

MONTEREY NEWS

August 2022 Est. 1970

Vol. LII · Number 8



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



Ben Johnson found this spotted fawn lying still. See page 25.

We walked around for a while and found the world's largest Radio Flyer Wagon and a goat that will eat your trash when activated. Dave and Beth, part 3 page 22

Archimedes—even more accomplished at purposeful mechanical manipulation, but still unsatisfied—had unscrewed a reasonably tight, gasketed steel plug, releasing more tantalizing scent.

Archimedes page 10

Our town administrator has a list of suggestions to keep in mind when using the transfer station.

Transfer Station page 3

Conclusion—the church bass on display is a two-hundred-plus-year-old “Yankee bass” that was probably played in the Monterey Church—by someone who was left-handed.

Monterey Historical Society page 12

The PantryPickup plays a vital, supportive role in our south Berkshire County community, providing year-round weekly food supplies to those who need them.

Pantry Pickup page 5

We raised approximately \$2,000 for the Monterey Native Plants Working Group. Native Plants Tag Sale page 7

The two anniversary quilts, from 1997 and this year, are hung in the study room in the Monterey Library for posterity to enjoy.

Piecemakers Quilters page 13

When we think “maple” most of us head straight for the sugar maple. But there is many another maple in these woods.

Striped Maples page 18

Movie night on August 12 (or August 14 rain date). Make a suggestion!

Outdoor Movie Night page 2

We hope to hear everyone's voices in working on a plan for the open spaces and recreation opportunities in our community into the future.

Planning Board Master Plan page 2

The fund awarded \$72,000 to thirteen students in 2022.

McLaughlin-Wilson Fund page 8

Incidental beauty is just another benefit of our sun, incomparable source of reliability, warmth, and power.

Dappled Summer Sunlight page 4

Each year thousands of Medicare beneficiaries reach a gap in their Medicare prescription drug plan that is often referred to as the “donut hole.”

Prescription Advantage Program page 9

We have had to close Bidwell Park due to unsafe conditions caused by toppled trees and hanging limbs from the July 12 storm.

Parks Commission page 2

It is a phenomenon that occurs during a thunderstorm when the upper levels of the storm experience rapid cooling and the water and hail being held high up literally dump towards the surface. Think a huge water balloon.

Monterey Microburst page 19

I'm for the separation of hate from whatever feeds it and gives it power, in institutions and in ourselves.

Separation Anxiety page 14

This is an uncontested election, with Scott Jenssen, a former select board member, standing as the only candidate.

Special Select Board Election page 3

Monterey Master Plan Community Meeting

Open Spaces and Recreation

Saturday, August 20, 9:30 a.m., at the library.

The planning board is excited to announce our next community meeting for input into the master plan. This meeting will cover the section of the plan which speaks to Open Spaces and Recreation. We hope to hear everyone's voices in working on a plan for the open spaces and recreation opportunities in our community into the future.

This meeting follows our kickoff meeting which was held in the library on June 25. Twenty-nine people were in attendance, and we hope for a much larger turnout as we dig into the specifics that will go into our new master plan.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the master plan and planning process, we are working with the Berkshire Regional Planning Board to update this document, which has not been updated since 2003. Tom Matuszko and Seth Jenkins of the BRPB are the point people working with us, and Seth is the lead person,

The master plan will be funded with a community development grant of \$40,000 we received to support us in revising the master plan for the town of Monterey. In updating the Monterey Master Plan, we will be looking at our vision for our community, business and economic development, cultural resources, housing, recreation, historic preservation, community development resources, open space and forest protection, social services (schools, public health, seniors, veterans), and public buildings.

Please join us at the library on August 20, and bring your voice into this important process. Members of the planning board are co-chairs Tom Sawyer and Laura Mensi, Roger Tryon, Chip Allen, Margy Abbott, Noel Wicke, and myself.

—Lauren Behrman

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Summer Greetings from the Parks Commission

Town Beach

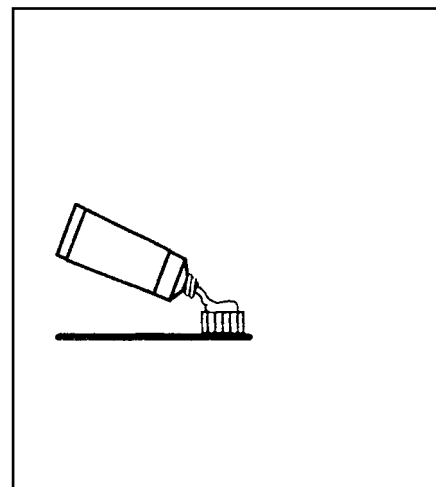
At this time of year the town beach is our most popular park. Berkshire South has sent us a staff of very capable and agreeable lifeguards who work hard to keep things running smoothly. There is more activity than usual at the beach, as it has become a destination for people from a wide area outside of Monterey. Please let the Monterey Parks Commission know about your experience and opinion of beach crowding, traffic, and parking this year. Email us at parks@montereyma.gov.

Bidwell Park Closed

Just when we had cleared Bidwell Park from extensive tree damage due to emerald ash borers, the July 12 storm devastated the park again. Unfortunately, while we try to address the problem, we have had to close Bidwell Park due to unsafe conditions caused by toppled trees and hanging limbs.

See you at the movies in Greene Park on August 12!

—Tracey Brennan
Parks Commission





OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

**GREENE PARK
MONTEREY**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

RAIN DATE:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Gather at 7:30pm.

VOTE For Your Favorite Family Movie
Go to the Town Website.
Click on Parks Commission
Email your suggestion

Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Bring your Lawn Chairs
Bring your own Beverages (Non-Alcoholic)
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References



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Using the Transfer Station and Swap Shop

Happy August!

Please join me in congratulating highway members Kyle Pettibone and Tyler Collins for taking third place at the Massachusetts Highway Driver Skills & Safety Competition —great job, guys!

Transfer Station

A few reminders about using the transfer station and swap shop.

- If you haven't purchased your yellow FY23 sticker yet, please do so or you risk being denied access to the transfer station. Stickers can be purchased online at montereyma.gov/transfer-station.
- If you have a question about where an item should go, please ask one of the attendants. Proper disposal of items helps keep our hauling costs down.
- If you are going to look around in the swap shop after you have thrown your trash away, please move your car to another area so the flow of traffic for those only disposing of trash can keep moving.
- Please be kind to the attendants. If you have an issue or concern, please contact me (admin@montereyma.gov) or Jim Hunt, Director of Operations (dpw1@montereyma.gov) and we'd be happy to help you out to the best of our ability.
- If you have a suggestion or an idea for how to make, use, or store items that others may want to use (reusing and recycling), please email Jim or me so we can look into this further.
- Please only put fully functional items



in the swap shop—if it doesn't work, it belongs in the appropriate waste stream.

- Non-residents are allowed to shop in the swap shop, but they are not allowed to leave anything.
- No one should be taking recyclables from the bins to cash in, this takes money away from the town. Nor should anyone be removing copper wire or scrap metal from the containers; this also takes money away from the town.

The transfer station is an evolving operation and we will be making changes to keep it as efficient as it can be while keeping the cost to the residents as low as possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Respectfully,

—Melissa Noe
Town Administrator

Conservation Commission Seeking New Members

The Monterey Conservation Commission is looking for individuals who would like to be appointed to the commission to help carry out our unfunded mandate of protecting our local rivers, streams, mountainsides, coldwater fisheries, and general habitat from harm or destruction. We meet once a month. Great if you have some technical skill such as reading site plans, identifying plants, or implementing environmental regulations.

Training is available and recommended. Please send a letter of interest to Conservation Commission, Attn: New Member, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA, 01245, or contact me by email, christopher.blair3@gmail.com. Thank you!

—Chris Blair, chair, Monterey
Conservation Commission



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Getting the Monterey News

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P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245

Dappled Summer Sunlight

These days Monterey's abundant forest canopy is feasting on the sun, gobbling up atmospheric carbon dioxide to make root and branch while giving off oxygen—and throwing shade. Walking through the shade of trees on a sunny day in summer bathes a person in dappled sunlight, a natural light show consisting of two parts, leaf-shadow and sun-image. Which one depends on the distance between the shading cover and the surface on which sunlight and shade fall, as well as the complete or partial nature of the cover. A dense woodland canopy can simply outline leaves in a sunny frame, or it can act as a pinhole camera, scattering images of the sun like so many fuzzy medallions. In a light breeze, molten images dance around in the shade.

Incidental beauty is just another benefit of our sun, incomparable source of reliability, warmth, and power.

The job of the Renewable Energy Working Group is to think strategically about the sun as a source of energy uniquely helpful in addressing the thorny problem of climate change. We consider how and where solar panels can be used appropriately by the town of Monterey; evaluate various ways to fund their installation, how to structure ownership and benefits. The visionary aspect is exciting, the executive piece tedious.

Silicon (second in earthly abundance only to oxygen) is the operative element of solar, or photovoltaic, panels. Thanks to certain atomic properties of silicon, direct sunlight on a solar panel can create an electric current—invisibly, silently,



without moving parts. Silicon-generated current is the heartbeat of modern global communications (for better and worse). And electricity generally is a time-tested, near-universal, readily adapted, utilitarian medium for making heat, light, and motion. It is the world's juice. A small solar panel can light a bulb in a remote, third-world setting where the common choice otherwise would likely be a kerosene lamp (which, indoors, adds unhealthy human side effects to the existential harm of burning fossil fuel). A large solar array can generate enough electricity to power hundreds of first-world homes.

Like other renewable sources of power useful to humans (wind, say, or flowing water), solar panels come with caveats. For one thing, sunshine is intermittent, and the battery storage that can bridge the sunshine gap currently requires mining rare minerals. But utilitarian perfection is

elusive, and anyway, who are we to judge sustainability? If we were so smart, our fecund, combative, restless, and inventive species would not have disrupted the entire global ecosystem beyond simple restoration to the balance that once helped us thrive.

Yet, despite such caveats, the solar panel formula—radiation in / electricity out—has a near-magical simplicity. A few times every year, with the passing seasons, I crank the handle that tips our ground-mount solar panel to face the sun more directly. The ritual tweaks a deep chord. It's not unlike the simple pleasure of dappled sunlight.

—Peter Murkett

Chris Erickson
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Pantry PickUp

The Pantry Pickup plays a vital, supportive role in our south Berkshire County community, providing year-round weekly food supplies to those who need them. The Pantry provides fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as milk, eggs, cheese, meat or chicken, and canned and boxed goods. There are no income guidelines.

To arrange for weekly box, please call (413) 429-4254. The boxes contain a range of products. Call by Tuesday to arrange a prepared box for Saturdays. Arranging a box in advance gives the greatest assurance of receiving the fullest range of products available. If you are unable to pick up your box due to a disability, delivery can be arranged.

You are also welcome to drop in to the Pantry, in the basement of the Monterey United Church of Christ at the corner of Route 23 and Tyringham Road, on Saturdays to see what is available after the prearranged boxes have been prepared. Generally, there are at least non-perishable canned goods like tuna or peanut butter and rice or pasta available and sometimes other items as well.

New Hours

- Hours of box distribution and drop in are: Saturday, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Masks and vaccination are required to enter the Pantry space.

Contribute Food

Pantry Pickup receives food donations from area farms and organizations, but the Pantry also depends on you, our good friends and neighbors.

Canned and boxed foods may be dropped off just inside the basement entrance of the Monterey United Church of Christ at 449 Main Road, Monterey, during daylight hours, but please avoid the Saturday Pantry Pickup hours. Only undamaged and unexpired items, please. Here is a list of items the Pantry is likely to need at any time:

- Sturdy, large boxes suitable for groceries
- Canned tuna, chicken, beans, vegetables, fruit, and hearty soups
- Pasta sauce
- Dried pasta, including gluten-free
- Healthy cereals, including gluten free
- Mac and cheese, boxed
- Jam
- Peanut butter

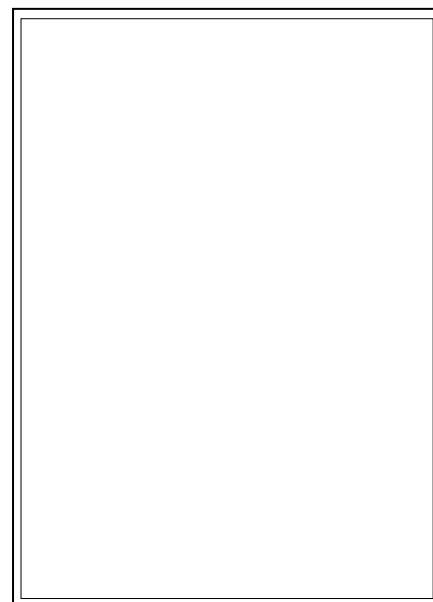
Contribute Money


Financial donations are tax deductible and may be made to the Pantry in two ways. You can donate online on the church website, montereychurch.org. Click "Support," and type "Pantry Pickup" in the notes. You can also donate with a check to Monterey United Church of Christ, writing "Pantry Pickup" on the memo line. Please mail it to Monterey United Church of Christ, Attn. Pantry Pickup, PO Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245. Please indicate in a note that your donation is for Pantry Pickup. 100% of your donation goes directly to providing food to the community.

Volunteer

If you would like to join our dedicated team of volunteers, please call (413) 429-4254, or email montereypantry@gmail.com.

— Colleen Johnson
Pantry Pickup team





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Monterey Community Center Calendar of Events

Weekly or bi-weekly activities

Tuesdays: Chair Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. (not August 30).

Tuesdays: Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesdays and Fridays: Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays: Tai Chi at 10 a.m. \$8.00 per class or \$40.00 for the month of August.

Alternate Wednesdays: Support group for people with diabetes, at 1 p.m., under the tent. Meeting August 3 and August 17.**

Fridays: Super gentle yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email james-boneparth76@gmail.com

Saturdays: Coffee Club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Saturdays: Ping Pong, at 2 p.m. Inside, as long as folks are interested.

Sundays: Al Anon family group meeting, at 9 p.m.

What's Happening

Mondays at 4 p.m., with Maggie Barkin moderating:

August 1: (will be inside if it's windy) Collage making—bring artful flyers and handouts. All other materials will be provided.

August 8: Poetry with Don Barkin.

August 15: A collaborative conversation with the cultural council. What do you want the cultural council to support?

August 22: A collaborative conversation: How can we help support Gould Farm's fundraising efforts for Roadside 2.0?

August 29: The Dignity Model, third meeting: Writing up a mission statement for any group wishing to follow the Dignity Model.

Special Events

Thursday, August

4: Darn Yarners, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, August

11: Yoga Nidra, 6 to 7 p.m. By donation.**

Saturday, August

13: Home Composting Workshop, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, August

13: Pollinator talk, at 11 a.m. With a guest speaker. (See page 7.)

Saturday, August

13: Pauline Dongala of Great Barrington will do a presentation at 7 p.m. on the construction of a school in her native village in the Republic of Congo. Pauline has been collaborating with the Old Stone Mill Center in Adams, MA which sends reconditioned bikes, sewing machines, and other material aid to developing countries. Donations to this joint project can be made to the oldstonemillcenter.org. (If you can't get to the presentation you can still participate by going to the website.)

Sunday, August 21: Dancing for all abilities and ages, with Tom Truss of Berkshire Pulse, time to be announced. Free.

Saturday, August 27: Marshall Messer with The Desperate Catskill Mountain Boys, 6 to 8 p.m. Ballads, blues, R&B, and some Motown. Under the tent. Free. See page 9.

PAULINE DONGALA & The Old Stone Mill Center Aiding People in the Congo

**Saturday
August 13
7 pm**

Monterey Community Center
468 Main Road
calendar@ccmonterey.org
or call
(413) 528-3600
and leave a message.



In September

Friday, September 23: Galina Vromen reads her own short story, "Sarah's Story," at 4 p.m.**

Be on the lookout for an upcoming herbalist workshop on making and taking natural remedies.

You can find more information on events at ccmonterey.org.

**Call (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org to register.

—Mary Makuc
Event Coordinator

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085

PLAY GROUP

South Berkshire Kids Playgroup
Monterey Library

Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.

Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education

Letters

Native Plants Tag Sale

Dear Montereyans,

Thank you for your overwhelming response to our request for donations for our tag sale which was held on Saturday, July 23.

We raised approximately \$2,000 for the Monterey Native Plants Working Group which will enable us to do more plantings in our community, hold lectures to help us learn more about the importance of native plants and how they enrich our environment, and help you get started planting a native plant garden.

It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces stopping by on Friday to drop off items and on Saturday to pick up a few new treasures.

Many thanks and much gratitude to all who worked tirelessly to set up on Friday and who returned the next day to help the myriad shoppers make their purchases. You would not have known these were the two hottest days of summer with temperatures reaching above ninety!

—Myrna Rosen

Monarch Butterflies

How to Save Them

The miraculous monarch butterflies were recently declared endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. But you can learn more about how to support them from someone who knows how.

Jess Bilotta harvests and fosters monarch eggs and caterpillars at Taft Farm in Housatonic. Once they spread their wings, she releases them for their long migration southward to Mexico—the longest migration of any insect known to science.

Jess will give a family friendly show-and-tell presentation on the life cycle, food sources, and migrations of the iconic insect at 11 a.m., on Saturday morning, August 13 at the Monterey Community Center. If time and weather permits, she may lead a search for eggs and caterpillars hiding out among local native plants. The talk is part of the Backyard Ecologist series sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group.

You'll also find out about the many threats butterflies face and steps individuals can take to help them. One way is by planting lots of native plants like coneflowers (*Echinacea*), bee balm (*Monarda*), and goldenrod. The milkweed plant is also vital, as monarchs lay their eggs on their flower, and it's the only food source for monarch caterpillars.


This will be a great opportunity to introduce ecological concepts and amazements to kids—or anyone for that matter.

—Janet Jensen

Contributions for July 2022

Ruth Rosenblatt
Myrna Randolph
Nancy Kleban
Nancy & Alan Kassay
Carole & Gerry Clarin
Peter & Linnea Grealish
Barbara Dahlman
Edward Allen
Earl & Ruth Champigny
Jon & Julia Melzer
Debbie Slater
Chris & Kim Hines
Tracey Brennan
Jodi Clarin
Greg & Chris Fahlund
Judith Oplinger
Andy Matlow
Mike & Mickey Freundlich
Irene Gilman
Colleen Johnson
Carol & Don Welsch
Ed Salsitz & Arrie Setiawati
Nancy Fliesler & Henry Schwan
Bruce Birchard & Demie Kurz
Joyce Vandemark & Alan Zablonksi
Susan & Michael Johnson
Jeff Zimmerman & Lauren Berman
Amy Silberstein & Jim Cohen

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates



Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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Letters

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

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

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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund

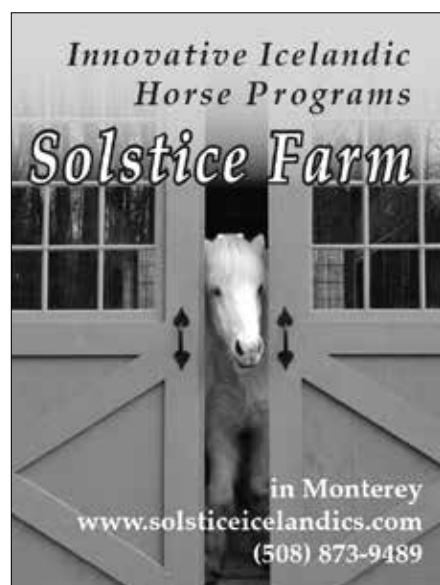
The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, supports high school seniors who are residents of Monterey and are entering their first year at a college or university, as well as prior scholarship recipients. The fund awarded \$72,000 to thirteen students in 2022. The next application and renewal cycle will be open after January 1 until March 15, 2023.

High School Graduates

- John Covell, University of Vermont
- Brady Deveriglio, Hudson Valley Community College
- Sophia Krans, Bard College at Simon's Rock
- Grace Makuc, Northeastern University
- Nadia Makuc, Princeton
- Emma Soule, University of Vermont
- Alex Rodriguez-Benjamin, Wheaton College (Mass.)

Renewals to College Students

- Elisabeth Enoch, Wellesley College
- Madeleine Makuc, University of Connecticut
- Megan Mulvey, University of San Francisco
- Isabella Saporito, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Shayna Sawyer, Salus University
- Dylan Stoll-Tinker, Worcester State University



Housatonic Heritage Walks Five Weekends of Tours

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area announces the twentieth annual autumn "Housatonic Heritage Walks" on five consecutive weekends September 3 and 4 through October 1 and 2. Over eighty free, guided walks will be offered throughout Berkshire County, MA and Litchfield County, CT.

The public is invited to participate in these family-friendly, informative walks, offered in partnership with our region's historic, cultural, outdoor recreation organizations. The Heritage Walks are the ideal

opportunity to experience and learn about our region's rich and varied local heritage.

Historians, naturalists, and environmentalists will lead participants on explorations through historic estate gardens and town districts, behind-the-scenes cultural site tours, nature walks, trail hikes, and tours of many of the industrial-site ruins that were once thriving local industries. There will be Native American and African American history walks, a canoe paddling trip on the Housatonic River, and a bike tour on scenic country roads.

Detailed Heritage Walks brochures will be available at libraries, post offices, restaurants, and grocery stores in the region. The schedule is also available online at: housatonicheritage.org/events/heritage-walks.

To request a brochure by mail, email: programs@housatonicheritage.org.

2022 Heritage Walk participants will be subject to federal and state guidelines for safe conduct during the Covid pandemic.

—Upper Housatonic Valley National
Heritage Area

DESIGN AND PLANNING

Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design

Construction Management
Project Representation

Christopher Blair

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Call to see if your home qualifies for a zero cost installation and equipment. Go green to save green!



Prescription Advantage Program

The Monterey Council on Aging wants residents to be aware of this information.

Each year thousands of Medicare beneficiaries reach a gap in their Medicare prescription drug plan that is often referred to as the “donut hole.”

If you reach that gap, you will see your prescription drug costs increase dramatically. Don’t let this happen to you. Prescription Advantage can help. Prescription Advantage is a state-sponsored program that supplements your Medicare drug plan to fill the gap.

For more information about Prescription Advantage, call MassOptions at 1-800-243-4636, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit prescriptionadvantagemma.org.

—Monterey Council on Aging



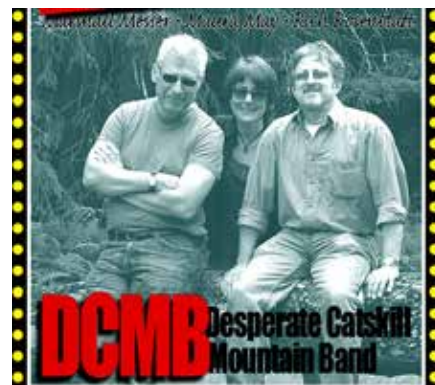
Roadside Café Capital Campaign

It’s That Time: Gould Farm announces its Roadside Capital Campaign to the public. Back in June the *Monterey News* shared Gould Farm’s proposed new \$1 million Roadside Café. At that time, we reported \$350,000 raised.

As of July 20, over one hundred donors have given or pledged over \$440,000. There’s also a \$55,000 matching gift challenge from our board and an anonymous donor! The challengers will match all gifts dollar for dollar received between now and August 15. Gould Farm can start the construction planning by late 2022 as long as at least \$500,000 comes in by Labor Day.

For more information on how you can make a tax-deductible contribution to Gould Farm for the new Roadside Café, please email Melanie Brandston at hhc@gouldfarm.org, or call (413) 528-1804, ext. 27.

—Melanie Brandston



The Desperate Catskill Mountain Band

The DCMB is pleased to be returning to Monterey for a concert under the tent at the community center on Saturday, August 27, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The band features longtime Monterey resident Marshall Messer on blues harmonica, Rich Rosenblatt and Maura May on guitar. Rik Kirkland will also be sitting in with the band on guitar.

Their music explores original and traditional ballads and blues with occasional forays into rhythm & blues, Motown, and rock. If you need a shot of rhythm & blues, the Desperate Catskill Mountain Band will not disappoint.

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Archimedes

In 2008 I replaced a late-model, twenty-four mpg, gas-fueled, two-wheel-drive Toyota Tacoma with a diesel behemoth originally owned by the US Army, vintage 1986, model M1008. The four-wheel-drive ride, with its thirty-seven-inch wheels, regulation camo paint job, fourteen mpg V-8 engine and heavy-duty suspension, was decidedly out of character for me, but I was motivated by the prospect of running carbon-neutral on waste vegetable oil available for the taking at a local restaurant. Besides, the heavy steel skin of the M1008 made the Toyota bodywork seem like so much tinfoil. Doors and tailgate clanged shut with military authority. Rust had a long way to go before it ate through. If you're hauling stuff around in a truck, it might as well be rugged. My exhaust smelled like french fries, and I gave the truck a vanity tag indicating its new mission: SGTVEG.

Over more than a decade, I put a hundred thousand problematic miles on the thing, steadily wearing down my idealistic impulse to flip off the oil companies, save the planet, and live out the Yankee proverb "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, do without."

The truck's latest, prolonged trip to the repair shop finally wore me out. I learned that a roof rack on my new, trouble-free, sporty VW Golf can carry plenty for my purposes, plus the little car can pull a trailer, and routinely gets mileage in the mid-forties. The time had come to sell out SGTVEG.

Fuel prices of \$6 per gallon give driving on free vegetable oil a new glow, so although I have not been burning it up, I have carefully preserved my long-term relationship with the restaurant that supplies my exceptionally clean fuel by picking it up regularly and storing it outside in a three-hundred-gallon plastic cube.

Come spring, my stash became a liability. A hungry bear, led by his* nose, was soon stopping by several times a



day looking to get at the two-hundred-plus gallons of oily nectar just beyond reach. Early investigation revealed that the plastic screw-top, about ten inches in diameter, with little ridges around its edge, had disappeared completely. The bear had unscrewed the lid, releasing a wave of irresistible food-scent. I call him Archimedes.

He was wary of the pesky humans who made noise, waved their arms, and even threw rocks (wildly off target) whenever he came around for another go at what was surely a feast. The humans repeatedly chased him off, but he nearly as often ambled right back after a short retreat, nose swinging with a slow, cautious purpose. Overall bear anatomy resembles a blunt, supple arrow starting at the powerful shoulders and terminating in a soft, sensitive nose. At times he stood up to survey the scene. He climbed atop the cube (about seven feet off the ground, a small platform that forced a posture reminiscent of a circus bear performing on a ball), and reached a front leg down through the hole he made on top by removing the lid. While the bear was away, the humans wrapped the cube in a tarp to dampen the scent, and topped that with old towels soaked in ammonia and vinegar, for a repellant. On one occasion, the bear pulled at the towels using his teeth—and abruptly jumped down, as if startled by the sharp smell or taste. The

unpleasantness did not deter him for long. Archimedes returned again and again, spiting his nose, hoping to please his stomach. He sat up there picking at the cube with teeth and claws until he had ripped through the high-density polyethylene, an accomplishment without reward.

The humans, meanwhile, took remedial steps. Within VW Golf limitations (two drums per trip), they set about emptying the cube into fifty-five-gallon steel drums, available free and clean in Great Barrington. Each could hold about twenty-five gallons before it got too heavy to move by hand. Over a few days punctuated by bear visits, the cube was drained into eight drums with small steel bungs tightly screwed down. With the stash secured, the empty cube was removed from its galvanized steel cage, cut apart and folded in on itself (for minimal oily mess), before being stuffed, along with its pallet base of metal and plastic, into the Golf for removal to the transfer station, fee \$15. Bill could not, however, accept as trash the oil dregs in miscellaneous capped gallon jugs. That will eventually be delivered to a hazardous waste collection, or poured back into several drums half full of reasonably clean oil, ultimately to be pumped (by the next owner of SGTVEG) through a ten-micron cloth filter on its way into a forty-gallon, truck-bed fuel tank.

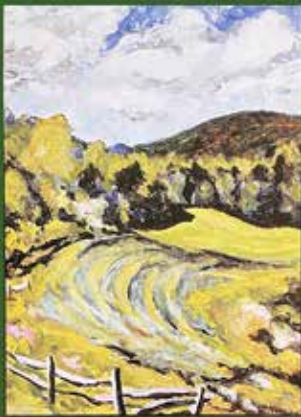
This all took half a week, but for a full day after the cube was removed, the humans did not see Archimedes. Then they found one drum lying on its side. He had come back, foraging now at least as much by memory as scent. Two species slipped into a treacherous space: the fascinated humans quietly observed the bear instead of noisily chasing him off; the bear, absorbed with getting at whatever smelled so good, didn't even raise his head in response to a sudden human shout. He tipped over another drum, tightly sealed, rolled it forward and back, licked the outside. He hugged an upright drum, then stood on top and picked at the two-and-one-half-inch diameter, threaded steel bung with his teeth and claws. Watching, a human

heard the clatter of metal on metal. After the bear wandered off, the human found the bung on the ground next to the drum. Archimedes—even more accomplished at purposeful mechanical manipulation, but still unsatisfied—had unscrewed a reasonably tight, gasketed steel plug, releasing more tantalizing scent. The human tightened each of the eight bungs using pliers. He considered turning the drums upside down, but decided not to risk seepage through the small air-vent. With every bung now very tight, maybe even Archimedes could not unscrew any one of them.

Human and bear had each become a little too comfortable with his project. It was time to remove, once and for all, the oil that brought us together. As soon as SGTVEG is back on the road, his first mission will be to haul eight drums half-filled with waste veggie oil to a location unknown and inaccessible to any bear, where the un-ideal, carbon-neutral fuel will be stashed until the next owner of the rugged old truck issues further orders.

—Peter Murkett

*The bear's large size and solo springtime foraging indicate a male, and a scruffy rump, with what looked like a bald patch, marked an individual (Archimedes) who returned often.



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Monterey Historical Society News

The Monterey Historical Society thanks everyone for the wonderful response to the “Monterey’s Attic” Historical Exhibit at the Library during July. We had a great crowd at the opening reception on July 1.

Enthusiastic visitors to the history exhibit continued all month. Thanks to all the people who scoured their attics to find objects for the exhibit.

The unveiling of the Piecemakers’ new quilt—The Greenwoods—was a highlight of the reception. (See page 13.)

The Historical Society will have smaller ongoing exhibits in the Kibbe’s Candies display case in the library’s multipurpose room, and we are planning to have monthly history talks and events. Our first talk will be held Thursday, September 15, at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Multipurpose Room, and will feature Rob Hoogs discussing the mills of Monterey.

We hope you will join the Monterey Historical Society and support our efforts to bring Monterey’s history to life. Please send your deductible contribution today. Thank you!

Monterey's Old Church Bass

Since the opening reception of the Historical Exhibit on July 1 (and the previous article about the viola da gamba in July’s *Monterey News*), we have received additional information about the historical society’s church bass. It turns out that the church bass on

display is not the instrument described in the 1902-03 newspaper articles. We apologize for the error. The 1902-03 newspaper stories about Dr. Orton’s 1584 viola da gamba may be true and the Ortons’ relationship to Monterey is correct, but they are two different instruments.

It was reported in January 1902 that an “old church bass viol” was found in the attic of Dr. Orton of Lakeville, CT, and that “inside the viol is engraved ... G. Bilini—Anno, 1584...The viol has been in the possession of the Orton family for three generations...” It is not clear what happened to Dr. John Orton’s 1584 bass viol after 1902.

The church bass on display does not match the viola da gamba described in the 1902-03 newspaper accounts. It is about the same size, but it only has space and pegs for four strings and does not have the frets that a viola da gamba should have. And it does not have the maker’s 1584 engraving as described.

Monterey luthier Joe Baker did preservation work on the historical society’s church bass in 1989. He carefully looked for but did not find the engraving “G. Bellini ann. 1584 Napoli” that the newspaper accounts reported.

Our “Church Bass” is Unusual

Although the historical society’s church bass is not a 1584 viola da gamba, it is unusual. (The following information about the Monterey Historical Society’s church bass is compiled with the help of Joe Baker, but any errors are the author’s.)

The society’s bass is in fact an example of a “church bass” or “Yankee

bass” made to play accompaniment for church and social music. In some ways it is similar to a cello, with a body about the same size and with four strings and an unfretted neck. However, the neck is shorter, the body is deeper, and it was built to use heavier strings to play in the bass range.

Joe Baker reports that the historical society’s bass has some interesting features. It was built to be played left-handed, which is quite rare, implying that it was built or commissioned for a particular player. “This left-handedness is evident from the arrangement of the pegs in the pegbox, the placement of the sound post on the left side, and the existence of a carved bass bar on the right side of the belly.”

It may have been built as early as 1800 somewhere in New England, and the maker used locally available woods rather than the more typically used special “tonewoods” for a violin or cello. The belly (top) of this bass is made of twenty-four strips of spruce instead of the usual two pieces of spruce, the ribs (sides) are bird’s eye maple and the back and neck are walnut.

The f-holes in the top are quite narrow, which necessitated the use of a thinner than usual sound post (a dowel held between top and back beneath the bridge, which is inserted and adjusted by working through the f-hole, or sound hole); in this case the sound post was accordingly made of maple which is stronger than the usual spruce post. The “scroll” at the top of the pegbox is not a fully carved scroll, but rather a partly carved piece with lathe-turned knobs attached to the sides.

These points of construction may indicate a creative instrument-maker using the materials available to fashion a custom bass.

Conclusion—the church bass on display is not the 1584 viola da Gamba that was reported found in Dr. John J. Orton’s attic in Lakeville, CT in 1902. But it is a two-hundred-plus-year-old “Yankee bass” that was probably played in the Monterey Church—by someone who was left-handed.

—Rob Hoogs



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Piecemakers Quilters

1997 to 2022

In 1997, in honor of Monterey's 150th Anniversary, a group of volunteers gathered to create an anniversary quilt (below). The group was founded by Barbara Tryon and Carole Zarlin, a quilt teacher/Monterey part-timer. The center design of this quilt was the Monterey Town Seal, based on the design by Edith Wilson. The silhouettes of local animals were designed by Jan Emmons. Beginning with these women, the Piecemakers Quilters was formed.



Above: Barbara Tryon, Pam Johnson, Jan Emmons (part hidden by Pam), Kathy Bracken, Carol Zarlin, Shirley Olds, Anita Carroll Weldon, Mary Kate Jordan

The 2022 Greenwoods Quilt

In 2021, four remaining Piecemakers—Pam Johnson, Marcia Doelman, Mary Kate Jordan, and Sally Pullen (below)



decided to “end the Piecemakers as we began” with a second gift for the town. They chose “Greenwoods” for their quilt, honoring a town name that may have been proposed in 1847, before Monterey was finally selected. The theme also represents our local trees: The two center blocks represent American chestnut and elm, two species with great historical importance to the town.



Others are sassafras, white pine, hawthorn, sumac, sugar maple, paperbark birch, hemlock, redbud, oak, shagbark hickory, ash, black cherry, tulip, and beech.

The chart (above right) reading from top to bottom identifies the trees represented in the quilt.

Left Column	Center	Right Column
Sassafras, <i>albidum</i>	White pine, <i>Pinus strobus</i>	Hawthorn, <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Sumac, <i>Rhus glabra</i>	American chestnut, <i>Castanea dentata</i>	Sugar maple, <i>Acer saccharum</i>
Paperbark birch, <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	American chestnut detail	Hemlock, <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Redbud, <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Elm, <i>Ulmus americana</i>	Oak, <i>Quercus alba</i>
Shagbark hickory, <i>Carya ovata</i>	Elm detail	Ash, <i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Black cherry, <i>Prunus serotina</i>	Tulip tree, <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Beech, <i>Fagus grandiflora</i>

The quilt was made from cotton, including photo-printed fabric depicting the American chestnut and the elm, once so important locally. All the images were hand-applied and embroidered, some embellished with a little fabric paint. The elements were machine stitched together, then sandwiched with wool batting and cotton backing. The binding was attached by machine and hand sewn to the back to complete the work in the spring of 2022 as a gift to Monterey on the town's 175th anniversary.

The two anniversary quilts are hung in the study room in the Monterey Library for posterity to enjoy.

—Monterey Historical Society

Simply The Berkshires

Artists:

Joe Baker	Shelley Haven
Diane Barth	Pat Hogan
Stuart Berkowitz	John MacGruer
Eugene Cleary	Jane McWhorter
Sam Cordin	Elizabeth Orenstein
Robert Forte	Peggy Reeves
Ann Getsinger	Julie Shapiro
Serena Granbery	Linda Skipper
Ellen Gruncler	Tim Sleeper
Jill Gustavie	Terry Wee
	Andrew Zdzarski

Simply the Berkshires is open from July 29 to August 28 at the New Marlborough Meetinghouse, on the Route 57 on the Green. Gallery hours: Friday-Saturday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. nmmeetinghouse.org. Artwork by Ann Getsinger.

Here's a Thought... Separation Anxiety

I'm an old American. I was going to write old-school, but the single adjective old fits better here.

What I mean to say is, when I was in elementary school, we actively celebrated both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, each president on his own February birthday. We heard stories on February 12 about Lincoln trudging through miles of snowdrifts to get from his log cabin home to school. Though we never heard about him trudging back home again, we did learn that when he got there, he'd do his homework by the light of the wood fire crackling in the fireplace. On Washington's birthday, February 22, bakery windows featured cherry pies which people lined up to buy to serve for dessert that night. After all, hadn't young George famously confessed, speaking truth to power when his father asked, "Did you chop down the cherry tree?"

It was another world, born of the PTSD that followed the great depression of the 1930s, the world war of the 1940s. We could only refer to the early 1950s necessity for our young men to be deployed in Korea as a police action. Not war. We'd won the war. And I still have tears come to my eyes when I remember being a little girl who thrilled to waving my little hand-held American flag as the marching bands and fire trucks and soldiers passed down the street in parade on the Fourth of July. Some of them looked really old to me. They'd served in World War One, the war that wasn't supposed to have a number. It was supposed to be the war to end all wars.

We went to church on Sundays. We enthusiastically celebrated Christmas both during and after attending church either at the opening stroke of midnight or early in the morning, no matter what day of the week it was. And the school I mentioned was a church school. My parents chose to pay private school fees because they respected the clause of the first amendment to the Constitution which established separation of church and state. Everyone I knew personally was both white and Christian. Another world, and I'm first in line to acknowledge that it had, like everything else in the world we



I snapped this photo years ago at a same-sex marriage rally outside San Francisco City Hall. I'm still stunned by the radical simplicity of that poster. Hate infiltrates institutions around issues where hate flowers in its members, in some churches as well as other organizations. I'm for separation from wherever hate raises itself as a power, in our establishments and in ourselves.

share, its shadow side. Just like the world we share today.

I've been hearing a lot recently about what's termed Christian Nationalism. It seems to be perched on a tree growing, not in Brooklyn (I told you I was old), but at least in part in the same soil as a quote from a *60 Minutes* interview from 1975 with not-yet president Ronald Reagan.

"If Facism ever comes to America," Reagan said, "It will come in the name of liberalism."

Valid as opinion, yes. But it does provide a wry twist on a 1937 quote attributed to Sinclair Lewis: "When Fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross." I suspect that the odds on Reagan's shift of focus being accidental is somewhere between zero and negative four thousand. And we're in the middle of the throes of that shift today as the separation of church and state, that amendment clause that my parents were willing to pay to honor, continues to erode.

It's being erased, I've heard, in the name of originalism, the belief that only the original constitution is valid, that the later amendments are, well, unconstitutional. That includes the belief that the separation of church and state is unconstitutional, and that Christian Nationalism, which adopts that stance, is defensible.

According to a Cornell University web posting, US Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black stated in *Everson vs. Board of Education*: "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state," and "That wall must be kept high and impregnable." While Black himself seems to have been both complex and controversial, his support of the separation of church and state is supported by what he's said to have considered the proudest moment of his career. In 1947, in *Adamson v. California*, he argued for the necessity of the absolute and complete application of the Bill of Rights to the states. It's an interesting thought, isn't it? And also interesting is the fact that Justice Black was appointed by Franklin Roosevelt, the nemesis of the Republican party of his time.

Each generation interprets what's gone before in its own way, and I celebrate the changes that have brought to light the larger truth-to-power that the story about little George and the cherry tree was a fanciful tale. Meanwhile I'm also watching the life I've lived be white-washed by some folks waving both flag and cross in praise of what sure looks to me like it's rooted in anti-Semitic authoritarianism. I'd call that aspect of Christian Nationalism quite a backlash, except the concept was in place long before anyone began developing what's currently called Critical Race Theory. That's the concept that racism in the United States is systemic, not simply individual. While focused on our historical dynamics across the cultural white/black divide, it has truth to speak to our cultural anti-Semitism as well.

God and country: I honor both, along with your right to disagree with me, and mine to disagree with you. Personally, I stand with the woman holding her hand-lettered poster in a rally I attended more than fifteen years ago. I'm for the separation of hate from whatever feeds it and gives it power, in institutions and in ourselves. That's my opinion, valid for me as Reagan's was for him, and Upton Sinclair, or the anonymous author of the quote attributed to him, was for him. Which of them fits you best is something you'll have to determine for yourself.

— Mary Kate Jordan

August at the Knox Gallery

Julie Shapiro: Interleave, which will include recent prints, paintings, and drawings, opens at the Knox Gallery on August 5.

In 2019 Shapiro, a longtime Monterey resident, champion and co-director of Knox Gallery, began to work with master printer Marjorie VanDyke at VanDeb Editions in Long Island City, NY. Working on copper plates, the artist used a variety of etching techniques to create a series of prints over several sessions (at right).

There came a point, due to the pandemic, that VanDeb Edition's studio was closed, and Shapiro was not able to freely travel back and forth to New York. She was therefore forced to put the print work on hold. She returned to her ongoing Monterey studio work developing new drawings and paintings. As frustrating as this interruption was to her project, she notes that her "work on the prints seemed to have importantly influenced" her studio work. Shapiro's pandemic-spanning prints, primarily a series called "Peeling Orange," form the center of this exhibition.

Likewise, when she was able to return to the VanDeb Editions in the spring, she found that the studio work over the two intervening years strongly impacted her printmaking concepts and development.

The show's title, *Interleave*, is a



transitive verb defined as "to place layers or flat pieces of something between layers or flat pieces of something else; to combine different things so that parts of one thing are put between parts of another thing." The artist explains that "In putting together a portfolio of prints, one often places 'interleaving' [a noun, meaning 'thin sheets of acid free paper'] between prints for protection. The word seemed appropriate to a show that focuses on this group of prints, but that also includes paintings and drawings that were done in between."

Shapiro will speak about her work on Friday, August 5, at 5:30 p.m., and will be available to answer questions afterwards. At present, masks are required in the library, but we encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before



attending any of our events. (We hope that before the end of the show—September 10—Covid is calm enough for the Knox Gallery to host a closing reception for this exhibit!)

The artist gratefully cites that the Martha Boschen Porter Grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation enabled her to make this series of prints, which necessitated a professional print shop. She has been working in printmaking for many years; she has exhibited widely, been awarded numerous visiting artist and residency positions, and has always wanted to work with a master printer. The Berkshire Taconic Foundation grant enabled her to realize that goal. The experience, understanding, and ideas she gained through this opportunity will surely enrich her work in all mediums in years to come. We look forward to her work's continued evolution.

We are grateful to the Monterey Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which support our artists' talks.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates



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Remembrance Richard Crittendon

Richard George Crittendon, 58, of Otis, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, July 22, 2022 at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. Richard was born in Great Barrington on October 1, 1963, son of Richard and Rose (Crane) Crittendon. He was a graduate from Lee High School class of 1981.

Rich worked for the Town of Monterey Highway Department as a foreman for twenty-three years. He always loved the outdoors including his garden, a variety of animals, fishing, and hunting. Among his many hobbies, Rich had a strong passion for woodworking and will always be remembered for his hand-crafted flags and beautiful cutting boards.

Richard is survived by his wife Lori (Kimberley) Crittendon of Otis whom he married on June 25, 1994; his son Jacob and wife Mary; his daughter Samantha and her fiancé Andrew Bates and four grandchildren Isabella, Blake, Violet, and Lily; his brothers Douglas (Donna) and Daniel; and his sisters Rosy, Dixie Levesque (Scott), Anne Oppermann (Kerry), and Lila Allard (Donald). Rich also leaves brothers-in-law Robert (Bethany) and Daniel (Rani); and sisters-in-law Lisa, Linda (Creighton), and Kristy (Wade); mother-in-law Jane; and father-in-law Robert Kimberley; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, July 30 at the Otis Center Cemetery. Condolences may be made through the Birches-Roy Funeral Home website, birchesroyfuneralservices.com.



Remembrance Shirley Quisenberry

Shirley Sabin Quisenberry, 94, passed away on June 11, 2022 in Orlando, FL. Shirley was born on May 12, 1928 in Gillette, WY to Donald and Velva Sabin. Shirley attended the University of Nebraska where she met

her husband Karl, whom she married on January 1, 1949, during Christmas break of their senior year. Karl's education and career took them across the country, but the one constant was the family summer home on Lake Garfield purchased by the Sabins in 1952. Shirley and Karl visited the lake every year for over fifty years, eventually living there seasonally during retirement. Karl passed away in 2016, just short of his ninetieth birthday. Shirley is survived by her three children, Keith, Nancy (Brady) and David, all of whom grew up on the lake, spending endless summers pursuing the family love of boating and water sports. The fourth generation on Bidwell Road includes eight grandchildren, all of whom spent numerous summers in Monterey.

—David Quisenberry



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just in time, just wanting to
pet the animal at the gas station
but growing up with memory of a firm grip bruise
stern reminder to remain afraid of anything
wild & caged, moving back & forth
with its own memory of roaming boundless
getting old & docile with the taunts
thrown roadstones, endless dry dog food & fishbones
from the Tennessee River.

— Travis Lusk



Friends of Lake Garfield LakeFest, August 6

2:00: Music with Prisoners of the Groove, Lake Garfield's house band.

2:30: Sand Castle Building

4:00: Face painting

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Survival

Even the robins are fighting today,
pecking one another, feathers
fluffed in chase. They know
there's a drought, no puddles
in which to splash, no muddy
drinking water. Before, they took
turns bathing, one perched on a bough
while the other dipped, but not today.
Maybe the weather plays a part,
makes them irritable from too
much ozone or particulate matter.
Like us they could dehydrate,
wheeze, or even die. Maybe
we are more like the robins who
winter over. Stressed by change
we cannot grasp, we squabble,
territorial to the last.

—Madeleine Fuchs Holzer
July 29, 2022

Lightning

Thick trunk
blinding light

Branches
out, down

Cloud to ground
roots

The earth
changed

—Madeleine Fuchs Holzer
July 29, 2022

Letters

Condolence for Rich Crittendon

As Director of Operations for the Monterey Highway Department from 2001 to 2014, I wanted to express my condolences to the family of Rich Crittendon, who passed away in late July. Rich was a valuable member of the department for many years and foreman for most of those years. I hope the Town of Monterey appreciates all he did for the town. I know I did. Thank you, Rich.

—Maynard Forbes
Director of Operations, Retired
Town of Monterey

Striped Maples, Sharing Dominance in the Mixed Mesophytic

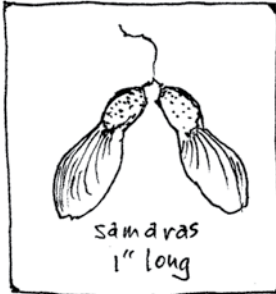
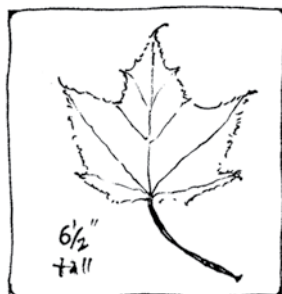
Maples are our familiar near neighbors here, and thanks to early farmers there is many a strong and stately row of sugar maples along our town roads. You can come upon them deep in the woods, where once a road ran along a field or pasture. Follow awhile and come to stoneworks, a story of human endeavors and habitation on this hillside, or industry along this stream.

The roads remain, and so do the mighty sugar maples, set up so long ago. Here at our place they were tapped by our ancestor Dad Keyes and by his father too. When we go out to hang buckets on the trees we can see where Dad Keyes came by, three generations back. In fact, we still use some of his good tools, including his hatchet and hoe, also the brace he might have used to tap the sugar maples. We did get our own bit for it, nearly fifty years ago when we started out. We have his long wooden toolbox, but there were no bits the right size for our spiles. Those are the little hollow spouts you hammer into the holes.

When we think "maple" most of us head straight for the sugar maple. But there is many another maple in these woods. One I have liked since childhood, though I never got any sugar out of one, is the striped maple. These have slim smooth trunks, not very big around, and the bark is quite green. In a plant,

this means chlorophyll. The bark of the striped maple is described by one writer like this: (He uses another common name for this species.)

"Moosewood is a revelation of interesting bark. On twigs and branches this is semiglossy, exactly the color and texture of a green olive, marked with white lines,



as though someone had stroked it with a piece of chalk. This bark is alive, and that fact keeps it satin smooth. Outside bark on most trees is dead, breaks into corky surface when rent by expanding wood, or outer layer of dead skin peels off, as on birches. Moosewood's juicy sugary bark and buds are eaten by deer and moose." (Rutherford Pratt, writing in his book *American Trees*, 1952.)

Maybe some of us remember the Moosewood Restaurant in Ithaca, New York. I never went, but we still have two beat-up cookbooks from that place. It was a collective and one of our friends had a sister who was part of it. None of the great recipes include stripping bark or buds from moosewood trees, but I think you could. Moose and deer do this, also browse on the buds. And farmers in these parts, generations before our Dad Keyes,

are said to have fed leaves, both fresh and dried, to their cattle. In the spring they reportedly turned their stock out in the woods to browse on the new buds. Ruffed grouse, also called partridges, eat these buds, too.


Moosewood trees, moose maples, striped maples, do not stand alone. We can consider them alone, notice how their leaves and blossoms are unique, different from those of any of the other species of maples. We can learn the many names of this one species. In Latin it is *Acer pensylvanicum* with just one "n" in the name of the state. Therein hangs a tale, too, of course. This tree is also called goose foot maple, also snakebark maple. Know-

ing one or more of these names makes it possible to look it up and see what others have noticed or heard about this tree. If you look in a field guide to trees you might find a paragraph or two and a drawing or photo.

If you are lucky, you will find yourself directed to an account of the kind of place such a tree is likely to grow, also the many other things that grow there in an interdependent community of life and rocks and soil and water. The striped maple is one of several kinds of trees and shrubs that make up what is called the understory in a hardwood forest, thriving in the shade and providing even more shade to the forest floor below. The striped maple contributes to what is called the vertical diversity of the woods, which consists of many layers which give specific food and shelter to certain birds, and certain flowers on the forest floor. Black-throated blue warblers, for instance, prefer nesting sites in a dense understory layer. And down below are certain flowers: mayflower, Indian cucumber, wood sorrel, jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium, partridge berry, and wild sarsaparilla.

Rutherford Platt, that eloquent maple appreciator, wrote, "If you would seek perfection, go look at the maple. It is like truth made into the form of a tree." Any short walk around here to find this perfection will be ecologically so remarkable, you might have to sit down in the face of its complexity, its health and rightness. The great reward of its truth.

—Bonner McAllester

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Monterey Microburst

In the early evening of Tuesday, July 12, we were hit with a microburst. I write "we" for a reason. Wendy and I were sitting on our porch having dinner, it was raining fairly heavily but our porch is deep enough that we sometimes can sit through a storm, when suddenly we both realized we needed to get inside immediately. She saw through the rain-soaked screening that something was coming at us. In the time that it took for us to very quickly stand up and get to our kitchen door, traversing maybe six to seven feet, we both got soaked. Our poor dog didn't get inside with us and he got really soaked. (Later on we couldn't figure out why an area inside the house had water all over the floor and walls, and then we realized that he'd shaken off inside.)

What is a microburst? Go to weather.gov/bmx/outreach_microbursts to find a very concise explanation and some images. Basically it is a phenomenon that occurs during a thunderstorm when the upper levels of the storm experience rapid cooling and the water and hail being held high up literally dump towards the surface. Think a huge water balloon. When this nears the surface the air displaced by all that downward-falling water moves very rapidly out in every direction, so in the aftermath it is hard to tell from which direction the wind came. In extreme microbursts wind speeds can reach one hundred mph. I think this probably resembles the waves created when a stone is dropped in a pool of water.

Microbursts are rarely more than two and one-half miles in diameter, and this one seems to have affected a somewhat smaller area than that. We live just south of the Monterey village area bounded between New Marlboro Road and the Konkapot River. We now have two areas where trees, some quite large, that were twisted apart as they fell, creating a domino of trees falling every which way in addition to other trees in our woods that were brought down. Amazingly, nothing close to the ground, our vegetable gardens, flowers, a few outdoor benches, etc., seem affected at all.

I understand that there were downed trees along Wellman Road, and a number of large pine trees at the corner of the

community center, and trees along Main Road throughout the village, came down. I don't believe there was any substantial damage to any houses and haven't heard of anyone who was injured during the storm. However, between having to carve a path through lots of downed branches to get out our driveway and packing to leave for Maine, and then departing early Thursday morning, I didn't get out to survey all the damage.

The weather service says that the timeframe for warning of microbursts is very short but that warnings for severe thunderstorm activities indicate the real possibility of microbursts. They tend to develop during hot, humid weather which, of course, is just when we expect summer thunderstorms.

We're thankful that the damage did not include homes and people. It was wild...

— Stephen Moore

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Aerodynamic, Insect-Eating Barn Swallows

Since early colonial farming times the barn swallow has been a welcome visitor to barnyards and fields. As aerial insectivores these swallows eat huge numbers of unwanted, crop-destroying insects on the wing such as beetles, flies, wasps, crawling ants, moths, and spiders. At speeds of over seventy miles per hour, as they skim over fields, ponds, lakes, and rivers. They collect their prey in a compressed ball in their mouths and fly to feed their young in nests attached to a beam or under a barn roof, as illustrated in my drawing.

Over the next two centuries, as the population of people grew many times over, the swallows thrived, sometimes raising several clutches of chicks each season. They are a native species and make great use of our built structures. Barn swallows are one of the top species in global population, with wide-ranging estimates. The global population number most cited is around 190 million. It is the most widely ranging swallow in the world, serenading with a world-wide musical anthem consisting of chirps, whines, and gurgles, with a liquid overtone of notes.

Sadly, studies show that in the past fifty years the North American population has declined approximately 40%, which is in keeping with many other passerines. While the population has shown an increase in states from Arizona along the Gulf coast and north to Virginia, in almost everywhere north of this southern band the count is way down.

Only the North American swallow has buff to cinnamon-colored underparts and underwing linings, which are accentuated by pointed wings and a deeply forked tail. Skimming over a water surface it scoops down to get a drink of water. It will take a bath while pushing into a bed of wet leaves along the shore.

Barn swallows do not come naturally to backyard feeders, but will be attracted to a generous spreading of oyster or egg shells. They tend to arrive in small flocks in the spring with only some adults breeding. Shelters that are open for ease of coming and going, and provide overhead cover will also help



to attract them. They use many types of shelters including bridge foundations, roofs of outdoor arenas, suburban park structures, railroad and auto bypasses, and any other man-made construction. They require a water source quite nearby for making nests out of mud, bringing hundreds of beaks loads to complete construction. They will build their mud nests right against a vertical wall.

Having a swallow nest nearby could be an educational birdwatching experience for your children. They may be grateful for my literary observation and the illustration of barn swallows in motion I have tried to create for their viewing.

—George B. Emmons

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Dave and Beth, Part 3

The start of our third month finds us in western South Dakota. Beth once again booked us in another great Airbnb. Our neighbors were ducks, chickens, goats, and an evening visit from the local cat, just the way we like it. With so much to do we spent the first day in downtown Hot Springs, where I got a much needed haircut, did some shopping, toured the local museum and got the lay of the land. Day two we spent the day exploring the magic of the Black Hills. Unbelievable rock formations, open grasslands along with bison, wild donkeys, and Beth's favorite, prairie dogs. We finished off the day touring Wind Cave. It is considered a dry cave with no stalagmites or stalactites, it seemed more like a mine than a cave, but with that said, it was still interesting.

The third day was back into the Black Hills, this time with a purpose. Our first stop was the Crazy Horse monument. What a wonderful place to visit. Not only to witness the wonderful sculpture that is slowly emerging from this mountain but learning so much about the native people who had lived for hundreds of generations on this land only to be forced off by the white man for its gold. After several hours we continued onto Mount Rushmore, which after Crazy Horse, seemed like a letdown. Very commercialized. The fourth day we traveled several hours in the opposite direction along a road seemingly going nowhere, but in the end, well worth it. After a great burger at a one-man restaurant, we entered the Badlands National Park. We are here to tell you, the Badlands are anything but bad. The mountains rose above, the valleys fell below, almost forever, and the colored rocks looked a little muted until we were stopped by a downpour of a rainstorm. When the rain stopped the rocks came alive! It was as if they had just received a fresh coat of paint. Another wonderful day. Oh, and it was here that we got to see our first bighorned sheep. Our last day in South Dakota was spent once again driving up, down, and around the Black Hills. This was our first place, so far, that was hard to leave, but onto Wyoming we now go.

Our next stop, in Wyoming, included one of Dave's bucket list stops—Devil's Tower (above right). The day before we



went we watched *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* which featured Devil's Tower. Beth had never seen the movie before, can you believe it!? It was all I expected. One huge tower of rock sticking out in the middle of nowhere. We took a walk around the base of the tower which just about killed us—it was in the 90s that day. The rest of our time in Wyoming was taken up by touring an open pit coal mine, a local history museum, and an auto museum, which was way more than expected.

After an overnight stay in Billings, Montana our next stop was Butte, Montana. On the way we had an unexpected stop at Little Bighorn National Monument—very moving indeed.

Butte was one of those stops that was more interesting than expected. After settling in, we made our way to the local visitors center, our usual “m.o.” Here we signed up for a trolley around town which included a stop at what is now known as

Berkley Pit. This pit is a leftover from years of copper mining. Over a thousand feet deep and over a half mile wide, it is now filled with such toxic water from the mining operations that it is designated as one of the top ten super fund sites in the country—just awful. The rest of the week was filled with one surprise after another. First, a ride looking for a place to take a short hike. Well, we got lost and drove and drove. After many, many miles we ended up sitting on top of a mountain looking at a sign letting us know that we had reached the continental divide. Before us lay mile after mile, field after field of the most beautiful wildflowers that you could imagine. Sometimes it pays to get lost. After finding our way back to town we stopped at a park that had a beautifully reconstructed carousel. Yes, we took a ride!

Our next day was a little more laid back. It was raining so we went to a local college that has a gem and mineral museum. This “quick” trip ended up being over two hours of “Oh Beth, did you see this?” or “No, Dave, you need to see this first!” One marvel after another. Did you know that some rocks glow? We didn't. From there we visited a reconstructed mining town. On our last day in the area we visited a fish hatchery. Super disappointing. But, as it so happens for us, just down the road there was a local, once-a-year town celebration happening. So, we went. Lots of food trucks, craft booths, and live music. Another unexpected wonderful day was had. The Butte area was hard to leave, but now on to Spokane, Washington to see what can be seen. >

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Dave and Beth, pt. 3, cont. from page 21.

As usual, our first stop was the visitors center located in a wonderful park. We had forgotten that Spokane was the site of the 1978 World's Fair and this area was set aside for the city's use. We walked around for a while and found the world's largest Radio Flyer Wagon (above) and a goat that will eat your trash when activated. After a walk around a local hydro-electric dam we called it quits for the day. Day two found Beth not feeling well. So besides a trip to Walgreens we stayed in for the day. Feeling better the next day, we drove back

to Idaho and took a nice boat ride on Lake Coeur d'Alene. It was a nice ride on a hot day but besides seeing multimillion-dollar homes built in, on, and around the rocky cliffs, there wasn't much to be seen.

Our last full day we went north along the All American Road to Canada. Our plans were to take a ride along the US-Canada border and have dinner in the small Canadian town of Crestor before returning to the US. But, at the border, the officials had other plans. Though we had all our papers, they sent us back down the mountain five miles, until we had internet service to

upload all our papers, enter all the information that we had in hand at the border crossing in the first place. Then, return to the border all set. But, no. Now they want to search the truck. When they were sure we had no guns or drugs we were let through. Next problem: Do you know Canada has set times they close the border? We didn't. The border that we needed to cross to get back into the US in Idaho closes at 5 p.m. It was now 3:30 with a sixty-mile drive and a 5,820-foot mountain before us, to make before the border. After a long drive up and a hairy drive back down, we made it with five minutes to spare. Needless to say, no dinner for us in Canada.

From Spokane, we have a one-night stay in a motel at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers and then on to the Oregon coast. See you there.

Remember you can follow us day by day on Beth's Facebook site under "Beth Parks."

—Beth and Dave Gilmore

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Mullien (above), —Bonsai Cox

Bidwell House Museum

It was great to see so many of you at our Bidwell in Bloom summer fundraising party at the end of July. We had a wonderful time celebrating the museum and honoring Rob and Cindy Hoogs. The museum would not be where it is today without the support of this wonderful town.

In August, we have some great events planned and a little something for everyone. If you enjoy spending time outdoors we have two guided walks on the schedule.

Walks

Sunday, August 14, 10 a.m.: Join nature enthusiast and Bidwell board member Richard Greene on an interesting and informative guided stroll on the Bidwell trails to learn about the flora and fauna you will find in the Monterey woods.

Saturday, August 27 at 9:30 a.m.: Join board member and avid hiker Rob Hoogs on a walk exploring the historical landscapes of the Bidwell grounds, including stone walls, old roads, and the original Meeting House site. Both walks will last around an hour. The terrain on some trails can be uneven, so wear proper shoes, and bring water and a snack. Each walk is limited to twenty people so pre-registration on the website is required.

Talks

Saturday, August 20 11 a.m.: If history is more your interest, we have our final history talk of the season with recent Harvard graduate Michael Baick. His talk, "Three More Unredeemed Cap-

tives: Escaping from Slavery in Eighteenth Century Western Massachusetts," offers a new vision of colonial Massachusetts by telling the stories of Tom, Cato, and Peter, three enslaved Black men who risked everything to escape from Reverend Stephen Williams's parsonage in Longmeadow, fleeing toward uncertain fates. This talk will be held at the Bidwell House Museum and livestreamed via Zoom. Due to limited seating, tickets must be purchased in advance.

Wednesday, August 21, 3 p.m.: We will be pivoting to theater with the Hidden Woman Stage Company performance of Elizabeth Freeman. After thirty years of bondage, Mumbet successfully sued and won her freedom from Colonel Ashley. She then took the name Elizabeth Freeman. Company founder Tammy Denease tells her story in this powerful hour-long performance. This program is one of a number of events happening on August 20 and 21 to tell Elizabeth Freeman's story around the unveiling of a new statue in Sheffield. This performance will last approximately sixty minutes and will be held outdoors. Should the location change due to inclement weather, attendees will be notified in advance. Due to limited seating, tickets must be purchased in advance. The Bidwell House Museum is delighted to sponsor this performance for the community. We are especially grateful for grants that have been provided from Greylock Federal Credit Union and Salisbury Bank, that assist in underwriting this event and allow us to offer a "pay what you want" ticket option, ensuring that

this program is accessible to all.

Tickets for all of the above programs can be purchased on our website at bidwell-housemuseum.org/events.

The Bidwell House will be open for house tours by appointment throughout August on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The tours last about an hour and they are a great way to learn the history of the eighteenth-century Berkshires. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior, \$5 for students, and free for kids twelve and under. Call the museum at (413) 528-688 or email us at bidwellhm2@gmail.com to book your tour.

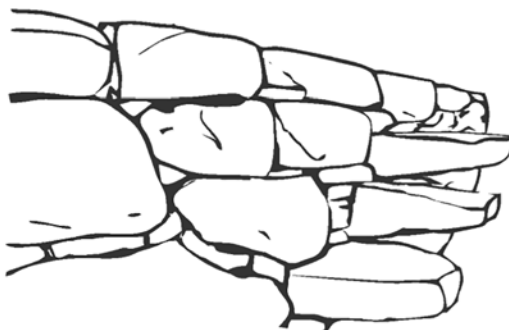
Finally, as always, the museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. You can take the "Outside the House" tour, walk the Native American Interpretive Trail, view the gardens or hike the trails. Maps of the trails can be found on the front porch of the museum or downloaded from the website. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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Wildlife Report for July

Here are the reports from all over town. We have insects, mammals, and plenty of birds.



One favorite insect, reported and photographed way back in June, somehow escaped the July issue of the *Monterey News*, so here at last is (according to some) our number one most popular moth, the luna (above). Thank you to Ed Salsitz for this sighting and for the photograph. We reported the number two moth, the promethea silk moth spotted and photographed by Catherine Hurst last time. And here it is again, this time from over by Carol Edelman's place (see page 26). Carol, who lives in a kind of Wild Kingdom, also reports visits from "porcupines, snakes, deer, bears, owls, plus the usual suspects in the yard." She had a juvenile red-tailed hawk come by and took its picture.

Maureen Banner takes wonderful closeups of insects, including recently the nymph of a scudder's bush katydid. This youngster hasn't got the big long wings of an adult. We also have a handsome beetle from the camera of Maureen Banner. This one is called an "oriental beetle," (below) and is one of the many kinds in a sub-family of the chafers. Just so you



know. We have also the most marvelous caterpillar, recently the subject or object of a name change so it is now a spongy moth caterpillar. We had quite a boom of this population as happens once in awhile. The trees have leafed out again.



Colta Ives sent a photograph of a butterfly called a fritillary, gorgeous in color on an echinacea blossom (above), and Lin Saberski sent one, too. Lin also had a red admiral (below) visiting her garden.



And for all of us keeping an eye out for the monarchs, Suzanne Sawyer has seen many caterpillars on the milkweeds at her place and sent photos of them, from very small to very large, below and below right.



Monarch caterpillars—first instar above, and probably fifth, and last, instar at right.



In the bird department we have little hummingbirds at our feeders, as do many folks in town. Noel Wicke writes about bluebirds that there have been five "seemingly happy, healthy" families along the bluebird trail at Gould Farm, and three of these pairs have started second broods. Anna Poirier has written about barn swallows in late June and took a picture of youngsters waiting open-mouthed for food (above). She also watched four young tree swallows just as they left the nest, one right after another, with the last two being more considered or hesitant. They each leaned farther and farther out with an insistent parent encouraging them with a loud "chip call." Finally, all four were out, joining their parents in a nearby tree.

Right across the road, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have followed the progress of their bluebird and swallow families, too, also some phoebes in a nest on top of an outdoor lighting fixture on the wall by the carport. Wendy sent a photograph (top left, next page) taken just as the heap of youngsters were about to spill right out into the real world.





In the “Larger Birds” department, we have Ron McMahon’s account of a loon he sees every year in April on Lake Garfield. A little later, this bird is gone. But the big Lake Garfield Swan (below), captured on film by Lin Saberski, is domesticated and will stay. Unless she slips her mooring.



One night Mary Kate Jordan looked down from the house and saw a handsome bobcat (right). Her photo taken from above shows off the cat’s bright white ear patches, which we rarely see. Another big mammal came even closer to Bonsai and Mary Kate’s place. It was a young bear on the deck, one evening. And Bonsai Cox saw a barred owl near the house and took its picture (below).



Dan Zweig sent in a photograph of a spotted fawn (right) standing in a field near his place and Nancy Johnson sent one, too, taken by Ben Johnson (see the front page). This baby lay quietly on a big rock, and the next day the folks saw a doe (top of page 26) in a field not far away and felt this may be the mother. The fawn had left.

Jessica Reif Caplan of Buckingham Lane on Lake Garfield has been swimming regularly in the lake, for years, and has recently been surprised to see a beaver also in the water near her. Sheila D’Nodal sent a photograph (right) of another mammal swimming in the lake, “right off our dock.” It was an otter.

Early in the month I heard about a couple of young raccoons, spotted down in a drop inlet. We once had a porcupine in one of these sheltered places. It was winter, and tracks led in and out the lower end of the culvert. We could hear this porcupine muttering and chirping and wondered if there were more than one in there.

There have been at least two moose sightings in town, one at Gould Farm. Steve Snyder sent a photograph of that one (right). The other was on Griswold Road, and Abby Levy wrote this about it: “We had a moose in our yard yesterday. It trotted around the yard as I frantically tried to get a photo. I think it was a female as I didn’t notice large antlers. It was so surreal to me it almost seemed like it could have been a unicorn!”

At bottom right, the little “munk,” Lin Saberski says, sat by the buddha. A disciple, she suggests.

Thanks, everyone.

—Bonner McAllester
(413) 528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com





Above: A last minute submission of a big mama bear and her two cubs.

At left, Ben Johnson took this photo of the doe Bonner referred to near the top of page 25.

Below right: Carol Edelman's promethea silkmoth.

Lower right: A last minute submission of a salamander. Who doesn't like to see salamanders?



Informal Monterey family-friendly pick-up softball attracts players of many ages and levels. The Greene Park games continue through October every Sunday morning with warm-ups at 10 and games starting at 10:30.

—Steve Graves

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Calendar

Monterey Community Center events on page 6.

Bidwell House events on page 23.

Sundays: Monterey softball continues. Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30 as weather permits.

Friday, August 5: Julie Shapiro will speak about her work, Knox Gallery, 5:30. See page 15.

Saturday, August 6: LakeFest, from 2 into the evening, town beach. See page 17.

Friday, August 12: Movie night at town beach. See ad page 12.

Saturday, August 13:

Fishing derby, 9 to 10:20 a.m., Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, River Road. Talk all about monarch butterflies. 11 a.m., MCC. See page 7.

Saturday, August 20: Planning board master plan session for open spaces and recreation. 9:30, library. See page 2.

Tuesday, August 23: Special town election. See page 3.

Saturday, August 27: The Desparate Catskills Mountain Band, MCC, 6 to 8 p.m. See page 9.

MontereyMA.gov

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

—Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper,
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@montereyma.gov)

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

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

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

Council on Aging Services

Our Council on Aging Outreach Coordinator, Emily Hadsell, is available in her office in town hall, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can also call her at (413) 528-1443, ext. 112, or email coaoutreach@montereyma.gov, with any questions.

August Events

Movie Night: This month’s movie, Moonstruck, with Cher, will be shown on Tuesday, August 9, at 7 p.m., in the Monterey Library.

Ongoing Services

Wellness Clinic: The wellness clinic will take place on Thursday, August 11, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. Appointments are no longer necessary.

Parkinson’s Support Group: This month’s meeting is on Thursday, August 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call Emily (number above) if you’d like more information about the program.

Transportation: For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

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

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers through the council on aging.

—Lin Saberski, Chair, Council on Aging

Police Emergency Contacts

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

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us

- Police dispatch service number:

(413) 236-0925.

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

528-3211

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245.

For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413) 528-4007 or email.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Town Administrator:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443

x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136

chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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

MONTEREY NEWS

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Wednesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
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.....& 4–8 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Copy Editor.....Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels.....Joe Baker
Treasurer.....Cindy Hoogs

*Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.*

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