

MONTEREY NEWS

April 2016

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The Town

by Stephen Moore

Notes on select board meetings from February 22 through March 14.

2016–2017 Budget

The select board met several times with the finance committee to review the various budget items from town departments. There are a number of instances where lines of the budget are being merged or redefined.

One of the most significant line item changes involves how the town accounts for its contributions to the fire company and fire department. As a simple distinction, the fire company is the group that owns, maintains, and operates the fire house. The fire department is comprised of the same individuals, but they are considered employees of the town when they are providing direct services in response to calls, or during training. The fire department also includes the great majority of equipment housed in the fire house.

The impetus for rearranging the line items that pertain to the fire company is the town's desire to support a \$350,000 construction loan. The town cannot contribute directly to the loan, as the fire house is not a municipal property. The members of the fire company are securing the loan by forgoing the compensation they would otherwise receive from their weekly trainings, which amounts to approximately \$30,000 per year. (The size of the loan



Julia Bronson

Susan Smyth

A sure sign of spring. Susan Sellew anticipates up to seventy-five baby goats this spring. Many are already enrolled in school, and most will graduate from college in a few short months. If you visit them, imagine what you might learn.

from Lee Bank is based on the amount of these contributions, not on the anticipated overall cost of the renovations.)

To facilitate the payment of the loan, a few changes have been made. Currently the town holds a lease on the fire house at an annual cost of \$17,000, which makes the fire house available to the town for various uses, including holding town meetings, and housing the town's equipment. The town and the fire company have agreed to a new lease, to be in effect for fifteen years (the term of the loan), at a cost of \$47,000 per year—essentially the current lease cost plus the expense of the loan payments.

To offset the higher lease cost, the town will no longer provide the approximately \$30,000 compensation to the members of the fire department for their training time. The impact on the budget is nil, as the same amount of money is simply being redistributed among the fire services line items. The town should recognize and appreciate the commitment of the fire company members to continue their training while forgoing compensation.

Another subject was that Shawn Tryon, director of operations, clearly needs support with highway department paperwork. Other department heads have benefited from having office support, and that a part-time office position could help Tryon with managing expenses. Scott Jenssen, chair of the select board, said it makes little sense for Tryon to spend his time doing paperwork when his real expertise is with the actual work of the department. Tryon later agreed that office help five hours a week would be a big help.

By mid-March it seemed likely that the overall town budget might increase by as much as 10% for the coming fiscal year. The largest portion of this increase comes from a large increase in the school assessment paid to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD), up \$119,000. Even this amount is contingent on the town of Sheffield voting to make up their \$90,000 underassessment from last year. (See below for more detail.)

Transfer Station New Summer Hours

Sunday	11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Of the total increase in the budget, only approximately \$67,000 is entirely within the town's control, and this includes extending a 2% COLA increase to town employees. As of March 14, the budget was not yet concluded, and much can change before the budget, and the levy rate, is settled. The board has concluded that they will have to seek a Proposition 2 ½ override at town meeting.

Our Schools

At the March 6 select board meeting, a contingent of school people met with the board to talk about the large increase in the school assessment. Maria Rundle, Monterey's representative to the SBRSD school committee, was joined by Vito Valentini, committee chair, David Hastings, district superintendent, and Bruce Turner, district business manager.

One of the most complicated aspects of the school assessment is the error made at the state level last year calculating the towns' assessments through the Hatch formula. The main sticking point has to do with the town of Sheffield's portion of that error, which underassessed Sheffield by \$239,000. In an attempt to solve this problem, the district found \$215,000 to cut from the budget, along with some other savings. With Sheffield paying 50% of the district costs, this reduced the amount due from Sheffield to \$90,000. The big question in determining the final costs to each of the towns for FY 2017 is whether Sheffield will vote to cover what they owe, or force this amount onto the other towns' assessments. This question puts the SBRSD committee in a very difficult position with the towns.

Questions were raised about how the Hatch formula arrives at each town's assessment. The board was told that it is a complex formula that takes into account the relative abilities of the towns to pay for the school system as partly reflected by the overall property values. Monterey's large number of second homes with higher real estate values affects the "ability to

pay" portion of the calculation. It is not based on the number of students sent to the district schools.

The SBRSD website states that the district educates approximately eight hundred students. Monterey's school-age population is a point of confusion. The district counts eighty-six school-age students in Monterey (as of late January 2016). Monterey's town census counts sixty-eight school-age children. Both the board and the district acknowledge that it is surprisingly difficult to arrive at a hard number due to a variety of circumstances. Nonetheless, there is a significant difference in those numbers.

The town counts fifty-nine Monterey students attending SBRSD schools, with the balance going to out-of-district schools, private schools, or home schooling (which can be very difficult to count accurately). The fifty-nine Monterey students comprise 7.3% of the SBRSD student body, while the town's assessment for FY 2017 is 11.54% of the budget, for a total dollar assessment of \$1.47 million dollars. (Since some district money flows to other district schools for out-of-district students, it is not accurate to try to calculate the cost-per-student directly from these numbers.)

This has led our select board to consider alternatives both within the district and outside the district. In late February, the board met with four lawyers in Monterey to discuss the possibility of suing the district for breach of contract to extract the town from participation in the district. The four lawyers, none of whom are litigators or have specific expertise in school-related issues, suggested that

the town search out law firms that have specific experience in this area. Select board member Kenn Basler is aware of at least one Massachusetts town that has left a district as the result of a legal proceeding, and will research that situation in an attempt to find legal advice.

Transfer Station

It seems the transfer station is never far from the board's considerations as well. The new transfer station design was put out to bid last fall, and the bids received were much higher than anticipated, which caused the board to call a halt to the process for the time being. The design has now been put out to bid again, with a date set for late March for the opening of the new bids. The greatest expense will be the concrete work. If the bids once again come in higher than the \$350,000 limit set by the board, there may be ways to redesign elements of the station to reduce the cost.

The board also explored the possibility of the transfer station being designated an "enterprise," whereby all of the annual costs of the station would be paid for by usage fees. They looked at this as a possible way to take a large sum out of the town budget. However, this could potentially cause the sticker cost to rise to \$160, which would not include the various fees charged for specific items. The board realized that in the long run, this wouldn't save the town budget as much as they'd hoped.

Stan Ross, from the finance committee, had an emphatic response to the "enterprise" proposal. "Towns provide residents with a number of services. Towns provide roads, and police protection, and schools, and parks. These cannot be paid

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for with usage fees. And the town needs to provide for waste services, which can be only partially supported by usage fees.” It was pointed out that in neighboring towns where the transfer station sticker prices have gone up, there is a growing problem of roadside dumping, which no one wants to see.

It was also noted that the contract with Master Garbologist is up for renewal this year, and the board intends to solicit bids from several other area haulers before making a new contract commitment. In previous years there was little attention paid to how well the dumpsters were packed, resulting in hauling fees for only partially full containers, which costs- the town money. The employees at the transfer station are closely supervising the loading of the bulky waste and metal containers, and this has reduced unnecessary hauling. They are also watching for nonresidents trying to use the transfer station, which was a problem prior to the town having its own attendants.

Wilson-McLaughlin House

The select board and the finance committee made a visit to assess the progress at the community center. After touring the building and asking many questions, Joe Baker presented the visitors with some financial history, starting when the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House (FWMH) began to imagine a community center in 2005.

In the period from 2005 to 2011, the FWMH raised \$60,767. That money went toward some basic needs for the building after a long period of inattention, and into the process of imagining how the

building and the property would be used. Fully half of the money spent during this period was on architect fees, which led to a plan that was much more extensive and clearly would be beyond the ability of the town to afford.

Having since developed a simpler plan to restore the farmhouse to use in its basic configuration, Over the last five years the FWMH has raised an additional \$258,289 toward the renovation. Of this, \$95,000 was from public funds—two grants from the town totaling \$55,000 and a \$40,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council capital fund. The rest has all been from private donations from 273 donors. These numbers do not include the \$17,234

of in-kind donations from several sources, including discounts from Herrington Lumber, Carlson Propane, Berkshire Spray foam, Tryon construction, and materials from various sources, and a huge amount of volunteer labor.

The FWMH estimates that \$117,913 of the money raised since 2011 has been spent on work that the town would have had to do regardless of the use of the building (dealing with hazardous materials, roof repair, engineering, foundation repair, floor replacement, drainage, etc). \$140,376 has been spent on the community center, including \$21,180 on architectural fees.

They estimate that they are at 90% completion and have at least \$36,000

New Advertisers

We have three new ads from area businesses. Forest and lumber services, fresh vegetables, and curbside recycling and trash removal are great additions to the town. Tullyroot Farm, Felix Carroll’s small CSA, is likely to get subscribed quickly, so don’t dawdle.

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in direct costs yet to go. Mike Banner, speaking to the group, made the point that in the recent fundraising effort to finance the installation of the heating plant, many people gave again but included notes that they are done contributing. "The well is going dry at this point."

Since 2005 they have raised well over \$300,000, but only \$140,000 (and a tremendous amount of volunteer labor) has gone to restoring the house for the purpose of a community center as it stands today.

After the tour and discussion, the board decided to add \$40,000 to the warrant to help the FWMH get the project finished.

Broadband

The select board has begun to actively consider alternatives for getting Monterey "wired" with a fiber optic network, since the WiredWest approach seems to have hit a roadblock.

The board held a preliminary discussion with Adam Chait of Fiber Connect. Chait, who is a Monterey resident with a company that is interested in making a proposal to the town to build out and operate a town-wide network. Fiber Connect has recently made a similar proposal to the town of Egremont.

A lot of information was shared about the phases of building out a network, from the pole survey—the "make-ready" work that would be done by National Grid and Verizon to prepare the more than 2,000 poles in Monterey for fiber cable—to "lighting up" the network.

Two weeks later Chait returned with a proposal in hand for his company to design and build out a town-wide network.

In his proposal, the fiber would pass by every current residence and all building lots within the town, save for any properties that are exceptionally difficult to reach. The town would be responsible for the "make-ready" costs, which would probably be much lower than what the Massachusetts Broadband Institute has budgeted for Monterey's portion of the grants. Fiber Connect would finance all the actual construction, with the exception of locating and building the head-end structure. Chait told the board that they could expect portions of the network to begin "lighting up" homes within twelve months, as the network is built out, and the whole town to be online in eighteen to twenty-four months of signing a contract.

Financial aspects of the proposal include:

- A \$2.4 million buyout of the network if the town wished to own it.
- Subscription rates of \$92/month for 1 gigabyte internet service, \$20 additional for first-line phone service.
- A two-year subscription contract.
- A pre-build deposit of \$399 per household for the first three hundred feet of aerial (on poles) connection. Greater distance, as well as below-ground installation through existing or new conduit, would be priced by the job.
- A post-build connection charge of \$999 for the first three hundred feet.
- Fiber Connect will not handle television due to the enormous expense of the equipment and network licensing fees, but will handle video streaming services.

The board thanked Chait for both his proposal and his efforts to help them understand the whole undertaking.

As a follow-up to their conversation with Chait, Steve Weisz said that the town of New Marlborough has been in contact with Frontier Communications in Connecticut about the possibility of having that company build a network in their town. Frontier is eager to expand their business to Massachusetts but is not yet licensed to do so. New Marlborough is planning on creating a working group to talk further with Frontier, and Weisz suggested that Monterey could ask Frontier to make a proposal to Monterey.

The board discussed how significant any decision would be concerning the various alternatives for getting broadband throughout Monterey. They are considering searching for a consultant to help with technical issues, and forming a committee of townspeople to advise them.

WiredWest recently sent a lengthy update to all town offices in the cooperative on the work they have done since MBI brought the plan to a halt last December. Please see page 16 for excerpts from the WiredWest statement.

New Fire Truck

The fire department is preparing to replace a twenty-year-old fire truck with a new one. While the current truck still has some use in it, it also has a number of serious mechanical issues. In addition, insurance rates for both the town and residences can be affected when a town is relying on equipment that is older than twenty years.

A replacement has been quoted at \$625,000. The finance committee has


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recommended using stabilization funds for a large portion of the expense, and then financing the balance. The primary purpose of a stabilization fund is to control debt expenses by building reserve funds that can be used for capital items such as this.

Roads and Bridges

The finance committee and the select board have agreed to create a separate stabilization fund for roads, bridges, and culverts, as these are high-cost capital items. Kenn Basler has learned that the governor's office has created a fund to help support and expedite the replacement of bridges with spans of less than twenty feet. The system has been to have a bridge placed on a replacement list, which often entails inspection by state engineers, who may, as they did with the New Marlboro Road bridge last year, order it to be closed. However, it can take up to five years for a bridge project to reach the top of the list. There are many smaller bridges in south Berkshire County that have been closed, along with portions of roads leading to these bridges, while they wait out their time on the list.

The state is also looking into ways that the engineering can be simplified to reduce costs, as Monterey demonstrated last year. A new wrinkle in this process,

though, is that the state often partners with the federal government to fund bridges, and the feds have instituted a new requirement. Municipalities are now required to purchase all lands within 150 feet from either end of a bridge to qualify for federal money. This not only increases the cost and the timeframe to make bridge repairs, it introduces a political element involving the impact this requirement may have on property owners.

The repavement of Route 23 is slated to begin around May 1. Palmer Construction's tentative plan is to begin at the Otis town line and work west. The entire length of Route 23 will get worked on. Most of it will be ground up, with the old asphalt being relaid as road bed, then two courses of asphalt laid on top, as was done several years ago in a few sections. In the village area, the top layer will be milled and then repaved.

Palmer will coordinate with the town to send out updates via News and Announcements about areas being worked on.

Around Town

The regional manager for National Grid came in to discuss the company's Novem-

Rabies Clinic


April 2, 9 a.m. to Noon

The rabies clinic with John Makuc will be held at the Monterey fire house. Late fees will be waived. Call the town clerk's office for more information.


ber 2015 petition to the public utilities board for a rate increase. She said that the last increase was in 2007. Under the current structure they have been able to recoup \$170 million in capital costs, but have spent in excess of \$200 million. She said that rate requests generally take about one year to be considered. She noted that there will be a meeting for public comment at 6 p.m., on April 4, at the Great Barrington firehouse.

The board decided to add a line item to the warrant for hiring a part-time town administrator for \$35,000 plus benefits, for a twenty- to twenty-five-hour work week. Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler voted in favor, while Steve Weisz felt it was not needed at this time.

The town has received several applications for the new town grant writer position, and they all seem well qualified.



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May 9th Town Election Slate

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 9, not on town meeting day. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 p.m., at the Monterey firehouse.

Below is the slate for the election. Incumbents are indicated by asterisks. Party affiliation, or Independent status, is noted in parentheses for contested seats.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)

Carol Edelman (D)
Michael C. Johnson (I)

Tree Warden (1 year)

Kevin Fitzpatrick (R & D)
Winston Wilson* (I)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)

Stan Ross*

Board of Assessors (3 years)

Stan Ross*

Board of Health (3 years)

Julio Rodriguez

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

Mary Makuc*

Constable (3 years)

Ray Tryon*

Finance Committee (3 years)

Jon Sylbert

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)

Mickey Jervas*
Lisa Smyle*

Library Trustee (1 years)

John Higgins

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc*

Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)

Julio Rodriguez*
Angelica Collins*

Planning Board (5 years)

Larry Klein*

Planning Board (2 years)

Richard Piepho

Town Treasurer (3 years)

Jennifer Brown

Tax Collector (3 years)

Mari Enoch*

Monterey Democrats

The Monterey Democratic Committee will hold its reorganization meeting on April 4, at 7 p.m., in the Monterey church basement.

Candidates' Forum April 16 at 10 a.m.

On Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m., the *Monterey News* board will sponsor a Candidates' Forum for the citizens to examine the two candidates running for the open seat on the select board. This will take place downstairs in the church.

The candidates are Carol Edelman, endorsed by the Democratic Committee, and Michael C. Johnson, independent. The *News* editor, Stephen Moore, will moderate the forum.

The candidates will have opening statements, and then they will answer questions. Initially they will address two questions that will have been previously provided. They will then respond to questions prepared by the *News*, at which point there will be an opportunity to take questions from the audience. They will be given an opportunity to make closing statements as well.

The forum will also be an opportunity for others running for open positions in town to introduce themselves and, in the case of any contested positions, to make their views known.

As we all know, we're blessed to live in this wonderful town and place, and we're indebted to those who volunteer their time and talents to serve for the public good. We're blessed again this year, given that many towns and municipalities have trouble drumming up people willing to serve, to have two candidates to choose from. So, please take the opportunity of this forum to make your vote an informed one.

See you on the 18th!


—Liz Goodman

Town Election Candidates' Statements

Any candidates who wish to be encouraged to submit statements to the *Monterey News* to be published in the May issue, which will hopefully be available no later than Tuesday, April 28. The deadline for statements is April 15.


Statements can be submitted by email to MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or mailed to PO Box 9.





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Michael Johnson, Candidate

My name is Michael Johnson, and I am announcing my candidacy for select board.

Most of you know me as one of the two full-time members of Monterey's Police Department, where I have been serving since 2010. Before moving to Monterey, I served on the Buckland, MA, police force, while attending the Police Academy. Prior to that, I was a member of the Colrain, MA, fire department, eventually becoming its fire education officer for elementary school children and senior citizens. Additionally, I participated in a program run by the north-west region's District Attorney's Office that aimed at educating seniors and other residents about how to identify and protect themselves from mail fraud and identity theft. I also was trained as a School Resource Officer, working at the Mohawk Middle and High Schools.

My first job was with the U.S. Navy, as part of its submarine service. I was honorably discharged after five years with the rank of petty officer, second class.

I am running for select board to participate in maintaining the open and honest form of government that Monterey enjoys. I have spent my entire adult life in service to others and would like to continue doing so as a member of Monterey's select board.

Please feel free to talk to me about any questions or concerns you have about Monterey and the upcoming election.

—Michael C. Johnson

Conservation Commission Needs New Members

The conservation commission performs a valuable and vital function for the town of Monterey by protecting the wetland areas of our town.

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

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

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

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

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

Looking for a Town Reporter

This notice was placed last month and no one has indicated interest in serving the town this way. Without a reporter we may have to suspend the independent reporting of the select board meetings.

The *Monterey News* needs a new town reporter. Our monthly column, "The Town," leads each issue of the paper, and it goes to the very core of the *Monterey News* mission, which is to encourage conversation in the town. It is the only reporting of what has transpired at the select board's meetings, aside from their minutes, which they approve before publication.

The role of the town reporter is strictly to attend the three or four meetings each month and then to write up what he or she witnessed. The board meets on Mondays.

To be the town reporter is rewarding in two ways. It is an opportunity to connect with more people in town and to learn how the town government is managed. It is also an important public service, bringing the select board's topics, discussions, and decisions to the readers.

This role does not call for an experienced, professional writer. It calls mostly for someone who has an interest in our civic affairs, has an abiding concern for Monterey, and enjoys a certain amount of writing. There are two separate editors who would "have your back" on the writing, so you would not be all on your own. The *News* is able to provide a monthly stipend for the job.

If you're curious about the position, please contact Stephen Moore, editor, either by email (MontereyNews9@gmail.com) or by phone (528-4007).

SARAH JACKSON MFA, MA JUNGIAN ANALYSIS & PSYCHOTHERAPY

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*"The most terrifying thing is
to accept yourself completely".*

C.G. Jung

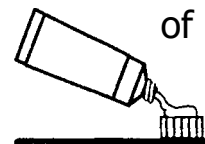
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Route 23

Monterey

The Monterey Fire Company Looking for Support

Necessity: “an imperative, requirement, or need for something.”

Necessity is the optimal word to describe the state of things for the town’s fire company. We count four necessities, which this article outlines:

1. Complete our renovations at the fire station at 411 Main Road.
2. Garner support from voters for a warrant before the May 7 town meeting that would reorganize the town’s fire department budget line items. Support for the warrant will not in any way increase the town’s current financial obligations to the fire department (see *The Town*, page 1).
3. Have a successful—and hopefully unprecedented—response to our annual appeal letter, which was sent out to townspeople in late March.
4. Most of all—continue to provide excellent emergency services to the town.

So allow me to explain what’s going on.

Perhaps you have noticed some activity on weekends around the Monterey fire station this past year? The Monterey Fire Company owns and maintains the property. Fire company members, working as volunteers, have framed and enclosed an extension to the front of the building for new office space, and have begun

renovating the exterior of the firehouse—removing old siding and replacing it with new vinyl siding, trim, and decorative stonework. This is just the first step in our program to renovate and modernize the home of our Monterey Fire Department.

Built in 1980, the facilities at 411 Main Road were a tremendous improvement over the cramped and outdated firehouse at 465 Main Road. The Monterey Fire Company built both the fire station and the pavilion with their own volunteer labor—using a loan which, having no collateral, was guaranteed by the signatures of individual company members.

Time, wear and tear, regulatory changes, equipment additions, and training needs have all taken their toll. The firehouse is in need of both a renovation and expansion. The fire company, in keeping with our tradition, plans to continue to use volunteer labor as much as possible. Of course, we can’t do it all alone. Some of the work requires licensed tradespeople who we don’t have—but we have already put in about 1,600 hours of volunteer work, and will continue to do so where we are able.

The need for modernization of the facilities covers a number of areas:

- Add an equipment bay to the existing three bays and replace the overhead doors in order to meet guidelines set by the National Fire Protection Association, which sets safety codes for the fire ser-

vices. We currently “stack” equipment in the bays and have to move some to get to others—which could cause critical delays in response time.

- Build a hose tower at the northwest corner of the existing building to allow us to more efficiently dry and store fire hose. After a call, we now clean our hose on the front parking apron and must dry it on the equipment bay floor between the fire engines.
- Add office space, individual offices, and a radio room in the new space at the front of the building. Our existing offices are cramped, noisy, and, in an emergency like hurricane Irene several years ago, just too busy to work in. Separate offices and a radio room will be a major improvement.
- Bring the facilities up to building code by addressing the following: handicapped access, proper ventilation in the kitchen, separate bathroom facilities, and other safety requirements, all of which will make our firehouse safer and more accessible to everyone. These changes are especially important because the facilities are used by the town for voting, town meetings, and other purposes.
- Ideally, add equipment bays for the smaller emergency vehicles between the existing building and the pavilion. This will help to improve safety and avoid the “stacking” of these vehicles, as each will have a dedicated bay.

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Kinderhook
Group



Christine Martin
Licensed in MA and CT

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office:
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Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us this month to hear
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aid efforts to bring medical and
educational materials to rural
Honduras.

See the community potluck supper
article on page 17 for more info.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

- Possibly add overhead doors to the rear of the four large equipment bays (including a new bay) to make them “drive through” rather than “back in”.
- Remove and replace the remainder of the existing siding with long-lasting, colorful vinyl siding and stonework.
- Enlarge our training space to accommodate the entire company as well as occasional joint training with members of other fire companies.

We estimate the cost of our renovation to be somewhere between \$475,000 and \$500,000 dollars. The Monterey Fire Company will secure a construction loan from Lee Bank in the amount of \$350,000 using the existing facilities as collateral. We await construction permits in order to finalize the loan.

This loan will be serviced using money that the town previously paid directly to the firemen as compensation for training time—about \$30,000 per year. The company members have unanimously agreed to forego training pay (while continuing with rigorous, weekly training sessions) until the loan is paid off. The money previously spent

on training will instead be rolled into the town’s market-rate rental of the fire station, which houses town-owned fire fighting equipment and is used by the town for meetings and elections.

We anticipate raising the remaining \$150,000 with contributions from the community that we serve. Our annual letter, which most of you will have received in the mail, outlines this request for funding in more detail.

The men and women of the Monterey Fire Company are proud to be able to serve the Monterey community and provide support to surrounding communities when necessary. We are on call 24/7, fifty-two weeks per year, responding to an average of about 120 calls per year.

In an article to be published in the May issue of the *Monterey News* we will discuss these changes a bit further. We will also explain in detail the distinctions between the “fire company” and the “fire department”—as well as the funding from the Town of Monterey and its citizens, who support both entities.

Contributions to the Monterey Fire Company can be sent to PO Box 99, Monterey, MA. The fire company is a tax-deductible 501[c]3 nonprofit corporation.

—Shawn Tryon
President, Monterey Fire Company,
and all our members.

Mermaids and Mermen of South County

You like to dance, but you don’t move well on land? This is your chance to learn how to do some classical Indian dancing. We will be learning how to dance “mudras” in the warm pool at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center on Thursday, April 7, at 2 p.m.

Pooja Prema of Rogue Angel Theatre will be instructing adults with mobility impairments or other physical limitations, be they neurological, orthopedic, or cognitively based.

This program is free to everyone, but enrollment is limited. Please call Mary Makuc at 528-5834 to register and ask any questions.


This is a pilot project supported in part by grants from the cultural councils of Monterey, Great Barrington, and Sheffield, which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

—Mary Makuc



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Saturday April 23 & April 30
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The Community Center is 90% finished!
Spring into the center and look around; we'll be there
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Treating Milfoil in Lake Garfield

The problem is simply this—milfoil is a nonnative, invasive plant, and as it has done in other lakes (e.g. Lake Buel and Stevens Lake), it will spread rapidly to all areas of Lake Garfield in which it can grow. It will crowd out and eliminate the native plant species and cause anoxic conditions that will be unfavorable to wildlife (fish, etc.) in the lake.

The science is clear and unequivocal. There is no way this is “natural” for this lake, and it will lead to very unhealthy conditions.

Our options are limited. Hand pulling has failed, and now the affected area is far too large to manage with hand pulling. Using the benthic barrier method (large mats) also is not practical and would kill native plants wherever the mats are placed.

So if we do nothing, then we can expect a very negative effect on the lake very quickly from the milfoil. At this point, our lake scientist, Ken Wagner, really offers us only one reasonable option.

I understand the emotional reaction to the use of “chemicals.” I too do not trust the chemical industry, and I agree we have been lied to over the years on the issue of chemical safety. I too believe in a strong, environmentally responsible approach to the lake.

This is why I believe that if people are willing to listen and study the facts they will see that Sonar, in the limited way we propose, is a safe, environmentally responsible approach. We must look at the risks and benefits. If we do nothing we know what will happen to the health of the lake. The risk of Sonar is quite low.

- Sonar’s only mechanism of action is to inhibit photosynthesis, so rapidly growing plants will be most affected. Since animals have no photosynthetic biologic systems, Sonar has no health effects on animals.
- The proposal is for a pilot program to use Sonar during one year, in a limited part of the affected area, and to monitor the protected plant species. Natural Heritage and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, parts of the state office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, indicate that they will support this approach (actually it was their idea and they recommended it).
- Controlling the milfoil allows the native plant species to be preferentially selected for growth. Milfoil spreads by fragmentation of its branches, so if the plant is killed then it cannot spread—it has no seeds. The native pond weeds have seeds, so even if Sonar inhibits growth, the seeds will not be affected and will grow new plants next year.

There is a good deal more information on the FLG website (lakegarfieldma.com)

We will plan a public meeting to discuss the plans to mitigate the milfoil problem on Sunday, June 19, at 10 a.m., at the firehouse (tentative).

—Michael Germain
Friends of Lake Garfield

Iron Duck Race Sunday, April 31

Starting at 11 a.m. at Greene Park, “our” ducks will be released to race down the town hall drive, over the bridge, and down to the bank of the Konkapot. There they will be greeted by their handlers who will urge them into a harness and then fly them back to the starting point by kite.

The first three handlers who glide their ducks back safely to the starting point will be able to name one of this year’s ducklings.

Limited supplies, so sign up soon with the parks commission. Ducks Forever will send a representative to make sure all the racers are properly handled.

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P.O. Box 9 Lake Garfield Tax District

I believe that the vote at the special town meeting on February 18, establishing the "Lake Garfield Preservation District," should be be disallowed.

At the meeting, this proposed tax district was explained by Friends of Lake Garfield Association President Michael Germain and other proponents of the district. They said that decisions would be made by a district prudential committee made of six elected members from among the "proprietors," or landowners, in the district. In addition, there would be a member appointed by the select board, and an additional representative of the town. Thus we were informed that citizen interests would be represented on this policy-making committee by two voting people outside the group of proprietors.

However, Dr. Germain's explanatory article in the March issue of the *Monterey News* (p. 13) states that the committee would be "six members of the district, one representative from the select board, and one non-voting member from the town-at-large appointed by the select board." This description of the eighth position as "non-voting" contradicts his statements on the town meeting floor.

I looked up the actual wording of the sixteen-page Act upon which we voted at the special town meeting (referenced in the warrant). The Act itself states (p. 6), "In addition to the 6 persons elected by the district as provided in this special act, one member of the Prudential Committee shall be appointed by the selectmen of the Town of Monterey... In addition to the 7 regular members of the prudential committee,

there shall be one alternate prudential committee member, who shall be elected by the district and may vote in place of a member who is absent or in the event of a conflict. The 6 elected prudential committee members and alternate shall be chosen by election by the proprietors entitled to vote at District meetings...."

In other words, both the explanation we heard at town meeting and the article in the *News* are incorrect: the ONLY non-district voting member allowed in the Act would either be from the select board or be appointed by the board. There is no additional voting representative of the town as was described at town meeting. The eighth position (the "alternate") is not appointed by the select board but is elected by the lake district proprietors. The misgivings about this Act that I voiced at the special town meeting have been reinforced by learning that the governing body of the proposed tax district has even less representation from citizens-at-large than we were told, citizens who would voice their concerns for the ecological health of the lake and surrounding ecosystems, as well as for the human health hazards represented by chemical herbicide treatments of the lake.

The explanation of the proposed tax district was inaccurately given on an important structural matter; voters were led to believe one thing, while the Act upon which we voted states something quite different. This constitutes grounds for the vote of the special town meeting to be disallowed. The Monterey Select Board should exercise its power to refuse to forward the proposed Act to the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

— Joe Baker

33 Hupi Road, Monterey

From the Tax Collector's Office:

The fiscal year 2016 real estate and personal property bills for the fourth quarter will be mailed by April 1 and are due May 2, 2016. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office at 528-1443 x117.

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245 or call (413) 528-1443 x115.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook or credit card in hand. Log on to montereyma.gov and click on "Pay Real Estate Taxes Online." You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2016). The bank will assess a minimal fee of \$0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch

Monterey Tax Collector

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P.O. Box 9 Monterey's School Future

Select board chair Scott Jenssen came to the March 10 Southern Berkshire Regional School District committee meeting to discuss a letter the Monterey select board had written to the superintendent. This letter asked for the release of \$10,000 in funds to repair the Monterey School and expressed the expectation that a kindergarten program be placed in the Monterey School building for the 2016–17 school. He told the school committee that the town was hiring lawyers to break out of the regional agreement, and that the town was “seeking to leave the district that has done nothing for us.” He said that the “Town of Monterey has nothing to do with your budget nor will support the school district in the future,” and reiterated the town’s intention to withdraw from the school district. Finally, he asked the school committee “to do the right thing: to put on their [the five towns of the district] warrants the closure of the Monterey School.”

I have not been able to find any minutes from an open meeting of the select board where there was a vote on any of these four issues: 1. hiring lawyers to break the regional agreement; 2. voting for the town to withdraw from the district; 3. rejecting the district budget for FY17; or 4. voting to ask the school committee to close the Monterey School.

Vito Valentini, a Sheffield school committee member, pointed out to Scott at the meeting that the school committee and administration “went to the mats” last year against Sheffield and New Marlborough, the two towns whose leadership said they would not support the district’s budget unless the Monterey School was closed. The school committee refused to cave and went directly to the voters to get the budget passed and keep the Monterey School open.

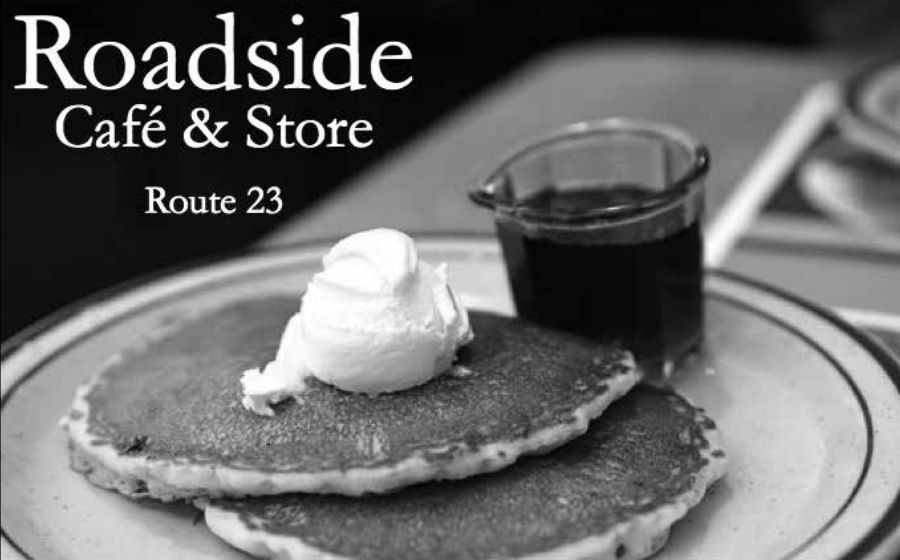
Dennis Sears, another school committee member from Sheffield, told Scott, “If the building can be renovated, who knows what will happen in a year. I wouldn’t bring forward or vote for a motion to close. This committee didn’t abandon the town of Monterey.... We did everything we possibly could to keep the school open.”

Those of us who love the Monterey School may feel like we lost something and we want to lash out. But the school committee didn’t take it away. The administration didn’t take it that way. Not even Alford, Sheffield, or New Marlborough were able to take it that way. We had no students enrolled for the 2015–16 school year and we have no registrants yet for this year. And according to the census, we do not have any children eligible for pre-k, which means we have no kindergarten cohort for the following year. Declining enrollment is such a pervasive issue in our county that our district is pursuing solutions on

multiple fronts: a county-wide task force, a regional planning board, and a Southern Berkshire Shared Services project.

Over the last three years, as Monterey’s school committee representative, I never gave an inch on the Monterey School, and I have turned over every rock I could find to keep it open. I have been in every room where the Monterey School is being discussed, prepared, and ready to refute misinformation, put a human face on the people and parents of Monterey, and try to bring reason and compassion to the conversation.

Unfortunately, it has been a struggle to get a cohort of even six to seven students registered at the Monterey School. I led an effort over two consecutive years to change the enrollment date so we could accept more students. The school committee voted in both 2014 and 2015 to waive even the extended enrollment deadline to admit three more students to the Monterey program. I bought ad space in this paper to advertise the great school we had, and I brought a display on the school and examples of student work to every town event, hoping to find some more families that might send their children to our school. Dave Hastings, the superintendent, re-examined the catchment area for the school twice in an effort to get New Marlborough students into the program.



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But we are part of a district that lets parents choose which school they want to enroll their children in. And after the effort by the school committee to keep the Monterey School open last year, after we had cobbled together an enrollment of seven students for the 2015–16 school year by changing enrollment dates and then waiving those dates, the Monterey School teacher transferred to the New Marlborough Central (NMC) School, and the families of her kindergarten students made the decision to follow her. I fully support their choice to do so. But it left us with no kindergarten students for fall 2015.

The Monterey select board asked for the program to be suspended for one year. In return, the town asked for several things from the district: transportation to and from the NMC pre-k program for Monterey students; \$10,000 in matching funds to repair the school bathroom; a change in policy to guarantee a place for Monterey students in the NMC school so our elementary students wouldn't have to be bussed to Sheffield; and for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) committee to make a proposal for putting a program in the Monterey School for the 2016–17 school year.

The ECE committee presented their findings in February. They were not able to recommend an Early-K/ K program in the Monterey School because it did not make sense to have a class of one to three children when socialization is such an important part of kindergarten. The projected enrollment for the NMC early-k/k for 2016–17 is eighteen to nineteen, which is an acceptable class size. Furthermore, when I did an informal survey of the seven Monterey children eligible for the early-k/k program in the fall, all of their families expressed the hope that their child would be in the NMC program.

We have two paths before us. I encourage the town leadership to acknowledge the reality we find ourselves in and to work cooperatively with the school committee and administration to support the best educational choices for all the children of Monterey.

— Maria Rundle
Monterey SBRSD Representative



Youth baseball players, ages eight to twelve, have started to prepare for the baseball season with indoor practices inside the Farmington River School gym in Otis. Outdoor practices at Greene Park in Monterey will start in mid-April and the regular season starts around May 1. The team features players from Monterey, Sandisfield, Otis, Great Barrington, and surrounding communities. For more information, contact Jim Edelman at 528-0006.
— Steve Graves

Monterey Hockey Rink Need Help to Take Down

Volunteers are needed to help take down the Monterey skating rink on Saturday, April 16, at 9:30 a.m. With sufficient volunteer participation, this is a ninety-minute process. No experience is needed and everybody is welcome to help. Please mark your calendar and plan to help with a power drill, dolly, and/or broom. Free coffee and donuts will be served.

— Steve Graves

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April at the Knox Gallery

A lively and enthusiastic crowd assembled for the opening reception of *Reworded: Paintings* by Andrew Zdziarski, on March 12. Please visit the gallery while these paintings are on view, through April 23.

Zdziarski's vividly colored abstract images juxtapose text and pictorial elements. Painted only on recycled and found materials, the paintings capture inner landscapes and explore dreams, memories, notions, and anxieties as a source of freedom and self-discovery.

The artist, who lives in Southfield with his wife and their two children, studied at Marist College, The Academy of Art, University of San Francisco, and privately. Please see last month's *Monterey News* or visit Zdziarski's website (andrew-zdziarski.com) for more information.

The work of Berkshire resident Richard Kimball will open at the very end of this month. We hope you will mark your calendars now for the opening reception of *Paintings: In and Out* on Saturday, April 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Kimball began painting at Phillips Academy, where he was fortunate to study



with Patrick Morgan, a legendary teacher who inspired and taught generations of students, including Frank Stella and Carl Andre. Morgan and his wife, Maud Morgan, who was a well-known artist in her own right, were friends with luminaries of the day, including Hans Hoffman, Clement Greenberg, and Betty Parsons.

Kimball moved on to Harvard. He decided to study architecture, which was then the only discipline within the curriculum that included creative visual arts. However, rather than pursue an architectural practice upon graduation, he embarked on a business career and, subsequently, moved into the nonprofit sphere. Throughout the years, he continued to paint and study, and in retirement has, at last, more time to paint.

The artist has regularly studied with Arthur Yanoff at IS183 in Stockbridge, and has most recently exhibited at the New Marlborough invitational shows, in New



*Three of a Kind, Richard Kimball.
Photos from Richard Kimball.*


York at the Century Association, and at the Katharina Rich Perlow Gallery in her annual fall invitational exhibitions. Her encouragement and strong support have been instrumental in his development as an abstract painter.


Kimball and his wife, Athena, a Pittsfield native, were married in the Berkshires, and now live in a Sheffield farmhouse that they acquired almost thirty years ago as a weekend retreat. Many family members live close by, and the Berkshires are now the Kimballs' full-time home.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. [Facebook.com/Knox Gallery](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery). @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates





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The Surprise

For Walter Andersen

You planted
crocuses to spell “I love you”
one fall afternoon
while I was busy baking.
The moles were deeply touched
all winter under the snows.
Come spring
the crocuses couldn’t spell at all
but I got the message from
purple, white, and yellow shouts
of glory random in the green.
We laughed
looking out the kitchen window
and talked of putting in the screens soon
for summer
but really we were thinking—
another spring
still together.

—Alice O. Howell
April 1992

Litany

Let me sing my litany
Under my breath but no less a song.
Thrilling to my essence with the joy of life
But hiding the fears that nibble at the edges
As we age and look around us.
Never was there such a spring.
Thanks be for that glory
And for companionship of those we love.
Thanks be for life itself
And all its moods and treasures.

—Nancy Adams
May 1992



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Courtesy of the author

Visiting Author Totes McGoat Spring Read-Aloud Surprise

Totes McGoat, celebrated author, will read from sections of his bestselling memoir, *That Really Got My Goat!*, on Saturday, April 2, at 10 a.m., on the village green, rain or shine. Sponsored by Rawson Brook Farm, where the kidding is very serious business.

WiredWest Status

Last December, forward momentum was brought to a halt when MBI's former director, Eric Nakajima, announced that MBI was withholding funding from WiredWest due to concerns about its governance and business models.

Over the past three months, a WiredWest negotiating team has engaged with the MBI to remove roadblocks in order to move forward as soon as possible with a mutually agreeable plan. The express purpose of this exchange was to reverse the impasse between our two organizations and return to our planned collaborative implementation of a last-mile broadband solution supported by WiredWest's unserved and underserved member towns in western Massachusetts. We continue to be keenly interested in and committed to a genuine, two-way, good-faith, and collaborative discussion.

It is important to note that the conditions in which we are operating are substantially changed since late 2014, when MBI and WiredWest presented a joint solution for deployment of "last-mile broadband."

Indeed, in mid-2015, as twenty-four towns voted to appropriate funds necessary for the building out of the network, private sector network operators and ISP's began soliciting town business. More recently, with the stall in progress on actual network build-out by WiredWest, seemingly a result of the impasse with MBI, several towns have begun exploring the creation of mini-regional networks together with their neighboring towns. Even very pro-WiredWest towns are understandably concerned about the delays in the project timeline and the related impacts on their residents and businesses.

Of course, towns always had and continue to have an array of options. Yet, despite some informal ideas from MBI about a "consortium model" and notwithstanding new fledgling efforts within the region to galvanize support for small municipal networks, no organization—other than WiredWest—has an actionable plan for a regional network. Much thinking, countless probono hours of time from town volunteers, and tens of thousands of dollars in consultant costs have gone into the development

and third-party scrutiny of our plan (most costs of which have been paid for by MBI).

In all of these efforts, the finding is clear: no matter how you slice it, the primary objective of regionalization is the core strength of our plan. Without regionalization, the goals of access, affordability, and sustainability are significantly diminished.

MBI's early December critiques of WiredWest's business plan have provided an opportunity for our organization to reassess and reevaluate our interests and positions. We believe we have taken excellent advantage of this feedback and have used the time productively to strengthen the existing business model and to explore other options. However, we recognize WiredWest and MBI still have significant issues to resolve.

It is clear that significant loss of momentum has resulted in confusion and frustration at the local level of WiredWest member towns, as well as more generally within the western Massachusetts populace. This lack of progress has negatively impacted our town residents' trust in and patience with both WiredWest and MBI. Each day that passes without broadband in our rural communities is another step on the downward spiral of population loss, elementary school closings, economic opportunity disparity, high cost of public administration, and all of the other negative consequences of a deep digital divide.

We will be making our best effort to reverse the understandable and widespread loss of confidence. Our objective: to use our newly gained insights and proposals, and the tools we've developed, to engage the leadership in our towns and strive for consensus on the best way forward to achieve our shared goals. We look forward to a productive round of discussions.

—WiredWest Board
Monica Webb, Chair

The above is excerpted from a much longer document sent to town offices in late March. The full document should be available from the town office. It contains many links to progress reports in many areas by WiredWest.

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Community Potluck April 20 Aid to Honduras

Thank you, Monterey, for your 500% improved support for the March potluck (if anyone can trust my math!). We had a powerful documentary on fracking and its inherent and explicit dangers, very current and truly frightening. We are grateful to Michael and Kathy Feldstein of 350Mass (Berkshire) who brought the film and led the intense discussion.

For the April potluck, we have Eddie O'Toole, just back from Central America. Eddie is a former Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, who went back there with his family for thirteen years, working with the community and building an education center. Since returning to the Berkshires, he has filled ten forty-foot containers, which brought bananas to us, with used hospital and school equipment and shipped them back to Honduras. He collects this equipment here in Berkshire County. Eddie will tell us about his work in Honduras and about the sister city relationship between Pittsfield and Malpaisillo, Nicaragua. To learn more, go to eddieotoole.org

Our next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on April 20 at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Kyle Pierce

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Monterey Library News

A huge thank you to Wendy Germain for all her volunteer efforts on our oral history project. She has recorded over fifteen hours of stories about Monterey and the people that live here. The Saturday night storytelling about the gravity car races was a lot of fun as we had several drivers and designers tell how it came about, what actually happened, and, sadly why it stopped after only ten years. See Wendy's article on page 23.

Thank you to the Coffee Club and the Friends of the Monterey Library for a successful egg hunt!

Are you aware that the Monterey Library has 24/7 wifi access? We've had it for years, but since the fiber optic network has been lit up, it is even better than when you might have last tried it with our jury-rigged satellite internet access. You don't even need to be in the library. Use any networks labeled "Monterey Library" without a password. Monterey Library 2 uses the newest wifi channel. For those of you who didn't know about this, now you can understand why people park near the library at odd hours. With some good weather coming up, you can sit on the chairs or benches and enjoy high-speed fiber internet access for free!

MontereyMassLibrary.org

Please check out our website. It's only nine months old but we've had a lot of fun keeping it up to date, and we're tweaking it all the time. You can connect to the Knox Gallery Twitter and Instagram accounts as well as both library and Knox Gallery Facebook pages. See what's going on in the events calendar and, for a great retrospective, check out all the gallery posters from over the years on the Knox Gallery page. If you're so inclined, you can join or renew your Friends of the Library membership by credit card on the Friends page. You will find links to all the downloadable materials as well as the CWMARS catalog and reference databases. MontereyMassLibrary.org has the answers to all your library needs, but please, still stop in and see us!

— Mark Makuc
Monterey Library director



Dave Gilmore

Transfer Station News

Don't forget that Sunday summer hours have started. The station is now open on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday hours remain the same.

A reminder to please pull to the left before parking for the Swap Shop. Do not park in front of the compactors.

Also, please stop and see Ben or Dave before loading into the lower dumpsters or depositing electronics.

Along with a few other changes, all batteries are now being accepted at no charge.

Lastly, Ben, Beth, and Dave want to welcome back those of you who have spent the winter elsewhere. We missed you.

— Thanks, Dave Gilmore

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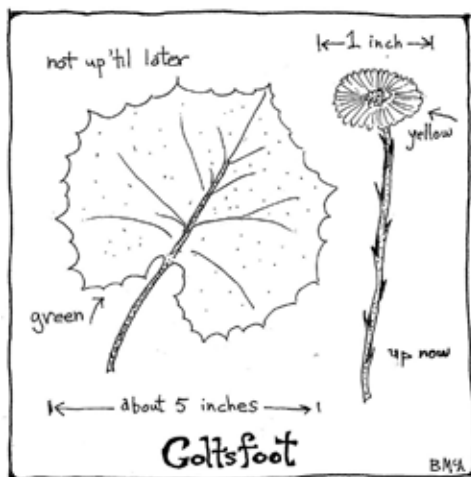
Coltsfoot, on the Roadsides and at Pharmacies

Many of us go zipping along the roads in our speedy conveyances, with our minds elsewhere: What did I forget? How late am I? Or maybe we entertain regrets such as: argh, it is starting to rain—should have gone back for my umbrella. Distractions like these can keep us from noticing the first wildflowers of spring, little yellow ones along the roadside. Even if we do spot them as we whiz by, we are likely to think: hmm, dandelions. Or if our antennae are more tuned up, it could be: hmm, dandelions with no leaves.

They do look like dandelions, except for lack of leaves and other details. The fleshy flower stalk is stout and complicated, with small scale-like non-green leaves all up and down. Also, this yellow blossom is flat across, not domed like a dandelion. These things are hard to spot from the driver's seat, so folks traveling on foot are more likely to realize they are seeing coltsfoot.

In earlier times, when we all walked, coltsfoot was well-known and treasured. Later in the spring, when the flower has gone to seed and is all fluffy (like a dandelion), the big green leaves appear, and they look like their name. They have the shape of the foot of a colt, or the bottom surface of such a foot. Old-timers knew the leaf because it was so valued as a medicine. When physicians and botanists got together to name the plant, they called it *Tussilago*, which is Latin for cough drop.

Pedanius Dioscorides was a pharmacologist and a medic in the Roman army two thousand years ago. He wrote *Materia Medica*, a five-volume encyclopedia that was used for the next many hundreds of years. If you could read, you could learn about six hundred plants, including our own coltsfoot. Most people could not read, though, so the drugstores of the day painted a coltsfoot leaf on the door to let folks know this was the place to buy medicine. What a change, this modern world, in which we drive to town for a cough drop but don't recognize coltsfoot by the road. It might help us make the association if Rite-Aid would paint a leaf on the door.



Rite-Aid is a fascinating place, but so is the side of the road. Coltsfoot came here centuries ago, brought by settlers who could not manage without it. In later years (1850s), someone who noticed coltsfoot in his neighborhood was Minot Pratt of Concord, Henry Thoreau's friend and

walking companion. Pratt was part of the utopian Brook Farm community near Boston and wrote *Plants of Concord*, in which he described coltsfoot.

We might not find coltsfoot at the drugstore these days, and maybe our stretch of roadside features other sorts of treasures. But if we are literate we can shop online and find coltsfoot tea. We can read a book. Euell Gibbons, writing in a recent century, says the dried leaves can be smoked to soothe a cough or cure a lung ailment. He also gives a recipe for those cough drops in his *Stalking the Healthful Herbs* (David McKay Co., NY, 1966.)

How ironic that coltsfoot has gone from being an international sign for healthy medicine to its current listing as a "noxious" or invasive plant in Massachusetts. This is hard to believe. Birds like the fluff for lining nests, folks once used it as tinder for flintlock candle lighters, and Henry Thoreau rejoiced as its "bright palette signals the last of winter." He liked winter perfectly well, as well as everything else outdoors, but this is April, bringing coltsfoot and the particular thrill of the new season.

—Bonner McAllester



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Transfer Station

New Summer Hours

Sunday	11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Mt. Everett School News

Sheffield Radio Station

The number of radio stations available in southern Berkshire County is limited, and the students at Mt. Everett know this all too well. What most Berkshire County folks might not know is that there is a student-run radio station located only a few towns away. Berkshire School has been broadcasting a student- and faculty-run radio for several years. WBSL, 91.7 FM, is a twenty-four-hour station that airs from Berkshire School weekday mornings, 7 to 8 a.m., and weekday and Sunday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. during the academic year.

Berkshire School was kind enough to allot Mt. Everett students a time slot each week. The "Mt. Everett Mixx Radio Show" is hosted by students from 7 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday that Berkshire School is in session.

To fill the rest of the day, WBSL transmits WHDD Robin Hood Radio, from Sharon, CT. The arrangement allows Sheffield residents to listen to National Public Radio programming by day and a variety of radio shows produced by students at night. Classic rock, indie, jazz, blues, country, pop, reggae—music from almost every decade is found on WBSL.

Band Uniform Update

Thanks to all the generous donors and supporters of the Mt. Everett Golden Eagle Band, only \$3,800 remains to be raised of the \$52,000 needed to buy new uniforms for the entire band. Any donations to this fund will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be sent to Mt. Everett Regional High School, PO Box 219, Sheffield, MA 01257, to the attention of Glenn De Voti, Principal.

Mt. Everett Robotics Club

Mt. Everett Robotics Club had a strong 2015–2016 season. After an appearance at the First Tech Challenge World Championship last year, the club created an additional team specifically for underclassmen, team #9797, the Eagle Empire, to add to the existing team #3085, the Higgsbots. After Eagle Empire captained an alliance with the Higgsbots to a league championship, both teams qualified for the state championship, which was held on February 27 in Natick. The Higgsbots finished thirteenth out of thirty-two teams at the state championship, and the Eagle Empire finished fifteenth. Unfortunately, neither team was chosen to participate in the finals, and this marked the end of the competition season for the Mt. Everett Robotics Club. However, team members will go into the offseason with a positive memory of the All-Mt. Everett Alliance that was victorious in the league championship, and will have an optimistic approach to the challenges next year.

Students Leave for the World

Mt. Everett is happy to give students the chance to travel both domestically and internationally. Here are some of the trips this year:

From February 26 to March 4, eight Mt. Everett chorus students, along with two teachers, spent time in Germany. The students traveled for a couple of days to see sights throughout Germany before attending and performing at a music symposium in Berlin.

From April 15 to April 24, about twenty students and two teachers from Mt. Everett, and other chaperones, will travel to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands. In Ecuador, they will visit a market

Needing Help? Want to Work?

The *Monterey News* will publish a list in the May, June, and July issues of young people (going into high school and older) who would like to work in the area this summer.

If you would like to be included, send an email to MontereyNews9@gmail.com. Include your name, a brief description of the type of work you'd be willing to do (anything, cooking, outside work, cleaning, babysitting, dog walking, etc.), and your phone number. We will not publish ages or email addresses, and you must have parental permission (up to age 18) to have a listing published.

The deadline for being listed is Monday, April 18.

and tour the capital city of Quito before island-hopping throughout the Galápagos and visiting the Charles Darwin Research Station. During the summer of 2017, a group of students will tour England, France, Ireland, and Wales.

Several trips are planned for the US, too. The entire eighth grade, as well as high school economics and government and politics classes took part in the annual Washington DC trip this March. The next destination for the high school band and chorus is Tennessee. There are also trips to New York City museums, the FFA National Convention, and college and university tours.

—Marya Makuc and Sarah Beckwith

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thru April 23*

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Richard Kimball

April 29 - June 4

Reception: Saturday, April 30, 6-7:30pm

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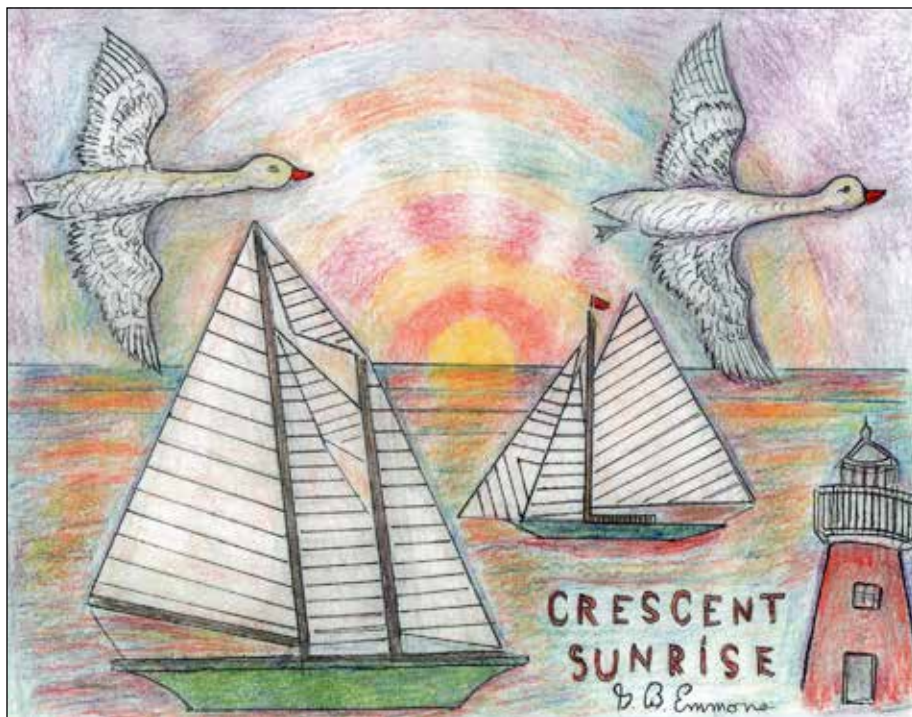
Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Sunrise In Mattapoisett

Our new home in Mattapoisett (an Indian name meaning “place to be”) is right on Crescent Beach where sunrise brings the promise of another new day in our lives, as ships pass in review along the shore to the Cape Cod Canal, and swans wing their way past our windows. Swans are new to my writing, commonly found along coastal waters of New England, with a graceful sea-shore image so pure and white they are a symbol of light in many parts of the world. They are also fabled symbols of love and purity, mating for life, and refuted to sing their “swan song” on their way to die, souls slipping away dream-like, traveling to the next world.

The mute swan population has increased since 1966, thanks to conservation, creating a dilemma for wildlife management. They damage aquatic habitat and aggressively drive away indigenous residents or visitors, a contradiction to any spiritual incarnation. Nature’s creation of whiteness, seen as a symbol of goodness in mortals, varies with each species such as swans, polar bears, snowy owls, buffalo, albatrosses, and comes in seasonal variations, with ptarmigan, ermine, and snowshoe hares. Each has inspired a range of human associations, based less upon science than mythical superstitions of primitive cultures. A prime example is the American white buffalo.

A buffalo naturally changes color as it ages, born black, turning reddish as a yearling, and then brown when mature. A white buffalo is not an albino, a pigment deficiency in humans. It is a rare hybrid, believed by Indians to occur only once every hundred years, and is received as an omen of good fortune, reversing the decline of their lifestyle. In 1992, one was



born in Wisconsin, a genetic roll of the dice for the midwestern Mohicans, and it changed their luck just prior to approval of their now-lucrative North Star Casino in Wisconsin.

Moby Dick, written in Pittsfield by Herman Melville, which I am re-reading, is considered the greatest novel in American literature. Melville shows, in Captain Ahab, who lost his leg and had his ship stove-in by a revengeful white leviathan, that it is a basic need in mankind to imbue creatures that cross our paths with superstitious significance. Hence a black cat crossing is bad luck, but a white dove is a sign of peace. The common raven, as black as night, is the best example of how we infuse mystical powers in the nature of birds and other animals, and was used by Edgar Allen Poe in his poetry.

A friend sent me a fascinating book called *Mind of the Raven*, by Bernd Heinrich, who is also the author of *Snoring Bird* and *Winter World* and many other books about the natural world. Amazingly, through his intensive and scientific observations, Heinrich concluded that the mind of the raven, in using tools, problem solving, humor, memory, playfulness, and temperament, is the nearest to that of humans. Finding anthropomorphic similarities is not always that far-fetched.

Each new sunrise in Mattapoisett inspires memories of a wandering shoreline curiosity that began early in my life. However, during any hour of a day, like a weathervane shifting direction in a prevailing wind, the rearview mirror of my thoughts is bright with previous *Monterey News* articles, with the Konkapot River flowing out of Lake Garfield and its passage of time through the town, rubbing elbows with friends.

This article and drawing is dedicated to the members of the Monterey Cultural Council and the Monterey Library for their interest and support for the town.

— George B. Emmons



*
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Attorney at Law
*

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Massachusetts 01230

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Email: dennis.downing@verizon.net

Bidwell Museum Book Talk Remarkable Women, 1754-1787

On Saturday, April 9, at 4 p.m., local historian and author Carole Owens will tell stories from her book *Remarkable Women of New England: Daughters, Wives, Sisters and Mothers: The War Years 1754 to 1787*, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Stockbridge Town Offices, 50 Main Street. *Remarkable Women* describes the day-to-day lives of women, including several former Stockbridge residents, in the eighteenth century in the home, the church, the village, and society, based on Owens's research of women's letters and journals.

Carole Owens lives in Stockbridge and is the author of seven books, two newspaper columns, and numerous feature articles. *Remarkable Women* was published in January 2016 by Globe Pequot. Copies will be available for purchase at the talk.

The book talk is co-sponsored by the Bidwell House Museum and the Stockbridge Library, Museum & Archives, and is free and open to the public; donations are welcome. Please call 528-6888 for more information.

Bidwell Museum Workshop Woodland Women Connections

Thursday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Bidwell House Museum.

Women offer a unique perspective when it comes to caring for the natural world. From managing wildlife habitat to working with family to determining the future of the land, women face an array of weighty issues concerning land ownership. Come join other women for an enjoyable and easy woods walk through carefully tended trails at the Bidwell House Museum led by a skilled naturalist. The walk will be followed by a light lunch and an informal exchange of questions, problems, and strategies for planning, owning, and managing land.

The event is free and open to all, but space is limited, so please be sure to register by calling (413) 625-9151 x111, or emailing Wendy Ferris, director of community outreach, at wferris@franklinlandtrust.org.

Sponsored by the Franklin Land Trust, Bidwell House Museum, Monterey Preservation Land Trust, Berkshire Natural Resource Council, UMass Extension, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, and MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

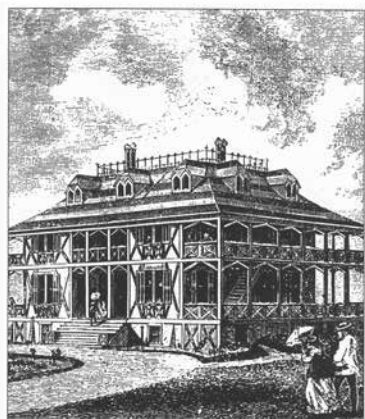
Bidwell House Museum Become a Member

Join the Bidwell House Museum this year. Members are the most important stewards of Monterey's historic house. Memberships help fund the education programs for children, youth, and adults, and members make the maintenance of the trails on the 192-acre property possible.

Membership privileges include unlimited free house tours, the *Bidwell Newsletter*, a 30% discount on program tickets, and invitations to all events. Won't you renew your membership or become a new steward of the Bidwell House Museum this year?

Current members and donors will be receiving a membership invitation soon. You can also go to the museum's website: bidwellhousemuseum.org. Should you have trouble with the website, please give a call at 528-6888. The museum's website was hacked recently—a very twenty-first century problem! We hope to have it functioning again soon, so you can learn all about eighteenth-century history in your town. Thank you for your support!

—Barbara Palmer
Executive Director



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Community Center News

April Open House Dates

Come see the progress—we'll be on hand on two Saturdays, April 23 and April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to show you around the center's developing interior space.

We have been able to work inside this winter thanks to your support for installing the furnace. As a result, the main floor walls and ceilings are all done, including paint, as are the kitchenette, bathroom, and stairwells. We are currently applying sheetrock to the top floor ceiling and wall—the last sheetrock to manage! Electricians from Andrus Power Solutions have been at work as well, installing lights and wiring up receptacles.

Our annual tag sale is planned for Saturday, July 16, so please start saving your suitable items for us, and keep a lookout for drop-off dates when we post them later in the spring. Plan to come by on that date to find the things you've been looking for!

As we still need about \$40,000 for the final work and materials for the Wilson McLaughlin House, we are continuing to research grant applications. We have two applications submitted at present and will hear about the first of these sometime this spring. We have identified a few other possible grant sources and will be applying for them as well.

Thanks for your continued support and interest—keep track of developments at the website ccmonterey.org or on our facebook page.

—Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House

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Wildlife Report, February and March 2016

Late in February, Mickey Jervas saw many bobcat, or wildcat, tracks in the snow at her place. Then she saw the actual cat, about 8 or 9 p.m. By early March, Mickey had an active chipmunk up and about, finished with winter hibernation, and a week or so later she called to say there was a bear awake, too. Mickey saw this bear by her back porch, and it knocked over a can of birdseed. Over in Richmond, where Mickey's daughter lives, the hungry bears are up and eating apples that have been on the ground since last fall.

Early in March, Don Coburn saw his first mink in forty years as it "bounded across the road and dashed into the trees" at 7 a.m. on Beartown Mountain Road. Also in the first week of March, Lisa Smyle wrote from Beartown Mountain Road to say there were bluebirds setting up in a nest box there.

In the middle of the month, Michael and Maureen Banner had wood ducks on their pond in the back yard, on Griswold Road, also two coyotes in the front yard. At first there were several wood ducks, and then a few days later there were many, with males outnumbering females by a lot.

Ed Salsitz called, from Beartown Mountain Road, with a sudden influx of large robins, which had dark heads and were probably more of those early arriving "boy robins" people have been seeing. On a walk to the Dry Hill cliff in New Marlborough, Cora Baker saw many tiny snow fleas, also called *collembola*, or springtails. This was the thirteenth of March.

A few days ago I heard a remarkable account of wild turkeys in an orchard in

Hillsdale. The owner there often sees a flock of turkeys, but on this day he also saw a fox approaching, clearly considering which turkey to grab. The turkeys did a marvelous thing, grouping up very close together and then advancing upon the fox in a solid dark phalanx. The fox was deterred, confused, unnerved, or at least changed its mind and retreated, not so hungry after all.

The story goes on, as a few days later a coyote came into the orchard to consider the same flock of turkeys. This time the hunter did not hesitate to consider, but instead ran straight at the turkeys and grabbed one. It all happened so fast, the turkeys had no time for group transformation.

Observers on New Marlboro Road have been hearing the "proud drumming" of a ruffed grouse, and a country block away, on the Gould Farm flats, Rick Mielke saw two moose and sent a good photo.

Thank you for all these tales and observations. Notice that I have a new email address: bonnermca@gmail.com. You can also call me on my same trusty landline phone, 528-9385.

—Bonner McAllester



A pair of wood ducks caught by Maureen Banner in her back pond. See ducks on page 24 too.

The Great Gravity Car Races

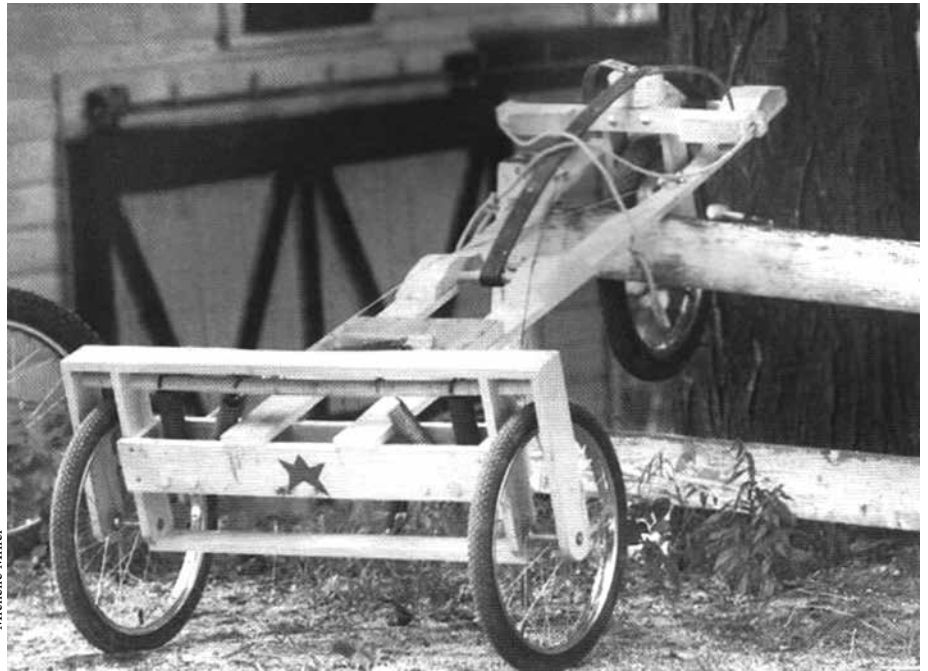
What took less than a minute, matching technical skill with daring determination, as hundreds of people watched? It was seeing a driver in a handmade “car” with no brakes dive down the racecourse at the Monterey Gravity Car Races from 1975 to 1985. You will have to read the book *Monterey: A Local History* to find out what the actual winning time was.

Hats off (that’s an inside joke) to Peter Murkett, who for the library night of storytelling, rounded up several of the race drivers—co-founder of the race Bill Russell, along with Lanny Lanoue and John Sellew.

Joining them at the roundtable was Ray Tryon, who at the time, among his many jobs, made sure that the racetrack was graded so it was “drivable” yet rough enough to provide some entertainment. Ian Ross Jenkins, co-editor of the book with Peter, was also there to share his recollections and insights.

A real surprise was watching a film of the first race, which Peter was able to track down three thousand miles away in Los Angeles. Mike Ansell found the forty-year-old footage in really bad shape. But Hollywood being the film capital of the world, he found an engineer who could convert it into a viewable format. Mike then posted it on YouTube: *The First Annual Berkshire Gravity Car Downhill Race*.

Another real treat was looking at the old posters and newspaper coverage



Michelle Miller

Peter Murkett's Red Star Express, winner of the first gravity car race in 1975.

of the races that Bill Russell brought to display.

Reminiscing then turned to wondering out loud if it might be time to revive the races, as the drivers turned to Justin Makuc—whose school’s robotics team went to the internationals last year and placed 24th. How about the old timers challenge the youngsters this year?

In partnership with the Bookloft in Great Barrington, *Monterey: A Local History* is on sale at the library. For every book sold, the Monterey Library gets \$10.

Join us Saturday, April 16, from 7 to 9 p.m., for another fascinating glimpse into Monterey history through storytelling. Stories about Woodburn Farm, on Co-rashire Road, will be part of conversation.

—Wendy Germain



Justin Makuc caught this image of a Cooper's hawk after it raised a ruckus in their chicken coop. Note—it's still inside.

Christopher Blair

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From the Meetinghouse Our Double-Crossing Ducks

As I write, the ice is long gone. Lake Garfield's no longer on draw-down. Life on the water, on the ground, and in the air becomes more active as our Berkshires warm enough to wake.

The usual pairs of geese have come back to familiar nesting spots to reclaim territory, set new eggs, and raise new goslings. Songbirds cheerily announce their arrival. Bears are out and about again. Humans, who mostly observe through the windows in the cold season, venture further afield.

Even if we're only venturing through the center of town in our cars, our trucks, and our farm vehicles, we're likely to begin to see more of the Town Center Ducks. While we may never know why chickens cross the road, these ducks have good reason. They live on the north side of Route 23. They also have favorite spots for basking in the sun, nibbling snacks, depositing debris, and paddling in the water on the south side.

That we understand. Why they prefer to stroll up their driveway and brave the dangers of Route 23 rather than paddle south under the bridge remains mysterious, at least to me. But that's what they do, and they cross both ways. As drivers, let's all keep on the lookout for them in the center of "their" town, near the Konkapot bridge and the post office. And then let's stop to let them safely across.

Here's a closing tip of the journalistic hat to the couple that provide food, shelter and care for "Monterey's" ducks, day after day, season after season, much to our general delight. Mille grazie!

—Mary Kate Jordan

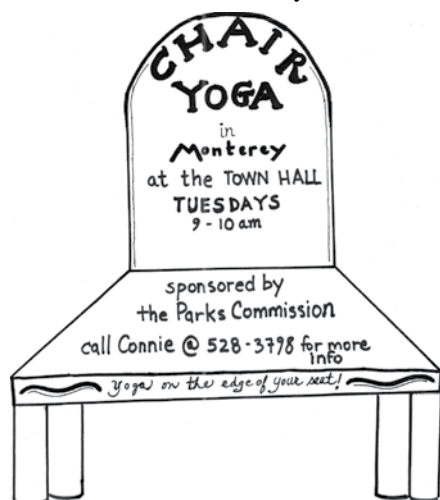


Mary Kate Jordan

April's usually the month the ice clears around here (photo: Stevens Lake, Monterey, April 2013). This year the lakes were already clear long before the end of March. But this is the Berkshires, and anything can happen...



These wood ducks, far from being "double-crossing" ducks, are so skittish that if they know you're looking at them, they'll take off. Maureen Banner took this shot, but she had to use her telephoto lens to keep her distance from them.



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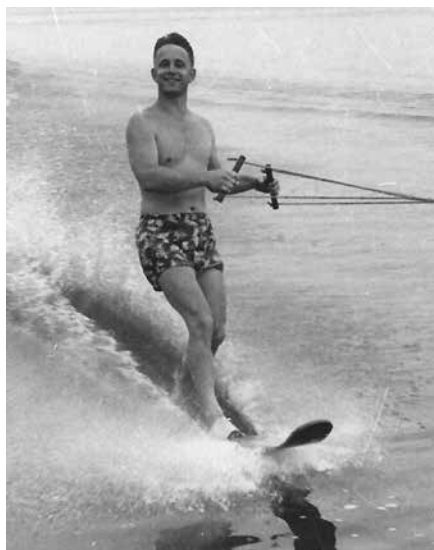
In Remembrance Karl Quisenberry

Karl Quisenberry, age 89, of Asheville, North Carolina, died on Wednesday, February 18, 2016. Karl was born on April 4, 1926, in Washington DC and served the United States Navy in the South Pacific during World War II.

Following the war, he attended the University of Nebraska and later the University of Minnesota, where he received a PhD in nuclear physics in 1956. His professional life led him across the country, starting as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, designing nuclear submarine reactors in Schenectady, New York, and finally onto a career with Schlumberger Ltd. in both Ridgefield, Connecticut, and Houston, Texas.

Karl spent his summers on Lake Garfield starting in 1952 when his in-laws purchased their home on Bidwell Road. As he moved and traveled the world, it became clear that Monterey was his "home." It was the one constant, and the place where he could spend time with all of his extended family and their wonderful local friends. A regular fixture at the Fireman's Picnic, he would always ask that they cook his steak "so rare that a good veterinarian could get it mooing again."

Karl was passionate about traveling during his life, visiting eighty-seven countries and all fifty states. In his younger



Karl Quisenberry, age 41, cutting the water on Lake Garfield.

years, he was an active hiker and skier (on both snow and water) and enjoyed flying a small airplane around the country. He continued to ski into his 70s and passed on his love of the sports to his children and grandchildren.

Karl is survived by Shirley, his wife of sixty-seven years, and their three children: Keith (and wife Karen) of Pittsburgh, PA, Nancy Brady (and husband David) of Woodbury, MN, and David (and wife Jennifer) of Farmington, CT and Monterey. In addition, Karl has five granddaughters, three grandsons, and two grandpuppies.

Prescription Drug Round-Up April 30

Join the free public Berkshire County Rx Round-Up on April 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Bring unwanted or expired prescriptions, over-the-counter or controlled medications, from anyone in your household, including pets. Needles are accepted only in puncture-proof plastic containers.

Round-Up locations near you: Lee Ambulance Service, 177 Main Street, and Stockbridge Police Station, 50 Main Street.

Can't make it on April 30? Drop off your meds at police stations in these towns anytime: Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, and Sheffield.

For more info, email Kamal, Railroad Street Youth Project, at kamal@rsyp.org. The Round-Up is organized by community coalitions, including Berkshire District Attorney David E. Capeless, CHP, Railroad St. Youth Project, Pittsfield Prevention Partnership, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire United Way, and Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative.



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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

www.MontereyMA.gov

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

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, April 4, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, April 12, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesday, April 13 and 27, at 10 a.m.

Free wellness clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, April 14, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, May 12, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, April 6, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, April 14 and 28, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, April 4, 11, and 25, at 8:30 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Informational Meeting: To discuss the proposed annual town meeting warrant, at the end of April. Watch the town calendar on the website for more information.

Town Meeting: Saturday, May 7, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse.

Office/Town Hall Closings

The town hall will be closed on Monday, April 18, for Patriot's Day.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

Together with the finance committee and our dedicated and knowledgeable present and past employees, the board has been diligently working on the FY17 budget. Department heads have been understanding with our efforts to keep the budget as low as possible—some have even agreed to decrease their requests, and in some cases have moved capital purchases to next year. With that said, we are faced with quite a few unavoidable large budget items this year.

We will be seeking approval for a Proposition 2 1/2 override. Approving this override does not mean you will be taxed on that full amount immediately—it just allows the town to grow as necessary.

Some of the big items for FY17 include raising the amount put into our stabilization account from \$50,000 to \$150,000. We are also asking permission to create a new stabilization fund specifically for bridges, roads, and culverts and we would like to put \$30,000 in there this year. Appropriating money into or spending money from a stabilization account requires a 2/3 majority vote. The community center is requesting \$40,000 to finish the construction. Our portion of the school district budget has increased by \$121,033.

We have made changes to several accounts that were previously funded by appropriations at town meeting. These will become revolving accounts (which is how most towns work) where any expenses will be funded by fees collected (for accounts such as the plumbing, gas, and electrical inspectors, ZBA advertising and administrative fees, etc). We have also combined several accounts that were previously spread across several departments' budgets, or, in our opinion, were too constrictive in the way they were broken out. An example of this is the creation of one fuel account which will cover the highway, fire, and police departments in one line item. We also simplified the highway department's budget by combining maintenance, supplies, and garage into one account now called "highway operations."

We will provide you with much more information after the budget has been finalized in time for the finance committee's information meeting to be held sometime at the end of April (watch the website for final date and time), as well as for the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 7, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

— Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(scott@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)

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Calendar

Through April 23: Knox Gallery: *Re-worded: Paintings by Andrew Zdziarski*. See page 14.

Every Monday except April 11: Select board meetings, 8:30 a.m.

Mondays, April 4 and 11: Balance, strength, and mobility training, 1 to 2:15 p.m. April 18 and 25 TBD.

Every Tuesday:

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission. Cards and Games club, at 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the town hall.

Tuesdays, April 5 and 12: Stitch'n Time, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Saturday, April 2: Author Totes McGoat reads from his memoir, *That Really Got My Goat!*, 10 a.m., town green. Sponsored by Rawson Brook Farm. See page 15.

Monday, April 4: Democratic organizing meeting, 7 p.m., church basement.

Thursday, April 7: Mermaids and Mer-men, learn classical Indian dancing in Berkshire South's pool. See page 9.

Saturday, April 9:

Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, kids twelve and under. (Next derby is May 14.)

Bidwell Museum book talk, *Remarkable Women*, in Stockbridge town offices. See page 21.

Thursday, April 14: Wellness clinic, BVNA, town hall meeting room, 2 to 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 16:

Hockey Rink take-down, 9:30 a.m., fire-house pavillion. See page 13.

Candidates' Forum, 10 a.m., church basement. See page 6.

Story telling, 7 to 9 p.m., Woodburn Farm. Monterey Library. See page 23.

Lenox Contra Dance from 8 to 11 p.m., new dancer session at 7:45. Live music by the Allan Thompson band—with all dances called and taught by Jon Greene. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. LenoxContraDance.org

Tuesday, April 19: *Monterey News* deadline.

Wednesday, April 20: Community pot-luck supper, 6 p.m., Eddie O'Toole's efforts to ship medical and education supplies to Honduras. At fellowship hall in the Monterey church. See page 17.

Thursday, April 21: Bidwell Museum workshop: Woodland Connections for Women, see page 21.

Saturday, April 23: Open House at the Monterey Community Center. See page 9.

Friday, April 29: Knox Gallery: *Paintings In and Out*, by Richard Kimball.

Saturday, April 30:

Open House at the Monterey Community Center. See page 9.

Knox Gallery, 6 to 7:30 p.m., reception for Richard Kimball's *Paintings In and Out*.

Sunday, April 31: Iron Duck Race. See page 10.

Save the Dates

The summer calendar is beginning to fill. If you have a public event scheduled during the summer months, have it listed in "Save the Dates."

July 16: Monterey Community Center tag sale.

August 3: Friends of Lake Garfield's MontereyFest

August 21: LobsterFest

Transfer Station New Summer Hours

Sunday	11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Monterey News

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

Burning Permits in Monterey

This year the Monterey Fire Department will be using an online application for burning permits. Permits will be issued from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., if weather conditions allow. Fires are to be started after 10 a.m. and be extinguished by 4 p.m. Open burning season ends on May 1, 2016.

To obtain a permit or to read the regulations, go to the website bcburnpermits.com. If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call 413-445-4550 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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Editor.....Stephen Moore
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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 20, Maureen Banner, pgs. 25, 27,
George Emmons, p. 20, Bonner McAllester, p. 18*

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