

MONTEREY NEWS

June 2023 Est. 1970
Vol. LIII • Number 6



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



The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners held their monthly meeting in our “multipurpose” room in May. With 351 towns, and only twelve meetings a year, we’re not likely to be hosting them again. See page 3. —Photo by Rosemary McAlister

“The Monterey Free Public Library was opened May 23, 1891, and contains 240 volumes ... a neat catalog has been printed.”
Library Commissioners page 2

“No, this could happen in the individual schools. This vision for a high school does not require a merger to be successful.”
Merging Districts? page 12

The prize my father gave me was not a “thing” at all but the word itself (lagniappe), in a letter he wrote to me ages ago.
Reflections on Father’s Day page 22

Daily beast of life tasks, easier now
Evolving from years of it—
Drink in, that breath
Agile Aging page 17

I’ve been living in “5-Down” for nearly twenty years, since I was in fourth grade, and in “19-Across” as a vegetable and dairy farmer for the last two.
The Crossword Constructor page 13



But the rallying cry by Steve Weisz to vote against the warrant (“Keep the box!”), was met by applause.

2023 Annual Town Meeting page 6

The motion to table the bylaw passed fifty-nine to twelve, more than the required two-thirds.

No Unreasonable Noise Bylaw page 6

Thanks to a generous grant from our Monterey Cultural Council, the MCC will hold three free concerts this summer under the tent showcasing local talent.

Free Summer Concerts page 15

The town of Monterey still has funding available for a few more housing projects and is seeking applicants who would like to benefit from a regional housing rehabilitation grant program made available by the state of Massachusetts.

Housing Rehabilitation Program page 26

Courteny Morehouse, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission senior environmental planner, is offering free stormwater assessments on Monterey private property.
Free Stormwater Assessments page 4

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the lack of factual data available related to the cost of this potential merger to the five SB towns, and the lack of clear direction on the educational vision for the proposed consolidated high school.
Districts Merger page 10

The changing nature of our weather continues to be a challenge but the creative and innovative response to the problems by our highway crew keeps us ahead of the game.

Roads, Bridges, Etc. page 30

Town Elections 2023

90 of 730 registered voters, 12%, turned out for town elections on Tuesday, May 9. Last year 226 of 732 registered voters, 31%, voted. In 2022 39% of registered voters voted.

(U) means “unenrolled” in a party.

Contested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)

Scott Jensen (D) 55

Laura Mensi (R) 29

Uncontested Seats

Board of Assessors (3 year)

Gary Shaw (D) 79

Board of Health (3 years)

John Makuc (R) 85

Bylaw Review Committee (3 years)

Anne Marie Enoch (R) 84

Cemetery Commission (3 years)

David Brown (U) 88

Finance Committee (3 years)

Jeff Zimmerman (D) 78

Finance Committee (1 year)

Ilene Marcus (U). 81

Library Trustee (2) (3 years)

Judith Kaminstein (D) 81

Sam Reggio (D) 76

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc (R) 87

Parks Commission (3 years)

Chris Andrews (U) 76

Planning Board (5 years)

Mort Salomon (D) 77

Select Board (3 years)

Frank Abbott (U) 82

Tree Warden (1 year)*

Myles Pierce (U) 50

Rick Mielke (write-in) 33

* Just prior to elections Myles Pierce indicated to the select board that he would not be serving for the coming year, and has since resigned. The select board will appoint a tree warden.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Parks Commission News

The Monterey Parks Commission has been busy getting ready for the active summer season in Monterey. Kayak racks for residents have been assigned, and all spots are filled. Twenty tons of new sand have been spread at the beach. After a year-long research and development project taken on by Tom Mensi and Gerry Clarin, the plan for the new playground has been approved, and work will begin this fall. Many excited families with young children turned out last Saturday to show their support for the project.

New signage at the town beach shows that parking will be different this year, with priority given to Monterey residents. Your transfer station sticker will be your beach parking sticker. Residents who rent out their property short-term will be able to obtain temporary stickers at the town hall. For details about beach parking and rules (at right), as well as for rules for water vessel and pickle ball court use, go to the parks commission section of the town website (montereyma.gov).

We are looking for someone to fill the beach attendant position this year to help monitor the parking and the large weekend crowds. Lifeguards will begin at the beach on June 24. The ball field at Greene Park is also a high priority for the commission. We are now in the process of putting the work out for bids.

Enjoy summer in Monterey!

—Tracey Brennan

Monterey Parks Commission

Finance Committee Vacancy

I have submitted a letter of resignation from my elected position on the finance committee due to my recent election to the select board. By state law it is permissible to sit on both boards, however I've chosen to focus on the select board work.

The finance position will be posted on the town website and interested individuals will need to fill out a short application. The select board, with input from the finance committee members, will make the final decision. The position is for one year. Ilene Marcus is the finance committee chairperson for the year serving with Jeff Zimmerman who was recently elected to the committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve Monterey.

—Frank Abbott

Town Beach Parking Policy

- Town beach parking, along the Tyringham Road side of the beach is for town residents only.
- Up-to-date town transfer station stickers need to be displayed.
- Compliance will be monitored by the beach attendant.
- Dated permits can be obtained at town hall for guests/renters of town residents. Please check the town administrator's page for hours of office availability.
- Boat trailers and trucks to park in designated area.



Berkshire Greenscapes

Fine Garden Care | (413) 207-1281
Embracing the Native Beauty of the Berkshires

WWW.BERKSHIREGREENSCAPES.COM

ORGANIC LAND CARE
NOFA
organiclandcare.net
ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL

Library Commissioners Come To Monterey

Massachusetts has an impressive history of commitment to public libraries, and when it comes to our towns devoted to their libraries, Monterey stands out as a shining example. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (then known as the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts) was established by the state in 1890 and was the first of its kind in the nation. The MBLC sought to establish equal access to knowledge by providing seed money for books and access to a deep well of knowledge in the form of a board of commissioners appointed by the governor.

In 1890, 103 towns in Massachusetts were without libraries. By 1903, every town had the privilege of a free library. Monterey quickly heeded the call and opened the doors of the Monterey Free Public Library on May 23, 1891 at its original site now occupied by the post office. The MBLC report for that year stated that, "The Monterey Free Public Library was opened May 23, 1891, and contains 240 volumes, of which a neat catalog has been printed." (A full 1891 MBLC Monterey Library description can be found at our library.) Volunteers helped set up the library, and library trustees, then as now, volunteered to oversee library management and development.

Monterey Softball Open Call

All softball players
Join a 50+ year tradition of
pick-up slow pitch softball.
Ages 10 to 80.
Summer Sunday mornings
Greene Park, Monterey
Batting practice at 10
Games begin at 10:30

132 years later, on May 4, 2023, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, which provided us with a generous construction grant in 2018, honored our library by making the trip to Monterey from distant towns to hold their monthly meeting in our multipurpose room and to view the new library space. Also present were commission consultants and members of organizations committed to supporting MA libraries and the printed word. Monterey Library Trustees John Higgins, Mickey Jervas, Cheryl Zellman, and Rebecca Wolin were also in attendance. Monterey Library Director Mark Makuc opened the meeting by speaking about his earliest memories of coming to the library as a child.

During the meeting, MBLC partial construction grants were awarded to several libraries. Among presentations, updates were given on programs that benefit small libraries. Those programs include Small Libraries Pilot Program (construction grants) and Small Libraries in Networks (grants to assist in library network sharing). A significant amount of discussion time was spent on recent book challenges and banning. The number of incidents in Massachusetts has been rising. The commissioners spoke eloquently about these new challenges to intellectual freedom in MA libraries and are reviewing their current policy in this area.

When the meeting ended, Mark Makuc led the commissioners on a tour of our new library. A list of every Monterey Library trustee, librarian, and director, MBLC commissioner, MA library support organization member, Friend of the Monterey Library, and other town individual who, since 1891, has supported our library would be an impressive list indeed. The efforts of so many have culminated in an inviting, modern library space that serves the entire, growing Monterey community. The MBLC visit highlights the success of those efforts. A special thank you is due to our library director, Mark Makuc, whose remarkable skill and deep commitment to our library have set such high standards in library management and volunteerism. We are honored by his service. Thank you to Friends of the Library Carey Vella and Cynthia Makuc and library trustee Mickey Jervas for providing refreshments.

—Colleen Johnson

MA Commissioner's Meeting Our Flexible Space

The visit of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners was a working meeting as explained in Colleen Johnson's writing, but it was also a chance for the commissioners to view the results of the construction grant they had awarded to Monterey. As the smallest library award, they were excited to see the results with this three-year pandemic-delayed visit.

They had serious business discussing the recent increase in book challenges in Massachusetts, and the meeting went over the usual time by quite a bit. The Parkinson's support group usually has the library to itself on Thursday afternoon. This allowed for the commissioners and staff of the MBLC to see the flexible design built into the library to be very useful. Whole shelf units were quickly rolled out of the way. Stacks of chairs on wheels were rolled into the main library and both meetings coexisted until the commissioners finally finished. The Parkinson's group split up at that point and used the regular room for one of the breakouts.

Later that evening the multipurpose room was rearranged yet again. The Monterey Finance Committee set up a meeting to go over the budget for the upcoming town meeting.

The value of spending some time planning for flexible design, combined with a little extra effort in construction, has given the town a resource that can be utilized in many different ways. There is a new policy for building use on our website, along with a building use form to fill out and submit. We're still learning all the ways the town would like to use the building, and it is important to note that the policy adheres to the idea that the Monterey Free Library, as it was called when founded in 1891, is able to be used in a manner consistent with free and equal access to everyone. On May 4 this worked with three very different uses, including two at the same time. And I can't forget to say that the library was open for eight hours of regular library business as well. Let's keep utilizing this building as it was designed!

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

July 29 Book and Plant Sale

The book and plant sale will be held on Saturday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the library. Thousands of books, CDs, and DVDs will be available both indoors and outdoors.

We need book sale volunteers. The sign up sheet will be posted in the library in July. Indulge your inner bookseller by volunteering to help—or volunteer just because you love our library.

See at right for the guidelines on book donations for the annual sale. We ask that you please bring your book donations to the library early, and no later than Saturday, July 22 if you can, so that we may have time to organize all of the donations. The earlier donations are received the easier it will be for our volunteers.

Thank you!

If you aren't already a library "Friend," email us at montereylibrary-friends@gmail.com to get on our Friends of Monterey Library email list to receive book and plant sale updates.

Your donations and adherence to these guidelines are sincerely appreciated. We thank you and look forward to seeing you on July 29.

—Carey Vella

Friends of the Monterey Library

Books must be in good condition:

- No moldy, mildewed or water stained books
- No torn or dirty books
- No rodent-chewed or otherwise damaged books

If you wouldn't want it in your home, it probably shouldn't be passed on for the book sale.

In addition, we do not accept:

- Foreign language books
- Technical or text books
- Videocassettes
- Magazines or puzzles

a white petal drifts
into the lacy shadow
of a dogwood tree

—Laura S. Denman

Free Home Stormwater Assessments

Starting June 5, Courteny Morehouse, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission senior environmental planner, is offering free stormwater assessments on Monterey private property. I will arrange a time to walk the property with the homeowner, talk through stormwater issues and goals, and identify areas for stormwater solutions. Solutions can include rain gardens, infiltration trenches, vegetative buffers, and more.

What can stormwater solutions do for you?

- Improve water quality—reduce pollutants into Lake Garfield and local streams
- Reduce nuisance flooding
- Recharge groundwater
- Provide native habitat
- Reduce issues with geese

I can offer home assessments throughout the summer from June 5 to Labor Day weekend. This program is grant-funded so there is no cost to the homeowner. Sign up through the registration form (Google document) at bit.ly/stormwaterhomeassessment.

For additional questions you may also email me at cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org or call (413) 442-1521, ext. 26.

—Courtney Morehouse

Jerrold N. Raab, DDS PC

*Dentistry For
The Entire Family*

*New Patients
Welcome*

Emergencies Welcome

549 ROUTE 23
MONTEREY

All Phases of Dentistry

528-6520

JARED KELLY
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER
JARED@BROCKMANREALTY.COM
413.954.3544

THE
BROCKMAN
GROUP

CHAPIN FISH
LICENSED ASSOCIATE REALTOR
CHAPIN@BROCKMANREALTY.COM
413.526.4858

*A Local Landmark, Now Backed
by a World-Renowned Brand*

BROCKMAN REAL ESTATE, A COMPANY OF EXCELLENCE FOR
OVER 45 YEARS WITH OVER \$1.5 BILLION IN SALES. JOIN
WILLIAM PITT GOTHERY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY.

BROCKMANREALTY.COM

William Pitt
Gothery **Sotheby's**
International Realty

Career Real Estate Brokerage
304 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01930

WILLIAM PITT GOTHERY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY IS A MEMBER OF THE
Sotheby's International Realty network.

UNTAMED GARDENS

. . .

Specializing in low-maintenance,
native designs that bridge the gap
between gardens and habitat.
Practicing organic landscape
management.

. . .

413-591-0040
www.untamedgardens.com

. . .

**Landscaping for living things
Monterey MA**

Main Road Culvert Replacement Update

As many of you know, the Town of Monterey has been preparing for the replacement of the Main Road/Route 23 culvert as part of its efforts to prepare for climate change related future storms and flooding. We've spoken in the past about the potential flooding of town hall and surrounding properties as the current undersized culvert can hold back water, especially in our future one-hundred-year (1% chance) and the more common twenty-five-year (25% chance) storm intervals. Without upsizing the current culvert, modeling performed during this project predicts flooding of Main Road/Route 23 during bigger storm events made ever more likely due to climate change. To see the inundation maps, check out the climate resiliency section of the Town website here, montereyma.gov/climate-resiliency.

After a year of working with the engineering firm GZA, the project is almost ready with 60% completion on replacement designs that will upsize the current ten-foot culvert with a twenty-five-foot replacement. By the end of May, designs will be complete enough to answer most of the basic questions while still leaving room for comment and for changes.

Being a part of the design process has been like doing a crossword puzzle. It is non-linear. We start off with an idea of the pieces, in this case the conceptual replacement designs, but the design then changes through an iterative process, revised based on new information. In the past year, the engineers have looked extensively at the hydraulic and hydrologic conditions—this is the amount of rain we are expected to receive and then how that rain runoff flows, the force and volume of that flow at the culvert site. They have completed a geotechnical analysis which evaluates subsurface soil, rock, and water conditions to determine the most stable designs for footings, and methods for securing the structure in place as well as the structure alignment to the stream, grade of the structure bottom, and geometry of various structural elements. As part of the geotechnical analysis GZA performed a scour study to examine the

impact different footings/foundations will have on sediment eroding away from the base of the structure. The engineers take this information and then work with a pre-cast concrete company to match their needs with the specifications of different footings, pilings, wing walls, etc.

In addition, the engineers have started to take a deeper look at how to integrate the public water lines including meetings with representatives of Monterey Water Company to discuss continuity of service through construction and develop a list of prioritized water line construction options that will ensure water pressure, prevent freezing, and maintain accessibility of the lines for maintenance as needed. Throughout the process GZA has been considering sequence of construction—possible lane closures, inconveniences during construction, and how to increase pedestrian passage within final design.

A draft design will be presented at the June 13 select board meeting with a site visit of the culvert immediately following. If you're interested in learning more, consider attending! If you miss it, do not fret—there will be more public information sessions this summer. A copy of the design plans will also be posted to Monterey's climate resiliency page. Stay tuned!

—Courteny Morehouse
cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org
Senior Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission




Under new ownership
Mike Mielke

KWIK^{Color} PRINT
INCORPORATED
EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY

- Full Color Digital Printing
- Full Color Envelope Printing
- Large Format Printing
- High Speed Copying
- Laminating
- Inline Bookletmaking
- Perfect Binding
- Folding
- Perforating
- Mailing Services
- Graphic Design Services

35 Bridge Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220
typesetting@kwikprintinc.com
www.kwikprintinc.com



I'm happy to do the small jobs!
(413) 528-9323

CORASHIRE CARPENTRY
and HOME IMPROVEMENT

A Lifetime of Experience - Professional Results

Repairs • Sheds • Coops • Decks • Windows
Doors • Storms • Drywall • Taping • Painting

Monterey, MA — David Brown, Owner HIC #199222

2023 Annual Town Meeting

The town mostly followed Select Board lead, but—it keeps the box!

May 6 marked another successful exercise in direct democracy for Monterey. In the four-hour meeting, attended by eighty or more voters (out of 759 registered), consideration of forty-four town articles was conducted with civility, patience, clarity, and a remarkable degree of consensus.

The wide margins in support of most of the select board's recommendations, as well as the general tenor of the meeting, presented a remarkable contrast to the discord of meetings in the Covid years. Held indoors at the firehouse, the long meeting was more temperate in the thermal sense, as well.

The clicker counting technology, which tallies votes and percentages moments after the voting, allowed Moderator Mark Makuc to expedite consideration of the ten printed pages of the warrant. Yet, Monterey voters halted the seemingly inexorable march of technological progress for the time being: they voted against an electronic voting system for general elections in favor of the time-honored tradition of counting ballots by hand.

After several people, including two of the town's long-time election workers, argued that the current ballot counting system works fine, select board member

Susan Cooper talked about the efficiency and accuracy that electronic vote counting affords. "It takes a lot of time and energy to count ballots," she said, recalling late election nights. "There are a lot of things that have to be done by people. This is not one of them."

But the rallying cry by Steve Weisz to vote against the warrant ("Keep the box!"), was met by applause.

Budget Approved with Little Ado

The entire budget was approved by a vote of 78 to 2 after a few amendments and clarifications, many having to do with the funding arrangements for the private Monterey Fire Company.

Town leaders and officials, including the town counsel, accountant, police and fire chiefs, and finance committee members, were able to explain bookkeeping and legal questions and provide clear answers to all the voter inquiries.

For instance, the decision to lower the grant writing fee from \$10,000 to \$5,000 was questioned, given the fact that the program has been so successful. But according to Susan Cooper, who said she fully supports the grant funding process, last year's allocation was not spent, and the town administrator is also successfully writing grants. Finance committee member Ilene Marcus added that grant writing is a big priority, and the reserve fund could be tapped for that purpose if needed. Reducing the funding to \$5,000

for grant writing was approved by a vote of 35 to 29.

The decision to increase the funding of the Monterey Community Center was approved, after much praise for the role it is playing in the community, and an acknowledgement that the Bally Gally house (the rental house on the same property), whose rental income helps fund MCC activities, needs renovation.

An amended sum of \$12,500 was approved for information technology required to comply with new cybersecurity/insurance requirements. This covers the basics, said select board member Justin Makuc. More money will likely be needed.

The news that requested funds for the transfer station decreased by over \$36,000 was greeted with cheers. Other good news: litigation fees and expenses have been reduced by around \$44,000 with the settlement of the Hume case.

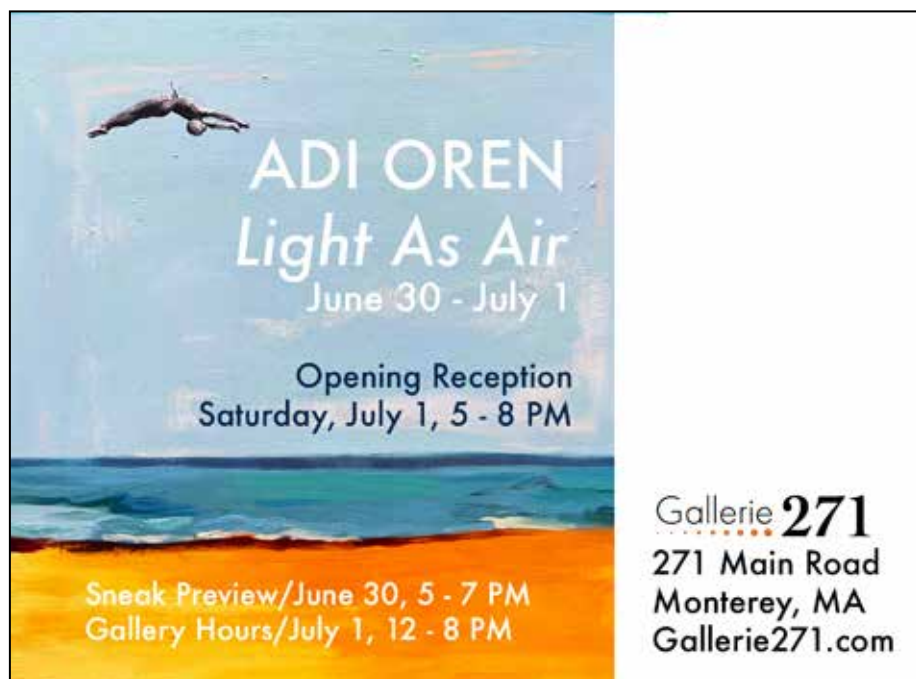
No Unreasonable Noise Bylaw

Article 31: One of the more contentious agenda items was the proposed noise bylaw, which came up for discussion after the meeting had gone on for two-and-a-half hours. Given voter fatigue and some unanswered questions about enforcement, as well as a few strong opposing voices, the article was tabled, after which a significant exodus of voters was noted.

The proposed bylaw specified graduated penalties for unreasonable noise, starting with a warning notice, and rising to \$300 (the maximum allowed under state law) for each offense (which could occur every half-hour if the noise continues). The current state law, in contrast, makes unreasonable noise a criminal offense, explained select board member Justin Makuc. The idea behind the proposed article, he said, was that lesser, civil penalties would make enforcement a more viable option.

The article identified five categories of disturbances, from radios and public address systems, to barking dogs, and noisy motors. Seven categories are excluded, including emergency vehicle sounds and the lawful discharge of firearms.

"This is long overdue, in my opinion," said Kyle Pierce, the first to speak up for the warrant. Others approved of it in principle but wondered if the fines were steep enough.



ADI OREN
Light As Air
June 30 - July 1

Opening Reception
Saturday, July 1, 5 - 8 PM

Sneak Preview/June 30, 5 - 7 PM
Gallery Hours/July 1, 12 - 8 PM

Galerie 271
271 Main Road
Monterey, MA
Galerie271.com

A few were staunchly opposed and called the proposal unreasonable. "I think this is overstepping the bounds of individual liberty," said Tom Mensi. "We have to rely on personal interaction... Don't tell me when I can use my leaf blower."

The motion to table the bylaw passed 59 to 12, more than the required two-thirds.

Article 12: Parks wins— resurfaced baseball diamond, and priority for residents beach parking (line 630).

After some discussion about how enforcement would work, the town agreed to spend \$3,600 on a seasonal, part-time (eighteen hours per week, Friday through Sunday) beach monitor for Lake Garfield.

"It's come to our attention that prime parking spaces are often occupied by out-of-towners," said parks commission member Tom Mensi. Under state law, the lake is considered a "common pond," he said, and the town respects that. But the commission plans to post signs reserving the priority spots along Tyringham Road from the boat ramp to Sylvan Road for residents. The monitor would try to enforce the signs, using town transfer station stickers to identify residents, and to address unruly behavior that is not strictly under the purview of the lifeguards.

Several people doubted it would work. The plan is "admirable but unworkable," said Steve Weiss.

Steve Snyder, a parks commission member, said his group couldn't be certain that it would work. But it has grappled with how to improve the currently "untenable" situation and decided this was worth a try. The question was called, and the beach

monitor expense on the budget passed.

The parks commission also requested \$10,000 to resurface the baseball diamond, which has become a liability issue, according to Michael Germain. "We have a lot of old people playing," he added. Parks commission member Gerry Clarin said that the field at Greene Park "is an important part of Monterey," and has been deteriorating for twenty to twenty-five years, and now requires more than gravel.

New Revenue Sources Approved

Articles—27, 28, and 29, which deal with short-term rentals, passed by substantial margins. This will result in more fees and taxes targeted at a rapidly growing rental market, as Massachusetts state law now allows. Local real estate taxes comprise around four-fifths of the town budget, so these articles represent an important additional revenue stream.

Eighteen of thirty-two towns in Berkshire County have already adopted such measures, with no reported negative impacts, said Ilene Marcus. Collection would be "operationally smooth," said Susan Cooper, with the state handling the actual assessments and transactions, and then writing checks to the town.

Monterey currently has sixty-two units rented out on a short-term basis. The Town of Egremont, with eighty-three such units, pulled in more than \$80,000 from the new tax. And, according to several speakers, homes are being bought up at a rapid pace with the intention of profiting from short-term rentals. Monterey's beauty and amenities make it a target for this kind of economic activity.

Laura Mensi argued that property owners are already bearing a high tax burden and should not be doubly taxed.

But more people spoke in favor of the new funds.

"They [the property owners] are making as much money as they can," said Wendy Germain. "Let's just call it a short-term rental fee."

"If people don't like it, that's their problem," added Karen Shreefter. "We have to take care of our town."

The state specifies that a portion (35%) of the new revenue streams must be earmarked for affordable housing.

Ambulance Service Funded

Article 15: The appropriation of \$51,670 to pay for the town's annual assessment to the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance prompted lively discussion and explanation. Susan Cooper noted that ambulance costs have risen significantly. But the way fees for ambulance service are apportioned—on the basis of real estate assessments—also leaves Monterey shouldering what seems like a disproportionate share of the cost. "Believe me," said Cooper, "I am advocating for us, but right now I don't feel we have an option."

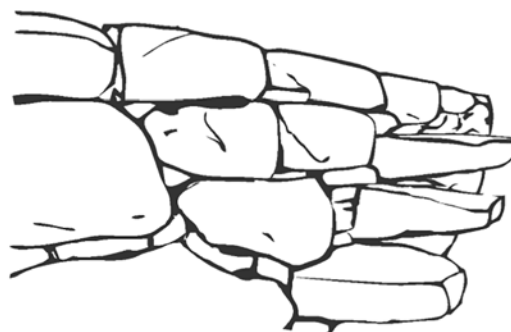
Outgoing select board member Scott Jenssen, citing his five years' experience on ambulance emergency medical team, backed her up. She's "a tiger," he said,

Annual Town Meeting, cont. on page 8

MERCIER STONE

FINE STONE MASONRY
BRICK OVEN
FIREPLACE
HARDSCAPE
RESTORATION

508.560.7844
MERCIERSTONE.COM



Monterey Native Plants Working Group



Be a Backyard Ecologist!

Volunteers needed: Help plant native shrubs and trees at
Bidwell Park

June 24, 10 a.m.

Annual Town Meeting cont. from page 7

referencing her ongoing negotiations, “but lacks real leverage.” “We spent a lot of time on this,” he said. “It could cost a whole lot more if we don’t have coverage. If we had to do this on our own, the cost would be astronomical.” The shared regional ambulance service did respond to seventy-seven emergency calls last year.

Discussion halted when a motion to call the question passed. The appropriation was approved by a vote of 72 to 2.

Police and Fire Department Funds Approved

Article 13: The decision to purchase a new police cruiser was approved after some discussion. Frank Abbott, who was expected to take the open seat on the select board, favored putting off the purchase, given that the cruiser to be replaced still has fewer than sixty thousand miles. He argued for waiting and seeing how electric car technology develops, noting that with three cruisers, the department has some redundancy should maintenance issues arise.

Scott Jenssen spoke in favor of making the purchase now, while we have funds. He raised the specter of enormous budgetary increases next year (“This year you’re looking at half a million dollars, next year we’re looking at \$2 million,” he said.) The police chief added that the cruisers are built to order, so the lead time might be ten months or so.

The town also approved significant raises for police officers. “I’m totally in support of the police department, but I thought the town should get an explanation,” said Jeff Zimmerman, who was expected to be elected to the finance committee.

“The driving force is the current labor shortage,” Frank Abbott explained, adding that the field is quite competitive, exacerbated by new state regulations.

Article 17: After considerable discussion, voters approved \$30,000 for capital improvements for the fire company, on condition that a long-term lease for the building is first agreed upon, which is an insurance requirement, according to the town lawyer. The firehouse itself is owned by the fire company, which leases it to the town. Because the building houses such expensive equipment (owned by the town), with new fire trucks which can cost a million dollars, investing in the building’s upkeep is crucial, Steve Weisz pointed out.

The fire department shares its services with neighboring towns in a mutual aid agreement. “Our trucks will go to other towns, and vice versa,” said Fire Chief Sean Tryon. “There’s no financial component.”

Steve Weisz praised the arrangement. “Sometimes I’m going to need help and sometime I’m going to help you. This is the hallmark of the American way.”

In Other Business...

The following articles and funding allocations passed with little or no discussion.

Articles 4 and 5: bookkeeping matters related to establishing revolving funds in accordance with state law.

Article 6: the consolidation and transfer of previously approved amounts totaling \$15,126 to fund a new shared human resources director.

Articles 7 and 8: funding for the retiree health and life insurance benefits.

Article 9: \$3,000 for the local cultural council.

Article 10: \$3,000 to cover the town’s portion of an “Open Space and Recreation Plan” grant.

Article 14: \$25,000 for new radios for the police department.

Article 16: \$50,000 for needed maintenance and repairs at town hall. This sum represents just a fraction of renovations that will be needed in the longer term, according to Michele Miller, including a new roof.

Article 18: \$129,000 to purchase and outfit a medical rescue sport utility vehicle (and modify and equip the current Med 9 and brush truck). The vote passed by more than the required two-thirds majority. (For more information, see page three of the April *Monterey News*, where Susan Cooper provides many more details of this transaction.)

Article 19: \$52,000 for battery powered hydraulic rescue tools for the fire department.

Article 20: \$6,600 for new pagers for the fire department.

Article 21: \$10,000 to pay for a replacement master stream nozzle for truck 172 (ladder truck) for the fire department.

Article 22: \$50,000 for the non-chemical control of the invasive, aquatic weed Eurasian water-milfoil and the hiring of a lake scientist to help determine the abundance and distribution of Eurasian water-milfoil in Lake Garfield.

Article 23: \$1,863.19 from statewide opioid settlement funds to families for substance use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery, or related activities.

Article 24: A transfer of \$29,854.86 allocated for highway garage siding and painting to the general stabilization account.

Article 25: A transfer of the remaining \$20,000 from Phase I of the “Municipal Vulnerability Grant” to the general stabilization account.

Article 26: Authorizing a new MassWorks Grant of up to \$1 million to be used for safety improvements on Sandisfield Road.

Articles 30: To update the town zoning to require permission to put camp or recreational facilities in the lake shore district (shoreline property around Lake Garfield and the portion of Lake Buel within Monterey) which require special



Ned Wilson · New Marlborough, MA

NABCEP PV Technical Sales # TS-102415-004308

NABCEP PV Installation # PV-041115-004308

413 854 1453

ned.wilson@sunbugsolar.com

www.sunbugsolar.com

permits through the board of appeals (in contrast to the current situation where these uses are permitted by right).

Article 32: To change the wording of the description of the Department of Municipal Inspection to reflect how the department is currently functioning.

Article 33 and 34: Providing legal descriptions of parcels of land and easements to be used for road and bridge improvements for the replacement of the Curtis Road bridge over the Konkapot River.

Article 35 and 36: Authorizing commissions or boards to appoint members to any office or position under their supervision.

Article 37: Announcement of the May 9 election.

—Janet Jensen

Editor's Note: To read the official minutes from town meetings, go to the town website (montereyma.gov), click on the "About" tab, and under "Town Meeting Warrants" are both the warrants and the minutes from each meeting.

Knox Gallery in June

Carol Diehl's *Floating Over You*, from a series of paintings that the artist produced between 2004 and 2008, is on view at Knox Gallery through June 10. As part of our "Artist Discussion" series, supported by the Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Councils, the artist will speak on "Why I Hate Artists' Talks," Thursday, June 8, at 5:30 p.m. Please come hear her take on this provocative topic.

Patricia and Mary Claire Hogan: *Nature and Nurture* will open on Friday, June 16. These Berkshire natives (mother and daughter, respectively) look to the natural world for inspiration in their art. Marie Claire works primarily in marker and colored pencil, creating insects on a larger-than-life scale. Her illustrations act as a microscope to magnify the splendor of the most populous and diverse group of living organisms on our planet. She celebrates the breathtaking beauty of these strange and fascinating creatures, which are so often overlooked because of their size or a misunderstanding of their importance in sustaining all life on earth. Pat prefers to work in watercolor for the illusions created through the transparency and luminescence of the medium. She focuses on the Berkshires, the Maine coast, and Chesapeake Bay landscapes. The artist views each




© Pat Hogan

landscape as unique, and feels that each "provides a stunning connection with the beauty of our earth and wildlife, and the chaos associated with climate change and human disregard for sustaining a healthy planet."

Pat and Marie Claire both exhibit in the tri-state area. Pat is also an accomplished teacher of drawing and painting, most recently at IS183/Berkshire Art Center, for nearly twenty years.


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](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxGallery).

— MaryPaul Yates



Bottomline BUILDERS
Monterey, MA • (413) 528-1260

We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.



PO Box 567
155 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-1260
bottomlinebuilders.com
Scott Jensen
scott@bottomlinebuilders.net
Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864



sandisfield ARTS CENTER
★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

SUN., JUNE 11 ONE-DAY KIDS ART SHOW
Opening reception 1 - 2:30 pm **FREE**

SUN., JUNE 11, 2:30PM
ZOË LEWIS RETURNS!
A fun show for all ages in styles ranging from traditional to funky. **\$15/\$5 Kids (FREE for families of artists participating in the One-Day Kids Art Show.)**

SAT., JUNE 17
9:30 AM WORKSHOP | 2 PM PERFORMANCE
TELLING DAD STORIES
Learn how to tell your dad stories — from having a father to being one. After a bag lunch, share in a performance. **\$10**

JUNE 17 – JULY 9
JOSIE MINER PHOTOGRAPHY
Opening reception 4-6 pm. **FREE**

SAT., JUNE 24, 10 AM
INTRODUCTION TO HANDMADE RUGS
An overview of the art and history of oriental rugs by **John Balayan**. See a demonstration of knotting on a loom. Bring photos of the front and back of your rug for an appraisal. **FREE**

FOR DETAILS VISIT SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

School Districts Merger Abbreviated Terms

In the following commentaries on issues concerning the possible merger of two school districts, there are several entities to keep track of. For the sake of easier reading, these will be referred to more simply, as follows:

- **SB:** Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD). Monterey is one of the five member towns of SB.
- **BH:** Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD), which is based in Great Barrington and includes three towns.
- **8 Towns:** Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPS), which is a working group with three representatives from each of the eight towns. This group has been tasked to study all aspects of a proposed merger between SB and BH.

—Stephen Moore, editor

Commentary on Proposed Districts Merger Lack of Cost Data

Editor's Note: See preceding "Abbreviated Terms."

As a Southern Berkshire (SB) school committee member, representing Monterey, and as a member of the Regional School District Planning Board (8 Towns) serving on both the board and on the finance sub-committee, I am writing to express my serious concerns about the lack of factual data available related to the cost of this potential merger to the five SB towns, and the lack of clear direction on the educational vision for the proposed consolidated high school.

Educational Vision

The main response from those who are pro-merger when challenged about the lack of a comprehensive, innovative plan for the future of education in these eight

towns is something like "bigger is better" or "more students equals more opportunities." My question is—how? I do believe that we need Career/Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) courses for students interested in them. The consultants, who estimate a rather high figure of 20% of students will choose CVTE pathways, haven't provided any detail as to what this proposed merger means for the other 80% of our children. Why is it better to merge than to stay separate, from the lens of educational quality? The information presented to date does not make the case.

8 Towns, in my opinion, has not clearly articulated the educational direction planned for this merger, and it is repeatedly dismissed that the two districts have different approaches or philosophies when it comes to their educational vision. While we at SB, of which Monterey is a member town, encourage our children to excel with advanced placement, honors, and college courses among the many offerings, BH has moved to a proficiency-based system. When asked which one will prevail in the new district, the answer was, "that will be the transitional committee's decision."

The 8 Towns transitional committee is another point of concern. It should be noted that it is not a statutory requirement to have a transition committee (which could run for eighteen months), and the amount of power this appointed body would have is something that should be carefully examined or eliminated from any future agreement. Why not just elect the new school committee members for the eight towns? Again, it feels like we are being asked to vote on our children's future and an educational plan, but with no real facts to base our vote on.

Capital Costs-Future Assessments

I would like to address the cost of the new high school and the future assessments of the eight towns in the event the merger does happen.

As of now, there is not a design or a plan available to us to view of the proposed new building. People need to understand that BH is already accepted into the pipeline for state funding, but they have not yet secured the actual funding, because the project manager, architect, and design plan have not yet been designated—therefore,



**PRECISION
AUTOCRAFT^{INC}**

Perfecting the Art of Collision Repair Since 1979

1939 N. Main St. Sheffield, MA 01257

BBB Accredited Business

Eco-friendly Waterborne Paint

Open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

www.precision-auto.com

precisionautocraft@gmail.com

(413) 528-1457

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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

there is no known cost. How are we to cast a vote that obligates our communities to pay for something without knowing the actual cost? So many different numbers have been floated as to what the SB obligation would be for this new high school.

At first it was stated that there would be no cost to SB, then it went to a 90/10 split, with SB assuming 10% of the build cost, and now it has become a proposed cost of 85%/15%, or more, to SB. Why are we paying for a building we don't need since we already have the Mt. Everett School? One of the main reasons SB wanted to explore a possible merger was to see if it would result in cost savings for the towns. All the proposed scenarios show that this possible merger will be more expensive for the five towns in SB. These numbers do not include SB's existing debt that will be on our books to 2032. 8 Towns is trying to say that there will be so much interest in the CVTE programs that the towns will save money. What they're basing their numbers on is an assumption of interest rather than actual enrollment or facts. What they aren't saying is that the projections they have done are only really valid until 2032, when SB's existing debt is off the books. But as at least one person in the finance sub-committee meeting who "represents" BH quaintly put it, "then Southern Berkshire (the five towns) should pay more."

What Will It Cost?

As someone who comes from a building background, the cost of the construction of this new building is severely underestimated. As of November 2022, the per-square-foot cost of building a school, according to Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), was \$786 per square foot. Nashoba Valley Regional High School, which is building a comprehensive public high school to open in 2028 in the eastern part of our state, anticipated a cost of \$550 per square foot at the start, but with inflation, is facing an increase to approximately \$912 per square foot. The MSBA capped reimbursement at \$393 per square foot. The point of this example is to show that any cost overruns will sit squarely on the shoulders of the community. Nashoba had to come back to the towns in their district to request significantly more money to finance the building that is already underway, and had

been previously approved at a lower cost by these communities. Groton-Dunstable had a similar issue.

Two Votes

8 Towns has a new solution they are now tossing around, to encourage people to vote to merge at special town meetings this fall because of the unknown cost factor potentially being a deal breaker for people. Two votes! 8 Towns acknowledges that the costs should be available in the fall of next year, but they feel that we should not wait to vote on this critical issue. The first vote is to "check the temperature" for merging—with the public using the information provided by the 8 Towns—which is unable to deliver facts regarding improved educational quality, and without actual known costs for the high school building. If it is voted that we merge, then the project will move forward on the design of the school to get an estimated cost anticipated to be done in the fall of 2024. This is when the second vote might happen. If the cost is prohibitive to SB's five towns, they can vote the debt obligation down, and there will be an unwind option in the agreement. The merger would not move forward.

Quagmire?

The problem with that would be that by that point the transition committee would have already been appointed, and we will already be operating as an eight-town merged district. There would be three school committees, including the transitional one, which will have already started to dismantle the existing operating districts. Can you say quagmire? Having the opportunity to unwind the district due to the cost of the building may seem like an acceptable idea, however, as people know, most cost overruns are assessed at the end of the building process, not at the beginning.

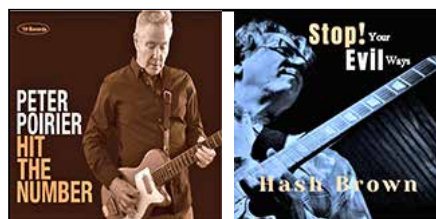
Finally SB has had little representation in the 8 Towns outreach subcommittee meetings. Whether this was due to timing or interest, students, parents, and community members have not attended these events in any significant numbers, with the exception of the recent one held at Mount Everett by the SB school committee, where we had over seventy-five participants in person and via zoom. (See page 12.) The general consensus of the outreach event was confusion on what the 8 Towns is doing,

concerns that SB is not being heard, and the key question of why we should give up our school and community for something we really do not want or need.

As a parent, school representative, and taxpayer, I am extremely concerned that our voices are not being heard. Certain facts that are being put out there concerning the merger are inaccurate, and finally, the lack of really accurate data, for me, makes it impossible to cast my vote for the merger if this comes to a special town meeting in September.

—Kim Alcantara

Monterey School Representative



Free Concert
Peter Poirier & Hash
Brown with their fabulous
band. A night of rocking'
1950s style blues.

Tuesday, June 27
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Monterey Church
449 Main Road

Peterpoirier.bandcamp.com
Hashbrownblues.bandcamp.com

Sponsored by the Monterey
Council on Aging

Getting the Monterey News

Pick up in several locations in town.

(See the list at the top of page 1.)

Have it mailed free of charge.

Receive it via email.

The *News* has been financed by
voluntary contributions for over
fifty years without a subscription.

Contact the *News* at
MontereyNews9@gmail.com.

Questions about Merging School Districts

Editor's Note: See preceding "Abbreviated Terms" on page 10.

Over the past few years the SB committee has endeavored to involve the SB community in decision-making for the district. To that end the committee has instituted regular invitations to gather and discuss issues of concern in what it called "community conversations." This was especially helpful during the pandemic when there were many issues. On May 23 the SB committee hosted a community conversation that was attended by forty-five people in person and twenty-three via Zoom. The topic, on the work on school design by consultants Michele Phillips and Matt Pilarski who were contracted by 8 Towns, was clearly of interest.

The consultants were asked to help design an educational vision for high school that matches the desires of our communities. It should be noted that this was separate from the 8 Town's statutory charge which is to consider the educational impacts of a merger. The 8 Towns educational quality subcommittee has been working on the pros and cons of this for over two years. The vision and design work is a step required of the BH district in its process to gain state approval for funding of a new high school. It would also be required should the eight towns vote to merge districts with the two high schools combining.

During their ninety-minute presentation the Phillips and Pilarski explained that they were tasked to find out what kind of high school education our communities envision for our youth. Input from various stakeholders was gathered over a six-month period at numerous focus groups which they facilitated with teachers, students, and community members at various venues to collect their ideas. They explained that they did their best to include as many people as possible but, due to challenges and conflicts, they were only able to connect with one hundred people. The input from these groups was synthesized into a statement of "Design Priorities" which was explained to the SB

school committee and the people who attended. The ideal high school would help students develop twenty-first century skills and have them become lifelong learners interested in the local community, civic engagement, global affairs, and financial literacy.

Using a powerpoint presentation, available at the 8town.org website, they outlined the four priorities they identified:

- Project-based Learning would be the norm with new methods of instruction.
- Postsecondary Choices would be explored so each child can make informed choices about life after high school.
- Personalized Learning Support would provide for the needs of each individual child.
- Enrichment Experiences that promote identity development and school culture through opportunities outside of the classroom."

It was interesting to note that these four areas are already embedded in the "Strategy for District Improvement" at SB which guides all aspects of work to improve student outcomes. When SB superintendent Beth Regulbuto arrived six years ago a visioning process occurred and these priorities were identified. Work since has included revamping curricular materials, professional development for teachers, increasing supports for students, more after-school offerings, and reconsidering career education. Also, the Mount Everett Early College with Bard College at Simon's Rock program was opened in September 2022. Many in the audience were clearly unaware of the progress that had been made.

Do the Districts Need to Merge?

While the audience enthusiasm for the ideas was clear, during question and answer period the consultants were asked to comment on a few other issues.

Asked whether to have this kind of high school the two districts needed to merge, they answered, "No, this could happen in the individual schools. This vision for a high school does not require a merger to be successful." When asked about the small sample size they responded, "This is only a beginning point. Many more voices need to be heard to build on this. School

change is a very long process taking several years before this becomes part of a real school." There was a question on research supporting claims that students improve with these approaches, to which the answer was, "We are researchers or scientists. Although we cannot say this is a proven process to success there are many school success models who used this design process." When one questioner was curious about why lower grades were not included in the presentation they responded that this was not part of their charge but likely to come later in the change process.

8 Towns Committee Progress

Since 8 Towns chair Lucy Prashker and project manager Jake Eberwein were present at the event, it was decided to open the last part of the evening to other questions about the progress of the 8 Towns study. Ms. Prashker spoke about work on the regional merger agreement that they hope will be approved by the full 8 Towns committee by the end of June. She said the 8 Towns committee hopes that the towns will call special town meetings in the fall for a vote on whether or not to approve it. If there is approval the Regional Transitional School Committee described in the agreement will be appointed for up to eighteen months. They will have decision-making powers such as the choice of a superintendent, among many others. During this eighteen-month period the other two districts would continue to operate their schools. In order to finance this work, the 8 Towns committee is working with state legislators to budget for \$250,000 to fund this work.

Kim Alcantara, Monterey school representative, asked, "Why are the towns being asked to vote in the fall when the costs of the new school building will not be known for many months and the changes that the interim school committee might make are unknown?" In regard to the costs, Ms. Prashker responded that they intend to add a way to unwind a "yes" vote on the regional agreement by putting in language that says if six of the eight towns vote down the bond issue for the new high school construction then the regional agreement is voided.

Mr. Eberwein took on the question of whether there was evidence that the

merger would improve educational quality. He referred to the research on this issue that the Hanover Research Group, conducted for 8 Towns, which found that there was no compelling evidence available in the merged districts they studied that student achievement rose. Some had slight improvements for some students and others showed declines for some and not for others. He went on to say that the definition of educational quality is a topic debated among economists and educational scholars. Despite this, his consulting team feels that more rigorous and innovative instruction benefits students. He referred to new high quality curricular materials outlined in the resource guide "EdReport" which he said school districts should be using. (EdReports offers free reviews of K-12 instructional materials. They offer "evidence-rich, comprehensive information about a program's alignment to the standards and other indicators of quality.") Eberwein seemed unaware that SB teachers and administration have been

using EdReports for four years and have chosen new math and English/language arts curricula under the guidance of director of curriculum and professional development Julie Dolan. Internal testing of the impact of the new math curriculum shows significant improvement. Language arts will be implemented next year.

The experience of being able to ask questions and get answers from those in charge was very satisfying for many in attendance. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. It is likely that there is an appetite for more opportunities like this to discuss the issues of education and its role in the vitality of our communities.

—Jane Burke
New Marlborough

The Crossword Constructor August Miller

I've been living in "5-Down" for nearly twenty years, since I was in fourth grade, and in "19-Across" as a vegetable and dairy farmer for the last two. Constructing crosswords is a hobby that I took up early in 2020, just before the pandemic reached the US, and since then I've made many, many puzzles—mostly for friends and my immediate community, but also for some mainstream outlets such as the *LA Times* (whose crosswords also run in the *Berkshire Eagle*, as you might know) and the *New York Times*. I hope you enjoy this creation, made specially for you, the readers of the "19-Across News."

—August Miller

Letters

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

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



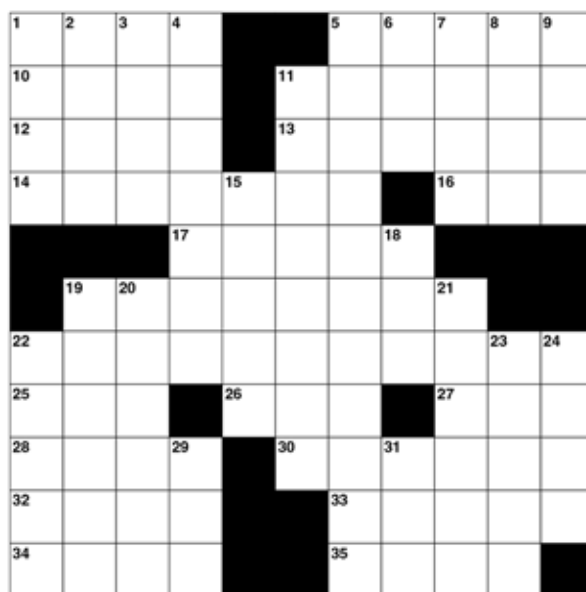
"Where Am I?"

ACROSS

- 1 Word before bro or row
- 5 Sounds from a happy dog
- 10 Apple's partially eaten apple, e.g.
- 11 This stays between us
- 12 Open a crack
- 13 University in Manhattan, Kansas, informally
- 14 "No regrets!"
- 16 Drink like a dog, or where a little dog might curl up for a nap
- 17 Exposed
- 19 You are here
- 22 You are here
- 25 Muscles strengthened in Boat Pose, for short
- 26 "It's a thinker, alright ..."
- 27 Card game with unspoken rules
- 28 What Great Barrington might feel like, compared to 19-Across
- 30 Fish that features in the mythologies of many indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest
- 32 Soothing lotion additive
- 33 Potentially worrisome note to receive from a higher-up
- 34 Had a good cry
- 35 Apple's voice assistant

DOWN

- 1 Source of aggravation for a perfectionist
- 15 Home for an outdoor pet rabbit
- 2 Color of a matador's cape, in Spanish
- 3 Vegan gelatin substitute
- 4 Mousse-like Italian dessert
- 5 You are here
- 6 Mo. of peak foliage in 5-Down
- 7 ___ tradition
- 8 Cheese used to make spanakopita
- 9 Escalator increment
- 11 Squads that might train at Butternut or Berkshire East
- 15 Home for an outdoor pet rabbit
- 18 Ctrl+Alt+___ (PC key combo)
- 19 Many an Alexander Calder sculpture
- 20 "Please, you're too much!"
- 21 Talk and talk and talk
- 22 Parrot with vibrant plumage and a long tail
- 23 Japanese tennis star Osaka
- 24 Fully cooked
- 29 "Are we there ___?"
- 31 Necklace strung with flowers



© 2023

Solution on page (number of an east-west route through 19-Across)

Monterey Community Center Calendar

Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly activities

Mondays: Simple meditation, all are welcome, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

Monday, June 12: Supper club, 6 to 8 p.m., under the tent. Second Monday of the month, June through September. See page 15.

Monday, June 26: Cookbook Club Reheats! 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. See the article to the right.

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

Tuesdays: Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Wednesday, June 28: Council on aging documentary movie, at 2 p.m. Showing *Fabulous Fungi*. See page 18. Fourth Wednesday of the month.

Wednesdays: Tai chi with David Crowe, at 10 a.m. \$30 fee for the month.

Thursday, June 1: Darn yarners, at 10 a.m. First Thursday of the month.

Thursday, June 15: Wellness Check, 2 to 3 p.m. Third Thursday of the month. With Tritown Health nurses. Checkups include blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels. No charge for Monterey residents, no appointment needed.

Alternate Thursdays: Chorus, June 8 and 22, at 4:15 p.m. On June 22 the chorus will hold a concert in the firehouse pavilion. See page 25.

Alternate Thursdays: Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. First, third, and fifth (if there is one) Thursdays, June 1, 15, and 29, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments, and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark Andrews at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

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

Alternate Thursdays: Transformational breathwork, June 30, at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

Special Events:

Sunday, June 25: Allan Dean concert, 2 to 4 p.m. See page 15.

Thursday, June 15: Yoga Nidra and sound healing, 5 p.m. Cost \$20. To register contact nancyamonk@gmail.com.

Coming up:

"Living Clutter Free," Friday, July 28, at 4 p.m. with Nancy Deutsch.

Herbalist Angela Highsmith, back by popular demand, on Sunday, July 9, at 1 p.m., focus on infused oils and vinegars.

Two more free summer concerts: Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod on Sunday, July 23, 2 to 4 p.m., Peter Poirier on Sunday, August 20, 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Cookbook Club Reheats

The Monterey Cookbook Club is starting up again on Monday, June 26 at the Monterey Community Center. Timing for the event will be 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Since our space is limited registration is required. Please register by sending an email to WendyGJ@gmail.com. The first twelve registrants will be included. We are hopeful we won't need to turn anyone away.

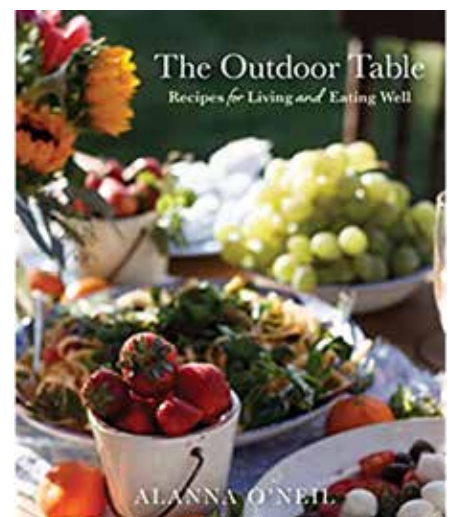
How it Works:

For this first return month, Susan Johnson and I have chosen a picnic theme with the cookbook, *The Outdoor Table, Recipes for Living and Eating Well*. The cookbook (below) will be on display at the library prior to our meeting and each participant should go to the library to peruse the recipes at your leisure. There will be a couple of extra copies of the cookbook that can be taken out but one will always be there. When a recipe looks deliciously interesting to you, make a copy of the recipe to take home and mark the recipe in the cookbook with a sticky note with your name on it and return it to the counter.

On the day of our lunch meeting, bring the new dish and we will all share them and discuss our thoughts on the recipes. Please follow the recipe as in the book. Since there is no kitchen at the community center, all the dishes should be ready to eat when you arrive. We will all need to bring our own place setting, plate, bowl, cup, utensils, as well as a serving utensil for your new dish.

We look forward to having lunch together and tasting the new recipes.

—Wendy Jensen and Susan Johnson



Monterey Community Center Free Summer Concert Series

Thanks to a generous grant from our Monterey Cultural Council, the MCC will hold three free concerts this summer under the tent showcasing local talent.

The first concert will be Sunday, June 25, at 2 p.m., with Allan Dean. Allan (trumpet) will be playing jazz with renowned musicians John Myers (guitar) and Pete Toigo (bass guitar and double bass). Bring your lawn chair and your picnic and spend some time with neighbors listening to great live music.

Allan Dean is Professor Emeritus of Trumpet at the Yale School of Music. He performed with the New York Brass Quintet for eighteen years and the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble for ten years while active in the New York concert scene and in the recording studios. He performs and teaches each summer at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival in Norfolk, CT.

He can be heard playing both modern trumpet and early brass on over eighty recordings for major record labels.

John Myers plays jazz, Western classical, and other styles of music on guitar, and has composed many pieces, primarily in the jazz idiom. His CD, *Look In*, features his original works and guitar improvisations. He directs the jazz program for Bard College at Simon's Rock.

Pete Toigo, a native of Columbia County, NY, has been active as a bassist for four decades. He's been named "Best Jazz Bassist" by *Metroland Magazine* and performed on recordings listed in the *Penguin Guide to Jazz*.

Additional Upcoming Concerts:

July 23, at 2 p.m.: Axelrod Martin Duo, Karen Axelrod and Eric Martin.

August 20, at 2 p.m.: The Peter Poirier Band.

—Wendy Jensen
Monterey Community Center

Monday Night Supper Club

Monday Night Supper Club Monterey is a new community potluck at the Monterey Community Center. Our dinners will occur the second Monday of each month from June through September. The meals will be based around a central theme, so stay up-to-date by joining and following the group on Facebook (search for Monday Night Supper Club Monterey). You'll need an invite to the group, so please send Hanna Jensen (the admin) a message for an invite.

Our first dinner is planned for June 12, and the theme is "Start of the Season." We live in a region that provides an abundance of fruit, vegetables, meats, cheeses, etc., so let's try to showcase these and base our contributions around supporting local for our kick-off supper. Please comment and include what you'd like to cook, bake, grill, toss...the options are numerous. We will be sharing ideas for our July supper at our first supper, so let ideas (and the food!) marinate.

Our spread begins at 6 p.m. Please arrive with your prepared dish to share with a label stating what it is and if it contains any allergens. Please supply any necessary serving utensils or condiments (salad dressing, mustard, etc). This is a bring your-own eat-ware event (plate, utensils, and cup). Any beverages that you'd like to contribute would be greatly appreciated.

If you're interested and not on Facebook, please email supperclubmonterey@gmail.com. We will be starting an email update to keep everyone on the same page.

—Hanna Jensen

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design

*Working with clients to create
captivating landscapes & gardens*



413.528.1387
karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

**BERKSHIRE
PROPERTY
AGENTS.COM
413 528 6800**

**PLEASE CALL US SO WE MAY
HELP YOU PURCHASE
OR SELL PROPERTY.**

12 RAILROAD ST GREAT BARRINGTON
BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS LLC

SMART SERVICE
AND TARGETED
MARKETING MAKE US
A TOP-SELLING
REAL ESTATE
AGENCY



Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References  Sliding Scale

with

KIT PATTEN

Lotus Palm School Certified
"The best massage I ever had." —E.D.,
Monterey

413-528-3798

Grackles

The best way to tell if the unwanted grackles are invading your backyard is to check on flocks of blackbirds and starlings already there making a nuisance of themselves. The tallest with the longest tails among them might turn out to be grackles with their shiny purple heads in sharp contrast with their bronze iridescent bodies. In New England the grackles have a bronze hue. In the Southeast the grackles are darker green, with purplish bellies, sometimes referred to as "purple grackles."

In my illustration, mated grackles usually look for seeds scattered on the ground such that when they're in a mixed flock it might look like a free-for-all. They often try to steal food from robins as well as many other smaller birds. They have already been seen at my place killing an adult house sparrow and have a reputation of being bullies around groups of other smaller birds. Occasionally they will make a nest in the lower level of the osprey wooden towers along the shoreline of Fairhaven.

Grackles produce clutches of up to seven chicks. Both of the parents feed their fledglings insects, beetle grubs, grasshoppers, millipedes, spiders, minnows, and tadpoles. They also are fed quantities of ants by their parents. The formic acids in the ants help them get rid of crawling parasites infect-



George Emmons, who turns ninety-six in August, is still creating!

ing their inner plumage. The fledglings are soon enough ready to forage for themselves in preparation for the seasonal migration down South at the end of summer.

During migration grackles forage together and roost in large communal flocks with several different species of other blackbirds and these gatherings can number many hundreds of individuals. The flocks build in size in preparation for the coming of winter weather. During the spring migration they pass over large

corn fields and are a number one threat to growing corn. They can have a million-dollar impact on agriculture and it's much appreciated when they move on.

The oldest grackle recorded was a solitary male kept alive until it was at least twenty-one years old, when it was unfortunately killed by a raptor. Now, with climate change, the presence of grackles, along with many other migratory species, cannot be reasonably predicted.

— George B. Emmons

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter
Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

DESIGN AND PLANNING

Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design

Christopher Blair

Construction Management
Project Representation

413.528.4960 623 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230



WEBSTER

design landscape horticulture

websterlandscapes.com 413-229-8124 Sheffield, MA

Young Creators

Images

Writing

School News



"Skyscraper with Moon," David A., 6



On the New Marlborough Central School field trip to Hancock Shaker Village, sponsored by New Marlborough Monterey PTA, on May 4, the kids got to watch the piglets in a pen.



Baltimore oriole, Maisie Kreider, 7.



Yellow-rumped warbler, Everett Kreider, 9.



Evie P., 4, and Gwen E., 4, at the fishing derby on May 14.

The next fishing derby at 240 Hatchery Road, New Marlborough, is on Saturday, June 10, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The derbies are every second Saturday through September.

Agile aging
Shifting priorities
Shorter runway
More to do.

Hear the meaning
Touch the music
Smell the words
See the day.
You got this!
Mountain ranges of emotions

—Rocky Greenberg

This life
These moments
This time
These seconds
This season
These years all together—
A clarity with questions—
And questions of clarity

Daily beast of life tasks, easier now
Evolving from years of it—
Drink in, that breath

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.

Council on Aging June Programs and Events

We are very excited that Monterey's own Peter Poirier will be returning for a free night of blues and dancing at the Monterey Church on Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m. Details below and see page 11. The council's continuing movie night (second Wednesday night of the month) and new documentary day (fourth Wednesday afternoon of the month) continue to grow in popularity. Keep on coming. We welcome your movie suggestions.

A fresh approach to exercise in a class called "Exercise with Annie" was taught on May 10 and 17. Annie uses her extensive training to give a nice workout and progressively build techniques to keep us strong and prevent falls. Her class deals with posture and restorative ideas to give us a nice refresh in the afternoon.

Our lunch at Agave in Great Barrington on May 17 was "taco intense." A group of lunch enthusiasts munched on taco chips, guacamole, and all kinds of tacos. Plan on this monthly lunch; it is a good time and Great Barrington has nice restaurants to enjoy.

Richard Pargament made us proud on May 21 by raising over twice his goal for the APDA in their annual Optimism Walk for Parkinson's Disease in Framingham. It is nice to let our eastern neighbors know we make a difference.

Hope to see you soon!

To reach me to reserve for events, with questions about scheduled events, or suggestions for new ones, please call (413) 528-1443, ext. 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

Coming Events

Monday, June 5: Mobile health unit at the firehouse from 1 to 3 p.m. In addition to wellness checks, CHP will offer the bivalent booster Covid shot, recommended for those sixty-five and over, persons who are immunocompromised, and children six months to four years, who have already had the three-dose primary series. No appointment necessary.

Wednesday, June 7: Exercise with Annie! at the community center, from 4 to 5 p.m. Join us for this new and very popular class which presents a unique approach to exercising as we age (most exercise done seated). \$10 suggested.

Monday June 12: Monthly council board meeting in town hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The agenda is posted on montereyma.gov. All are welcome.

Wednesday, June 14: Movie night at the library, 7 p.m., showing *Day for Night*. This Francois Truffaut classic of French cinema is a tribute to the madness that is making a movie. Irreverent, funny, and full of surprises. The council will serve light refreshments.

Thursday, June 14 : Monthly lunch at Barrington Brewery at noon. Call or email Kathryn at the number or email above to reserve your spot.

Thursday, June 15: Wellness check at the community center from 2 to 3 p.m. Tritown Health nurses will check blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen level. Flu and Covid vaccines will also be available. No appointment necessary. For those who are homebound and unable to come to the community center, please call Jill Sweet at (413) 717-7209 to arrange for a home visit.

Tuesday, June 27: Peter Poirier returns to our Monterey United Church of Christ from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Blues and dancing with Monterey's own Peter Poirier and Hash Brown.

Wednesday, June 28: Documentary film at the community center, 2 p.m., showing *Fabulous Fungi*, a consciousness-shifting film about the mycelium network beneath our feet. Through the eyes of renowned scientists and mycologists we become aware of the beauty, intelligence, and solutions that the fungi kingdom offers. The council will serve light refreshments.

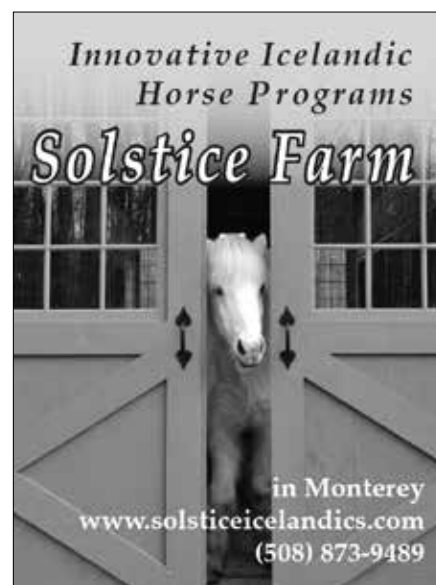
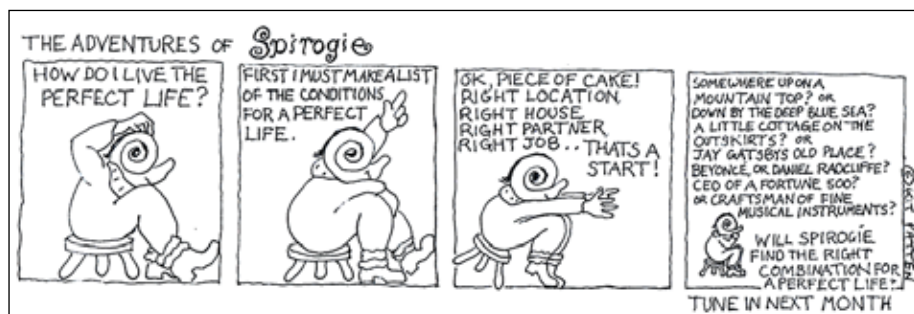
Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, June 1, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Library. Richard Pargament began our APDA-approved support group in October 2021. He and Roberta Weiss always provide 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.

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

Foot Nurse: Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. The CoA 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.



Watching the Sunnies

Fish are bony vertebrates like us, and they are “cold-blooded.” This does not mean they are without feeling. In scientific lingo the word is *poikilothermic*, which is Greek for variegated heat. They do not have to keep themselves at some constant temperature but are adapted to survive and thrive at the changeable temperature of their habitat, which for fish is in the water.

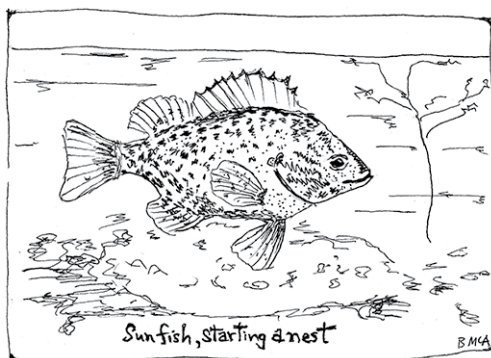
Lake Garfield, for instance, can be very chilly in the winter. Eventually it warms up and even us endotherms (warm-blooded creatures) can enjoy getting in all over, though not all day and all night, at least not in Lake Garfield, which would not keep us at 98.6° F. After awhile we would become hypothermic and shut down.

The bony fish, or teleosts, are many. They are the dominant group of fish in the world, which just means they are the most numerous. In the oceans they are in the vast majority, and in fresh water they are almost the entire population. Not only are they a perfect physical design, they also are wonderfully fecund. One female cod, out in the ocean, lays nine million eggs.

Here in the fresh waters of Lake Garfield, my favorite bony fish has always been the sunfish. As a kid under the age of sixteen, I did not need a fishing license. I tied my wooden rowboat boat to an old stump in what had once been Dad Keyes’ cow pasture, and put an ill-fated worm onto the hook, threading that barbed metal killer into the living creature. What a merciless kid I was. I would never do that today.

Over the gunnel it went and pretty soon here came a sunfish, out from among those long-dead but un-decayed stump roots. Today, sixty years on, those roots are still perfect fish habitat.

We called them sunfish, which is a large group, taxonomically, and includes some marine fish, too. I caught a lot here, scaled and cleaned them, and we cooked them over a fire in our tipi in the wilds of the swampy end of the lake. There never was a better tasting fish. I was a hunter in those days and will never forget the thrill of the tug on the line. One time I was reeling in the sunny and ... wham! A pickerel dashed out from the stump roots somewhere and nailed my fish. I was left with only the front half, but Dad, who was on board that time and was as



much a hunter as I, grabbed what was left, snicked off the bright pectoral fins, and put them on the hook. Over the gunnel again, and here came the pickerel for more. This time it seemed like we had him, but it was light-weight line with no leader, and those pickerel have teeth. After a most exciting few seconds with my rod way more bent than I’d ever handled, it was all over. Slack line, no more fight, and a lake predator off somewhere with a hook in him.

I don’t fish any more, and it’s not because I am too cheap to get a license. Is it because I might have to torture some hapless earthworm? Maybe it is.

I still watch for sunnies in the shallows, and perch, bluegills, and long lean pickerels, too. Now I just like to see what they are up to. Nowadays that is more thrill for me than the hunt, and here is what I have to report.

It is spawning season for the sunnies. The males have made perfect basin-like clearings in the shallows. He cleans a space on the bottom, fanning gravel away with his tail and even carrying off the larger stones in his mouth. When the time is right a female arrives at the nest and they swim close together. She is putting out a cloud of eggs and he discharges sperm. Then she goes away, leaving him to guard the eggs. They sink and become attached to the small stones and gravel in the nest. He is no longer sweeping with his big strong tail, just fanning more gently with his pectoral fins, keeping everything perfect for the hatching of the tiny transparent fish fry.

These remarkable creatures came to earth about 250 million years ago, and here they still are, fanning gravel in the lake right here in Monterey.

—Bonner McAllester



JOHN FIELD

TREE SERVICE, INC.

QUALITY TREE CARE...SAFELY DELIVERED


fieldtreeservice.com 413-329-6519











H&H Builder & Shade

BUILDER, RETRACTABLE AWNING & WINDOW

413 . 429 . 5134	50 Pixley road
hhbuilder7@gmail	Great Barrington Ma. 01230

J.J. Harrigan

Owner

Letters

Cronk Road Power and the Select Board

First, Beth and I were both saddened to hear about the passing of Ian Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins was not a frequent visitor to the transfer station but when he did come there was always a smile on his face. Even though he always tried to handle his own garbage he was also very appreciative when either Beth or I offered to help. We will miss him as we are sure many others will also.

Secondly, I would like to comment on Karen Allen's letter, "Trading Our History for Dollars," in the May issue. I wish Karen would have refrained from constantly referring to her new neighbors as "The NY couple." There are many local and summer residents in Monterey who come from New York. Karen's undertones made it seem like there is something wrong about you if you are from NY and want to move to Monterey. I am sure Karen knew their names or could have found out.

As for the select board's decision, this worries me. Whenever there is a town vote or a Supreme Court decision to overturn, there is always a need to show overwhelmingly why said vote or decision in the past was a wrong one. There can be a great danger to changing past votes without a very good reason, in this case, a select board decision, without full and open discussion of the matter and then, and only then, after overwhelming evidence has been brought forth, should a past vote be changed. The first vote years ago was unanimous against and now it was 2 to 1 in favor. Is that really enough to make such an important change? I am not sure.

—Dave Gilmore

Letters

Cronk Road Power Decision

I am writing this in response to the letter that Dave Gilmore wrote, and also because I have received some very supportive feedback from my letter in the May issue. Quite a few people have offered to lay down with me or protest on the road when the trucks come. Many have been equally if not more distressed about multiple aspects of this situation than I already am. Many of the responses have had to do with actions of the select board and a sense that there had to have been a pre-determined decision which is not only against the town's regulations as many of us understand them, but also a sense that the NY couple and National Grid went into the meeting with full confidence that their permit was going to be approved and that the previous board's decision had already been overturned in their minds before the meeting began. This is something that indeed needs to be looked at further.

The strangest responses I have heard had to do with my references to the Sandisfield Road couple as the "NY couple." When writing my letter I felt strongly that it was important to maintain their privacy by *not using their names* in my letter, and because *they are a couple* and *they do live in New York*. This seemed the simplest and most straight forward way to reference them in my rather long letter in which I needed to make clear who I was talking about throughout the letter. It was out of consideration for them that I referred to them as the "NY couple." I lived in New York City for forty years and bought my home in Monterey while living there. I clearly have nothing negative to say about anyone from NYC as it is a city I love and continue to spend time working in, if

no longer living in. I feel quite amazed that anyone could have read my letter and felt that this was the main take-away. It is really not at all an issue.

I would however love to keep the real issues in focus which was also referred to in Dave Gilmore's letter:

1. All that the select board needed to do to protect Cronk Road and its residents was to uphold a decision that had already been made.

2. The 2014 decision had taken a previous select board two months and four select board meetings to look carefully at the circumstances before they made a clear, considered, unanimous decision. The new decision this past November was made most likely before the meeting even took place (against the rules, I believe) and without any real discussion whatsoever. The decision was made in less than thirty minutes, and if it had been left up to select board chair, Justin Makuc, would have been made in ten minutes as he pushed for a vote the moment National Grid completed their presentation—seemingly knowing clearly what the decision would be without hearing from the people it would affect the most. >



Do you Love Monterey?
Do you enjoy history?
Well, so do we...
Please Join Us

Monterey Historical Society

2022 Membership Levels

<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Household	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Friend
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Advocate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron

You may send your check to:
Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. **Thank you!**
The Monterey Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your membership is tax deductible.

Barnbrook

www.BarnbrookRealty.com



DAGMAR KUBES

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

Home Services

Licensed Real Estate Broker

★

*Superior Real-Estate Service
tailored to your needs.*

★

413 528-6485

E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

SELL * BUY * RENT



Remembrance Dick Sheridan

Richard “Dick” C. Sheridan, Sr. passed away peacefully at home on April 20, 2023. He was born in Pittsfield, MA on September 9, 1940, the son of James J. Sheridan and Julia A. Dietz.

3. National Grid has another, better option. It would actually be better for them in the long run, as well as for our community, to bring power down Sandisfield Road. This solution would provide power for customers who will build along the road in the future. Why build for one part-time customer when you can create a grid that many can and will use?

4. What does it mean that the 2022 select board can so easily overturn the decision of a previous board, with no changes in the circumstances, and with no respect for the efforts or due diligence of the earlier board, or for the residents asking for and needing their support? How and why would they be so transparent in their intentions? What kind of power does National Grid have over this board? Why would National Grid and the NY couple have such confidence that the decision would be overturned, that they would have spent the money to have yet again another survey (four in total) done, and to hire an outside engineering firm to design the pole plan after their previous permit had been turned down? This is the question no one is willing to answer. I am going to continue to ask it until I get an answer.

Sincerely,

— Karen Allen

Dick graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1959 and joined the Army. Part of his service was in Germany and France, and he was honorably discharged in 1962. On March 18, 1960, he married Mabel E. Heath in Lee, MA. In 1965 they bought their home and settled in Monterey to raise their four children.

Dick worked most of his life for the Westfield River Paper Company (Mountain Mill) in Lee, MA. After the mill closed around 1992, he started his own local lawn mowing and caretaking service. When he was not working, Dick could always be found working around the house or restoring his 1984 El Camino.

Dick was friendly, quiet, and had a good sense of humor. He followed current events and politics along with watching golf and the New England Patriots. Dick was an avid NASCAR fan. He especially cheered on Dale Earnhardt, Sr. and Jr. In the summer months you could often find Dick sitting in the stands enjoying a couple of hot dogs at Lebanon Valley Speedway. He loved nothing more than spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He is dearly missed by Mabel, his wife of sixty-two years, and his four children, Donna (Mark) Stevens of Maynard, MA; Richard C. Sheridan of Great Barrington, MA; Patrick J. Sheridan of Monterey, MA; and Scott C. (Michelle) Sheridan of Alexandria, VA. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Amanda, Patrick, Daniel; Jeffrey, Marcus, Evan, Maddie, and Daniel his three great-grandchildren, Natalie, Zachary, and Lily; and his brother James (Betty) Sheridan of Rochester, NY.

His service will be held on Saturday, June 17, noon, at Corashire Cemetery.

Remembrance Betty Wool

Elizabeth “Betty” M. Wool, 91, of Monterey, died Monday, May 15, 2023 at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. Elizabeth was born in the Bronx, NY on June 25, 1931, daughter of Lawrence and Anne (Turner) Corr. She was a graduate of Cathedral High School in New York City in the class of 1948. After high school, Elizabeth went on to get an associates degree from St. Patrick’s.

Elizabeth’s husband, Nicholas F. Wool, predeceased her on March 27, 2017. Elizabeth is survived by her daughter, Christine Guerrero; her husband, Mark, of Egremont; three step daughters, Janis, Felicia, and Maria; and several step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, Elizabeth was predeceased by her first husband, David Papp, who passed in 1964; two brothers, John and Robert Corr; and three sisters, Patricia Corr, Kathleen Contino, and Frances Michell.

In keeping with Elizabeth’s wishes, all services are private. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Elizabeth’s memory may be made to the Our Lady of the Valley Building Fund in care of the Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Condolences may be made through the funeral home’s website.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to the Berkshire Edge for the text.

**See how much you could save
by going solar. Call or text
today for a free consultation.**

CHARLEY GIAIMO
(212) 495-9945
charley.giaimo@vivintsolar.com

Copyright © 2020 Vivint Solar Developer, LLC. All rights reserved. Vivint Solar Developer, LLC (EIN: 80-0756438) is a licensed contractor in each state in which we operate (Massachusetts License: 17084R, 1558R A; SS-002342)



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

Reflections on Father's Day

It is fitting that I begin this memoir of my father on Mother's Day. There is no way to truly capture who he was and his influence on me without including her. This is a story of how my simplistic view of them changed over time, and of two occasions that were turning points for and emblematic of those changes. Older now than either of them lived to be, I hold them in memory with such love and respect that the younger me could never have appreciated. This tribute I dedicate to them.

My Father Confesses

"and you of tender years...can't know the fears that your elders lived by"

—Crosby, Stills, and Nash

Inevitably, we first see our parents through the lens of our formative years, and the roles and characteristics we ascribe to them are enduring. Only a limited view of who they were, what they felt, feared, and desired is available to us. And from this view we fashion our earliest identifications, templates of who we are to become.

These lyrics from the song, "Teach Your Children," have special resonance for me. Already a father of two grown children, I was alone with my father when he revealed something I never knew; that he had kept secret. In context and tone, it felt like a confession. For many years,

beginning when he was a young father, he would make daily calls to my mother seemingly "just to say hello." But they were in fact triggered by a fear that something awful had happened. Gripped by anxiety, he had to reassure himself that all was well. He never told my mother the true reason for the calls.

You don't have to be a psychologist to understand how this came to be. My father, three months old when his family came to America, was eleven when in 1920 his father fell victim to the Spanish flu. Suddenly, the hardscrabble but stable family life my grandparents worked so hard to establish had been shattered. My grandmother, with three young children in tow, had to move from the lower east side to the Bronx to share living quarters with another family. The boy of eleven had suddenly lost everything.

Trauma hides buried in body and mind, but easily triggered by a random thought, a song, an odor; anything that replicates some element of the original traumatic event. Its mark on a person's temperament can be profound. For decades, I had created a neat dichotomy of "good, nurturing mother" and "scary disciplinarian father." Though in many respects a wonderful role model; loving, affectionate, and multi-talented, my father had a temper.

I was the middle of three sons: Morty, three years older, and Bennett six

years younger than I, born with Downs' Syndrome. It is to my parents everlasting credit that, against all advice from doctors and friends, they chose not to institutionalize him in the nightmare that was Willowbrook. Bennett lived as full a life as possible given his handicap, but nonetheless at great cost to my parents.

As is commonly the case with first-borns, Morty took the brunt of my father's inexperience in that role. The stress of making a living through the depression of the 1930s, and what I later came to see as my father's anxiety, found expression in lectures and reprimands when Morty's grades slipped a little. I was always present when this happened. Good grades and a college education, something circumstance had denied him, to my father were the key to security.

But what really got my father angry was when Morty and I had done something really stupid, possibly dangerous. The rod was not spared on these occasions, and though rare, they were frightening. When my father "confessed" about the daily calls home, I understood that his temper was really an expression of the anxiety and fear that accounted for the calls. Suddenly, seeing my father as "the strict one" was cast in an entirely different light.

"Powerful Good"

Psychotherapists are well-advised to experience therapy of their own. But that was neither the only nor the most important reason I'd sought psychotherapy...more than once. I'd always identified more strongly with my mother's temperament and her ability to get along with anyone. During one session, I was going on and on about "how good she was" when my therapist said, "Powerful good."



BIZEN

Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes

備前

On the Cutting Edge

"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times

Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.

413-528-4343

Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10

I was stunned. It was as if I had been following a path that suddenly took an unexpected turn. This began what came to be a clearer, more balanced view of my parents; who they were and how I came to be the person I am. My love and appreciation of my mother wasn't diminished. But the awareness of my father's influence on my life, how much of who he was I had become, was clearer, and more importantly, grew with time.

My Father Gave Me a Lagniappe

If you've read this far and know what a lagniappe is, read on. If you don't, chances are you have Siri at hand to ask. In either case, the answer will be misleading. Webster, though harder to access but a more rewarding search tool than Siri, defines this Creole word as a small gift or gratuity a merchant gives a customer who's bought something. Think, the little prize in a box of CrackerJacks.

The prize my father gave me was not a "thing" at all but the word itself, in a letter he wrote to me ages ago. Regrettably, I failed to save the letter and lost both the context in which he used it and a sample of his elegant cursive script.

I like to think that he figured correctly that I didn't know its meaning. He'd sent me to my Merriam-Webster College Dictionary where I would find other arcane words, thus encouraging me to explore our wonderful English language. To the extent that I see myself as a writer, albeit in the humblest sense, it is my father whom I credit; and the gift of that lagniappe as the lodestone.

To all the fathers....and mothers out there...Happy Father's Day.

—Bob Cutick



Contributions May 2023

Thank you for the continued support.

Carole & Gerry Clarin
Stephanie Sloane
Roberta & Peter Weiss
Erica & Don Stern
Mia Plehn
Donna Sheridan Stevens
Gilbert & Gail Ahye
Mark & Debby Bauman
Monica Dixon
Don & Maggie Barkin
Karen & Peter Schulze
Paul Rissman & Donna Conforti
Kay Purcell
Maureen Regan
Jodi Clarin
Susan Aeschbach & Neil Gladstone
Evelyn Sun & Michael Solomon
James Pearson
Michele Miller & Peter Murkett
Linda Skipper & Jim Singelis
Nancy Ashen
Irene Gilman
Ron Gunther
Alice S Roth
Richard & Louise Skolnik
Bonnie Campeglio
Nancy Torrico
Michael & Susan Johnson
Amos & Andrea Neufeld
Barbara Dahlman
Carol Genovese
Liz Sanchez & Rosannna Murray
Alyssa Lovell & Alison Perlo

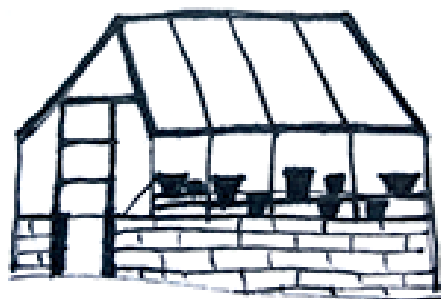
Letters of Appreciation Young Artists

Thank you so much for welcoming contributions from our young artists. My children Everett and Maisie were so happy to see their drawings printed in the *Monterey News*. It motivated them to work on another drawing for the *News*. What a great way for us to be part of the community.

Thanks!

—Beth Reiter

Laura & Tom Mensi
Traudi Chiravalloti
Susan Popper & Rocky Greenberg
Dan Zweig & Sally Petrick
Don & Carol Welsch
Robert Kuhner
Laurie Kaminsky
Greg & Chris Fahlund
Robert & Joan Caluori
Barbara Adams



**MONTEREY UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

Online worship is available on the
Lenox website blog:
lenoxucc.org/blog

For Information and Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.



Diane's Trail at Gould Farm - Where History and Tranquility Converge

Winding through the beautiful Monterey landscape is a meandering public trail that offers a peaceful and shaded escape into nature. This 1.5 mile trail, called Diane's Trail, is a must-visit Monterey gem. Appropriate for families and people with dogs (please keep them leashed), much of the trail follows the contours of Rawson Brook, then passes under towering pine trees and offers a few places to sit and enjoy the quiet, including a picnic table. The iconic arched bridge at the start of the trail was designed and built with much help by Jon Greene.

Diane's Trail is named in memory of Diane Rausch, the late wife of long-time Gould Farm forestry and grounds staff person, Bob Rausch. Diane worked as a nurse for many years at Gould Farm and passed away in 1992. Bob has now dedicated over forty years of his life to Gould Farm and is one of the main reasons our forests and wetlands are so well cared for. Diane loved to hike in the Gould Farm woods and in the area along Rawson Brook. Diane's Trail stands as tribute to her life as a healer and her love of the outdoors.

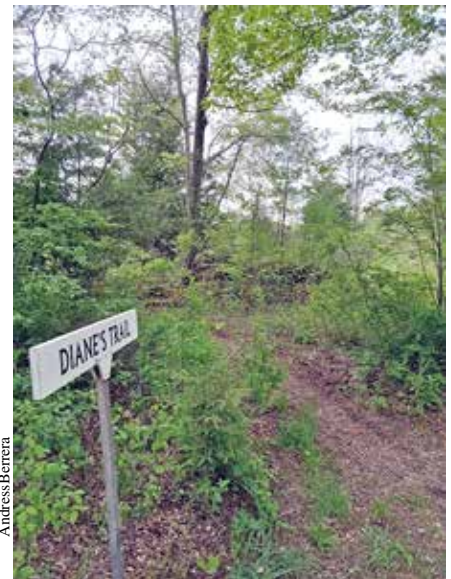
Diane's Trail is also connected to a rich history that is deeply intertwined with the 110-year Gould Farm history and our seven hundred acres of forest, fields, and wetlands.



Photos: Benton and his sister, Hazel MacKaye at Gould Farm c. 1927. Photo from the Gould Farm archive.

The Gould family founded Gould Farm in the early 1900s with a mission to assist others in regaining their sense of purpose in the face of significant mental and emotional challenges. Tragically, William Gould died of a heart attack in 1925 while fighting a brush fire on the Farm. His wife, Agnes, continued their work and dedicated her remaining decades to their mission of helping folks in need.

Benton MacKaye and his love of the forests of Gould Farm: During Agnes's time running Gould Farm, another influential figure emerged, Benton MacKaye, the father of the Appalachian Trail. MacKaye's sister Hazel was a guest at the farm in 1927 after suffering a "nervous breakdown." She stayed on into the 1940s and, during her time there, Benton was a frequent visitor. On walks with his sister, he not only came to appreciate the healing nature of the Farm's forest and natural setting, but also wanted to help protect and steward it for generations to come.



Andress Berrera

The entrance on Wellman Road.

MacKaye assisted Agnes Gould in the management of the Farm's forestland. MacKaye emphasized the forest's value to the Gould mission, calling our therapeutic approach "forest mindedness." He said, "Gould Farm is no mere 'charity'; it is a potent social force." He believed that anyone suffering from what he called "the problem of living" could not be cured solely by treatment, but that immersion in the natural world should also play a significant role.

Public are welcome!

As you walk along Diane's Trail today, you can feel the spirit of the Gould family, the influence of Benton MacKaye, the care of Bob Rausch, and the many, many hands who built and then maintained the trail over the years. Diane's Trail is one of many examples at Gould Farm where the saying, "Many hands make light work" can be easily applied. The forest canopy is intact, and the best trees have been allowed to grow to their climax in old age, creating a thriving ecosystem for otters, beavers, deer, and birds.

This is an environment of calm amidst a confusing world, a place where visitors can reconnect with nature and one another. We hope you visit. The unique wetland habitat along Diane's Trail is accessible via a marked parking area along Curtis Road in Monterey and can also be located by plotting a course in Google Maps using the keywords, "Diane's Trail parking."

—Stephanie McMahon

	<i>H&H Builder & Shade</i>	
	BUILDER, RETRACTABLE AWNING & WINDOW	
	413 . 429 . 5134	50 Pixley road
	hhbuilder7@gmail	Great Barrington Ma. 01230
<i>T.J. Harrigan</i> Owner		



Celebration for Agnes Mulroy

A celebration of life for Agnes Mulroy, who died December 30, 2022, will be held at the Monterey Library on Sunday, June 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The family invites friends to join them in sharing remembrances of Agnes. Monterey was the home she loved from the 1970s to 2015, when she moved to Miami, FL to be closer to her family.

Please save the date.

—Evelyn Vallianos

Editor's Note: Below is reprinted by request from the October 1996 issue of the Monterey News.

Those of us who lived in Monterey in 1985 and earlier were accustomed to the sight of Agnes Mulroy out on a three-mile run each day after work at the Becton Dickinson plant in Canaan, Connecticut.

Due to ill-health, Agnes' running days are now over, as are her working days, but she has stayed active in another sphere. In 1993 Agnes Mulroy and Elizabeth Hemmingway of Canaan filed a worker's compensation claim against Becton Dickinson. An eighteen-month trial followed. On February 6, 1996, Connecticut insurance commissioner Linda Johnson ruled that Agnes Mulroy's health problems were work related, and she was entitled to full worker's compensation benefits. Becton Dickinson appealed the ruling, but I just heard from Agnes that the verdict has been upheld.

Historical Society News History Talks

Rob Hoogs presented an illustrated History Talk on May 18 entitled "Monterey in Pics." Pictures and post cards of Monterey from the late 1800s through the 1900s were shown and the audience members identified photos and added their own stories. Some photos of the houses are identified by names such as "Sunshine Cottage," "The Maples," "Pine Cottage," etc. We're hoping that people might recognize and identify these. Copies of some of the photos will be on display at the Historical Society Display in the library multipurpose room. Take and look and write down if you recognize any of the houses.

The next "Third Thursday History Talk" will be on June 15 at 7 p.m. in the library. Historian Bernard Drew, who has written numerous history books and articles, will give a talk entitled: "Major General Jeffery Amherst and the 1758 War Road through Township No. 1 and Sheffield." Having secured Louisbourg from the French during the Seven Years War, British troops regrouped in Boston and

marched west to Albany, over the "Great Road" through Tyngham (Monterey). They were heading toward Lake George in preparation for a major assault on Quebec City. First-hand accounts of their trek through the Greenwoods will be offered, with anecdotes about James Clephane and his engineers and the Scots soldiers, Frasier's Highlanders, who "improved" the road.

Become a Member

We hope you are enjoying these stories about old Monterey, and in some cases reliving more recent memories. We would love to have you join and share the fun and add your stories. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An Individual Membership is only \$15, Family Membership is \$25. Please include your email address so we can add you to our mailing list.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support.

—Rob Hoogs
on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Daytime Book Group

The daytime book group will meet on Wednesday, June 21, at 1:30 p.m., in the Monterey Library. All are welcome, and the book to read for this meeting is *This is Happiness*, by Niall Williams.

—Bonner McAllester

Chorus Concert June 22

On Thursday, June 22, at 4:30 p.m., the Monterey chorus would love to share some of the songs we have been working on at the firehouse pavilion. This is our normal practice time and for some of the songs we invite audience participation.

The Monterey chorus is a community chorus that has been going for about five years now. We pick songs from any era or genre: folk, gospel, popular, rounds, even jazz standards. Premium is on having fun and bringing the songs to life.

Please join us. If you have your own chairs, please bring them.

—Oren Rosenthal, director



Monterey Summer Camps Film Project Update

We are more than halfway through our fundraiser for digitizing film footage of the camps on Lake Garfield taken during the 1940s and 1950s. The nineteen 16mm reels, given to Mark Makuc and the Monterey Library, are not in great condition, so now is the best time to capture the footage before they deteriorate further. Each reel contains four hundred feet. They need to be cleaned of rust dust from the cans, scanned at 4K High Dynamic Range, and then color corrected.

We have raised \$5,804 of the \$7,500 needed to complete the project.

The Monterey Summer Camps Film project will give people a window into a unique time in Monterey’s and Lake Garfield’s history. When ready to view, the footage will become part of the Monterey History Project and will be made available to full- and part-time residents of Monterey and the surrounding Berkshires.

During the summer of 2023, the Monterey Library hopes to host round-table story-telling sessions about the camps.

Please *donate now* so we can save this treasure trove of Monterey history.



This is the front cover of a record album made in 1967. Camp Owaissa was one of three camps off Hupi Road. The Jayson camps were made up of Camp Owaissa for girls, Camp Monterey for boys and then there was Camp Glenmere.

Go to [gofundme.com/f/donate-to-the-monterey-camp-historic-film-project](https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-the-monterey-camp-historic-film-project), or send a check made out to Friends of Monterey Library. Please note that it is for the Summer Camps Film Project, and mail to Friends of Monterey Library, PO Box 172, Monterey, MA 01245.

Thank you,
—Barbara Wolinsky

Get IT Solutions

Software

Hardware

Networking

Smart Home Systems

support@bfcma.com 413.429.4555

bfcma.com

Monterey's Housing Rehabilitation Program

Housing Rehab Funds Still Available

The town of Monterey still has funding available for a few more projects and is seeking applicants who would like to benefit from a regional housing rehabilitation grant program made available by the state of Massachusetts. The goal is to improve the quality of housing. The program provides up to \$50,000 in interest-free, fifteen-year declining balance loans to qualified homeowners for the purpose of repairing or replacing building elements in a house, insulation, or mechanical systems. (A full description of the program was mostrecently published in the December 2022 issue of the *Monterey News*.)

Great news! The income guidelines (below) have increased. Please refer to the table for income levels based on household size.

If you are interested in learning more—don’t wait! To get your questions answered, for any other assistance, or to fill out an application, please contact Dawn Odell Lemon, TRI program manager, at (413)645-3448, or dawn@theresource.org.
—Dawn Odell Lemon

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	
1	\$55,800
2	\$63,800
3	\$71,750
4	\$79,700
5	\$86,100
6	\$92,500
7	\$98,850
8	\$105,250

State Democratic Committee

On Saturday, June 24, at 10 a.m., in the Monterey Library, the Monterey Democratic Town Committee will caucus in order to select a delegate to the state Democratic convention to be held in Lowell, MA on September 23. The delegate we choose will bring the votes of Monterey to the deliberation and adoption of our party platform.
—Barbara Swann

Bidwell House Museum

As we mentioned in the May article, we have we have two history talks scheduled for early June, both on the theme of clothing in the eighteenth century. First, on June 3, University of New Hampshire lecturer, Dr. Kimberly Alexander, will present her talk “‘And much stronger than any imported from England’: Navigating New England Fashion & Politics During the Revolutionary Era, 1760s-1770s.” This talk will be held via Zoom at 11 a.m. The next weekend, on June 10, we will hear from Ned Lazaro, Associate Curator of Costumes and Textiles at the Wadsworth Atheneum, who will present “An Easy Air: Dress and Performance in the Long 18th Century.” This talk will be held at 11 a.m. in person at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham and also via Zoom. Pre-registration is required for both talks and can be completed on the museum website (bidwellhousemuseum.org) under events.

If you are interested in foraging or attended our foraging talk via Zoom in March and want to meet the speaker, Russ Cohen, then join us on Tuesday, June 13, from 4 to 6 p.m., for “Wild Edibles on the Bidwell Grounds.” On a two-hour ramble through the fields, gardens, and forests surrounding the Bidwell House, you will learn about at least eighteen species of edible wild plants. Pending favorable weather conditions, several edible mushroom species may be encountered as well. This walk is limited to twenty-five people and pre-registration is required on our website (above).

The Army on Campaign

Then, at the end of June, we are so excited to present our second 1770s era living history weekend! On June 23, 24, and 25, the Bidwell House will be hosting “The Army on Campaign,” a three-day exploration of the lives of troops and followers during the American Revolutionary War period. The fun begins on Friday afternoon with a special ticketed preview event where visitors will enjoy wine and cheese, view a performance of “Tag, Rag and Bobtail: The Women of the Army” and get a sneak peek at the reenactor camps. On Saturday morning at 10 a.m., “The Army on Campaign” will open to the public. This excit-



ing event will be hosted by His Majesty’s 52nd Regiment and Spencer’s Additional Continental Regiment, and will feature multiple lectures focused on laundry, health and wellness, military discipline, provisioning the army, and more. Three tactical demonstrations will be conducted throughout the weekend. Visitors are also encouraged to visit the camps and speak to the participants about everyday life in the British and Continental armies.

The Army on Campaign is open to all ages and tickets for children twelve and under are free. If you attend the Friday program, access to the reenactment on Saturday and Sunday is included in the price of your ticket. Single-day adult tickets for members start at \$15. Tickets must be purchased in advance and you can buy single day tickets or a two-day pass. Food for lunch and snacks will be sold onsite. For all of the details and a schedule for the weekend, head to the museum website (below).

Museum Tours Resume

Finally, don’t forget that guided tours of the museum have begun. These personal, small-group tours last about an hour and include a look at the architecture of the house; a history of the Bidwell Family and their connection to Monterey; information about housewares and decor in eighteenth-century New England; and a walk through the first and second floors of the house. The museum is accessible and there is a video tour of the second floor for those visitors who are unable to climb stairs. All tours are by appointment only, must be booked twenty-four hours in advance, and will be available on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. Tours can be reserved by either calling (413) 528-6888 or emailing bidwellhm2@gmail.com. Tickets for adults are \$20, seniors are \$15, student tickets are \$5 and children twelve and under are free.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey. The museum grounds—194 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails and picnic sites—are open every day free of charge. The full program of events can be found on the museum’s website at bidwellhouse-museum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



Every Community
Has At Least
One REALTOR®
Like Nancy Kalodner

*(In the Berkshires,
it's Nancy Kalodner)*

413-446-1111

nancykalodner@gmail.com

 COHEN + WHITE
ASSOCIATES

DISTINCTIVE TOWN and COUNTRY PROPERTIES

www.cohenwhiteassoc.com

June 2023 Wildlife Report

The Wilds of May: Deers, Bears, Eggs, and Condos in the Bay Area

This is spring, galore. And we have affordable housing all over town including condos for nesting robins in the bay area of one woman's porch roof. Julie Johnston sent a photo (below) of a robin's nest with five eggs and reports there were several others built or under construction in the development area, but this was the one of choice so far.



There is another robin setting up camp under the deck at Ed Salsitz's house on Beartown Mountain Road, and off New Marlborough Road a Carolina wren has built at Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen's place, in a willow shed (below), as has a robin quite nearby. Keeping track of the nests, Steve reports the five wren eggs laid in early May hatched after a while, becoming "a lot of fluff with some tiny orange beaks waving."



In the Department of Larger Birds, Marc Holzer took the classic photo of a Canada goose family afloat on the lake, amid glittering ripples (above right). Bonsai Cox had a turkey visiting her place and took a photograph from above (right).



Bonsai also spotted a mallard offshore at Steven's Pond, standing on a fallen tree trunk (right). Orioles have visited her bird feeder (below) as well as hummingbirds, and a squirrel which is able to hang upside down while snacking.



Joe Stein, who lives off Hupi Road near Elephant Rock, sent a photograph of a young bear up a tree, snoozing in the branches (right). He says this bear was chased up there by its sibling who returned later. The nap being over, the bear came down, and the two ran off together.

Ed Salsitz saw an adolescent bear near his house, and with the help of a neighbor got some good photographs (right). Up on Chestnut Hill, a bear family came to visit. This was Big Mama Bear and two cubs. The family is well-loved by the folks who live up there, who took a good photograph of the three (top left, page 29), just before they departed.



Not many people have reported seeing white-tailed deer, but Kit Patten did in March, and Ann Higgins may have seen the same group in the first week of May. There were six, along Route 23 on Barnum's Flats east of the Roadside Store site. Ann says they had come from the Gould Farm side, and after some consideration "wandered back" in that direction.

As for reptiles and amphibians, we have snakes, turtles, and frogs this month. I have been stopping in at the Quaker Meetinghouse Pond to see the painted



turtles basking on half-submerged logs. In years gone by there has usually been a green heron there, but so far it is mainly turtles, sometimes fifteen to twenty-three at a time. They are having Silent Meeting out there, so I join them from a distance.



Marc Holzer took a portrait of a black water snake (above), and Wendy Jensen got the under-view of a grey tree frog, as it held very still against a window. Minutes later it was startled and jumped to a big flowerpot by the steps where it held still again, and vanished thanks to perfect camouflage (top two at right).

Thank you one and all. One species of concern for me is the chipmunks. Maybe they are just a bit late coming up from underground, but so far, we have only seen one around here and the cat has not caught any. I asked around town and two other people have each seen one.

Thanks to Steve Moore, we have the plant kingdom well-represented by a late-breaking photograph of a wild red columbine in bloom (right). How lucky are we, to live in this town, in this bioregion.

Send me your wilds, of all kingdoms.

— Bonner McAllester

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




Left: tree frog through glass.

Above: Moments later, from above.



Red-bellied woodpecker from Bonsai Cox.

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates



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

441 Main Road
P.O. Box 61
Monterey, MA 01245
413-429-4888
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

FLOATING OVER YOU

Carol Diehl

thru June 10

Nature & Nurture

Pat Hogan & Mary Claire Hogan

June 16 - July 22

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library



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.

Police Emergency Contacts

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

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.

- Police dispatch service number:

(413) 236-0925.

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

528-3211

Roads, Bridges, Etc.

It looks like we have finally turned the corner, spring has sprung, Memorial Day has come and gone, and Monterey can look forward to a much deserved weather improvement. This was a tough winter for residents and we owe a debt of gratitude to our highway department who worked long hours to keep our roads open and travel safe. The changing nature of our weather continues to be a challenge but the creative and innovative response to the problems by our highway crew keeps us ahead of the game.

During the past ten years there has been a shift in thinking from “the bigger the truck the better” to smaller and mid-size trucks which work better on the type of roads we have in Monterey. In the past the large trucks were seen as necessary for the heavy plowing role they played in the winter but as the weather has shifted to fewer big storms and more freeze/thaw winter cycles, the large trucks are needed less. One large double-axle truck that can maintain Route 23 and Route 57 seems to work well while the new smaller trucks work on the mostly gravel side roads. But, you ask, what if we get a series of storms or another like that 30”-plus heavy snowstorm we got in March? Recognizing that heavier equipment might be necessary but only occasionally, our highway department instituted what they call their “redundancy plan.” They have taken all the heavy equipment in the town yard and adopted them to plowing. Old plows have been reused and reconfigured to attach to our grader, large and small front end loaders, and the recent tractor purchased with state Chapter 90 monies (to keep our road edges mowed). So now we have a grader and tractor that can be used year-round and less need for more expensive large trucks. More efficient and less costly—what’s not to like as a taxpayer?

With the change in the weather comes the spring clean up and early road work to repair the winter damage. All the dirt roads will have been graded and resurfaced by the time you read this. In addition there is a solution of calcium chloride sprayed after the grading that will harden the surface and limit the dust

problem. The crew will be continuing the clean-up from the late winter storms which caused so much tree and drainage problems. All of the town’s culverts and discharge outlets will be checked and scheduled for cleaning, repair, or replacement.

The major June project will be chip sealing the paved portion of Art School Road. This entails the patching/repair of the road surface, spaying a layer of rubberized asphalt, a layer of 1/2” crushed stone, another layer of sprayed asphalt and a final layer of crushed stone. This is a procedure that will be accomplished in less than a day and should be a minor disruption in traffic flow. If you’re not already signed up for e-mail alerts you should. Jim regularly sends out an alert if there is going to be a traffic disruption. Go to the Monterey website (montereyma.gov) and on the left side click on “Subscribe to E-alerts,” check off the “Town Alerts and Town News and Announcements” boxes for updates from the highway department.

As we get further into summer there are plans for paving projects on Gould Road, Fox Hill Road and River Road. Main Road (Route 23) from Otis to Great Barrington will be crack filled. (The rebuilding and paving of Route 23 was now seven years ago.) All of these projects will be highlighted in upcoming issues of the *Monterey News*. I was hoping to have more information to share about the Beartown Mountain Road project but the engineering is behind schedule. Until that is complete there is no time line except that Jim Hunt, Director of Operations, is still planning (fingers crossed) to start this project middle to late summer.

We have two new additions to our public works department. Welcome to Jack Donovan who started last month with the highway crew and Ryan Moore who will be working with Bill at our transfer station. Welcome aboard!

Sign up for the alerts at the town website, slow down when you see our crew working in the roads, and stay safe.

— Kenn Basler

Calendar

Note: With the growth of both the community center and council on aging programming, it makes little sense, and requires twice the space, to list their events on their monthly pages as well as in the calendar below.

Monterey Community Center (MCC) activities on page 14.

Council on Aging events on page 18.

Sundays: Monterey softball begins again.

Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30 as weather permits.

Saturday, June 3: Bidwell history talk, "Navigating New England Fashion & Politics During the Revolutionary Era, 1760s-1770s," 11 a.m., on Zoom. See page 27.

June 12: Monday night supper club, 6 p.m., MCC. See page 15.

Saturday, June 10:

Berkshire Fish Hatchery fishing derby, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Bidwell History talk, "An Easy Air: Dress and Performance in the Long 18th Century," 11 a.m., Tyringham Union Church. See page 27.

Tuesday, June 13: Bidwell Museum talk on foraging, "Wild Edibles on the Bidwell Grounds," see page 27.

Thursday, June 15: Monterey Historical Society, with Bernard Drew presenting. 7 p.m., library. See page 25.

Saturday, June 17: Lenox Contra Dance, 7:15 to 10:30 p.m., 65 Walker Street, Lenox. Live music, all dances taught. LenoxContraDance.org.

Wednesday, June 21: Daytime book group, 1:30 p.m. See page 25.

Thursday, June 22: Monterey Chorus Concert, 4:30 p.m., firehouse pavilion. See page 25.

Friday–Sunday, June 23–25: Bidwell House, "The Army on the Campaign." See page 27.

Sunday, June 25: Celebration of Life for Agney Mulroy, from 1 to 4 p.m., library. See page 25.

Lake Buel Boat Ramp Closed

Work on the parking lot at the Lake Buel boat ramp is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 7. The work is expected to take approximately two to three weeks, weather dependent. No work is being done on the boat ramp itself.

Residents on Lake Buel should try to have their boats in by Memorial Day, but no later than Saturday, June 3. The entire facility will be closed to the public and lake residents for the full duration of the project. During the work, access to the boat ramp shall be maintained for emergency access to the lake by public safety and law enforcement officials.

—Terrance W. Smith, P.E.
MA Department of Fish & Game

Editor's Note: This notice was only received a week prior to publication.



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) 329-7912 or email.



Moonlight reflection on Lake Garfield.

—Photo by Marc Holzer.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Town Administrator:

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.

MONTEREY NEWS

PO Box 9

MONTEREY, MA 01245-0009

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 95

Change Service Requested

Transfer Station

Summer Hours

(Through Labor Day weekend)

Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Wednesday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.

Tuesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Wednesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.

.....& 1:30–5 p.m.

Thursday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.

.....& 4–8 p.m.

Friday.....4–8 p.m.

Saturday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.

.....& 7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

MontereyMassLibrary.org

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking

Professional Year-Round Maintenance
of Your House and Grounds

(413) 329-0331

• Fully Insured

roadmaster333@yahoo.com

P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Copyright © Monterey News 2023

email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor.....Stephen Moore

Copy Editor.....Kateri Kosek

Mailing Labels.....Joe Baker

Treasurer.....Cindy Hoogs

Contributions from local artists this month:

Rachel Jo Arnow, p.31; Maureen Banner, p. 22;

George Emmons, p. 16; Colta Ives, pgs. 23, 29;

Bonner McAllester, p. 19.

Corashire Realty

Assisting Buyers & Sellers since 1966



Deborah D. Mielke
(C) 413-329-8000
corashirerealty@gmail.com



Nancy Dinan, founder

215 State Road, Great Barrington, MA
Call for an appointment to see our Monterey listings
Member of MLS.

WAKE UP TO



**Blazing Fast Internet
Sign Up: bfcma.com**

413.429.4109

