

The select board, on December 23, approved on a 2-1 vote the final contract with Fiber Connect for installation and operation of a fiber optic broadband network in our town.

In My View page 5

December 26 marked new Covid restrictions by Governor Baker. Libraries are specifically mentioned. Gatherings of more than ten are prohibited.

Library page 4

What also is heartwarming is the enthusiasm of the volunteers. Besides the town contributors we are indebted to Berkshire Bounty and an extended chain of organizations sharing the same purpose.

Pantry PickUp page 4

They went to help, their good deed for the day. After quite awhile they caught up with the rest of their group and the leader said, "What took you so long?"
"She didn't want to go!" they said.
Porcupine in the Culvert page 20

I'm writing this on my brother Jim's birthday. That means I've missed fifty-nine of Jim's birthdays. And that's just as it should be.
What's In a Name? page 8

Italy will always be a seminal part of her late childhood although England is where her heart lies.
MCC Volunteers page 7

Etta had a great love of gardening. Her beautiful gardens were admired by many. There was not often a time when she did not have a shovel or rake in her hands. Etta was a true lover of fun and song.
Remembrance page 11

Monterey Community Center would like to introduce you to Zoom through a workshop being offered by Nancy Kleban.
MCC Programs page 6

No one ever imagined that an effective Covid-19 antidote would appear so rapidly. Happily, our country has once again demonstrated it was up to the task.
"Can Do" Nation page 11

Show the world that we can be kind and civil amongst each other, and spread the word and emotions to one another.
Tyler Carnese page 13

All you have to do to indicate your non-binding intent is to send \$50 to Fiber Connect indicating that that is your desire.
Letters page 16



Monterey Lights the Holidays

If you were driving east or west on Route 23 the evening of Saturday, November 28, you might have noticed lights and color that hadn't been there the last time you made that drive in the dark. An ad-hoc committee, formed from neighbors and friends of the Monterey Community Center, met to create an event that everyone could enjoy during this time of social distancing. And so "Monterey Lights the Holidays" was born.

Dennis and Elaine Lynch headed a committee and Zoom meetings were scheduled. Wendy Germain reported the news to the Monterey Cultural Council and we quickly saw what a golden (or silver) opportunity this could be to spread some cheer and fulfill our mission to partner with and support local groups whenever we can. This meant that lights and extensions cords could be purchased and offered to all properties between the Monterey Firehouse and the intersection of Route 23 and Sandisfield Road.

About 6:30 p.m. on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, people began to gather on the lawn and parking lot in front of the Monterey Library. Disposable candles were handed around as Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker played jolly tunes. Soon Mark Makuc admonished us to keep our masks on, stay socially distanced, and turned the program over to me. After thanking those who had put in time planning and helping property owners hang some decorations, we all turned on our candles. Don Barkin read "Good Hours" by Robert Frost, and Dennis Lynch closed the festivities with "The Coming of Light" by Mark Strand.

Special thanks to everyone who helped out: Maureen and Michael Banner, JoAnn Bell (McTavish), Carole and Gerry Clarin, Wendy Germain, Roz Halberstadter, Janet Jensen and Dorene Beller on the Monterey Cultural Council, Mary and Marya Makuc, Thomas Mensi, Laurie Shaw, Kyle Pierce, Bruce Wilkens,

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Don Barkin, with Elaine and Dennis Lynch serving as co-chairs.

It is our hope that "Monterey Lights the Holidays" becomes a tradition, bringing our community together in our love of light and to share our best wishes for the coming year.

—Maggie Barkin (Monterey Cultural Council), and Dennis Lynch.

Thanks to Dennis Lynch, Mary Makuc, and Nancy Manzino for photos.

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Good Hours

I had for my winter evening walk—
No one at all with whom to talk,
But I had the cottages in a row
Up to their shining eyes in snow.

And I thought I had the folk within:
I had the sound of a violin;
I had a glimpse through curtain laces
Of youthful forms and youthful faces.

I had such company outward bound.
I went till there were no cottages found.
I turned and repented, but coming back
I saw no window but that was black.

Over the snow my creaking feet
Disturbed the slumbering village street
Like profanation, by your leave,
At ten o'clock of a winter eve.

—Robert Frost (read by Don Barkin)



The Coming of Light

Even this late it happens:
The coming of love, the coming of light.
You wake and the candles are lit as if by
themselves,
Stars gather, dreams pour into your pillows,
Sending up warm bouquets of air.
Even this late the bones of the body shine
And tomorrow's dust flares into breath.

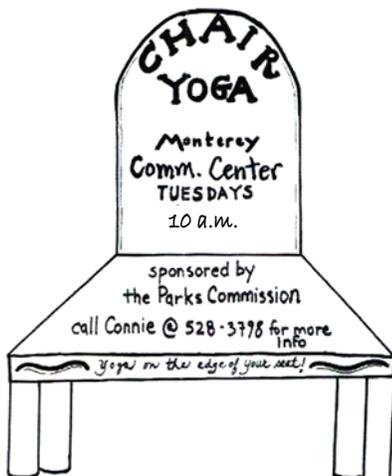
—Mark Strand (read by Dennis Lynch)



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Monterey Library News Covid Restrictions

December 26 marked new Covid restrictions by Governor Baker. Libraries are specifically mentioned. Gatherings of more than ten are prohibited. Since we have not been offering programming, and the multipurpose room is limited to six people by the Monterey Library Covid plan, this is not an issue. There is a new restriction on the number of people allowed in the building at one time, which is part of the "Limited Browsing" part of our plan. We rechecked our numbers using the various formulas that we used to arrive at the original number of eighteen total. The previous rollback by the governor from 50% to 40% had not been an issue because we had not increased from our original Covid plan. This rollback to 25% is still above where we had put our limit to begin with. For the moment the library is still open for limited browsing.

To review, only eighteen people are allowed in the building at once. Masks and hand sanitizing are required for entry. We ask that you come in and make your selections, browsing with your eyes only where possible. Public computers are available, but you need to see the staff to get a sanitized keyboard and mouse. Once you've conducted your business we ask that you leave. While we went to great lengths to design and build a comfortable space for the public to spend time in, this is not possible given the current conditions of the pandemic. The HVAC system keeps pumping fresh air in, but limiting your time is also a good thing.

There are options without entering the building. Contact montereylibrary@gmail.com for a library card with access to downloadable materials. Contact montereylibrarycurbside@gmail.com to arrange for pickup of materials outside of the building. Library materials have been quarantined after return by the previous borrower according to the standards of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and are safe to borrow. You can also conduct your own quarantine once you bring the materials home by keeping them warm and dry for seventy-two hours.

If you have questions or concerns feel free to call during open hours, or email montereylibrary@gmail.com.

—Mark Makuc

Pantry PickUp

By mid-April this year, concerns about the impact of Covid-19 led to many phone calls and then a loose organization, Monterey Community Partnership, grew around several issues. Food access is not a new problem, but Covid-19 raised awareness, and the need increased all over. The Pantry PickUp program was started to address this.

Since the October 10 opening, we have slowly expanded our contacts and service. We are learning the ropes but have yet to get everything streamlined. An occasional bump in the road seems to increase the effort and the support. It appears to be working. Look at the smiles.

Food Donations

Canned food donations can be dropped off at any time and left inside the church basement. No perishables unless you have some extra fruits or vegetables and you want to bring them down between 8:30 to 9:30 on Saturday mornings to the church basement. Boxed goods and other foods not in cans also need to be dropped off Saturday morning.

- Canned goods that we need:
- Hearty soups
- Tuna or Chicken
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Beans

If you are dropping off early Saturday, please just drop and go. Due to Covid regulations we can only have a very few people inside and we have to maintain social distance outside as well. Only volunteer staff will be permitted inside from 8:30 to 11:30 on Saturday mornings.

Financial Donations

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, checks can be made out to "Monterey Church" with a note in the memo line that the gift is for the Pantry or MCP. Checks should be mailed to PO Box 182, Monterey MA 01245, or dropped off Saturday mornings.

You can also give online via the church website, montereychurch.org, clicking on the "Donate" button at the top of the screen, and making a note that the gift is intended for the Food Pantry or MCP.

We are grateful to our neighbors for their generosity with both food and monetary donations for this project. What also is heartwarming is the enthusiasm of the volunteers. Besides the town contributors we are indebted to Berkshire Bounty and an extended chain of organizations sharing the same purpose.

Thanks to all of you.

—Kay Purcell,

Monterey Community Partnership



To Our Valuable Customers

Due to health, safety, and staffing concerns, the Roadside Café will remain closed until the end of January, to ensure that our community stays safe during this period of increased risk.

We hope that everyone is staying safe and well, and we so appreciate your business and support. We look forward to serving you after the holidays. In the meantime, we wish you and yours a peaceful and healthy holiday season.

ROADSIDE

Roadside Store and Cafe.

Wed-Sat 7:30-2 pm. | 275 Main Road in Monterey | 413.528.2633

For your safety, there is currently no dining on site.

In My View

The Select Board, on December 23, approved on a 2-1 vote the final contract with Fiber Connect for installation and operation of a fiber optic broadband network in our town. A few days before, Egremont approved its contract with Fiber Connect. The agreements are virtually identical. Fiber Connect will now benefit from the two towns' MBI grants, which total over \$2 million, with Monterey's share being \$1,140,000. This will result in broadband being available to 99% of our residents. Among other things, it lists the roads to be completed as well as the nine houses that cannot be reached.

John Weingold, the most recent addition to the select board, voted against



the contract. His primary reason was the absence in it of price controls. He reached that conclusion despite being informed by select board member Steven Weisz that the legislature of our Commonwealth rejected price controls in this industry over a decade ago, and despite the fact that no such price controls exist in any Massachusetts town, and despite being informed by Adam Chait that he would not accept the grant if price controls were imposed.

John's refusal to vote for Monterey in these circumstances is deeply disturbing. It reminds me of his vote against the \$2.4 million grant application for replacement of the dangerously decayed culvert in the center of town. While John continues to refuse to perform important tasks, including supervision of the town's expenditures for goods and services, he now seems bent on casting negative votes against the people's interests for no reason other than personal pique.

Although we can see the light at the end of the tunnel on our broadband project, patience will still be required. The end of construction may still be about a year away, but I'm confident that Fiber Connect will be doing its best to finish the work as quickly as possible. Some make-ready issues will have to be addressed by Fiber Connect, the select board will have to consider entering into a backup agreement with Holyoke Gas and Electric Company, and MBI and Fiber Connect need to iron out a few details to ink their contract. But we've come a long way, and the end is in sight.

You may recall that when we started this about a half decade ago, the town meeting approved an almost \$2 million borrowing to finance this project. More recently, one of our neighboring towns had to borrow \$700,000 from the Commonwealth for its broadband project, requiring repayments of about a million dollars over ten years. By contrast, Monterey has had to spend virtually nothing. That's gratifying.

My term on the select board ends in five months, and as I've previously noted, I won't be seeking re-election. But in the meantime there are some important reforms I'd like to persuade the select board and the town meeting to accomplish. They are: appointment of a town administrator, rejection of at-will employment for our town's employees, adoption of by-laws settling the relationship between the select board and the finance committee in the budget process, and providing for a recall election process so that the town can address the problem of elected officials who have proved themselves to be unworthy of holding office.

—Don Coburn
Chair, Monterey Select Board



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



Monterey Community Center

Happy New Year from the Monterey Community Center!

We are very excited about our upcoming Zoom program offerings for January and February.



Zoom Class for Beginners

If you know how to use a computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone, the Monterey Community Center would like to introduce you to Zoom through a workshop being offered by Nancy Kleban (above). Using Zoom you can connect with friends and family, see their faces and hear their voices, locally or worldwide, for no cost. It's a way to be together during these times when we are staying apart.

The lesson will be presented on Zoom, so you will need to download the application (go to zoom.us/download), figure out how to respond to the invitation that will come to your email, and open Zoom. Or, we will coach you over the telephone until you are connected.

Once everyone is connected, the class will begin by showing you how to turn your camera off and on, how to mute and unmute yourself, how to change from "speaker view" to "gallery view," and how to leave the meeting. Then you will learn how to set up an account, set up a meeting with one or more others, send them an invitation, and log in for the meeting when the time comes.

Zoom is absolutely free when there are only two participants in a meeting (no time limit), and is free for forty minutes if there are more than two participants. It works for anyone with an internet connection, local or worldwide.

Nancy Kleban, who is offering this lesson, taught a class called "Computers Made Easy," and tutored a few dozen disabled vets on beginning computer usage while she was getting a degree in library science in the 1990s.

Please call the Monterey Community Center at 413-528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org, if you are interested. We are looking at scheduling a lesson on a Monday morning in January.

Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables

Elizabeth Maschmeyer put on an excellent program this summer under the tent called, "Monterey Munchies: Picking and Jammin'," with her friend Lin Howitt. She is back on Saturday, January 30, at 11 a.m. This free Zoom program will have Elizabeth diving deep into a related but new topic: Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables for Winter Storage. "I have been experimenting for years with the Berkshires great bounty, and hope to inspire you to do the same. There is something in our produce that readily lends itself to the simple drying process. A few of the things we will cover are pears, apples, snacks, soup mixes and herb teas." She really knows what she is talking about and makes the learning enjoyable.



Flower Garden Designing

Karen Shreefter (above) will be on Zoom, Saturday, February 20. She is our local gardening guru and is offering her advice for free. These are her own words on her garden design business:

"Karen Shreefter Landscape Design provides professional landscape design consultations in the Berkshires. We work with our landscape design clients to create and install captivating landscapes and gardens.

"My clients say I cherish each plant. It's true. Plants are my palette, and each one has

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MCC Volunteers

Essy Dean

A big thank you to our volunteer of the month, the caretaker of Monterey Community Center’s Facebook page, Essy Dean. Essy has been volunteering for the MCC since May 2019. She keeps our Facebook presence alive with news, photos, and events. When I called on her to wish our Jewish friends a “Happy Chanukkah,” she

a unique role in the overall picture. But the real magic happens by collaborating with my clients when we bring the palette to life.

“I am often asked what kind of gardens I like to create: cottage, formal, Japanese-style, native, shade, vegetable, wildlife, or woodland. The answer—whatever will make my clients feel more at home. I find all my clients, despite their protests, know what they like and want, and they have a keen eye. My job is to intuit this as we create a landscape design.

“Through my work in the Berkshires in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, I have discovered that often improving a home’s appearance, beauty, and welcoming feeling begins with simple steps. This discovery led to my starting the company, Welcome Home®, landscape consultations to boost home sales.”

Karen hopes to hear from you well in advance, best by February 10, on what you are interested in during her talk.

To register for these workshops, please call the MCC at 413-528-3600 and leave a message, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org at least twenty-four hours ahead to register for receiving the Zoom link.

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator

took a photo of her own heirloom menorah and posted it on Facebook.

Before helping out with MCC promotions, Essy did social media work with Arrowhead, the Herman Melville House in Pittsfield. She worked there for about a year handling Facebook and Instagram, and enjoys their annual reading of *Moby Dick*. Of course, this year the reading was all virtual.

Essy grew up in Monterey and her early teenage summers were spent in Italy. She has been to Italy and London several times each and one of the London trips was her study-abroad experience through Susquehanna University. She speaks some Italian and Spanish, plus small amounts of German and French, but her love is reading and writing English.

Italy will always be a seminal part of her late childhood although England is where her heart lies. If she could go back to England right now, she would go to London and take day trips to Brighton and Leicester.

When she is at home in Monterey, Essy’s favorite spot is Lake Garfield, where

she often goes to swim and sometimes for boating. She also enjoys the occasional visit with old friends from high school in Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox. She loves theatre, and was involved in the Fall Festival of Shakespeare at Shakespeare & Company. She has attended so many times, she feels like she knows everyone there.

Essy writes daily, and has written in many genres but not horror. (We agreed life is scary enough without reading or writing horror.) She spent November writing a book that weighs in at 76,457 words. She writes blogs while she continues to work on her craft. Her very favorite author, if Shakespeare were set aside, is the historical fiction writer Philippa Gregory.

Thanks to Essy for getting us so many more likes and engagements on Facebook. We appreciate all you have done for the MCC!

—Mary Makuc

Editor’s Note: Essy also worked as an intern one summer for the Monterey News to help satisfy her degree requirements.

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Here's a Thought What's In a Name?

I'm writing this on my brother Jim's birthday. He's sixty-three now, a fact I know because our brother Tom mentioned it in a text this evening. That means I've missed fifty-nine of Jim's birthdays. And that's just as it should be.

Like anyone involved in what is referred to as a "closed adoption," my origin story was literally a state secret. And New York State was very good at keeping its secrets. It kept mine for seventy years. A few years ago, DNA helped me bypass those restrictions.

Some say I should have left those gates locked. I say there's no wrong answer to the adoptee's question, "Do I search?" Some of us do, some of us don't, and each one of us is right.

I have a friend who was a baby in an open adoption in California. Her adoptive parents, chosen by the mother who gave her birth, were present when she was born. They took her home with them soon afterward. Seamlessly. No secrets. And it worked for them.

But that doesn't mean I'm a fan of totally open records for everyone. There was good reason the Universe extended my search for all those decades, and good reason I kept on looking. If I'd gotten my blood family's identity when I started searching as a teen, the illusions I carried with me and the secrets my birth mother and nurture-family mother were both keeping then would have popped like soap bubbles while we were riding them.

As it was, by the time a dozen of my maternal blood-line family and I met, we were all old enough to navigate the relationships that were available with our feet, more or less, on the ground. Any illusions I was still carrying did pop like soap bubbles, initial shock, giddiness, ecstasy, and grief among them. The biggest surprise, for all of us, was that I was the second of our shared mother's eleven kids.

I'd begun, all those decades ago, wondering about my birth name, searching for story. What I found was people—welcoming maternal-line cousins and an aunt, sibs, a nephew, nieces, a distant paternal-line cousin; indifference or



Summer, 2018: I'm standing between my brothers Tom (left) and Jim (right) for the first time. Our nephew Steve took the photo.

hostility from others in both lines; support from my nurture-family; and a more deeply-grounded, compassionate me. I have plenty of stories, now, too.

On June 20, 2019, the New York State Assembly approved the bill that ended eighty-three years of secrecy over the original birth certificates of adult adopted persons. On November 14, 2019, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the bill into law. But I didn't apply for mine right away.

It's only now that I've integrated enough of the expansion to have the courage to take this step. The only name I still don't know that's on that document is my own. That's the last secret.

I filled out the application form for my pre-adoption birth certificate the weekend before Christmas. I won't have the information yet, as you read this, of course. But it's on the way.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Come Join the Fun!

Council on Aging

Happy New Year! Aren't we glad to be done with 2020? The Monterey CoA is glad to be part of a new group, Great Barrington CoA, starting up a new regional elderly transportation network as of January 1. Of course that's a holiday, but there *are* plans in the works for not just Monday through Friday, but maybe even weekends and evenings. For now and the foreseeable future, that may be a little optimistic, but we'll be happy with Monday through Friday. Please call 528-1881, try to give them forty-eight hours notice for your transportation needs for medical appointments or to go shopping. We offer grateful thanks to Sheffield CoA, which has come through with assistance many times for us since SBETC first closed during Covid and then closed altogether.

— Kyle Pierce,
Chair, Council on Aging



Dennis Lynch



Soda Pop is Missing! Reward Offered

“Soda Pop” went missing on December 10 from West Center in Otis. He's two and a years old, neutered with all shots. He was a rescue dog. He is friendly and missed very much. Soda Pop is sixty-five to seventy pounds, black with four white feet, white chest, and long hound legs. He is micro-chipped, but had no collar on when he left.

If he is spotted, please call me at 508-901-1023.

Thank you for keeping your eyes opened for my boy.

— Kellee Dustin, Otis



Open Burning Permits

The Monterey Fire Department will again be using an online application for burning permits. Permits will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, only when weather conditions allow for open burning. The DEP requires fires to be started after 10 a.m. and be extinguished by 4 p.m. for air quality purposes. Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

Goto**bcburnpermits.com**, read the regulations, and follow the section titled “How to obtain a permit.” If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call 413-445-4550 (Berkshire County Sheriff's office) between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., and follow the prompts. Make sure you print out your permit and keep it with you when burning.

- You may only burn brush—no leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or any other material.
- All open burning must be a minimum of seventy-five feet from a building or structure.
- Burning is allowed only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.
- No person shall set, maintain, or increase a fire in open air except by permit.
- You must be eighteen years or older to apply for a permit and tend the fire.
- You must have a means to extinguish an open fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the fire department.
- The fire department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.
- Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.



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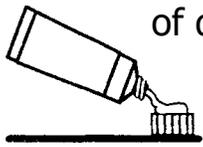
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Joe Baker's pastel paintings, Summer Spectrum (left) and Hidden Passage (right).

Knox Gallery Serial Attraction

If you haven't already, please visit us at the Knox Gallery to enjoy Ann Getsinger's *Trace Your Hand*, currently on view through January 16. Getsinger's exhibit gives viewers a firsthand look at the artist's process, and shows ongoing studies and preparations for her elaborate, intricately detailed paintings. In addition, as a feature of her exhibition, Ann generously showcases work by three of her students. Clemente Saquiy, Diane Barth, and Barbara Crocker's drawings offer further insight into looking, thinking, and describing through drawing. Don't miss this special exhibition!

Monterey artist Joe Baker's *Serial Attraction*, on view starting January 19,

focuses on the artist's practice of working in series. "Call it 'a theme'," he suggests—he finds that he tends to return to the same subjects, or explore ideas that he has previously pursued. For example, he may return to a particular landscape, or to a concept, such as exploration of color's effect on our feelings. He theorizes that "something about it must stir me." To be able to produce a finished work the artist must have been drawn to some aspect in particular.

In keeping with our two most recent exhibits (*Trace Your Hand*, and Julie Shapiro's *Call and Response*), *Serial Attraction* will include some of Baker's sketches, color, and composition studies, and experimental efforts along with his work in pastels and oils.

It seems we all need fresh approaches to both our work and our outlook during this period and we hope you are enjoying our recent direction at the Knox Gallery—showing works in progress, presenting the artists' approaches to their work during Covid. Let us know what you think.

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.

—MaryPaul Yates

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"Can Do" Nation

Americans have long considered themselves a "can do" people—especially at over-coming technological and physical challenges. Establish an objective, mobilize resources, and then watch American "know-how" get the job done. Still, no one ever imagined, given the usual pace of vaccine development, that an effective Covid-19 antidote would appear so rapidly*. Let us remember, however, that America had beaten the odds before, could claim a remarkable history of groundbreaking technological achievements. A few examples:

- Right after the prolonged and bloody Civil War the United States undertook the prodigious effort to bind the nation together with a transcontinental railroad. The challenge involved vast distances, predictably hostile Indians, stubborn hard rock formations, broad rivers, and forbidding mountain ranges. But constructing the nearly two-thousand mile rail network (completed in 1869) required just a few years and helped thrust the US toward world economic leadership in the decades that followed.

- Equally ambitious was the American decision to link the Atlantic and Pacific coasts so that ships were no longer obliged to navigate around South America before heading north to California. The solution: construct a canal through Panama, a devilishly complicated undertaking. Man-made lakes and locks had to be created, widespread disease (yellow fever and malaria) overcome, and innovative earth-moving equipment devised and transported to the numerous work sites. But the project was completed two years ahead of schedule to the enormous benefit of world commerce.

- There are many reasons the US won World War II; foremost among them was our ability to re-engineer our economy in order to produce enormous quantities of armaments—airplanes, ships, tanks, etc. Furthermore, many of the weapons became increasingly sophisticated as the war wore on. This all culminated with the "Manhattan Project," a vast scientific effort that resulted in nuclear weapons that brought an end to the devastating conflict.

- Once Yuri Gagarin, the Soviet cosmonaut, orbited the earth in April of 1961, it was inevitable that the US would enter the space race. Shortly thereafter, President John Kennedy committed the nation to a moon landing by the end of the decade—an extraordinarily ambitious and costly undertaking. It succeeded, testifying once again to America's ability to rise to the occasion, no matter how formidable the scientific challenges and technological obstacles.

Combating Covid-19 raised the question of whether a deeply divided people, many grown skeptical of science, could support a complex, coordinated effort to produce a vaccine to overcome this horrific scourge. Happily, our country has once again demonstrated it was up to the task. May this remarkable achievement provide the spark and serve to give us the confidence to put aside our doubts and our differences in order to attend to the persistent ills that continue to beset our society.

—Richard Skolnik

**Editor's Note: By way of comparison, the polio vaccine took nearly forty years to develop, finally being approved in 1962. The history of most vaccines involve ten to fifteen years in development. This year the first Covid-19 vaccine was ready for very early stage testing in late spring.*

Remembrance Etta Dugan

Etta Dugan, 94, passed away peacefully on November 21 after a short illness. She was born on March 11, 1926 in Dighton, MA, to Edwin and Florence Carpenter. She graduated from Dighton High School in 1944. Etta married her devoted husband, Osborne Dugan, in April of 1957.

The couple lived in Attleboro before moving to Monterey where they lived for more than fifty years. Etta had a great love of gardening. Her beautiful gardens were admired by many. They were a bit famous on Route 57 to be enjoyed by those driving by. Etta tended to her gardens well into her 80s. There was not often a time when she did not have a shovel or rake in her hands.

Etta was a true lover of fun and song. She loved to "kid" others but was also always able to laugh at herself. Rarely was there a family gathering that didn't end with Etta breaking out in song. This love of singing stayed with her right to the end.

Etta was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She especially loved her role as "Grandma." Her children and grandchildren were her pride and joy.

Besides her loving husband, Osborne, Etta is survived by her son, Robert Dugan, and his wife Teresa, of Miami, Fla.; and her daughter, Lynn Barry, and her husband William of Great Barrington. She was the devoted grandmother to Jodi Barry, Tyler Barry and Jared Dugan. She is also survived by her sisters, Pricilla Martin and Rita Harrison.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Edwin, Richard, and Kenneth Carpenter, and her sister, Phyllis Olsen, her sister-in-law Natalie Cooper, and her brother and sister-in-law, Andrew and Dorothy Dugan.

Services will be held at a later date.

Donations in memory of Etta may be made to the American Red Cross or MMRHS Student Activities Greenhouse Program, in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to her family go to finnertyandstevens.com.

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Cartwheeling Bald Eagles

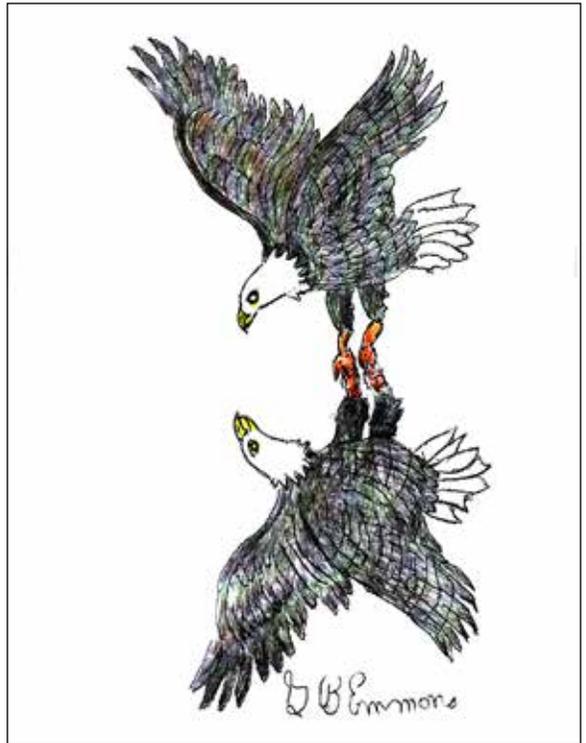
The Bald Eagle, the avian master of the skies frequently seen soaring over Lake Buel and Lake Garfield, is a high profile raptor along shorelines that offer a diet of fish, its favorite prey. As our national bird, its stellar character image is somewhat tarnished by often stealing fish from the clutches of an osprey in flight, rather than diving down to catch one for itself, or being seen feasting on carrion fish along a water's edge. However, its reputation is redeemed for aerial bravery and strength by the spectacular acrobatics of two males engaged in a cartwheeling descent, as illustrated. It is a most daring and breathtaking maneuver when two eagles compete for a mate or a nesting site. They attack each other in circles, locking their talons together to twirl and plummet downward out of control, often for thousands of feet.

During the nesting season, eagles in competition often fly so high that the sight of them tumbling down towards the ground makes a lasting impression. Last year a local resident from Buzzards Bay near our home watched as two males in deadly combat for a mate, rolled over and around each other, lifting their talons in defense until grabbing and becoming locked together, plummeting down out of sight. They were located where they had landed, still attached, and in shock,

on the deck of a beach cottage. They refused to let go until a tarp was thrown over them, and then they disengaged, and flew off away on their own. At our seaside terrace on Little Bay in Fairhaven we have been quite often entertained by bird watching exhibitions, providing experiences to write and illustrate for *News* readers.

Bald Eagles are not always easy to distinguish from other birds of prey. Their eyesight is amazing, with up to seven times the focusing ability of ours. Their eyes are set apart so they have 340° field of vision, giving them exceptional peripheral vision. Each eye is protected from the glint of the sun, up in the clouds where the air is thin and the atmosphere ethereal. If you are like me, looking for inspiration to write, I am reminded of the religious prayer for earthly worship, "I will lift mine eyes unto the hills from which cometh my help." I will perhaps be blessed with the memory to share with you of an eagle high over Lake Garfield, circling and soaring, as well as a pair cartwheeling down into your thoughts, sparking a sudden environmental awareness. The experience is unforgettable.

—George Emmons



Letters

Wishing and Thanking

Beth and Dave, of Monterey Transfer Station fame, hope every person the *Monterey News* reaches, and those beyond, had a wonderful holiday season. Also, we want to thank everyone who was so thoughtful this year bestowing on us some of the most thoughtful gifts. The cakes, breads, candies, and yes!,—Beth's favorite fruit cake, were so wonderful. The best were the wonderful cards and notes of thanks and good will we received.

Thanks everyone,

—Dave Gilmore and Beth Parks

December 2020 Contributions

As we've ended another year and are looking forward to this one with more than the usual anticipation, we want to thank everyone who has helped keep this publication going.

Gene Bounous
Robert & Janice Adams
Carol de Harak
Ken & Laurel Kahn
Rebecca Saletan and Marshall Messer
Richard Greene
Janet & Hillel Maximon
Dennis & Elaine Lynch
Scott & Deborah Margol

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Foolish Tune

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

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

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

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

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

A man is like the village in his
dreams.
It's coming dusk. His whitewashed
village gleams.

—Don Barkin

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Tracks

I see the tracks everywhere
We have been, and
Where we are going to be.
Not with me anymore,
She is always there,
Urging me to be gracious, not scowl,
To give my children space to grow.
To let go.
Her spirit lights the way.

—Sam Estreicher
December 16, 2020



here ye here ye
come one come all
A new years begun
and has begun its' fall.
the beginning of a new
and end to it all.
Let the new year shine upon
us not with silver and gold,
but with riches for all
the young and the old.
Not riches of wealth
or dazzling beauty,
but of love and kindness
as if it were a duty.
let the new come and rise
rise up among us all
and double in size
Cast out the bad
and in with the good.
the time has just begun
so be good you should,
Bring grace and kindness
around the world,
because those without it
have those thoughts
twisted and curled.

Show the world that we can be kind
and civil amongst each other,
and spread the word and
emotions to one another.
—Tyler Paul Carnese

Nancy Manzano, who sent in several photos of Monterey Lights the Holidays, also went up to the Naumkeag Winterlights show in December, and sent these holiday lights in as well.



The 51% Rationale Concerns Sent to MBI

Many people in Monterey have been involved trying to help the town reach the 51% registration and deposit requirement set this spring by MBI for the broadband network grant allocation. As editor I have published many articles to that end, and have worked as an individual to encourage registrations. In November I sent a letter to the director of MBI asking for the rationale for the 51%, hoping that their reasoning for this goal would convince property owners of the wisdom behind the requirement.

My intention was to publish my letter in full including explanatory text addressing the concerns I identified. I worked with a friend in town to produce a clear letter. The response from MBI addressed the identified concerns only in a general way, and provided no rationale or analysis of any type for the 51% requirement. Therefore I decided to publish abridged text of my letter. (MBI's response follows this.)

To MBI: Introduction

Various entities have worked diligently beginning early in 2020 to achieve the 51% goal of registrations and deposits, a condition of the flexible grant program for allocation to Fiber Connect. Despite numerous articles in the *Monterey News*, many comments on the Monterey-Community Google group, encouragement by the select board and an

ad hoc broadband group, news items in the *Berkshire Eagle*, and press releases from Fiber Connect, the town seems to have reached a plateau of mid-40s percentage.

People in Monterey have questioned the rationale for the 51% goal. To some it seems like an arbitrary target, and for those who have tried to encourage additional signups, we have no rationale to justify the goal. I believe that MBI's responses to these questions would substantially help to inform the residents in clear and sensible terms how this goal of 51% was arrived at and why it makes sense in our situation.

Listed below are some considerations that impact achieving this goal.

1. Non-resident Owners: Who lives here? Who pays taxes here?

They may be our friends and neighbors, but they don't live here.

Approximately two-thirds of Monterey premises are held by non-resident owners.

It is not mathematically possible for the town to reach this 51% goal without as much as 40% participation by the non-resident owners, but it is the year-round-resident owners who are most impacted by the lack of high-speed broadband for all the reasons everyone recognizes are vital to contemporary living.

The math is clear. If fewer than 75% of resident owners signup, participation above 40% by non-resident owners would be required.

Who is paying for the grant allocation?

The one-third of resident-owners pay Massachusetts income taxes. While a portion of the two-thirds of non-resident owners are probably Massachusetts residents, it is safe to say that many are not, and so do not pay to fund Massachusetts' budgets. Funding the grant comes from Massachusetts taxpayers, but with this 51% requirement, can only be released by participation of as much as 40% (or more) of non-taxpaying owners.

- Question: How does the 51% goal address the preponderance of premises being owned by folks who don't live here year-round, and do not pay to fund Massachusetts government?

2. Combining Monterey and Egremont

MBI and Fiber Connect are requiring essentially two identical contracts between FC and the towns of Monterey and Egremont, as well as between MBI and those two towns. (*The town contracts with FC have recently been approved by both the Egremont and Monterey select boards. See In My View by Don Coburn on page 5.*)

This effectively treats Monterey and Egremont as one business unit for Fiber

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Connect in the state's considerations. Combining the current levels of registrations in both towns (either as preliminary interest, or customers receiving service) puts the level of participation well above the 51%. Fiber Connect has said that network profitability is reached at a take-rate lower than 51% of all their customers.

- Question: Why is the 51% required of Monterey if the combined rate of the two towns exceeds 51%, and is more than required for the vendor's financial success?

3. Urgency

There is wide spread agreement that high speed broadband should be regarded as a utility, and that the Monterey community suffers in many ways without it. State legislation*, passed in early August 2008 as "Emergency Legislation," regarded it as absolute necessity. The MBI decision to require each and every town to individually attain a network build has caused considerable delays, tremendous amounts of time lost, and expense. (*H 4964, Chapter 231, "An Act Establishing and Funding the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.")

- Question: How does the 51% requirement reflect the urgency of the initial "Emergency Legislation" from over 12 years ago?

4. Cellphone and Other Services Competition

- Question: How does the 51% requirement of one type of internet service reflect the growing competition with cellphone service and other existing service providers?

— Stephen Moore
Editor, *Monterey News*

MBI's Response re: 51%

Editor's Note: I edited my letter to MBI as it was my writing, but I am providing the MBI response in full as I'd promised.

Fiber Connect, LLC, and CEO Adam Chait, agreed to a term sheet in early May 2020 which contained the 51% pre-subscription threshold, and provided the foundation for a grant award which was approved by the MBI's Board of Directors and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Board of Directors in May 2020.

The financial sustainability of a network and protection of the public dollars invested in broadband projects is an overriding goal of the MBI and the Last Mile program. The term sheet signed this year provided the appropriate protections for the investment of state bond funds that we sought and which our Boards approved.

As regards to timing:

The MBI oversaw the multi-year construction of the MassBroadband 123 network, a 1,200-mile network completed in 2014 which delivered fiber connectivity into 120-plus towns, including Monterey. The Benton Institute for Broadband & Society recently highlighted the network as a national example for driving "savings in residential deployments" of broadband. That network creates the backbone for the high-speed connections that Fiber Connect has already made to residential premises in Monterey and also to public facilities in the Town.

On the Last Mile program, the MBI has released multiple procurements covering all remaining unserved towns to identify potential providers. The Town of Monterey was provided options under

these programs, but chose to work with Fiber Connect exclusively.

Under the MBI's Payment in Arrears model, Fiber Connect did not qualify for milestone-based payments, due to being a smaller company with a lack of an established financial track record, a point made clear in the agreement signed by the MBI, the Town, and Fiber Connect in 2017.

The MBI worked collaboratively with the Town to take a flexible, creative, problem-solving approach to come up with modifications to the Payment in Arrears guidelines which allowed the network extensions in both Monterey and Egremont to proceed with the support of the MBI Board and the Last Mile program.

In closing, the issues you raise are not unique to Monterey or this vendor, as similar requirements have been instituted in other Last Mile projects. Additionally, the considerations you identified around service level decisions (full, part-year), outside competition, and project marketing are handled across all projects and fall squarely to the provider, in this case Fiber Connect.

— Brian H. Noyes
Director of Communications
Massachusetts Broadband Institute



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Letters

Support Monterey Broadband

Dear Monterey Resident:

For Monterey to receive the benefit of the \$1,140,000 Massachusetts Broadband Institute grant for completion of the Fiber Connect fiber optic project, the Town of Monterey must meet the requirement that at least 51% of our residents either sign up for the service or indicate a general, but non-binding intent to do so. We are now at about 47%.

All you have to do to indicate your non-binding intent is to send \$50 to Fiber Connect indicating that that is your desire.

You may or may not want Fiber Connect's service now. But at some time in the future, for example when your needs change or when you want to sell or rent your property, you may find that having access to fiber optic internet service is important. Even if you think that unlikely, you can make it possible for your neighbors to have high-speed internet service by sending in the \$50 now. And doing that will not bind you in any way. Also, once the grant funding has begun, you will be able to get the \$50 back from Fiber Connect on request.

This is a turning point in the history of Monterey. A fully implemented fiber optic broadband system is a crucial step in our town's full participation in the twenty-first century world of communication.

I urge you to act now! If you are not a customer of Fiber Connect, or if you have not yet sent in your \$50, please send your check today to Fiber Connect, LLC, PO Box 764, Monterey, MA, 01245, and be sure to include your phone number on the check.

Sincerely yours,

— Donald Coburn
Chair, Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: This letter is a personal letter. The other two select board members did not approve of sending this as official mail to all owners.



Letters

Arbitrary 51% Requirement

As the reader can tell from the preceding texts, MBI has not/can not/will not provide a clear rationale or analysis for the 51% requirement. The closest MBI came to doing this was the statement, "The financial sustainability of a network and protection of the public dollars invested in broadband projects is an overriding goal of the MBI."

There is no analysis showing that this "something-more-than-half" contributes to financial sustainability, and it clearly has nothing to do with Fiber Connect's success.

Fiber Connect will be successful, grow, and provide "financial sustainability of a network" with subscribers who pay FC to provide monthly service. We currently pay FC \$120/month for internet and phone service, which is less than my previous Verizon DSL service, with much better broadband connection. (And with a local company... I've had a few concerns/problems and the support response has been remarkably fast.)

A one-time \$50 refundable deposit that makes no future commitment is not cash for the company to spend. In the first place, it is a pittance. Two hundred such deposits is only \$10,000. Secondly, that money should be carried on their books as a liability, since it is refundable (or until such time when individuals sign service contracts). And thirdly, most obviously, it can be *withdrawn*.

MBI is adamant about this goal, and that it must be met by only Monterey owners (not combined with our network's sister town, Egremont). As of this writing the town is within thirty-five to forty owners to meet this goal—perhaps only 8% of approximately 450 owners who have not yet signed up. That seems doable, right? But how to reach those folks?

It is clear from the circulation numbers for this paper, for the Monterey-Community Google group, and the town emails, for which one can presume there is considerable overlap, that a large number of owners are still totally out of touch with this effort. If they weren't, we should have satisfied the 51% months ago.

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The select board has finally come to an agreement, and signed a contract, with Fiber Connect. But the board has declined to send a letter to *all owners* encouraging signing up. (Don Coburn proposed one to the board, see page 16, but was voted down.) Think about it this way—the Town of Monterey and Fiber Connect are now partners of a sort trying to build out a network for the welfare of the entire town—*our only viable option going forward*—and the select board is content to let this sit without further support.

Fiber Connect has stated they have no intention of submitting or paying for make-ready applications with the utilities until this (arbitrary) 51% goal is met. We are close to the point when we could be seeing FC's trucks working on our roads five days a week building this network out. They've done a pretty good job already in some areas with their own investment. Their engineering and construction is geared to building a high-capacity network to meet the needs beyond the next ten years.

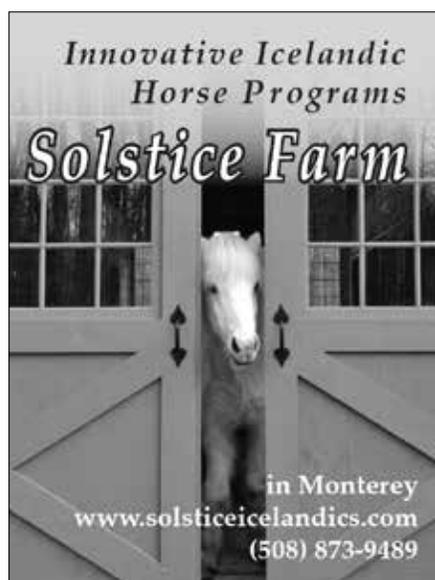
But this needs to get done now.

Fiber Connect won't see a dime from MBI until pole applications are made and paid for, *and* the owners satisfy this goal.

If you feel the select board should take a more active role to get us over this hump, let them know (email addresses below).

— Stephen Moore

Don Coburn, don@montereyma.gov
 Steven Weisz, steve@montereyma.gov
 John Weingold, weinjohnsb@gmail.com



Remembrance Tyler "Kitty" Carnese

While we are forced to live and cope with the untimely and tragic passing of Tyler, I think it's important to remember and focus on the aspects and qualities of Tyler's being that leave such a profound and lasting impact on everyone who has ever been a part of his life or those whose lives he has been a part of. Remember these qualities and aspects of Tyler are what will continue to allow us to live with him by our side.

Tyler grew up in the small town of Old Lyme, CT with his parents, Gregory, and Shannon: his mother Dawn, and his older brother Christopher. Since his birth he would take family trips up to our slice of heaven on Earth in the Berkshires. Lake Garfield was one of Tyler's favorite places to spend time with family and friends. From taking friends up on family vacations, to learning to ski at Butternut in Great Barrington, walking and fishing the Housatonic River with friends and family, and annual James Taylor concerts at Tanglewood, the lake was a place Tyler loved to be.

Tyler had a smile and light to him that was pure and gentle. He was a tremendous listener and had a kind and true soul. He cared deeply for people who were close with him and also for people he would meet along his journey. To say his golden presence deeply touched the lives of everyone he met and loved is an understatement. Tyler's life was cut short at twenty-six after an undiagnosed aggressive form of acute leukemia claimed his life on the morning of October 18, 2020.

We continue to grieve the untimely loss of our beloved Tyler, but while the burden of his loss is great, we are learning ways in which we can continue to breath life into our own through the memories of Tyler that we are left with. Tyler is no longer with us physically, but he is absolutely with us in spirit and mind through all that we continue to do.

It's important to remember that whatever we are going through whether bad or good, Tyler is with us pushing us along. It's important to remember his glowing being when we are doing the same activities that we loved to do together. It's important to feel his touch when we are creating



Tyler and Chris Carnese spring-skiing at Butternut.

new memories and to keep in mind that our happiness is what he would want to continue on.

I would like to extend a deep and wholehearted thanks to the entire lake community of Lake Garfield who have been a huge support to our family during this troubled time. We will continue to carry on with Tyler in our hearts and souls, and his memory and impact that he left on this Earth will never be forgotten. To Tyler Paul Carnese—loving brother, son, grandson, nephew, friend, we love and miss you more than we could put into words, but your life will continue on through us until the end of time.

—Chris Carnese



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Celebration Tyler Carnese

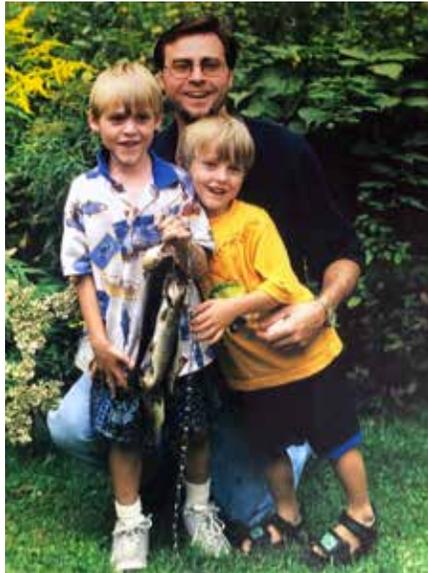
Being grateful and practicing gratitude is so important in life. I do my best to “practice as I preach” every day. Many people have said to me, “There are no words.” That is simply not true because there has been a flood of words from so many, from all walks of Tyler’s life and our lives, who have reached out to our family and to each other.

Tyler’s untimely passing at age twenty-six, from previously undiagnosed acute leukemia on October 18, 2020, reminds us to take nothing for granted in life. However, thinking about Tyler should also make our hearts smile because he clearly left an everlasting impression, and impacted so many different people from all walks of his life. The love, the repeated themes and observations and sincere, heartfelt, spot-on words and photos, videos, and memories shared in cards and texts and phone calls, online or in person, are a testament to who Tyler was as a person. We should all take a lesson from Tyler as to what is most important in life and practice it.

Family first. Let me say it again, family first. It is how Tyler was raised and what was nearest and dearest in his life. We are a very close family. We are so blessed and grateful to be surrounded and supported by immediate and extended Monterey/Lake Garfield/Lads Beach/Berkshire community family. Folks have reached out from other states and countries across the world because of Tyler and what he meant to all of us. Tyler’s family is so grateful for the outpouring of support in his memory.

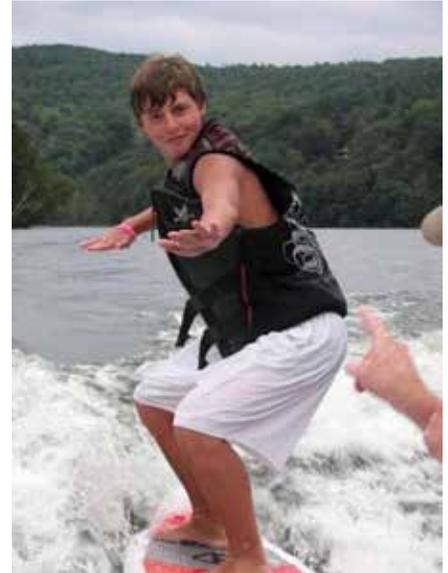
He loved the outdoors and cared passionately about the environment, nature, and wildlife. I remind everyone to keep practicing those random acts of kindness as Tyler did, and we thank those of you who have already taken personal actions or made generous donations to support worthy causes caring for our environment or pet adoptions in Tyler’s memory. Please keep them coming. Besides making donations in Tyler’s memory, we also adopted a Maine Coon cat named George Amadeus Big Red Kitty!

Tyler was an old soul in a young body. He lived his life true to himself



Greg, with his boys Chris and Tyler, with a string of trout caught in the Konkapot River.

and others, and to what he felt and shared without any façade. What you saw is what you got. He was genuine—no dancing around the tree or candy-coating things. He was not pretentious or arrogant; was extremely modest and would not pretend to be someone he was not, or who others might have expected or preferred him to be. No way! He was his own person and if that did not comport with what others thought, then that was their own issue, not his. Tyler was Tyler and “amen” to that! This is the way we should all live our lives.



Wakeboard surfing on Lake Garfield.

He was strong-willed with a heart of platinum gold. His smile and laugh were mischievous and unforgettable, infectious and contagious. In his element, with family and friends, he could make you smile or laugh or make the situation fun, just by goofing around. He would not hesitate to take it to the next level, even becoming annoying, until you just had to smile or laugh. Tyler’s hugs are legendary for anyone on the receiving end. If he made you smile or laugh or his hug made you feel good, in that very present moment, then his mission was accomplished.

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Civil rights activist and poet Maya Angelou said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." In his brief twenty-six years, Tyler's uplifting personality and energy were felt immediately. He was present and engaged. He wanted to bring joy to strangers, acquaintances, family members, or dear friends. We should all take lessons from Tyler's mission to lift others up.

Lake Garfield, Monterey, and the Berkshires were an integral part of Tyler's heart and soul. The connection and love between Tyler and his brother Christopher was something everyone couldn't help but smile about. It was inspiring. Tyler's brother, Christopher, created a Facebook page, "Remembering Tyler 'Kitty' Carnese" because "Kitty" was his term of endearment for Tyler. Christopher and Tyler, Tyler and Christopher, the Carnese boys—were always a package deal, and I am so blessed and grateful to be their Dad.



Tyler loved spending time at the lake with Christopher—learning to swim, raft wars, volleyball and bocci games, barbecues, listening to music, bonfires at Lads beach, family holidays spent at the lake, and all the various water sports—tubing, knee boarding, wake boarding, waterskiing, wake surfing, or just chilling on the water—Christopher and Tyler were usually side by side. As boys in winter they'd sled the hills at the lake and Lads Beach; they had a New Year's Eve sledding escapade with others at Otis Ski Ridge during their college years when they got caught and were politely asked to leave. They both learned to ski at Butternut and were ski instructors throughout high school and college. There are fond memories of summer Sunday morning pickup hoop games on Jamie's Court at Greene Park

with multiple generations of our family and other families from the lake and town. Some might call me a fishing addict, but Tyler usually out-fished me and everyone else. From the time the boys were young, the three of us would fish the lake or the Konkopot River, Housatonic River, and other Berkshire fisheries.

From the time Tyler was eight there were fishing trips to Grand Lake Stream, Maine; Deep River and the Ottawa River area in Canada; and to upstate New York. I am so, so grateful that the three of us returned to Grand Lake Stream this past August. Of course, Tyler caught the most and the biggest fish day in and day out. It was meant to be, and we would not have traded it for anything.

We're huge James Taylor fans. We have so many fond memories of sharing his music at Tanglewood year after year. When Tyler and Christopher were young I always sang them to sleep with "Sweet Baby James" (which they called "The Cowboy" song) and "You Can Close Your Eyes." We had a tradition of my arms around them and theirs around me singing along with JT.

Tyler's grandfather, Paul Carnese, had a license plate holder "Music Makes Me Smile." Love of music is especially strong with Tyler and Christopher across all genres of music. One of my favorites of Tyler's Spotify playlists is "Jungle Jammin'." Whatever he was doing, he was always listening to music. He would be strolling and spinning and grooving to his mix of tunes, with reckless abandon, wherever he was or whoever he was with, regardless of who was watching. There was no mistaking his presence dancing, how

he was into it, swaying to slow music or grooving and getting funky! He couldn't care less what others thought, and would be happy living his music!

Tyler was creative, artistic, and a poet. He periodically posted late night poetry on Facebook. (One of his poems is printed on page 13.) His typos remain because we should not sweat the small stuff in life. Tyler's words are a reminder of the social issues in this world, and the importance of respecting and treating people with love and kindness.

Kahlil Gibran said, "When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight." Tyler was a delight for so many of us. I know in my heart, Tyler wants us to persevere and wants everyone to be happy in life, spread joy, and "bring grace and kindness around the world," as he said in his poem. His old soul, his energy, his being, his essence, spirit, and connection will always be with us. It has been evident to so many of us already by his sending signs; and like other loved ones who have passed, I am confident he will continue to send us reminder signs.

I hope I've helped soothe the sorrow of those who knew Tyler. Even if you didn't know him, I hope you'll feel grateful for what is most important in life, going forward with a positive attitude, inspired to live and cherish the wonderful gift of life because of Tyler Paul Carnese.

Big hugs and tight lines Pal, until I hold you in my arms and cast a line with you again.

Love,

—Dad, Greg Carnese



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Porcupine in the Culvert

The writer and naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton coined the term “mud album,” and when the winter snows come, we have the snow album. We can get the picture thanks to tracks and say, “Deer! Right here in the yard, sometime recently. And something else, too, very small, maybe a mouse.” We become detectives, we watch the next day for more evidence. Then another light skiff of snow falls and we can see easily who has been by just lately, who comes by often, maybe every night. So we put together the story of our wild neighbors, thanks to the snow album. Without it, we need to look closely for more subtle signs. Some people can tell a fox has been by, just by a smell in the air. It is much like that of a skunk, though fainter and a little different.

There are all sorts of clues, and some are the ones we hear. The wild and varied vocalizations of the Barred Owls, the coyote chorus, woodpeckers drumming in rhythms unique to each species.

A couple of weeks back, before the snow album was laid down, I walked in our upper pasture, parallel to Hupi Road, and heard something. It was a sort of muttered moaning. The dog was with me and showed no interest, but I walked toward the sound and found it to be loudest at the downhill



end of a road culvert near our woodyard. This is a long slanting drop inlet culvert and across the road at the uphill end the sound was louder. I wondered if a small dog could have nosed into the concrete drop box where it is open and receives runoff, then fallen inside and been trapped, unable to scale the vertical sides of the deep box.

I was the detective. I tried calling. “Hi, dog! Come on, come on! Doggie...!” Suddenly the muttering became quite different, sharp, urgent. It was not exactly dog-like, but it surely was a response to my calling, and I thought any wild critter would just have shut up upon hearing me call.

The dog with me still showed no interest in this mystery, from either end of the

culvert. So we walked on. There was heavy rain forecast and I got concerned about whoever was in there, unable to get out. The downhill opening end of the culvert seemed a bit blocked up with sand and debris.

A couple of hours later the muttering was still going on. I went home and worried out loud. Later Joe went up with a bar and some planks. He propped up the top of the concrete box and stuck a two-by-six down there so a critter could climb out. By this time we knew the animal was a big porcupine. Joe had been able to shine a flashlight down from the uphill end and seen who was there. The rain came and we worried, but later I looked at the plank and saw a few scratches or clawmarks on it. Rescue! Big Porky had climbed out, thanks to us!

A few days later we got the snow album, and here is the real story. Big

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Porky is in residence in that culvert. At the lower end, every day, there are new tracks going in and out, and these are big tracks. The hind foot of a porcupine is like ours, or like a bear's: plantigrade. It shows the toes, the sole of the foot, and the heel. In a good snow or mud album it shows the claws, too. Our porcupine is out every day, or night, walking the same trails to certain trees, making new paths to others, and returning to this long tunnel for safety and to keep a little warmer under the dirt road. One day before the snow, we came along and meddled. The usual song of the porcupine changed to one of challenge and maybe fear or outrage. At least, that's what this detective now thinks.

My uncle was a scout leader and he liked to tell the story about the two scouts who saw an elderly person at a busy street intersection. They went to help, their good deed for the day. After quite awhile they caught up with the rest of their group and the leader said, "What took you so long?"

"She didn't want to go!" they said.

Easy to make a mistake when you get fixated on that merit badge. Do gooders. I apologize to our Culvert Dweller now when I walk by and am a more humble detective, learning a little more every day thanks to the snow album.

—Bonner McAllester

Wildlife

Late November, early December

Late in November Maureen Banner saw an "enormous" flock of turkeys crossing Fairview Road. She felt most were teen-aged turkeys. Half a mile farther along the same road there were two "enormous" hunters crossing the same road, but we don't know their ages.

The only bear sighting I have heard about comes from Ann Higgins who saw a young bear December 1. It ran across Route 23 and slithered under the guardrail by the berm where once there was a view. This is across the road where there once was a nursing home.

In mid-December, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen saw many coyote tracks, also some scat containing fur. This was along New Marlborough Road and down by Wellman Road. Earlier in the month they heard two foxes carrying on vocally in the field at their place, near last year's fox den.

Also at the Moore-Jensen place the bluebirds are back, sitting in the peach trees and checking out two bird boxes nearby. There has been a hairy woodpecker working in a maple tree along Wellman Road.



On December 22, Colleen Johnson sent a photograph (above) of a winged insect at her place. This was a cold day, a time no one expects to see such delicate flying creatures. On the same day, Maureen Regan had her night camera working and got a little movie of a Red Fox walking through the yard. Even in the somewhat blurry black-and-white night image, this fox's slim black legs are very pretty.

The next day, December 23, Wendy Jensen was out skiing in the field by the house and saw some 'possum tracks. Opossums have remarkable feet with five toes. On the hind foot, especially, the "big

toe" is quite separated from the other toes and slants backward like a reaching thumb.



Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati on Beartown Mountain Road have a male cardinal visiting their feeder, also Blue Jays, chickadees, and a nuthatch. They took a photograph (above) of the cardinal.

Late in the month, Kit Patten reported seventeen big dark turkeys at his place, dramatic against the snow, foraging in the dried goldenrods, maybe for seeds. They roosted in the apple tree.

On Christmas Eve I walked in Otis State Forest and saw many millions of animals I usually don't see until the maple sap is running in late February or early March. These are snow fleas, also called springtails, or *collembola*. They show up on the snow as tiny dark specks. If you reach down to pick up a few, suddenly they disappear as they sproing upward thanks to their amazing "tail." This is folded forward under the abdomen, with its end tucked under a catch on the belly. There is pressure there, a real spring. And when the animal wants to move fast, it slips the catch, the tail flips down, and the creature is snapped up in the air, faster than the eye can follow. It lands somewhere not too far away, safe from whatever you were going to do to it.

Springtails will also swarm and show up on the surface of water in the spring. In Wyoming where we used to live, they were known as "Jesus Bugs," since they can walk on water. Their spring tails snap on the surface tension as they do the same instant disappearing act I was seeing today in the snow. I would have thought Christmas Eve was a bit early to see the Jesus Bugs.

Thank you everyone for your wild reports.

—Bonner McAllester
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Select Board Corner

Editor's Note: It has been months now since the select board has provided any agreed-upon content for the "Select Board Corner." If you feel that this was a valuable contribution to your understanding of what is happening in Monterey, please let them know.

MontereyMA.gov

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

— Don Coburn, Chair
Steve Weisz and John Weingold
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(don@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
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The Vaccine Before Christmas

'Twas some days before Christmas—how many I'm not sure
(The days ran together; everything was a blur).
All the houses were locked down from COVID-19,
With everyone wishing for the promised vaccine.
The children were nestled and sleeping just fine.
They were all tuckered out from their classes online.
And mamma in her kerchief and I in my cap
Had just sanitized our hands and hung up our masks.
The year had been hard. We were due a vacation.
But the thing wanted most? Emergency use authorization.
Then out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I assumed it was another 2020 disaster.
I ran to the window and put on my mask,
But what would I see? I was too scared to ask.
The neighbors were quiet and socially distant,
Awaiting the time they'd be COVID resistant.
But despite travel bans, there then did appear
A miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.
But this wasn't Santa. His gut wasn't paunchy.
It was the trusted presence of Anthony Fauci.
More rapid than eagles, at warp speed they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now Pfizer! Now Sanofi! Now Johnson & Johnson!
"On Moderna! On BioNTech! On Adaptive and Amgen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate all!"
As a virus expelled by a cough or a sneeze
When it meets plexiglass rises up on the breeze;
So up to the house-top the pharma all flew,
With the sleigh full of hope, and Dr. Fauci, too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

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.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney Fauci came with a bound.
He was dressed in a suit, as was always his way,
And his neatly cut hair was a smart silver-grey.
A chart in one hand, a syringe in the other,
And a medical bag—a gift from his mother.
The wisdom in his eyes and the knowledge in his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
With his reassuring smile covered up with a mask,
His no-nonsense style led him straight to the task.
He sprung to my side as I rolled up my sleeve,
And he stuck in the vaccine as quick as you please.
He flew to the bedroom, gave mamma a shot,
Then vaxxed both our kids without waking them up.
Inoculations complete, he returned to the chimney,
And gave me a pamphlet about what he put in me.
Then raising his finger but not touching his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
"C'mon, team!" he said. "We've a great opportunity.
If we vaccinate more we can reach herd immunity!"
Then he yelled back to me, as the sleigh quickly rose,
"I'll be back in a fortnight for the follow-up dose.
Merry Christmas & to 2020 a good night!"

—Kevin A. Wilson

(with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)



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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Rachel Jo Arnow, p. 16; Maureen Banner, p. 5;
George Emmons, p. 12; Bonner McAllester, p. 19.*

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