

MONTEREY NEWS

February 2023 Est. 1970

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



Getting off Ray Ward's old school bus in the early 1950s in front of the general store. The students we can tentatively identify are Sally (Ward) Pullen in white dress on left. Behind Sally is possibly Linda (Chamberlin) Thorp, the taller brunette is Sandra (McDarby) Preston, the other girls aren't recognized. The boys are, left to right, Bill Gilchrist, Rufus Barnum, and Walter Parks. See page 9 for the whole story.

The tournament has been rescheduled to February 11 and relocated to Benedict Pond.

Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic page 11

"That story should go into the book!" became a long-running mantra of sorts for me and my family.

The Foxtail Legacy page 16

The name opossum is said to come from an Algonquian word *opassom*, meaning white ("op") dog ("asson").

Possums, Marsupials of Monterey page 18

Working with, rather than against, the power of Mother Nature makes abundant sense. But it's an approach that's often not taken.

Shorelines and Meadows page 13

"I took a sample of a cookie and carrot that I left for Santa... could you take a sample of DNA to see..."

Modern World Department page 7

Ray and Poke came to terms for the ownership of the old "woodie." At the time it was being used as a chicken coop!

Ray Ward and his Old Cars page 9

Chat with old friends and make some new ones as you gather with your neighbors in our beautiful new library building.

Monterey Library Magic page 5

We've just begun "Rabbit Year." It's a time to honor that we have clutter in our heads. We'll benefit from making space for more quiet inside.

Hop, Hop, Hope, Hope page 22

The second vote was for the question, "Is gravity just a theory?" It was defeated exactly 44 to 18.

Special Town Meeting pages 2-4

The pantry team wishes to thank, by name, the farms and businesses that have contributed over the past year.

Pantry Pickup News page 8

Whether we have snow or not, we are determined to bring you our second annual Winterfest this month.

Winterfest 2023 page 10

The members of the finance committee have worked together to set criteria to evaluate all of the funding proposals being considered.

Town Budgeting Process page 6

We are looking for everyone who has a stake in Monterey to have a voice in this process. That includes weekend and summer residents as well as year-round residents.

Master Plan Survey page 3



Winterfest! from 2022

Special Town Meeting January 21

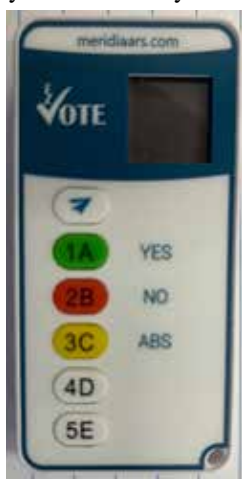
The town held another mid-winter town meeting, fortunately on a rather blah winter day, in the engine bay of the Monterey firehouse. Due to our new-to-us technology, we know there were exactly sixty-two voters, along with others who showed up to listen.

The meeting was gaveled to order precisely at 1:30 p.m. Our new interim town clerk, Marie Ryan, was introduced to the townspeople. Moderator Mark Makuc proceeded to guide the gathering into a more modern voting era with the use of electronic voting clickers. Modern to us perhaps, but Mark explained that this technology has been around for a long time. Marc Trachtenberg from New Marlborough was introduced as he helped set up the system.

The Clickers

The moderator explained that the clickers are a very safe system, with a secure frequency and no connection to any network or the internet. The time window to vote would be announced, the number of voters would be displayed as people voted, and when the full count of voters was reached a countdown would be called out to indicate that voting would close. The results of the votes would displayed immediately.

The voters were asked to vote on two questions as practice. One concerned the Super Bowl. The second question was, "Is gravity just a theory?" Who knew this would be a weighty question in a small town? The vote was "yes" 18, "no" 44.



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There were sixty-two voters and many other people in attendance for the meeting.

(One wag sitting behind me said he couldn't answer that question with any gravity.) The clickers provide privacy so the gathering couldn't tell how even their neighbors voted. Less fun than the old index cards perhaps, but the privacy of each vote seems a positive advantage.

(At the May annual meeting, the town passed a \$5,000 appropriation to purchase the Meridia system with 155 clickers. New Marlborough has the same system and there's a hope that for situations where larger turnouts in either town might be expected, we could share clickers to accommodate such a vote.)

Article 1: This concerned appropriating an additional \$35,000 to the fuel budget in the highway department, which was totally spent in December. The fuel expense has nearly doubled. Frank

Abbott, from the finance committee, informed the group that the cost of diesel fuel increased 79% during this fiscal year, and gasoline is up 34%. While the fuel is budgeted as a highway department expense, other town vehicles, like the police department, are included. Select board chair Justin Makuc explained that in the past the fuel budget was often under-budgeted, but the unbudgeted extra expense was made up by internal transfers and free cash. The select board and finance committee will try to avoid this going forward.

The article was approved by 62 to 1.

Article 2: This article asked the town to approve transfers of money from the fire department compensation account and free cash, totally \$35,000.



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The only discussion around this article was not actually about the fire department at all. A voter asked what, “take any other action relative thereto” meant. The moderator explained that without that caveat the town would only be able to vote on the article exactly as it appears on the warrant, and could not be amended. However, when Makuc calls the question for a vote, he does not include that text, only the exact amount as stated or amended.

Article 2 passed 59 to 3.

Article 3: This article asked the town to fund the continued appeal in the case of Hume New England’s application to build RV campsites.

Tom Sawyer, co-chair of the planning board gave an overview of the history. Hume applied for twelve RV sites in 2019. The planning board rejected the application asserting that this was not a customary religious use. Hume contends that as a “religious*” organization, the state’s Dover amendment would protect this use from the town’s zoning prohibition against RV or trailer sites in town. The land court decided that two of the three uses would be protected by the Dover amendment, but one would not. Both Hume and the town appealed the decision to the appellate court.

The MA Supreme Judicial Court intervened before the case was heard on appeal, and elevated the case to be argued. This would entail an estimated \$30,000 (maximum estimated cost) to pay town counsel to represent the town.

Sawyer said that the planning board strongly supports funding the appeal so as

to not set a precedent whereby the Dover amendment is used to skirt around our zoning bylaws.

Mike Banner, a member of the board of assessors, was recognized. He stood to read a message from Jon Levin, chair of the zoning board of appeals.

From Levin’s statement: “In light of the willingness of the court to also hear whether Hume qualifies for this or any other zoning relief under the so-called Dover Act which exempts religious institutions from zoning limitations under certain circumstances... I believe that it is in the absolute best interest of the town to litigate this matter aggressively. Hume has hardly shown any interest in being a true partner with the town in any number of ways and does not deserve any special consideration.”

Gary Shaw stood to say that if we don’t go to court today there will be twelve RV sites tomorrow, then forty, and then who knows how many. Ilene Marcus stated that this is a question of enforcement. To Ilene’s point, Tom Sawyer simply said, “Valid point!”

Former select board member Steven Weisz rose to speak to a larger perspective. He encouraged the town to keep a dialog open with Hume. “Monterey does have the right for self-determination, but neither Hume nor Monterey is going away. The need for dialog might be even more important if the town loses this.” He went on to agree that this needs to be settled, but that the town should avoid vilifying Hume.

To Jon Levin’s point about Hume’s interest in being a good neighbor, Wendy
Special Town Meeting cont. page 4

Master Plan Survey Have You Filled Out Yours?

Dear All,

The planning board, with help and direction from Seth Jenkins from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and the voices of community members at a series of public meetings, has crafted the final survey for community input into the updated 2023 master plan. The master plan is a strategic plan that will guide our priorities for our community for the next ten to twenty years.

We hope for close to 100% community input. The survey is available online as well as in paper form. Go to surveymonkey.com/r/MonV1. If you prefer to respond on a paper copy, these are available at the library. If you are unable to get a paper copy, please let us know by sending an email to Tom Sawyer (tom.sawyer@starkaywhite.com) and we can arrange to have one delivered to you.

So far, we have gotten 222 responses to the survey, but that’s less than a third of our total population. We are looking for everyone who has a stake in Monterey to have a voice in this process. That includes weekend and summer residents as well as year round residents. We can only hear your voice if you complete your survey.

The survey is short, no more than fifteen minutes to complete, and there are many opportunities to go beyond checking boxes by adding your comments if you choose to do so.

The survey will be online and active until March 1. We are really hoping that everyone will participate, and every voice will be heard.

Sincerely,

—The Planning Board

Tom Sawyer and Laura Mensi, co-chairs; and Margy Abbott, Chip Allen, Lauren Behrman, Roger Tryon, and Noël Wicke

Creation locked
in ironstruck cold
is ore to smoulder
turn green to gold.

—Susan McAllester
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Special Town Meeting, from page 3

Germain contributed her view. She pointed out that since Hume arrived they have been asking for special privileges. "I have seen nothing Hume has done to qualify as good neighbors. In all the years with Keswick (the Christian camp which preceded Hume) they were good neighbors."... "And Hume has millions of dollars in the bank. We've done the research."

Don Coburn provided insight from his fifteen years on the appellate court in New Jersey. "It is really extraordinary for the supreme court to reach down before an appellate court decision." He surmises that organizations have pushed the boundaries of the Dover amendment's protection for religious and educational uses, and that the court may see this as an opportunity to provide greater clarity to that protection. He thinks the town will win this case.

A motion was made to close the debate. The article to appropriate \$30,000 passed by 60 to 3.

*The supreme court wants to consider whether Hume NE qualifies as a "sect or denomination" under the intent of the "religious" protection afforded by the Dover amendment. An adverse opinion for Hume might reverse the broad religious category under which Hume seeks protection.

Article 4: This asked to move \$5,409 from the unemployment insurance account to building inspector wages. Without discussion this passed 58 to 2.

Article 5: This was to increase funding for the conservation commission agent. Select board chair Makuc explained that the agent's salary has been paid out of a revolving fund, which not only has not fully funded the salary, but that method might not be legal. The town is moving away from using a revolving fund this way. Noël Wicke, a member of the conservation commission, spoke to how valuable the agent is to the operation of the commission, and to the benefit of the town. "She's terrific!" This article passed unanimously.

Articles 6, 7, 8, & 9: These articles generated little discussion. They were "housekeeping" requests to move money: Article 6 for \$1,500 for the election account; Article 7 for \$1,224 for expenses for the assessors office; Article 8 for \$400 for library wages; Article 9 for \$29.30 to pay a prior year's bill. #6 & #7 passed unanimously, #8 passed 59 to 2, and #9 passed 60 to 1.

Article 10: This article sought to close down the remaining loan authorization from 2017 for the library renovation project. \$353,405 of that authorized limit was never borrowed. Passing this article would close the loan down and remove it from the town's books. This passed 62 to 1.

As is usual, when the moderator sought a motion to adjourn there were several voices quickly motioning and seconding, and the meeting was adjourned just before 2:30. For some, the best part of the meeting was the hobnobbing that followed immediately afterwards.


— Stephen Moore
for the *Monterey News*

Monterey Historical Society Old Roads and Cellar Holes

The Monterey Historical Society will host an illustrated, interactive talk on Thursday, February 16, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the library's multipurpose room. The talk will explore the miles of abandoned roads and scores of old cellar holes from the homesteads that covered Monterey in the 1700s and 1800s. Rob Hoogs has been researching and exploring these interesting features from the past with deeds, town records, newspaper articles, atlas maps, LIDAR mapping, and "feet on the ground." He will present some of the results of his ongoing study, and invite the audience to share any anecdotes or stories they have heard about these relics.

Would you like to join the fun? The Monterey Historical Society would love to have you as a member so we can continue exploring our history together. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An individual membership is only \$15, family membership is \$25. Larger donations are greatly appreciated. The society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization for purposes of tax deductions.

— Monterey Historical Society



Monterey Native Plants Working Group

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It's Time for Some Monterey Library Magic

Come to the Presidents' Day Weekend open house at the Monterey Library.

Winter is long and the nights come early, but here's something we can all look forward to as we wait for spring. At the Monterey Library on Saturday, February 18, Bruce the Magician will entertain us all with mental magic, cards, and coins, and make the winter blues disappear.

Join your neighbors at the Monterey Library on Saturday, February 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. for:

- Refreshments (hot chocolate, cookies, other treats);
- Bruce the Magician with entertainment for all ages;
- Raffle for magic books (donated by babybookbaskets.com);
- Children's activities;
- Art exhibits.

Chat with old friends and make some new ones as you gather with your neighbors in our beautiful new library building.

Win a book!

Stop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole time. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you all.

— Monterey Library Strategic Planning Committee

"Getting to Know Three Poets" Discussions with Don Barkin

Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, & Wallace Stevens.

Anyone who has some interest in reading poetry and getting more pleasure from it may be interested in this opportunity. "Getting to Know Three Poets," a monthly discussion series run by Monterey writer Don Barkin, will meet at the town library, from 10 to 11 a.m., on three Saturdays: March 4, April 1, and May 13.

You may choose to attend one, two, or all three sessions. If you send Don your email address, you can receive electronic copies of the poems. Each session will focus on the work of one poet whom you may have heard of and want to know more about. If you haven't read the poems, you can still get a copy when you arrive and take part in the discussion. Don will offer some background on the poets and the poets who inspired them.

Don's email address is barkindon@gmail.com.

Adults, aged sixteen or above, are welcome. The meetings are free under the sponsorship of your local cultural council.

— Don Barkin

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Finance Committee Town Budgeting Process

Monterey, along with other towns and municipalities around the country and our state are engaged in an annual budgeting process. This is the time of year when our departments, boards, and commissions look at their operations, determine needs, set priorities, and estimate expenses.

As a member of the Monterey Finance Committee, this is an update on our process this year. We are working to prepare our budget for the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 6 for our fiscal year starting July 1, 2023.

We Are On Schedule

We're right on time. Budgeting is a lengthy process, starting with a review of what happened last year both in spending and revenue collection. Next, we collect information from those providing the operations and services, seeking stakeholder input, including boards, staff, and trusted advisors; researching policy changes; and finding comparable data and facts. This all leads up to a proposed budget, including expenditure and revenue projections, discussions and review of the items included, and the finance committee and select board presenting a proposed budget at our annual town meeting.

The members of the finance committee have worked together to set criteria to evaluate all of the funding proposals being considered. There are three main categories that we use to evaluate proposed expenditures.

Both capital and operating are discussed through these three lenses. Are they:

Fiscally Prudent?

This is our ability to sustain smooth monetary operations and long-standing fiscal conditions.

- Public Safety and Health
- Legal Requirements and Mandates
- Budgetary Constraints

Administratively Efficient?

Includes considerations for making our operations smoother and more effective to meet our operational needs.

- Infrastructure Needs
- Efficiency of Services
- Personnel Impact
- Administrative Needs

What are the Community Impacts?

- Quantity of Use
- Public Support
- Service Impact

The Budget Cycle

There are four major steps we follow in Monterey to project our expenditures, produce our town budget, approve our budget, and then track expenditures.

- Budget Preparation: October through April.
- Budget Authorization: Annual town meeting, 1st Saturday in May, with information mailed three weeks prior.
- Budget Execution Year: July 1 to June 30.
- Budget Accountability: Throughout the execution year, and then audit after books closed.



How Do We Start?

There are several ways to build a budget. The two major ones are starting from scratch, known as a zero-based budget; or incremental budgeting—taking what you did last year and adding cost-of-living adjustments, commonly known as “COLA,” or other anticipated changes.

Each method has advantages and disadvantages. Given the uncertainties of the last few years due to Covid, creating supply chain issues, spiking cost increases in goods and services, labor shortages, and unanticipated operating circumstances, the finance committee with agreement from the select board has agreed to build a zero-based budget this year.

Zero-Based Budgeting

Zero-based budgeting is a budgeting method that requires all expenses to be justified and approved in each new budget period. This method analyzes each department's



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needs and costs by starting from a “zero base” at the beginning of every budget period. Zero-based budgeting requires every item in our budget to be justified, including quantity needed, price, usage, and other factors that influence the cost.

Here is a link to an article that goes more in-depth: investopedia.com, search for “zbb.”

Incremental Budgeting

The opposite of a zero-based budget is an incremental budget. This is the practice that Monterey has been doing for years. Baseline budgeting uses the prior year’s spending levels as the “baseline” for establishing future funding needs and adjusts for future needs by adding a percentage increase for inflation and usage factors. Given severe price increases in staples such as gas and electric services, as well as labor rates, this budgeting method ignores significant variables issues such as we have seen this year in our gasoline and diesel expenses and usages that were severely under-budgeted this year.

Here is a link to an article for more information: datarails.com/finance-glossary/incremental-budgeting/.

What Is the Impact of This Change?

Slow and steady. Some expenses are variable and hard to predict. Some expenses are mandated and won’t change much under this plan. What is different is that each line item in each part of the budget that is proposed to be spent will be justified. Questions such as:

- Was the procurement process utilized?
- Is this efficient? How do other towns get it done?”
- What are the ideas that could improve operations and lower costs?

This is not about change—it’s about a process of reviewing our baseline and understanding our costs to make the best-informed decisions. This new process takes time to implement and learn, and we are all learning together. The finance committee offers assistance to all departments and budget users that need assistance in building a zero-based budget.

What’s Next?

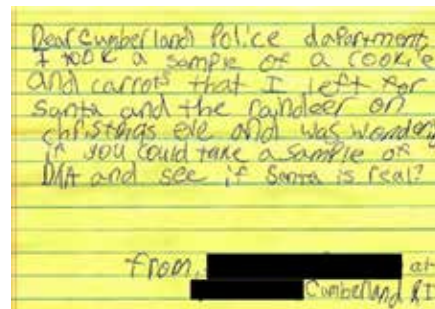
The select board, finance committee, department heads, town administrator, accountant, and treasurer will continue to gather data and analyze trends to accurately as possible predict next year’s expenses.

If you have any questions, come to a finance committee meeting, which are scheduled for most Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Check the town website for times and online links. Contact the finance committee through the link on montereyma.gov. Go to “Boards & Commissions,” select “Finance Committee,” and there’s an email link right at the top. You can also find the “Agendas” and “Minutes” on the finance committee page.

Stay Tuned for More Updates.

It turns out “it does take the whole village.” In our circumstances, “it,” the budget, takes the whole town to prepare.

— Ilene Marcus,
for the finance committee



Modern World Department

“This young lady obviously has a keen sense for truth and the investigative process and did a tremendous job packaging her evidence for submission,” the Cumberland, RI police chief Matthew J. Benson said in the release. “We will do our very best to provide answers for her.”

The police department told the young girl that there was, “some already uncovered evidence in support of Santa Claus’ presence in her neighborhood” on Christmas Eve, including a photo of what appeared to be a deer with antlers. The Cumberland Police Department said it is awaiting test results, and asked residents to stay tuned for more information.

—Published on npr.org

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Pantry Pickup News

What is particularly gratifying to the more than thirty Monterey volunteers who staff the Monterey Pantry PickUp and make it happen week after week is how broadly supportive of the pantry's mission our Monterey residents have become. Without that broad support from within and across our community, the pantry's work would be impossible.

Yes, it takes a village, and we are!

This month the pantry team wishes to thank, by name, the farms and businesses that have contributed significant sums and/or food to the pantry over the past year—to each of whom we extend our heartfelt thanks.

Farm contributors include: Abode Farm, Gould Farm, Three Sisters Farm, and Trumpet Hill Farm and, indirectly, Berkshire Bounty and Berkshire Grown—the latter two being not-for-profits that make large purchases of fresh farm produce from Berkshire County farmers and distribute that produce to food insecure individuals/families through organizations like ours.

Local garden producers include Hannah Bracken, David Brown, Anna Duryea, and Kevin West.

Contributing business organizations include: Adams Community Bank, Bola Granola, Butternut Ski, and Price Chopper.

How did these contributions arise? In most cases, one individual Monterey resident took it upon her/himself to speak to one senior person at the farm or business, and that's all it took. (After all, who's going to say "no?") Any Monterey resident who has a friend or acquaintance who owns or works at a Berkshire County farm or business can accomplish the same result: "Seek and ye shall find. Ask and it shall be given." There's an invention from 1875 that works wonders in these situations—the telephone. Your voice has real power.

Large business organizations often have applications to be filled out and/or other requirements to be met before a donation will be made. If you know a senior person at such an organization and are willing to reach out to that person, contact the Pantry first because we can help filling out applications and providing

proof of requirements. Call the Pantry at (413) 429-4254 and leave a voicemail with your name, number, and the target organization.

Our food needs this month:

Creamy & crunchy peanut butter (small jars);
Cans or jars of ground coffee (regular & decaf);
Boxes of tea bags;
Boxes containing packets of instant cocoa;
Old-fashioned oatmeal (not instant);
Canned fruit and vegetables.

Remember: All packages, jars, boxes, cans, and containers must be unopened, please, and, as always, check "best by" dates. We cannot use opened or date-expired packages.

Food donations should be left on the table just inside the basement door of the United Church of Christ, directly across from the general store in the center of Monterey.

Financial contributions are always welcome and may be made via the website of the Monterey United Church of Christ (write Pantry Pickup in the notes section), or by check payable to the order of, and mailed to the Church, P.O. Box 182, Monterey 01245 (write Pantry PickUp on the memo line of your check). Thanks to the Church, every dollar of your donation goes directly to the Pantry.

You're probably reading this around Valentine's Day. What better gift for your special Valentine than a Pantry donation in his/her honor? It just doesn't get any better than that!

—Stacy Wallach for the Pantry
Pick Up Team

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
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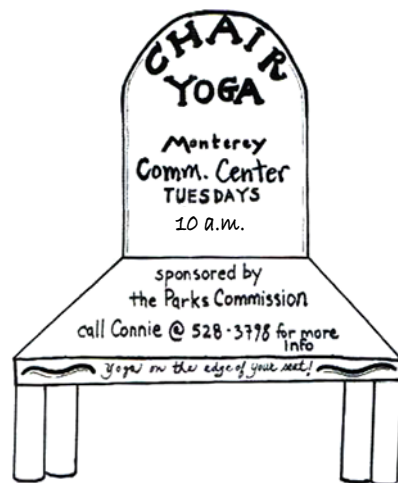


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Monterey Historical Society Ray Ward and His Old Cars

Sally (Ward) Pullen and Leslie (Ward) Paine, two of the daughters of Rev. W. Raymond Ward (minister of the Monterey Church from 1947 to 1956) were excited to see the photo in the January *Monterey News* featuring Ray's old car that was used for filming the opening sequence of the movie "Undercurrent."

Leslie wrote a letter (at right) to the *Monterey News* in response.

Steve and Sally Pullen picked up the story:

At the time of the movie filming, Ray was not yet the owner of the car. It was owned by Arthur "Poke" Barnum who used it on his farm now owned by Wayne and Donna Burkhart. Among other tasks, Barnum used the old car to haul the stones for building the stone house owned by Miss Smith and Miss Lattimore across Fairview Road from the farm.

After Ray Ward's old Suburban was destroyed by the fire at Whitney's garage, Ray needed a "new" car. Steve says that Ray and Poke Barnum came to terms for the ownership of the old "woodie." At the time it was being used as a chicken coop! It had a hand crank to start if the battery wasn't up to it. The Ward girls, Leslie (Paine), Sally (Pullen), and Louise (Henry), rattled around in the back, which had no seat. The vintage, make, and model of the car are open to dispute. Leslie, the oldest, says it was a 1932 Chevy.

When the Monterey Church called Rev. Ward to serve, the compensation offered was not sufficient to provide for a family of five. The town fathers offered Ray the school bus contract. Ray purchased the bus shown in the picture on the front page, taken by himself in the early 1950s in front of the general store. The Center School students shown were taught by Mrs.

Emma E. Heath who had first to eighth graders. Sally attended for eight years.

The students we can tentatively identify are Sally (Ward) Pullen in white dress on left. Behind Sally is possibly Linda (Chamberlin) Thorp, the taller brunette is Sandra (McDarby) Preston, the other girls aren't recognized. The boys are, left to right, Bill Gilchrist, Rufus Barnum, and Walter Parks. Any better opinions about the identities are welcomed!

In the summer, Ray hired himself and the bus out to the summer camps. Many former campers still living or connected to Monterey remember Ray's bus. He also used the bus to transport the church youth group on many outings and local Christmas caroling. In addition, he would provide transportation to anyone wanting to attend Searles High School basketball games (home and away games.)

After he accepted the call to a full-time pastorate in Monroe, Connecticut, he converted the bus into a camper and drove the family to visit his sister in San Diego, CA, but that's another whole story!

Thank you Steve, Sally, and Leslie for the great stories and wonderful memories.

—Rob Hoogs, Monterey
Historical Society

Letters

Memories of Monterey's Village

Getting the *Monterey News* always brings memories of growing up in Monterey! In the January issue, on page 22, is a picture of the center in 1946. I do not remember the filming of the movie, but that "woodie" in front of the church belonged to my dad, Ray Ward. We acquired it, a 1932 Chevy, from the Barnums when our Suburban burned in the fire at Ray Whitney's garage in Hartsville. I understand that it hauled all the stones for the Lattimore house which is left just beyond Barnum's farm. We also lived in the Bidwell House on Beartown Mountain Road for a few years. It was then owned by Herbert Smith.

If you look at the picture with a magnifying glass, you can see the trees growing through the roof of the Tryon House (Nina and Della) to the left of the church.

—Leslie Ward Paine
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Monterey Community Center

Winterfest 2023

Sunday, February 19, 1 to 3 pm.

Just a year ago we kicked off Monterey's 175th Anniversary with our first Winterfest. Whether we have snow or not, we are determined to bring you our second annual Winterfest this month.

It will include Andrew Shaw, our fabulous DJ, playing tunes to dance to, crafts for the kids, and plenty of food and drink—chili, hot dogs, corn muffins, cookies, marshmallows to roast, and desert crepes. There will also be apple cider, coffee, and hot cocoa.

Josie's homemade dessert crepes with various toppings are new this year. Tom Ryan will be back with a fire pit, and if Mother Nature provides the snow, we will have sledding.

Join in with friends, family, or come solo and meet your neighbor or another new friend. We can celebrate that we will be over half of the way through winter! (Or when winter is officially supposed to happen.) You might spot snow angels, hula hoops, or a wandering photographer.

Bring your lawn chair and/or a sled if you want. Or come anyway, even if you have neither.

This free event is on Sunday, February 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. In case of pouring rain on that day, or a blizzard, we will postpone to Monday, February 20, same time.

Thanks to the parks commission for their help with funding!

Weekly, bi-weekly and monthly activities

Mondays: Simple Meditation—all are welcome. Bring a cushion for comfortable sitting, 3:30 to 4:40 p.m.

Tuesdays: Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.

Tuesdays: Mahjong and Scrabble, 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Wednesday, February 1: Renewable Energy Working Group, at 6 p.m., first Wednesday of the month.

Thursday, February 2: Darn yarners, at 10 a.m., first Thursday of the month.

Thursday, February 16: Wellness check, 2-3 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, with Tritown Health nurses. Checkups include blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels, flu and Covid vaccines.

Alternate Thursdays: Chorus, 4:15 p.m., February 9 and 23.

Alternate Thursdays: Beginning February 2, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Biweekly music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. All skill levels are welcome, instruments and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark Andrews at 2mandrews@gmail.com.

Fridays: Super gentle yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email jamesboneparth76@gmail.com.

Alternate Fridays: Support group for people with diabetes. February 3 and 17, at 11:15 a.m.

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

Alternate Saturdays: Art sessions for painting and drawing with Margaret Buchte. February 11 and 25, 1 to 2:15 p.m. See the MCC website for more information. Please register by emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org, or phoning (413) 528-3600.

Saturdays: Ping pong, 2:30 p.m.

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

Special Events:

Sunday, February 19: Winterfest! Good food, music, crafts and more. 1 to 3 p.m.

Saturday, February 11: Backyard Ecology Talk at 11 a.m. See page 13.

Coming up:

Thursday, March 16: Draw Monterey, from 10 a.m. to noon. A morning of sketching, conversation and cookies with Beth Hoffman. Please bring your own art supplies. Register by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

An introduction to the Art of Japanese Calligraphy with Michelle Arnot, date to be determined.

You can find more information on events at our website ccmonterey.org or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator, and Nancy Kleban

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Calling All Musicians

I play a pretty good harmonica, and would like to connect with guitar players and other musicians who would like to meet up for a bi-weekly jam session, at the community center on alternate Thursday nights starting February 2, from 7:30-10. All skill levels are welcome for fun, and a chance to play with others, practice, and improve. If you are interested or would like more information, you can reach out to me, Mark Andrews, at mccjamgroup@gmail.com, so I can get a list together. Singers are welcome as well. Music will be provided via dropbox or bring your own suggestions. Tablets or laptops and music/tablet stands are helpful. I will also cast to the TV at the community center.

Hope to hear from you soon!

—Mark Andrews



Draw Monterey

A morning of sketching, conversation, and cookies! Two still lives will be set up, one simple, one more complex, for you to exercise your drawing skills on. Feel free to ignore the still lives if you rather do something else. Tea, cookies, and good company make it a party!

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the community center. Please bring your own art supplies. Feel free to contact Beth Hoffman at BHAinteriors@gmail.com if you have any questions. To register call (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.



Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic Rescheduled, Relocated

With the mild winter, the natural ice on our lakes and ponds just hasn't developed much. So the tournament has been rescheduled to February 11.

It has also been relocated to Benedict Pond at Beartown State Forest in the hopes that the ice will be better there.

As the time approaches, be sure to check berkshirepondhockeyclassic.com for details.

—Alex Regen

Bidwell House Museum Winter Lecture Series

On the surface it may look like things are quiet at the Bidwell House Museum in mid-winter, but behind the scenes we are working hard to put together some great programs for 2023. Save the date for June 23 to 25 when we host our second weekend-long reenactment event. Those of you who attended the last reenactment in 2021 will remember how much fun it was, so you will definitely want to plan to attend this one which will feature new historical talks, more re-enactors and new battle demonstrations. Details about the event will be shared in the *Monterey News* over the next couple of months.

In the meantime, if you are looking for something interesting to do over these cold winter days, then register for one of our two upcoming Zoom lectures in our series about life in winter. We had a great turn out for our lecture on "Mohican Medicine for the Winter Months" in January.

Coming up on Wednesday, February 15, at 7 p.m., Dennis Picard will present "Ice Harvesting and the Natural Ice Industry in New England." By the end of the nineteenth century, ice harvesting was the ninth largest industry in the United

States, employing tens of thousands of workers in New England alone and producing hundreds of thousands of tons of block ice annually. Picard has been demonstrating the ice harvesting trade for more than twenty-five years at museums and environmental education centers, and it should be a fascinating presentation.

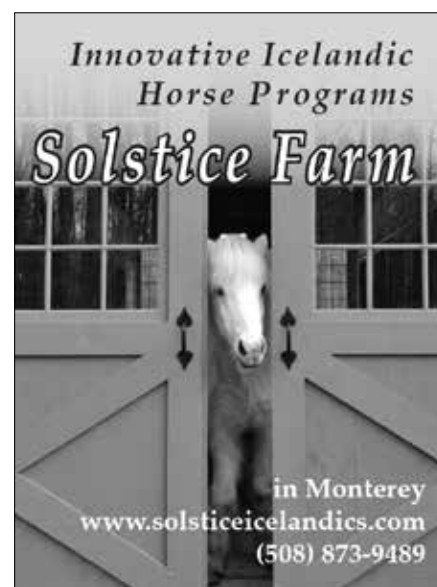
Then on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 p.m., Russ Cohen will present a talk titled "Wild Edibles in the Southern Berkshires." The southern Berkshires are home to over one hundred species of edible wild plants. Many of these species are more nutritious and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Cohen, wild edibles enthusiast and author of the book *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*, will present a slide show covering at least two dozen wild edibles available locally in the springtime. In the late spring Russ will lead a guided foraging walk on the museum grounds. More details on that will follow in a future issue of *Monterey News*.

Both of these winter lectures will be presented via Zoom. Registration is required and can be completed on the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/events. The Zoom details for the event will be sent via email a few days in advance.

Finally, as always, the grounds of the Bidwell House Museum are open every day, dawn until dusk! Hike the trails, take a leisurely walk, cross-country ski or go snow-shoeing; the gardens and grounds are yours to explore.

Until next month,

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



Mt. Everett Senior Luncheon

This past December 9, Mount Everett High School hosted their annual Senior Luncheon. This wonderful event is put on by their culinary arts program, headed by Connie Gott. Mount Everett's National Honor Society students and their teacher representative Andrew Rapport were also there to assist with seating and serving, along with many student volunteers.

Local senior citizens are invited to this annual event from our southern Berkshire communities to partake in a delicious meal and live entertainment. A special invite went out to Southern Berkshire Regional School Districts School Committee members. Several were in attendance, among the eighty-plus community members.

Ms. Gott, who runs the culinary arts program at Mount Everett, was assisted by Odille Carpenter (the current principal, Jesse Carpenter's mother and former culinary arts teacher) and Art Batacchi, a Southern Berkshire School Committee member representing Sheffield. All helped guide our young chefs in producing a succulent four-course meal that included a hot buffet with many delicious choices. Also working hard with his student and others in the dish room, including our food service staff, was Robert Giumarro, our life skills teacher.

The Undermountain Elementary School cafeteria was transformed with beautiful decorations, creating a winter wonderland. A thank you to elementary school principal Charles Miller for letting the students take over for this event. Snowflakes and sparkling streamers crafted by art teachers Kari Giordano and Stephanie Graham, their students, and the Culinary Art Students created a charming atmosphere.

Live entertainment was very festive with seasonal music provided by musical director Courtney English and the Mt. Everett High School band, Alexander Stephan, our choir and the high school chorus director, and Elizabeth Petty, our Undermountain School music teacher, who not only guided our elementary school chorus through a variety of songs, but also the youngest members of our school, the kindergarten students, who charmed us with their little voices.

— Kim Alcantara-Jeffries
Monterey School Representative



Above: The Undermountain Elementary School cafeteria was decorated by the students.
Below: The kindergarten class entertained guests! —Photos by Beth Regulbuto



Above: Student servers Mason Snyder, Alexis Jeffries, and Italia Oates.
At right: Mt. Everett chorus.



Backyard Ecologist Talks Resilient Shorelines and Gorgeous Meadows

Working with, rather than against, the power of Mother Nature makes abundant sense. But it's an approach that's often not taken.

"In traditional landscape design, we're often trying to modify the environment for the plants that we want to grow," said Annie White, PhD., in a talk presented at November's Rooted in Place symposium, sponsored by the Berkshire Botanical Garden.

Ecological landscaping, she said, flips that. "Let's not modify the environment. Let's accept the constraints that are already in place, and let's put in the plants that are going to thrive under those given conditions. Let's not bring in a whole bunch of new soil. Let's not install permanent irrigation. Let's plant for the site."

A video showing of White's talk will be presented at the next Monterey Native Plants Working Group's Backyard Ecologist talk, Saturday, February 11, at 11 a.m., at the Monterey Library.

White, an ecological landscape designer, brings years of experience to the challenge of creating beautiful, resilient, and sustainable shorelines. For this reason, this talk should be of particular interest to those living on lake or river shores.

In the talk, she describes her journey from growing up with her family's traditional garden center, to research and study in the diverse and contrasting ecosystems of Hawaii and Wisconsin, to returning to her roots in rural Vermont, where her ideas about ecological landscape design are taking root. Her talk describes an "ecosystems approach" to landscaping. An ecosystem, she explains, includes not just communities of flora and fauna on a property, but also soil, geology, hydrology, weather patterns, and, importantly, the needs of the people who use and manage it.

White takes on many challenges: How can we design landscapes in sync with nature? How can we learn from nature and apply those lessons? And how can we restore and repair landscapes? She stressed the extent to which well-designed

shorelines can have a huge impact on water quality. And how working with nature can mean less maintenance and greater resilience.

Her talk uses actual design challenges and solutions from her work along a remote, heavily developed lake near Stowe, VT. to illustrate important landscaping principles.

Saturday March 11, Page Dickey, a celebrated landscape designer and writer—*Gardens in the Spirit of Place* is one of her better-known books—will deliver in person a version of the talk she delivered at the Rooted in Place symposium.

Through dozens of slides, she will introduce us to numerous gardens, including her own, where meadows emerge into the scene in beautiful and often unexpected ways, pointing toward a new aesthetic in restorative landscaping. She agreed to come here from her home in Falls Village, CT because this is an issue "so dear to my heart."

The Backyard Ecologist talks, which are sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group, usually take place on the second Saturday of each month at the community center. But because we are expecting larger turnouts for the next two lectures, the February and March



Annie White, an ecological landscaper and researcher on the relative benefits of true native plants vs. cultivars, will talk about sustainable shoreline gardening at the February 11 Backyard Ecologist talk.

lectures will take place at the library. In April, we plan a very practical workshop at the community center on practical and ecological tips for getting ready for spring.

To RSVP for either or both events, or if you have questions, please email pollinators01245@gmail.com. Registration is not required, but we'd love to know if you plan to come.

—Janet Jensen

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Young Creators

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School News



*Skiing, next to a red mountain
Evie P., age 4, Main Road, BCD student*

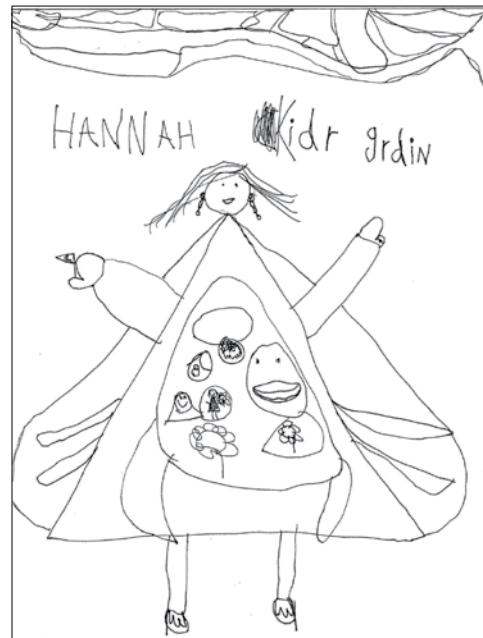


*Kindness (with her friend Hannah)
Gwendolyn E., age 4, Pixley Road, NMC pre-k
(The dots make a rainbow of colors overhead)*

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South Berkshire Kids Playgroup
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Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.

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Hannah M., age 5, Corashire Road, NMC kindergarten

This is a space for young creators of images, poems, stories, or school news.
Elizabeth Evans will collect scans or well-lit photos of kids' work.
Contact Elizabeth via email at evans.elizabethv@gmail.com.
"Young Creators," Emmett J., age 6; "Images Writing School News," Nara J., age 8.



8 Town District Planning Board

Merger Model under Consideration: In April, the 8 Town board voted (16 to 6) to continue to develop the merger model recommended by our research team—merging the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District into a single preK-12 district, maintaining the existing elementary and middle schools as they are, but creating a new merged 9-12 high school to be built on the Great Barrington campus.

Transportation

We received an encouraging report from our outside transportation consultant about the effect any merger would have on student transportation. The two questions we have heard most often are:

“Would most students be spending longer times on the bus?”

“Would the cost of transportation increase significantly with a merger?”

The answer to both questions is “No,” according to our transportation expert, Richard Labrie. With a merger and a move to a common bell schedule, new routes could be designed so student time on the bus would actually decrease for the vast majority of students with only a very modest added cost.

For elementary school and middle school students, their time on the bus will either stay the same or decrease. In addition, with a common bell schedule, the 8 Town district could move to a two-tier system for all kids—as opposed to the single-tier system that operates in the SBRSD. The result—no elementary school child would need to ride a bus with high school students. And, with the addition of a few vehicles and greater use of vans, we could not only reduce the bus time significantly for the vast majority of all students, but we could also reduce

the maximum time on bus for all students (including high school students) from the current one hour to forty-five minutes. The estimated cost of that would be only \$55,000/year, assuming state transportation reimbursement of 80% (state reimbursement this year is over 95%). So, according to our expert, transportation concerns should not be an impediment to the merger.

Governance

Work on an 8 Town Regional School District Agreement/Agreement on Committee Composition: Governance is a critical piece of any new district. Following much thoughtful deliberation, our 8 Town board voted, by a strong majority (18 to 2), for a school committee of eleven, with three members from Great Barrington, two members from Sheffield, and one member each from Alford, New Marlborough, Monterey, Egremont, West Stockbridge, and Stockbridge, with all members elected district-wide at biennial elections (as is the case now in both districts). This composition had solid support from representatives of both districts, and the decision represented a major milestone forward.

Timeline


We are now targeting end of February/early March for a board vote on a recommendation to the select boards of the eight towns, and, if the vote is to recommend merger, having the question put to the voters of the eight towns at the annual town meetings in May or June.

—Lucy Prashker, Chair,
Jake Eberwein, RSDPB Project Manager

New School District Naming


The 8 Town school committee has recently sent out a very short survey for the naming of the proposed new district. They have a tentative name, Southern Berkshire Hills Regional School District. The survey lets you score your preference for this name or provide alternative suggestions.

Go to: surveymonkey.com/r/8towns-name.



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Author Interview with David Abromowitz

David Abromowitz' debut novel, *The Foxtail Legacy*, is a sweeping and deeply moving saga following three generations of a Jewish immigrant family. The book is available at The Bookloft and the libraries in Monterey and Great Barrington.

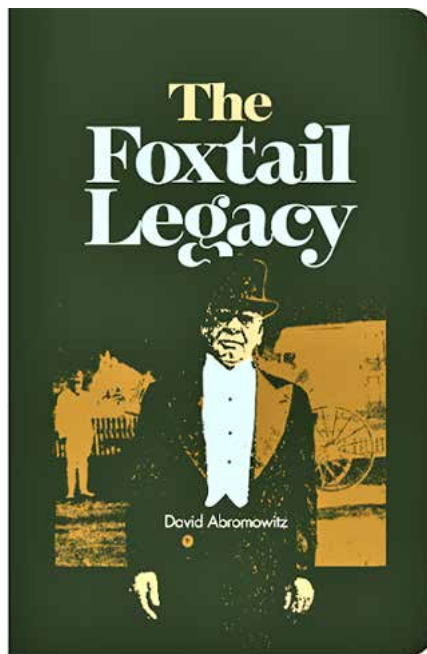
David discussed his book with fellow Monterey resident, Laura Litwin, for the *Monterey News*.

Laura: An enjoyable read. Well-paced, robust story, and compelling characters. Which came to you first, the plot or the characters?

David: This was a story I'd been wanting to tell for a long time. For years I had collected snippets of family lore and knew I wanted to figure out a way to retell them in a workable story arc. "That story should go into the book!" became a long-running mantra of sorts for me and my family.

Laura: The novel follows the family patriarch, Jacob, from his birthplace in a Russian shtetl to a gold mine in South Africa, and eventually to a boardwalk town in New Jersey where he starts a successful business. Is Jacob modeled on a real person?

David: My grandfather loosely had the same major events in his life as Jacob. I think it would be fair to say I used the bones of the narrative of his life and built a larger scaffolding for the book.



Laura: I like the book's cover. I think it really draws in the reader. How did you come to it?

David: In today's publishing world, the author is usually called upon to do more than "just write." I collaborated with a designer. We worked with some old photos I had and came up with the idea of the monopoly man, front and center, with shadowed elements behind him depicting his earlier, simpler life. I'm glad you like it: I really anguished over making it right.

Laura: You've joined a large and distinguished group of lawyers turned novelists. Can you describe your work schedule?



David with his wife, Joan Ruttenberg.

David: I had decided even before Covid that I was going to do the book, but the lockdown allowed me to switch out my commuting time for writing. And then things slowed down even further at work, so writing became much more a matter of discipline than time. Each day after breakfast I would carve out time at the laptop to research or write—or sometimes just stare out the window at the birds. But that daily block of time produced the chunks of writing that finally added up to this book.

Laura: What do you like to read?

David: Maybe surprisingly, I am much more a reader of nonfiction. Switching to fiction was a real change of pace for me.

Laura: And lastly, what brought you to Monterey?

David: Fifteen years ago, we rented the farmhouse at Blue Hill Farm with friends and realized this was an area we loved. We found our place on Stevens Lake and have been here since. I like to run and my wife and I enjoy walking on all the beautiful nature trails. I also do a lot of bird photography. Monterey is a great community.

Laura: I couldn't agree with you more and I can't think of a better way to end an interview in the *Monterey News*.

—Laura Litwin

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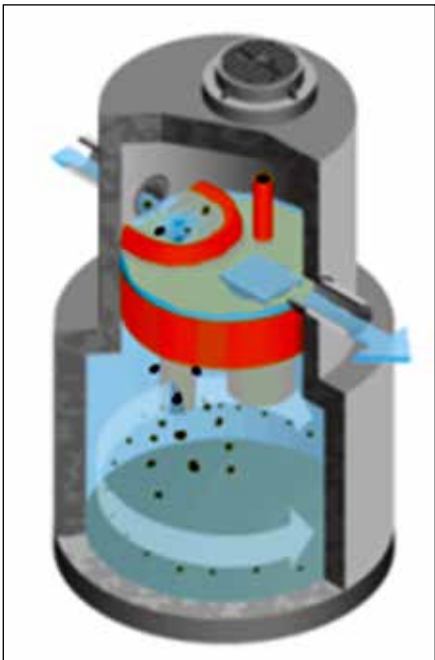
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Hupi Road Stormwater Drainage Project Funded

The Town of Monterey kicked off another road improvement project. With funds from Clean Water Act 319 granted by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the town will address stormwater runoff and poor drainage along a section of Hupi Road between Peppermint Brook and Elephant Rock Road. Design plans will capture stormwater runoff from the road and uphill areas in a series of catch basins connected by closed piping within the area. The catch basins are “deep sump” (see below)and designed deeper than average with a pipe set high along the side. This design allows heavier solids such as gravel, larger sediments, and undissolved road salts to settle to the bottom, for later collection and proper disposal. Catch basins would be connected by a closed drainage system that will pipe stormwater downhill and into an oil and grit separator which removes oils, smaller sediment, sand, and floatables. After exiting this oil and grit separator, stormwater will drain into a final rain garden, where it will infiltrate into the ground. A vegetative bioswale with rock “check dams” will be installed on the uphill side of Hupi Road to help infiltrate some runoff before it reaches the catch basin treatment train.

When combined, the 1,000-foot-long



The section on Hupi Road where the construction will happen.

installation will remove sediment, debris, oils, and other stormwater pollution coming from the landscape around Hupi Road and Mountain Laurel Way. This is particularly important in removing phosphorus, the main nutrient contributing to aquatic invasive plant growth in the lake. Phosphorus is easily transported by sediment, thus reducing sediments runoff here will reduce phosphorus, and hopefully limit invasive plant growth. As a climate resilient strategy, this system will help maintain the dirt road during larger storms expected to hit our region in the future. Finally, improved drainage will decrease the need for sand and salting during the winter and reduce erosion and road washout thereby reducing the need for the highway crew to maintain and repair the gravel road so often.

Over the next few months the town and highway department will be working with Berkshire Regional Planning to bring on an engineer to help finalize design plans and secure permitting. Stay tuned for more project updates! If you have any questions please reach out to Courteny Morehouse at cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org.
 —Courteny Morehouse, Senior Planner
 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Editor’s Note: This project has taken

a while. In 2021 BRPC published five articles in the Monterey News. Hopefully some of this current article feels familiar to the readers. If you’d like to learn more, the list of articles is below. They are available in the library on the desktop computers, or in the Monterey News binders.

From 2021:

- May:“Reducing Pollutants for Lake Garfield,” page 10.
- June:“Lake Garfield Pollution Control, Runoff Project,” page 2.
- July:“Lake Garfield Update Proposed Stormwater Treatment,” page 30.
- August: Rain gardens, “Put Your Garden to Work Cleaning Stormwater,” page 7.
- September: Storm water runoff, “Yard Waste and Water Quality,” page 19.

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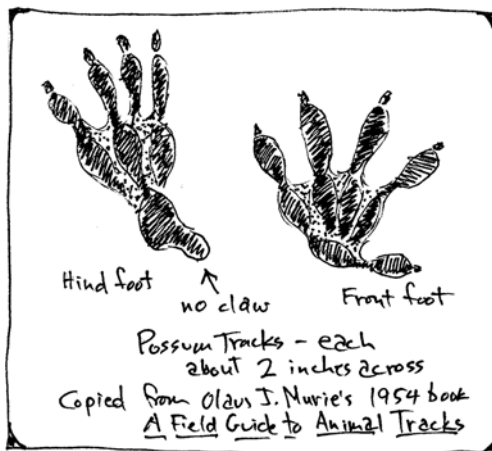
Possums, Marsupials of Monterey

There are plenty of marsupials, in other parts of the world. Some are mice, or rats, some possums like ours. Then there are koalas, wombats, wallabies, and kangaroos. All these creatures look more or less like familiar warm-blooded mammals, like us. But we are placental mammals, which means our babies stay in the womb hooked up to a placenta until they are ready to manage in the outside world. Some of us are more ready than others but given a little direction we can glom onto those mammarys and continue our development. Our eyes open, we develop fur to keep us warm, our ears are small but ready for action.

Little possums are born after only thirteen days' gestation and they are, by our standards, very premature. No eyes or ears. Good little front legs and hands, five working fingers complete with nails, but the hind legs at this point are just little stubs with no toes. These babies are only the size of a pencil eraser and there may be eighteen of them. They emerge from the cloaca of the mother, not at all ready for life in the outside. They immediately head for the pouch.

We hear about a baby in a pouch and probably think of the iconic kangaroo, maybe even Kanga and Roo of the *Winnie the Pooh* books by A.A. Milne. There is Kanga with her youngster in her pouch like a kid in a Snuggly or a Gerry Pack: alert, looking around, talking maybe.

Baby possums emerge with one goal: the fur-lined pouch, or marsupium with its nipples. They have to crawl through their mother's belly fur and find the pouch



opening. Their front feet are built for the job and all their instincts are focused, as they drag themselves along. Possums have coarse guard hairs over a wooly undercoat, and the hands of a teeny baby possum have an automatic clutching response. They make it to the pouch and feel for a nipple. The mother has twelve or sometimes thirteen of these. If there are eighteen babies, some may not even make it to the pouch and fall off to die, but once the nipples are occupied, any more babies than nipples are not going to survive.

These nipples are only the diameter of a pin, but once inside the baby's mouth, they get longer, bigger, and swell. Now the baby can't get loose, couldn't be dislodged. The baby has not got the musculature for nursing, but the mother's mammary glands have muscles which pump milk into the baby. Fortunately, the baby's trachea grows and fits up onto the back part of the nasal passage so milk can't get into the windpipe or lungs.

These babies grow quickly. They stay attached to the teat for a month, force-fed. At two months they are the size of a mouse. Now they are venturing out, hanging onto the mother's back. Before long they will be out on their own.

Our opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*, is the only marsupial found north of the Rio Grande. In Mexico, and Central and South America there are five other species of opossum. All of which look quite a bit like ours.

The name opossum, often shortened to possum, as in Pogo the Possum, is said to come from an Algonquian word *opassom*, meaning white ("op") dog ("asson"). In his *Description of Virginia* (1612), Captain John Smith wrote: "An opossum hath a head like a Swine and a tail like a Rat and is of the bignesse of a Cat." The head of a possum does not seem like that of a swine to me. It has a very long snout and fifty teeth in its mouth, more than any other land mammal. The jaws are long and open very wide.

Possums do not make much sound, though they can hiss if disturbed. They seem ill-equipped for our northern winters, with their naked ears, feet, and tail. When the weather gets very cold, the possum moves into its den to stay warmer, but it does not hibernate. It puts on fat in the fall and has a wide range of food, which really is the reason for its success in these northern lands. Possums eat beetles, bugs, grasshoppers, mushrooms, crickets, moles, worms, snakes, fish, frogs, ants, >

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Knox Gallery in February

James Boneparth's painting exhibition, *GOTTA BE KIDDING!!! An Ode to the Sometimes-Farcical Nature of Modern Art*, opened on Friday, January 27, 2023. The artist was available to answer questions that evening, and he planned for an outdoor reception (since masks are required in the library.)

Boneparth finds that art, itself, is about breaking rules. "Not necessarily the kinds of rules we learn in elementary school, but instead the types of thought patterns we subconsciously possess. Therefore, the deeper part of this work is not only to enjoy an image, but to free our minds."



Cityscape, acrylic on stretched canvas
©James Boneparth

apples, grain, pokeberries, grapes, blueberries, carrion, and suet if folks put this out for the birds.

Besides the Walt Kelly comic strip ("Pogo"), possums are known for "playing possum." Most of us have heard of "flight or fight" as the two responses we might make to danger. But there is another one, "freeze." For a possum, this involves falling over on its side, with its mouth open and tongue lolling out, often saliva dripping out, too. Possums even have a gland under the tail which will give off a smell much like that of a dead animal.

This response is a good one, out in the natural world of predators. It is fatal on the highway of course, which is the place we often see a possum. Still, if we come upon a "dead" possum that looks and smells as if it is done for, we should not take it off and bury it. Even though its heart rate drops and breathing seems to stop, a possum in this tonic immobility or *thanatosis* can snap out of it so quickly that observers can't decide whether this is an unconscious state or really conscious behavior, "playing" possum. So lay that body in the shade and let it rest. Maybe stand back to see what happens, but do not put it in a trash can or early grave.

We are lucky to have our very own marsupials living on the same patch as us. They are members of the Ancient Order of Marsupials with their origins in the Mesozoic era. And they can hang by their tails.

—Bonner McAllester

His work is non-representational; he believes that art is of a spiritual nature, and therefore need not represent "what's real." Its point is to make the viewer think differently. The title *GOTTA BE KIDDING!!!* is meant to alert viewers to the idea that art is about seeing the world in unexpected ways.

Boneparth enjoyed making art from a young age, and pursued figurative work, especially portraiture, during high school (mostly drawing) and during a summer program at RISD, where he pursued painting and other media. He studied further "under the tutelage of a young Eric Aho, who has since gone on to have a fabulous career as a painter," the artist states.

As a student at Hampshire College, Boneparth began to emphasize his writing over visual art-making. He also taught poetry to inner-city elementary school children. He became disappointed with the lackluster response to a book of short stories he had written and began to suffer from writer's block.

After arriving at Gould Farm in Monterey, he noticed some work made at Berkshire Art Center (formerly IS183) by his friends. It was then that James experienced an artistic renaissance; he has spent a few years since studying abstract art with Wednesday Nelen Sorokin, who has mentored him. This exhibit features pieces from his recent work and study.

Boneparth's paintings will be on exhibit through March 11, 2023.



All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). At present, masks are required in the library, but we encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

Christopher J. Tryon & Associates



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Gould Farm Yarn Our Roots

Gould Farm rests on a long and interesting history and occupies a unique place in the landscape of mental health treatment. The farm embodies many of the hallmarks of compassionate and effective treatment from the past, and offers a model for the future that is an antidote to the challenges we face today, with jails and homeless shelters as de facto housing for people with mental illnesses. To gain a better perspective on how and why Gould Farm exists and persists, we offer a quick history lesson starting in the 1700s.

Moral treatment movement

At the end of the 1700s, a physician in France named Phillipe Pinel and a Quaker tradesman and philanthropist from England named William Tuke became champions for more humane and ethical care of people with mental illness.

Pinel used the term “moral treatment” to describe a philosophy that centered the care of those with mental illness around kindness, certain freedoms, and access to recreation, conversation, and light manual labor. Pinel and Tuke’s ideas were a radical departure from the rather brutal approaches to people with mental illness during that time.

Moral treatment became a movement that emphasized the importance of the environment as being the primary therapeutic tool to help people reconnect as participants in everyday life. The desire to create a better environment for those with mental illness led to the creation of the first asylums in the late 1700s.

Dix and Kirkbride in the US

The moral treatment movement quickly found its way to the United States. Dorothea Dix, an advocate, social reformer, and activist on behalf of those with mental illness, is celebrated as someone who shaped the mental health treatment landscape in the early to mid-1800s. Her energetic and devoted life resulted in the opening of thirty psychiatric

facilities in the Northeast and beyond.

Dix pushed for psychiatric hospitals to be spacious, with lots of light, and beautiful grounds. Dix was good friends with another reformer, Thomas Kirkbride. Kirkbride was a physician and superintendent of a psychiatric facility and he pushed for the inclusion of meaningful work in the daily lives of those living at the asylums. Together, Dix and Kirkbride helped to create environments where kindness, welcome, and purpose were part of the daily recovery plan for patients.

Founding of Gould Farm

No doubt influenced by the work of Dix and Kirkbride, social reformers William and Agnes Gould set out in the early 1900s to create a community in western Massachusetts where anyone in need could come, participate in meaningful work, and be a member of a community. Gould Farm was founded in 1913. The Goulds had ties to psychiatrists at hospitals in Boston and New York City, who would send their patients to work on this small therapeutic farm in western Massachusetts from time to time.

Antidote to Today's Challenges

The model has endured—in all its complex simplicity—for over one hundred years. Over the decades Gould Farm has evolved its clinical approaches to keep pace with the best mental health treatments. We have never strayed far from our core values of purpose, belonging, and recovery in a beautiful setting as non-negotiable aspects of recovery of mind, body, and spirit.



Leah McCullough, former volunteer, and Nathan Yapple, work program director, making bagels in the Harvest Barn Bakery.

In the 1920s, asylums took a turn for the worse as they became overcrowded and mismanaged for a host of reasons. Today, they no longer exist as they did in their heyday. Places like Gould Farm and a few other therapeutic communities have managed to remain small and effective, offer financial assistance to families, and have held true to the most inspiring elements of the moral treatment movement.

To learn more about the current state of mental health reform, check out the recently published *Fighting for Recovery*, authored by Gould Farm board chair, Phyllis Vine, PhD.

To learn more about the moral treatment movement, listen to the 99% Invisible podcast (99percentinvisible.org) episode, “The Kirkbride Plan” (forty minutes). Gould Farmers were interviewed as part of this episode.

Open invitation: Want to tour the Farm during maple sugaring season? Email smcmahon@gouldfarm.org for details.

—Stephanie McMahon

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Wild Turkeys Survive in Winter

Wild turkeys do not migrate to avoid the cold weather like many other birds. In fact, they are very well adapted to extremely cold regions like Wisconsin and upstate New York. During a severe blizzard the flock will roost deep in very tall trees whenever possible to shelter themselves from the stormy blast all around them. They can sleep protected by branches of white pines until the storm has calmed down and then in the morning come down to look for food under deep snow.

My illustration of turkeys ascending to roost in mid-January was drawn along Rawson Brook near the goat farm on New Marlboro Road, before we moved here to Fairhaven, MA. The same flock would also climb up in tall oak trees at the Berkshire Fish Hatchery when the weather was threatening. We could hear them beating their wings loudly to get high enough to be out of harm's way from predators like great-horned owls or climbing raccoons.

They can shelter during a storm for many days. As the storm finally blows itself out turkeys come down to earth to scratch through the snow for acorns, crabapples, berries, and hazelnuts. When they can't successfully forage if the snow is too deep, they begin losing fat but can survive, shedding up to half their body weight before starvation becomes a threat. With about five thousand feathers making excellent insulation, they survive deep cold quite well so long as they can find food.

If you are tempted to strew artificial food to help them stick around you may be interfering with mother nature's processes, rather than allowing them to be more self-reliant. Actually, feeding wildlife which is hunted during legal seasons is illegal, in spite of your well-meaning intentions as a volunteer to help wildlife.

The wild turkey has come a long way from being eliminated in Massachusetts since 1844 due to market hunting and loss of habitat. They were re-introduced in the Berkshires in the 1970s from birds in New York state and have survived on their own ever since. Their eyesight is three times better than a human, and they can hear competing males more than a mile away.

Turkeys nearly became our national bird. They lost to the bald eagle by one vote in the US Congress, much to Benjamin Franklin's disappointment. Less than twenty years after being reintroduced to Massachusetts the turkey was named our state's official game bird.

—George B. Emmons

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Here's a Thought Hop, Hop, Hope, Hope

This goes to press a few days after Asian New Year. On that calendar, we've just begun "Rabbit Year" (January 22, 2023–February 4, 2024).

Rabbit Year always hops into place as Tiger Year ends. No surprise, given these animal symbols, that Asian traditions put forward the hope that Rabbit Year will be less tumultuous than the one just passed. It's a hope I can lean into. How about you?

But it's not a year for complacency. It's a time to honor that we have clutter in our heads and that we'll benefit from making space for more quiet inside. It's a year to cultivate, and respond to, a natural awakened awareness. That sounds like something we might start to learn by spending time with a rabbit in its own habitat.

So, imagine a couple of wild rabbits. Watch them hop out from beneath spring and summer's underbrush to nibble on tasty clover. The lunch they find and focus on continues to disappear. Meanwhile, they scan with their eyes, sniff the air, and their long, nearly-translucent ears twitch and turn as they examine the surrounding area. Will they eat their meal in comfort for as long as they'd like, or suddenly leap back into the underbrush on a millisecond's notice? It depends on what their senses tell them is present in the ever-changing here and now.

We can learn good skills from rabbits. Perhaps the most important skill we've lost is one of their greatest: the skill of listening. That means more than hearing the sounds of each other's words. It means slowing down long enough to be in touch with what's actually going on around us, as distinct from what we may be just thinking is going on. It means acknowledging that the people we want, or need, to communicate with are just as real as we are.

We probably all think we know that already. We do, in theory. In practice, well, how are you doing? All your communications top notch? Nobody pushes your buttons? You don't lean on buttons that belong to anyone else? You never feel unheard? Hmm, yeah. Being human interacting with other humans is an interesting experience, isn't it?

Many of us wear shoes and travel on tires when we're outdoors at all. Rabbits plant their footpads and cotton tails on the earth as a matter of course. It only makes sense that, connected with the rest of the natural world, they pick up clues and have skills we've forgotten how to access.

How to develop those skills? One of the clues is already in print here: it requires slowing down. Slowing down to patience, and that requires persistence. But if we're learning from rabbits this year, let's try to spend some time outdoors with them when the weather gets warmer. Let's wait



This is a February photo, but one I took years ago in northern California. It's here because of the red flowers. Red is the traditional color used in Asia at times of celebration. And if you're reading the paper edition of the News, I guess you'll have to use your imagination, trust me on this.

in peace and patience for them to surprise us with their presence.

Here's hoping that many of us cross paths with our local rabbits this year. If we get a chance to watch them interact with each other, we'll probably discover that another of their skills is playfulness. Along with peace and patience, that's a great skill to polish in any calendar year.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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The Berkshire Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists






*Leaves frozen in ice along Diane's Trail.
—Photo by Nancy Manzano*

Extra SNAP Benefits Ending Maximize Your Benefits

During Covid, Massachusetts households have been getting extra Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly “food stamps”) benefits. Due to recent actions by the federal government, these extra payments are ending. The last extra Covid SNAP payment will be on March 2, 2023. Since April 2020, these extra payments (at least \$95) have been put on EBT cards at the beginning of each month.

Starting in April, your household will get only one SNAP payment. That amount is your normal monthly benefit. You can find out your normal amount on DTAConnect.com, or listen to the information about your case by calling the Department of Transitional Assistance (the Department), at (877) 382-2363.

Your SNAP may go up if you tell the Department about these costs:

- Medical costs over \$35 a month for anyone in your household who is 60 or older or who has a disability, or;
- An increase to your rent or mortgage, or;
- Child or disabled adult care costs (if anyone in your household is working, looking for work, or in school); or;
- If your income has gone down.

Learn more at Mass.gov/ExtraCovidSNAP.

Other State Financial Assistance

The MA Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) puts money back on your EBT card when you use SNAP to buy local fruits and vegetables from HIP farm vendors, up to \$40, \$60, or \$80 a month depending on your household size. Learn more about HIP at Mass.gov/HIP.

- Get help with 2022 taxes and any Covid stimulus or Child Tax Credit money you are owed: FindYourFunds.org.
- Rent or mortgage help: Mass.gov/covidhousinghelp or call 2-1-1
- Fuel Assistance help paying for heat: Go to: toapply.org/MassLIHEAP, or call (800) 632-8175.
- Money to help pay for the internet or a computer: GetInternet.gov (English), AccedeAInternet.gov (Spanish).
- If you have children/are pregnant and have no income or low income, you may

be able to get TAFDC (Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children) cash benefits. If you are 65 or older, or disabled with no or very low income, you may be able to get EAEDC (Emergency Aid to the Elderly Disabled and Children) cash benefits. Learn more and apply: DTAConnect.com.

- Community Food Resources: Call or text Project Bread’s FoodSource Hotline (800) 645-8333.

If you have children under age 5, are pregnant or breastfeeding, you may be eligible for the WIC nutrition program: Mass.gov/WIC or call (800) 942-1007.

All K-12 students can get free school meals this school year.

—Monterey Council on Aging

Covid Help

Covid Medications

If you have Covid-19 and have symptoms, a new tele-health service can tell you if the pill Paxlovid is right for you. The pills can be sent to your pharmacy or to your home—for free! For more information, visit mass.gov/CovidTelehealth, or call (833) 273-6330.

Free At-Home Covid Tests

Every US household is eligible for four free at-home Covid test kits. To order online, go to Covidtests.gov. If you need help placing an order call: (800) 232-0233, or TTY (888) 720-7489.

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The Wilds of January

Here in Monterey, we have been lucky to have snow on the ground now and then so we can see the signature tracks and patterns left by our wild neighbors. Mickey Jervas on Swann Road was visited by a bear in the middle of the month and tracks were left. Also, a bird feeder was damaged. There was other damage, too, in the form of an outdoor decorative metal tree with little lights. It is made of metal and was snapped right off its stand, we know not how or by whom. There was no birdseed in this story. Mickey's feeder was visited by a handsome red-bellied woodpecker. There was no breakage.

Our neighbor Wendy Benjamin wrote on January 22, "This morning at around 3 a.m. the dogs started barking. I looked outside and lo and behold a magical bear was walking across the yard." And Bob Carlson, from next door to Wendy, sent in a photograph of bear tracks (below) in his yard that same day.



There was a visitor after dark at Roz Halberstader's place and she sent in a video taken by her houseguest. It shows a grey fox, one of the two kinds of foxes in these parts, but not so wellknown. We see both red foxes and grey foxes here all year round, and these days there are fresh tracks every morning in the snow. This is breeding season for both species and then they will be fixing up their dens. After mating, their gestation period is about fifty days (a bit longer for the grey foxes) and the pups will be born in mid-March.

Grey foxes can climb trees and in some places are known as "tree foxes." Both kinds of foxes are not very big, only eight to ten pounds.

Mark Ferraro sent a wonderful portrait of a red-tailed hawk (below) perched in a tree, intent on a squirrel nearby. Mark writes that taking the photograph disturbed the hawk, so the squirrel got away.



Late in December, Leslie Roth wrote to ask about an unusual appearance. She took a good photograph of a salamander (lower right), one of the species of "mole salamanders." These are not so rare around here, but I am surprised there was one up and about in the winter. We think of them in March when they are often seen crossing the paved roads on damp or rainy nights. At this time, they are making the annual visit back to the water, to their natal ponds or lakes, for courtship and egg-laying. After this, the adults leave the water and go back to their terrestrial habitat. They stay out of sight, under leaves or rotting logs, and this is why they are known collectively as mole salamanders. They do not dig tunnels.

The one in this photograph is a "Jefferson's salamander," and those blue spots are hard to see here. I read more and more about the disturbed timing of emergence, for both plants and animals, thanks to "unseasonable" weather: the climate catastrophe.



Folks around town have been seeing bluebirds all winter and Michael and Maureen Banner took lovely photographs (above, and top left on page 25). They report the bluebirds come to the suet feeder in all sorts of weather. The "great horneds" are speaking up now, writes Steve Snyder, and he has been hearing them over at Gould Farm.

At his place on Beartown Mountain Road, Ed Salsitz spotted an opossum, or possum, one evening by the edge of the yard. See page 18-19 for more on these remarkable marsupial animals. We had two pine siskins at the feeder in mid-January and have not seen them since.

Our dog Rocky got on the trail of a bobcat recently and that wildcat ran off, right down the trail where Joe Baker was





coming along. This cat wanted nothing to do with Joe and veered off the trail and into the woods. Exciting times for all involved, though Joe suspects Rocky never saw the cat, just picked up the scent trail. Joe, who did see the bobcat, says it was half the size of Rocky, and he is about sixty pounds.

Thank you all for your interest in the wilds and for letting us know what you have been seeing and wondering.

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



This photo by Kenn Basler of bear tracks at his house was received near the end of January, just a quarter-mile from the village. This bear is not asleep.

Contributions in January

Thank you for your support!

Kyp & Joe Wasiuk
Lynn & John Seirup
Bill Shein
Alice Roth
Nadine Cohen
Davis Coon & Aicha Woods
Debbie Gangemi
Cynthia Chang & Brian Scanlan
Nancy Johnson
Julia Gittleman & Tom Mendelsohn
Janet & Hillel Maximon
Anonymous

in Tyringham Woods
dry snow sifting and blowing
on bare gray trees

—Laura S Denman

Remembrance

Agnes Marie Mulroy

Agnes Marie Mulroy, of Miami, FL, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Friday, December 30, 2022. She was born to Hannah and Francis Fuchs on June 1, 1930, in the Bronx, NY, where she grew up with her sisters, Lillian and Ann, and her brother Frank. She is survived by her son Thomas (Soccer Tom) Mulroy with his wife Paola, her granddaughter Sabrina of Miami, FL, her grandson John Mulroy with his wife Eloise, and her great-grandson Alexander of Denver, CO, grandson James Mulroy of Houston, TX, her sister Lillian Moore of Croton-on-Hudson, NY, and many extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, her son John Mulroy, her sister Ann Doyle, and her brother Frank Fuchs.

Agnes raised her boys in Spring Valley, NY. In the 1970s, after discovering the beautiful Berkshires while out for a drive one day, she decided to move here. She rented an apartment in Monterey, at Brookbend, and quickly formed many new friendships. She raised her grandson, little John, here. Later, she moved to Heaton Court in Stockbridge, and then to an apartment in Lenox. Six years ago



she moved to Miami to be closer to her son, Tom, and her grandson Little John.

Agnes was a hard worker throughout her life. She had a great passion for justice and set the bar high for those around her to be kind and fair to all. She was courageous, tenacious, witty, wise, and selfless. She will be missed by all who loved her.

A memorial service for Agnes was held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Van Orsdel Kendall Chapel in Miami.

A celebration of Agnes's life will be held here in the Berkshires at a later date.

In place of flowers, Agnes would like family and friends to donate to the charity of their choice in her name.



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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit articles to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone informed about town news and projects.

MontereyMA.gov

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

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Scott Jenssen
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@gmail.com)
(scott@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us."

For all meetings of town public bodies, go to the calendar on the home page. For agendas (with meeting location) and minutes, go to the individual board or commission tab.

Correction

In last month's *Monterey News* about our interim town clerk, Marie Ryan, it was stated that she is currently the town administrator for Stockbridge. She works as TA in West Stockbridge. She is also serving as assistant town clerk in West Stockbridge.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

528-3211

Council on Aging

We had a very well attended lunch on January 15 at Barrington Brewery and it was great to be out as a group and community again. All present enthusiastically agreed that we should try to have monthly lunches, alternating restaurants and potlucks. Our next will be on February 27 at Aegean Breeze. Call me to reserve.

The January wellness clinic once again proved the community is ready to be active again. We had a record turnout to get blood pressure checks and flu and Covid vaccines and another clinic is scheduled for February 16. Details are below, but please note that for February vaccines will not be available.

To reach me to reserve for events, with questions about scheduled events, or suggestions for new ones, please call (413) 528-1443, extension 112, or email me at coaoutreach@montereyma.gov. Phone messages are picked up once daily Monday through Friday.

— Kathryn Roberts
CoA Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

February Events

Monday, February 6: Monthly council board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website.

Wednesday, February 15: Movie night in the Monterey Library at 7 p.m. showing *Nobody's Fool* starring Paul Newman in a late career role as a sixty-year-old man who has avoided adult responsibilities and then finds all of that suddenly changing. Refreshments will be served. Note the change from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Thursday, February 16: Wellness Check continues at the Community Center, 2 to 3 p.m. Tritown Health nurses will check blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen level. No appointment necessary. Please note that for February the flu and Covid vaccines will unfortunately not be available. They will resume in March. For those who are homebound and unable to come to the Community Center, please call Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209 to arrange for vaccines at home.

Wednesday, February 23: Documentary film at 2 p.m. in the community center showing *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom*, a Bhutanese film based on the true story of a classroom teacher in a remote area of Bhutan. The council will serve light refreshments.

Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, February 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Richard Pargament began our official APDA-approved, well attended support group over one year ago. Richard, along with Roberta Weiss, create a kind, compassionate, and informative two hours. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call the CoA at the 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. The council covers \$10 of her fee.

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic when walking, running, or on your bike are available in town hall for walkers and bikers.

Renewing MassHealth Coverage

MassHealth has maintained members' coverage and benefits due to continuous coverage requirements that started during the Covid-19 emergency. They will soon return to their normal renewal process. All MassHealth members will need to renew their health coverage.

If MassHealth has enough information to confirm your eligibility, your coverage will be renewed automatically. If they are not able to confirm your eligibility automatically, they will send a renewal form in a blue envelope to the mailing address you have on file.

What you need to do now:

1. Make sure MassHealth has your most up-to-date address, phone number, and email so you do not miss important information and notices from MassHealth. ➤

Calendar

MCC events listed on page 10.

Thursday, February 2: Bi-weekly music jam, 7:30 to 10 p.m., community center. See page 11.

Saturday, February 11:

Berkshire Pond Hockey Classic, 8:30 to 3, Benedict Pond. Check website (berkshirepondhockeyclassic.com) to see status. See page 11.

Backyard Ecologist Talk, "Resilient Shorelines and Gorgeous Meadows," 11 a.m., library. See page 13.

Thursday, February 11: "Old Roads and Cellar Holes," historical society talk. 7 to 8 p.m., library. See page 4.

Wednesday, February 15:

"Ice Harvesting and Natural Ice Industry in New England," Zoom lecture through Bidwell House, 7 p.m. See page 11.

Movie night, screening *Nobody's Fool*, library, 7 p.m. See page 26.

Thursday, February 16: Wellness check, 2 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 26.

Saturday, February 18: Library open house, 3 to 5 p.m. See page 5.

Sunday, February 19: Winterfest, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Wednesday, February 23: Documentary film, *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom*, 2 p.m. See page 26.

2. Report any household changes. Please continue to report any changes in your household, like a new job, address, changes to your income, disability status, or pregnancy.

3. Update your information and report changes using your MA Login Account at www.mahix.org/individual. Don't have an account? To create one, call MassHealth Customer Service at (844) 365-1841. Find out more about MA Login Accounts Online at mass.gov/masshealthlogin.

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March

Saturday, March 4: "Getting to Know Three Poets," poetry discussion group with Don Barkin, 10 to 11 a.m., library. See page 5.

Saturday, March 11: Backyard Ecologist Talk: "Bringing the Meadow into the Garden," lecture and discussion, library, 11 a.m. See page 13.

Wednesday, March 15: "Wild Edibles in the Southern Berkshires," Zoom lecture, Bidwell House, 7 p.m. See page 11.


Dreaming of a Great Afternoon

- Ice free cleared roads;
- 10" base of packed snow;
- 2-3" of fresh powder on top;
- A small group of friends to ski with;
- A good fire in the firepit;
- Plenty of hot chocolate.

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.

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528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

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.gov

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.

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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. 21; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.*

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