

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken Brae farm stand, Swap Shop, Church foyer



Janet Jensen

If you have a kayak, canoe, or other water vessel across from the town beach, you better go get it by October 15. As of September 23, there were fifty stored there. See page 2.

We are going to record an oral history session about the *Monterey News* on October 19, at 10:30 a.m., in the library. Do you have a story to tell?

Library News page 3

I use the word “worship” a lot. So used to it am I, in fact, that I only realize this when I say it around someone who seems to find it discomfiting.

From the Meetinghouse page 16

The tower contractor reports that the tower will be up and functioning by Thanksgiving. 80% of Monterey residents will have two to three bars of service.

Cell Tower Progress page 12

Anything that big with long fur and standing on four feet here in Monterey should be black.

Never Cry Wolf page 23

The Knox Gallery opens the fall season with *Perennial*, featuring the work of five local painters who meet regularly to take advantage of the beautiful and varied subject matter that our outdoor Berkshire landscape offers.

Knox Gallery-*Perennial* page 10

I often take for granted how I can speak my mind, or not wake up in fear, but many people across the world don’t have those luxuries. It is so important to remember that it is because of you that we are so blessed with those privileges.

We Make a Difference page 12

Being in 219 acres of meadows and woods, away from traffic and the worries of the world, is an escape that you might welcome.

Thomas & Palmer Brook page 9

Daylight Savings Time “Falls Behind”

Sunday, November 3, at 2 a.m.

Monterey has been awarded \$1.3 million in new funding for FY19, which means we are accepting applications for an additional twenty-two projects.

Housing Rehabilitation page 25

I first heard about Monterey’s figure 8 tree about forty years ago from a friend who also gave me the general location along an old woods road.

Monterey Figure 8 Tree page 8

Summer in the Berkshires brings many pleasures, and among those is the return of Sunday morning softball at Greene Park in Monterey.

Monterey Softball page 14

Devin is an expert environmental educator who authored *Put on Your Owl Eyes*, a treasure chest of nature-connection stories and exercises for children ages eight to thirteen.

Community Potluck page 11

MBI has set a take rate of 51%, in order to be eligible for their grants. Please sign up! By signing up, you indicate your interest, you lock in any discounts, and there is no cost to you until Fiber Connect passes your house and you make a final decision.

In My View-Broadband page 5

The college process coach, Sue Young, will give a free, hour-long presentation, including question and answer time, on how to be a smart college shopper.

College Bound? page 7

Lake Garfield Working Group September Report

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 16, at 7 p.m., at the town hall. First on the agenda was a review of contract proposals from two firms to conduct DASH, diver assisted suction harvesting, of Eurasian milfoil in Lake Garfield this fall before the water temperature drops too low for diving. After considering the details presented under both proposals, the committee decided on the basis of cost efficiency and experience to forward a recommendation to the select board that New England Aquatics be contracted for the next phase of this work.

A review of the Western Massachusetts Lakes and Ponds Association (LAPA West) fall symposium to be held Saturday, October 5, was the topic of the remainder of our meeting. Admission is free. Included in this symposium will be a presentation of the research on cyanobacteria conducted this summer in Lake Buel and Lake Garfield. In addition to presentations and discussion concerning the causes, effects, and response to toxic cyanobacteria blooms, other topics of discussion will include: 1) the effectiveness and risks of drawdowns; 2) state funding for lakes and ponds; 3) coordination among regulatory agencies, and; 4) maintaining and improving healthy fisheries. The symposium is free and open to the public. The symposium is on Saturday, October 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the



This sign by the kayak storage area means business.

Zion Lutheran Church, 74 First Street, Pittsfield, MA. Invited exhibitors include state agencies with responsibilities for lake management and contractors who work on our lakes. There will be opportunities to network with experts in lake ecology and management. Attendees are invited to bring plants they want identified and any other questions they wish to raise with the experts during presentation breaks. For more detailed information on the symposium, email Michael Germain at skigermain@gmail.com.

The next meeting of the Lake Garfield Working Group will be held at the town hall on Tuesday, October 15, at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in the health of our lakes is encouraged to attend.

—Steve Snyder

Kayak Breeding Program

What started with a few water vessels has gotten out of hand and we now need a way to limit the numbers of kayaks stored on town property near the beach. Over the past couple of years the town's parks commission has attempted to deal with the kayak storage situation by providing racks. The racks alone seemed to attract numbers of kayaks that quickly made the site unmanageable, coupled with the recent phenomena of kayaks wintering over. Originally this was a dual-use site—personal watercraft, and temporary parking of fishermen's boat trailers and trucks. The numbers of kayaks, etc., have limited the fishermen's boat and trailer use, and created parking issues for beach goers. What to do? Starting this fall, all small craft will be removed from this area by October 15.

Any water vessels remaining after that date will be considered abandoned property and will be removed. Starting next year, any Monterey resident wanting to use the racks will have to obtain a sticker from town hall. The sticker will match a rack number for your kayak. Stickers will be valid from March 15 to October 15, for Monterey residents only. No vessels of any kind will be allowed to be stored on the ground. Information on the sticker program will be available on the town website (montereyma.gov) on the Parks Commission page, and through notices in the *Monterey News*.

—Monterey Parks Commission
and Kenn Basler, select board

The College Process Coach
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Sue Young • 413.854.5048

www.thecollegeprocesscoach.com
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Free workshop with Sue Young. See page 7.

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Letters

Broadband- An Essential Utility

Sign Up! (It is non-binding.)

For many people in Monterey, their only internet connection is through dial-up service, or expensive cell data plans. People who have DSL service are finding it too slow for many contemporary needs (such as working from home, or students' home studying, or video streaming.) Some folks don't need it now, but they might in five years, or especially when they try to sell their homes. FiberConnect is currently the only viable option for Monterey. But the project is stalled.

Signing up to register your *potential interest* is the only way to move this project forward. Elsewhere in this issue the state's 51% grant requirement is explained. MBI needs to see the registrations/signups as an indication of demand to move the grant process forward. Signing up is the strongest message you can send to the select board, MBI, and to Fiber Connect. Signups can be used by the select board to enlist the aid of elected officials (Hinds and Pignatelli) to move the make-ready process forward.

Second Homeowners Hold the Key

It's basic math. As 75% of the residences in Monterey are second homeowners, Monterey can not meet MBI's 51% grant requirement without strong interest from non-resident owners. (Interest by 100% of year-round residents still only gets us halfway towards the 51% state grant requirement.) Without strong interest shown by second homeowners, Monterey risks not qualifying for the \$1.1 million earmarked for building out the network, and in the end, service might only be available to 70% of our residences. (Imagine if electricity was only available to 70% of our homes.)

The most significant bloc of owners needed to achieve broadband availability throughout our town are the second homeowners who use or want to use their property all year round.

Please, call FiberConnect at 413-429-4109, or sign up through their website, bfcma.com, so this project can support everyone's future in Monterey.

—Cliff Weiss, BJ Johnson,
Stan Ross, Stephen Moore

Council on Aging News for October

The **Berkshire Visiting Nurse** will hold a flu clinic on Thursday, October 10, from 2 to 3 p.m., at town hall. The clinic is open to adults over age eighteen, no appointment is necessary. Bring your Medicare and Mass Health cards. \$30 for non-Medicare/Mass Health attendees. Wear short sleeves.

Movie night this month will be *Coco*, an Academy Award-winning animated film about a young man who yearns to be a musician. The movie will be shown on Tuesday, October 15, in town hall, at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Join us for the **bus trip** on Wednesday, October 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., to Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's home, in Hyde Park, NY, which is a National Historic Site commemorating the life and accomplishments of Eleanor Roosevelt. Lunch will be at the historic Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck, the oldest restaurant and tavern in the US. The Council on Aging will cover the trip/transportation; lunch will be off the menu. Seating is limited, and we need a head count by October 9. Please call Kyle Pierce at 413-528-9213, or email at kyle603@verizon.net. We will be leaving from town hall at 8 a.m., the tour is from 10-11:30, lunch at noon.

The **Balance Review class** continues on Wednesdays at the Monterey Community Center at 10:30 a.m.

Bridge and Pitch are on Tuesdays at the community center, at 1 p.m. Bridge is often also on Fridays, depending on scheduling.

—Kyle Pierce

Monterey Library News

After several months of not having a museum pass program, the Springfield Museums decided to start it again. The Monterey Library just received this new pass. There are five museums in the quadrangle. The Springfield Science Museum, a Museum on Fine Arts, a museum of Springfield History, another art museum, and The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum! The pass is good for a half price admission when a full price is purchased. Check it out, literally.

We didn't have a good venue to record oral histories during construction, but now Wendy Germain is ready to start taping again. We've got some ideas like the tornado and the stories behind the *Monterey News*, but we are interested in your story as well. We are going to record an oral history session about the *Monterey News* on October 19, at 10:30 a.m., in the library. Stop in to listen and contribute. Do you have a story to tell? Please get in touch with Mark Makuc at the library to let us know what you would like to record for posterity.

Halloween is Thursday, October 31, as any child will tell you. We have a special guest, storyteller MaryJo (maryjomaichack.com), who will tell some not-too-scary stories for the children as they patiently wait for the people in the village to get their treats ready. MaryJo starts at 4:30 p.m. Don't worry if you're a little late. She'll be here until 5:15 getting everyone into the Halloween spirit.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

MontereyMassLibrary.org



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In My View Broadband and Monterey



At the well-attended broadband forum on September 21, a resident came up after the meeting and told me about his family's summer vacation to Ghana. While there they traveled extensively in the rural parts of the country and were never without cellphone service or high-speed internet connections. Upon return to this country, he has neither cellphone service or adequate internet at his home in Monterey. Another second homeowner would move his family here if he could telecommute with his work. These two residents represented the tip of the frustration iceberg. Why has this project stalled when each of our neighboring towns is moving ahead with whole town installations?

Preceding the forum a number of questions and requests for information were forwarded to Fiber Connect with the hope that answers would help in moving the ball forward.

1. Installations thus far: We requested the current list of addresses of those residences in Monterey that have been lit, and those addresses that at least have been passed.

Fiber Connect would not provide the list but MBI sent us the list provided to



Kenn Basler

them. As of last week Fiber Connect has passed 445 residences with 179 residences taking the service. This translate into a 40% take rate and 47% of the residences in Monterey have been passed and can be connected.

This compares to Egremont where Fiber Connect has passed 85% with a 44% take rate.

2. Make-ready work: Fiber Connect was asked to provide an up-to-date list of make-ready work still to be done. ("make-ready" work is the work necessary to accommodate additional lines on the existing utility poles. This may require

relocating some existing lines all the way to complete pole replacement. The utility companies are responsible for doing the work required.)

According to Fiber Connect, "The only stretch of the 70% still pending make-ready authorization is along Route 23 from Fairview Road west to Route 57." If this is the bottle neck, what can Monterey do to help resolve this? Unfortunately Adam Chait, Fiber Connect's CEO, complains about the problem but offers no way forward. The issue is the pole replacement cost proposed by National Grid and the cost of moving existing lines. Both costs are being challenged by FiberConnect and we have a stalemate. Fiber Connect has to be willing to provide all the documentation required by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and our state senator, Adam Hinds, who has been instrumental in moving the process forward in other towns.

New Marlborough is a good example. Charter has completed negotiations with National Grid and expects all make-ready work to be completed by the end of December. This happened because our elected state leaders got involved, MBI agreed to increase the monies to New Marlborough by \$900,000, and New Marlborough pushed it ahead. It may be viewed as "blackmail," but Charter negotiated more money from the state to pay for the additional cost. If we can get through the vetting process (again Fiber Connect has to be willing to provide the same information



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that has been required of other companies getting money from the state), and it's clear that the cost for make-ready work has substantially increased from the original MBI projections, it only makes sense that Monterey, like other towns, should get an increase in grant allocation.

3. Financial information: On September 4 Fiber Connect provided MBI with the financial details that MBI had requested. We are now waiting for the review process to be completed.

4. Pole installation: The town gave Fiber Connect permission to install twenty-three poles with the understanding that it would speed up the installation process by bypassing trouble areas. Fiber Connect made the decision that because of the problem with make-ready work on Route 23, they would concentrate on Egremont until there was a way forward. It reminds me of a magician getting the audience to look one way while the trick is performed out of sight.

Without transparency it's hard to develop a positive working relationship. It was clear at the forum that there were many Monterey residents willing to provide their time and expertise to solving the problems but equally clear and disturbing was a lack of acceptance by Chait to these offers.

If public money is going to be made available to Fiber Connect, it is way past time for Fiber Connect to understand that transparency is a key element for that partnership. There were individuals attending the forum and offering their assistance who have participated in business deals more difficult than what we currently face. A measure of leadership is recognizing that you don't have all the answers and

surrounding yourself with those who can help solve the problem.

5. Completion timeline: It was clear from the forum that there is no time line for completion of the 70%. This was a source of great frustration, especially when it was disclosed that Fiber Connect has completed passing 84% in Egremont. Again, the lack of urgency on the part of Fiber Connect was apparent. Numerous residents pointed out the inability to work from home, inability of students to complete projects, lack of families purchasing houses in Monterey, etc. High-speed broadband is critical to a town's growth, competitiveness, and stability.

6. Funding questions: Fiber Connect stated that they have the funding to complete 70% of the project but still need monies from the state for the final 30%. At this time, MBI is reviewing their financials and will issue a report in the near future. If the report is positive a formal audit will be undertaken, and upon successful completion Fiber Connect will be eligible for the \$1.1 million grant.

7. Homeowner Action: Fiber Connect has signed up approximately 40% of Monterey residents who can connect to their network. MBI has set a take rate of 51%, in order to be eligible for their grants. Please sign up!

By signing up, you indicate your interest, you lock in any discounts, and there is no cost to you until Fiber Connect passes your house and you make a final decision.

It was evident at the forum that our residents want to complete the buildout and make high speed internet available to all our residents. It was also evident that many in attendance would be willing to work on the problem. To help with the communication, Chris Blair stepped forward and offered the new and grow-

ing Google-based Monterey Community internet group as a way for residents to stay connected. If you're not a member, please sign in at monterey-community@googlegroups.com. In addition, we will post information and meetings on the town's website and send out information through our email list.

Let's finish this project.

— Kenn Basler
Chair, Monterey Select Board

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

October 4 - November 16, 2019
Reception: Saturday, Oct. 5, 6:30-8pm
Perennial
 An exhibition by artists working en plein air
 Maureen Banner, Joe Baker
 Christine Brunoski Goldfinger
 Ron Goldfinger, Richard Kimball



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Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

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Fiber Connect

On Saturday, September 21, Fiber Connect participated in a Q&A hosted by Monterey's Select Board at Monterey Town Hall. We were pleased to see the room packed with residents and thank them for turning out. Most questions directed to Fiber Connect focused on the status of Phase 2's make-ready work, the effect of recently granted pole easements on moving stalled make-ready work forward, the probable build schedule if and when make-ready work is completed, cooperation with MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute) in securing the Town's grant allocation, and what residents in unlit areas can do to help Fiber Connect and the town complete the town's fiber optic broadband project.

Fiber Connect is currently in the middle of its Phase 2 build in Monterey. A significant portion of Phase 2 remains in make-ready with pole owners National Grid and Verizon yet to license poles for attachment. Make-ready has been paid by Fiber Connect and the utilities have completed some work on poles while other portions of Fiber Connect's applications remain in progress. At issue in Phase 2's make-ready work are twenty-plus poles along Route 23 which remain in negotiation with the utilities over their high make-ready costs. The utilities insist these poles need replacing to allow room for Fiber Connect's attachments while Fiber Connect argues existing poles can be made adequate. This stretch of Route 23 is crucial to tying in subscribers to the west of Fairview Road to Monterey's network head end in order to light them. Fiber Connect continues to push for an equitable solution.

The pole easements granted by Monterey's Select Board were sought as a way to reduce make-ready costs for Phase 2, as well as to contribute to a faster build. At this point, installing these poles will not resolve all the make-ready needs of Phase 2's build. These poles offer Fiber Connect a last resort option in lieu of continued negotiation.

For Monterey's Phase 1, Fiber Connect took approximately three months to build this phase's thirteen-plus miles. Using this as a guide and Fiber Connect's practice of lighting premises as they go,

Phase 2 registered premises can expect service in a reasonable period of time after make-ready is complete.

Monterey, Fiber Connect, and MBI have signed off on the Town's Action Plan by which Fiber Connect is seeking approved vendor status with the Commonwealth. If approved, Fiber Connect will be able to receive milestone payments up to the town's grant allocation to complete the majority of route miles in Monterey. This approval would replace the expected MBI payment-in-arrears arrangement. Fiber Connect continues to comply with MBI's request for town coverage data and company financials.

Suggestions as to what could be done by residents to hasten Monterey's broadband build came from residents themselves, select board members, and Fiber Connect. Since MBI considers a service take rate of at least 51% a condition for releasing the town's grant allocation, the select board urged those in unlit areas to register for Fiber Connect's service to meet this goal. Currently Fiber Connect's take rate in Monterey is approximately 40% of premises passed. Registering with Fiber Connect does not currently require an installation payment and signed service agreement until Fiber Connect begins to distribute fiber in a neighborhood. Presently, there is a pre-construction discount on Fiber Connect's standard installation (save \$500) applicable to all unserved ar-

eas. Registering will lock in this discount. (See website listings below for further information about areas served and how to sign up.)

Residents were urged by the select board and Fiber Connect to keep exerting pressure on their state legislative representatives to place pressure on Governor Baker's office to push the utilities for a faster, financially reasonable resolution on Monterey's make-ready impasse.

Lastly, residents recognized the need to stay informed on the issue of the town's broadband access by communicating more with the select board and among themselves. Resident Chris Blair, who was present, invited email signups to the Google group Monterey Community, a forum enabling communication on issues relevant to Monterey residents. Fiber Connect is a participant. To join, send an email to christopher.blair3@gmail.com. Residents can also sign up for Fiber Connect's newsletter by going to our website home page, and scrolling to the bottom for our form.

—Adam Chait
CEO, Fiber Connect

Fiber Connect's website is bfcma.com. Click on the index icon at top right for "About" and navigate to "Berkshire Town Network" for project completion and currently unserved areas, or scroll to the bottom of the home page to "Sign Up."

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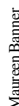
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On November 2, at 10 a.m., at the Monterey Community Center, the college process coach, Sue Young, will give a free hour-long presentation, including question and answer time, on how to be a smart college shopper. This is geared towards high school students and their parents. It's never too soon to start learning what the costs will be, sticker price versus actual costs.



Cookbook Club: If you like to read and you like to cook and you enjoy eating wonderful food, the Cookbook Club is the group for you. The MCC and the Monterey Library will team up to sponsor this ongoing group. Here's how it works. A cookbook will be chosen for the month and will be available at the Monterey Library. Participants will review the book at the library and put a sticky note in it, indicating which recipe they will be making. The group will then meet at the MCC for lunch, sample the dishes from the cookbook and discuss the recipes. Following the meal, the group will decide on the cookbook for the following month. This group will hopefully be up and running this fall. If you have an interest in participating, please contact Wendy Jensen at 528-4007.



Kyle Pierce, organizer of the Monterey Bridge Group, shows off her hand of a lifetime and twenty-eight point grand slam winner. Combined with her partner Steve Graves's five points, Kyle bid and made seven-no-trump. The Monterey Bridge Group meets Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m., at the community center, throughout the year.

Canasta: Thursdays at 7 p.m.

7



The vertical trunk of this “Figure 8” sugar maple stood behind the stump seen on the right side of the right-hand photo above.

Monterey Figure 8 Tree

I first heard about Monterey’s figure 8 tree about forty years ago from a friend who also gave me the general location along an old woods road. At the time I simply filed the information away in the back of my mind, and it wasn’t until some months later when I happened to be in the area that I decided to try to find it, if it was even still there. But surprise of surprises, in less than five minutes I was standing beside it, an unusually shaped large sugar maple, that with no exaggeration, resembled a figure 8 laying on its side, and it was still alive!

I stood there and marveled at it a while and told myself I should bring my children here to see this unusual specimen of a tree. But life gets busy, time marches

on, and I never did. Some years later a local logger cut the timber on this piece of property and his skid road for bringing out the harvested trees initially followed the old woods road beside which the figure 8 tree was growing. I figured (no pun intended) the tree would not have been able to withstand all the logging activity going on around it, but after the logger was finished, I walked the short distance up the recent skid road and lo and behold, there was the figure 8 tree still standing.

Again years passed, the property was sold, and the new owner decided to build on it. The location for the “new” driveway was again along the old woods road—the loggers’ skid road. I was now certain the tree was history. Although surviving chainsaws, its brethren falling around it,

and a skidder, there was no way it could survive earthmoving equipment and the relentless push of modern civilization. Curiosity got the better of me and on a cold day in January 2018, after a recent snowfall, I walked up the driveway.

There beside the driveway, and now dead and partially fallen down, were the remains of the figure 8 tree. I took a few pictures of what once had been a rare thing in the world. Although covered in snow and partially fallen, hopefully you can see in your mind what once had stood in this spot.

The story of how the tree came into existence goes like this: Years ago, living on Cronk Road in Monterey, was a family by the name of Twing. The father’s name was James and he had a son also named James. This younger James had a habit of twisting saplings as he went about his activities. The family owned a wood lot up the old woods road and on one of his trips by, James had twisted this sapling into a figure 8. The unusual thing is it lived and grew for many years. I know from my own experience as a child twisting saplings that they usually don’t live long after undergoing such treatment.

I never did know James Twing (the younger) but I did know his sister Ruth, who became a friend in her later years. Ruth had helped look after my mother and her sister after my grandmother died, so the family connection went back a ways. Ruth had some interesting stories about Monterey, and the local area, but those are for another time.

—Lyman Thomson



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The Thomas and Palmer Brook Reserve

Being in 219 acres of meadows and woods, away from traffic and the worries of the world, is an escape that you might welcome. Just next door to Monterey, the newly established Thomas and Palmer Brook Reserve in Great Barrington is on Route 23 across from the Koi restaurant. A wooden fence marks the parking area. A bridge crosses over a brook and leads to a mowed trail. Up ahead, the trail gives choices, straight ahead or to the right. Either way, they create a circle which is about a half-mile with an easy grade. Dogs are welcomed. The walk is designed to be welcoming to children and the elderly, too.

There are different kinds of trees, plants, and bird life. The brook attracts ducks, and is home to a number of fish. Beaver activity is visible nearby.

Besides walking the mowed area, there is an unmarked dirt road that wanders into the forest. You can snowshoe, ski, and fish in season. Hunting is allowed. Vehicles are not allowed. This is a Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) property. There is future funding, designated to upgrade the trail within the next eighteen months.

Maps and information are available at the trailhead. Respect and keep your distance from wildlife. Using tick/bug spray would be wise. Go for it. Enjoy your walk, take in the views and have fun. I have been there already four times this fall. Maybe we'll see each other on the trail.

—Bonsai Cox



Bonsai Cox

September Contributions

The *Monterey News* was pleased to accept a donation made in the memory of Barbara Tryon, who left us in late July. She's building community from beyond.

And once again, thank you so much to both new and previous folks for supporting this endeavor.

Jane Allen

Frank and Nancy Ashen

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Geory and Christine Fahlund

Marc and Madeline Holzer

Ken and Laurel Kahn

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Knox Gallery

Perennial

The Knox Gallery opens the fall season with *Perennial*, featuring the work of five local painters who meet regularly to take advantage of the beautiful and varied subject matter that our outdoor Berkshire landscape offers. This dedicated and hardy group consists of four Montereyans: Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Christine Brunaski Goldfinger, and Ron Goldfinger, and Sheffield resident Richard Kimball.

The tradition of painting outdoors—*en plein air*—represents leaving behind both the physical and academic confines of working in the studio to embrace and observe the natural light and the visual stimulus that surround us, at different times of day and in different seasons. Banner notes, “Painting *en plein air* is a great way to be outdoors, observing and expressing color and form, and is portable.”

Please join us for the opening reception of *Perennial* on Saturday, October 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., to enjoy the images of nature that these artists have captured and will share with us.

Winter Community Group Exhibit—Connections

Our tradition at the Knox Gallery is to sponsor a winter community exhibit, and the season is coming around. *Connections* will open on Friday evening, November 29. We hope all artists and friends will consider this theme an impetus and inspiration for an exciting new work. We plan to assemble a diverse and stimulating group of pieces that express many interpretations of the theme, represent a range of mediums, and are a reflection of our community. We look forward to seeing your work.



Examples of *en plein air* artwork by Ron Goldfinger (above) and Maureen Banner (below).

We ask all participants to submit an “Intent to Enter” form by November 5. The form will be available in the library and on the library and town websites by October 15. All instructions will be on the forms. One piece of two- or three-dimensional, ready-to-display work per artist will need to be hand-delivered to the library Friday evening, November 22, or Saturday morning, November 23, during library hours. Pieces should be 18” x 24” maximum, including frame. Check November’s *Monterey News* for more details. The exhibit will run until January 4, 2020.

All Knox Gallery events and openings are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (back page of this issue). 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



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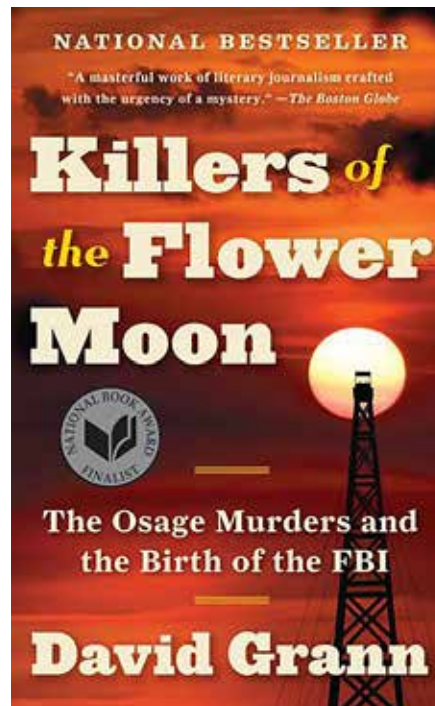
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Community Potluck October 16

The Monterey Community Potluck Dinners are starting up again in October. We have Devin Franklin, Program Director at Flying Deer Nature Center, in East Chatham, NY. Flying Deer is a wilderness school dedicated to mentoring children and adults to deepen connection to nature. He is an expert environmental educator who authored *Put on Your Owl Eyes*, a treasure chest of nature-connection stories and exercises for children ages eight to thirteen. *Put on your Owl Eyes* was named an Amazon Best Book of the Month for May.

The first Monterey Community Potluck Dinner of the season will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey meetinghouse on Wednesday, October 16, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Kyle Pierce



Adult Book Group

The book group meets monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30. Now that the library has been renovated, the meetings have moved back there and will take place in the community room. The book selections alternate between fiction and nonfiction, based on recommendations of the participants. New members are always welcome. If you like to read and to discuss what you have read, drop by and participate in a lively discussion.

Here are the books for the next few months:

October 28: *Killers of the Flower Moon*, by David Grann

November 25: *The Alice Network*, by Kate Quinn

December 30: *Lab Girl*, by Hope Jahren

January 27: *Tip of the Iceberg*, by Mark Adams

To read reviews of any of these books, go to GoodReads.com, but don't read the spoilers!

—Laurie Shaw

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We Make a Difference

Thank you all! Together, we were able to create a huge impact for veterans and troops, while simultaneously honoring those who died on 9/11. As a community we made a big difference. Donations included seventy-one snacks, forty-eight personal care items, twenty-two bars of soap, seven packs of gum, thirty-seven razors, 131 bottles of shampoo, one hundred cards, and, through generous donations, Monterey sponsored seven whole care packages! We also received donations from BigY and Price Chopper—one hundred bottles of shampoo in a shopping cart isn't something you see everyday. It was only possible because of their giving back to the community. On Wednesday, September 11, volunteers from across the Commonwealth put together 1,200 care packages with donations from across the state, and we certainly made up a meaningful portion of that!

A special thanks to the Monterey Coffee Club for making an impactful donation and the Our Lady of the Valley Parish for getting involved. It's because of this community involvement that we truly make a difference: by helping those who have made sacrifices for us we are helping ourselves and our community to be stronger. Lots of appreciation goes to numerous individuals who put themselves out there and made donations of many sorts.

I would also like to send gratitude to veterans in Monterey, and families of veterans and troops. Your sacrifices have preserved our freedom and safety, and I am very grateful for your service. I often take for granted how I can speak my mind, or not wake up in fear, but many people across the world don't have those luxuries. It is so important to remember that it is because of you that we are so blessed with those privileges.

Thank you all for your support.

—Nadia Makuc

Pleasant Surprises

- You're sure you're right. So you bet your ten-year-old grandson, and he wins!
- Your houseplant certainly looks dead. Still, you water it. Returning from being away for a week, and it's in full bloom!



A portion of the approximately one-third-mile-long access road being built to the new cell phone tower site to be situated on Hume New England's property.

Cell Tower Progress

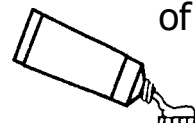
Always fun to report good news. After eight-plus years of struggle, we have entered the final stage, and the most recent report from the tower contractor is the tower will be up and functioning by Thanksgiving. This will enable residents in 80% of Monterey to have two to three bars of service. This tower will link coverage with the other tower near the junction of Route 57 and Route 23, and will enable the entire Route 23 corridor from Great Barrington through Otis to have seamless service. Many thanks to our contractor, Vertex Towers, and AT&T. A special thank you to Camp Hume for allowing the tower to be located on their property and AT&T that recognized the need and was willing to work with the town. For

all those Verizon customers—call your reps and demand action.

—Kenn Basler
Chair, Monterey Select Board

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Dorene and Amber at the community center.

Searching for the Moon

It was standing room only on Friday evening, September 20, as thirty-five people filed into the Monterey Community Center to see the performance of Amber Chand in her one-woman show, "Searching for the Moon."

The audience was captivated for ninety minutes as Amber, a resident of Great Barrington, told and reenacted the story of her life across three continents. It was a personal story that ultimately shines a light on the larger human story—the triumphs and defeats, sorrows and joys, failures and successes that we all experience and are enriched by.

Her memoirs were powerful and, at times, funny as she expertly told her tales of exotic places, cultural differences, success and reversals in family fortunes and, ultimately, of self-actualization and the simple joy of living well.

—Dorene Beller

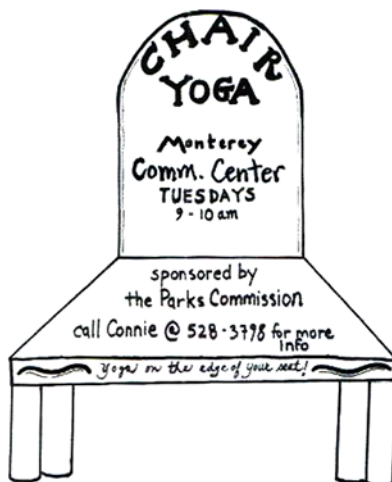
Gong Bath Elizabeth Freeman Center Benefit

The next community gong bath will be held on Sunday, October 13, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the home of George and Susan Cain, located at 9 Heron Pond Park. This month the charity will support the Elizabeth Freeman Center in Great Barrington. \$50 was raised last month for the Berkshire Humane Society.

Come and receive the benefits from the healing sounds of a thirty-six-inch gong. This experience helps to bring wholeness and balance to the body. Because it will be played close to the full moon, you will have an opportunity to set your personal intention utilizing the greater amplification of the full moon's energetic pull. This moon will appear bigger and more orange as it rises above the horizon. Don't miss it!

Call me at 203-249-8958 with questions or to reserve your spot.

—Susan Cain



Otis Cultural Council Grant Application Due

The Otis Cultural Council invites artists, artisans, educators, lecturers, and performers from Massachusetts to apply for state and town funding for cultural programs to benefit Otis residents in 2020. Our mission is to provide access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences for adults, teens, and children in our community.

Applicants may submit paper applications as in the past online. To file online go to mass-culture.org/, click on the "Applicants" button, and follow the instructions given there.

You may download a paper version from our cultural council page on the Town of Otis website (townofotisma.com). Paper applications will also be available at the Otis Town Hall. Completed paper applications should be mailed to: Otis Cultural Council, 1 North Main Road, PO Box 237, Otis, MA 01253.

Applications must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

For more information, send email inquiries to culturalco.otis@yahoo.com, or call Jeanne Randorf (Chair) at 413-269-4251.

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Monterey Softball 2019 Looking Forward to 2020

Summer in the Berkshires brings many pleasures, and among those is the return of Sunday morning softball at Greene Park in Monterey.

The game began over fifty years ago and has continued uninterrupted every year since. During this time, players have come and gone, though there are a handful of players who have been participating for over thirty-five years. The players in the game have always been a collection of all ages and skill levels and include, of course, full-time residents and weekenders. This year we had players as young as eight and as old as seventy-eight. We had many sons and daughters of players who participate, and this year a new ceiling was shattered—we had a grandson of a player as a regular participant. We have drawn players who have come from as far away as Shanghai, Argentina, Maryland, California and even Pittsfield! The constant is that everyone gets to engage in a little exercise in a beautiful setting, some good-natured bench jockeying, warm camaraderie, and playing in a fun game of softball.

The games are played each Sunday from late April until late September. Batching practice begins at 10 a.m. At 10:30 teams are formed either at random or by two designated captains who choose



Monterey softball at Greene Park drew a huge, enthusiastic crowd of players for the Labor Day holiday game. Informal, co-ed, pick-up games continue into the fall, every Sunday at 10:30, with players of all levels welcome to participate. Caption and photo by Steve Graves.

players trying to make sides as even and fair as possible. The results are sometimes lopsided, but it never really seems to matter very much.

In 2011 it was discovered that a similar Sunday game took place in Copake, NY, and a friendly competition and series of games between the two towns has taken place ever since. In 2016 the Copake group found a game was taking place in Lakeville, CT, and this year there was a series of games played amongst the three towns. Monterey beat Lakeville in an away game but lost to Copake at home.

Copake won both their games and so this year they boast holding the “virtual” tri-state trophy. Next year Monterey will look to wrest that trophy away. These games between the towns are a bit more serious and competitive than the regular game, and provide a nice contrast to the normally laid back Sundays.

We had a very successful 2019 season with great turnouts and many new players... some of whom have become regulars. We look forward to welcoming more new friends next summer.

—Ira Transport

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Goldenrod

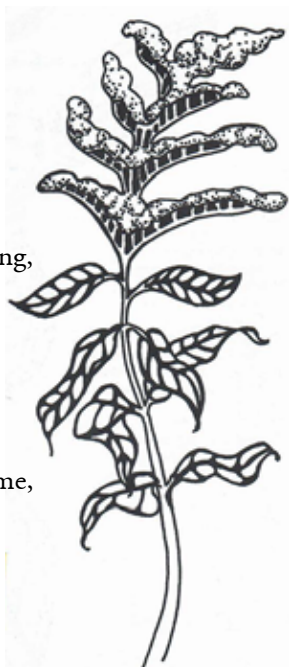
The bees are in the buckwheat,
End of summer days is near.
The goldenrod is blooming,
It's the sad time of the year.

We planted in the springtime.
Prayed and hoped with reverent song,
To have a crop to harvest
When the autumn days grew long.

Golden days are lonely days,
They are halfway in between;
The blooms that came in the springtime,
And the harvest time to glean.

Golden days are lonely days.
Did you stand up to the test?
You tried and tried, and gave your all,
But did you do your best?

— Shel Fenn
from Woodburn Farm,
the Poetry of Sheldon Fenn



To a Young Squirrel

Frisking about in the trees you go,
Then hurrying down to the ground below
Where you find the acorns green and brown
The old oak tree has shaken down.
Surely there must be One on high
Who is looking down from an autumn sky
Bidding you gather the nuts you do
To store for the cold days ahead of you.
How else would you know of the cold and snow?
For you were not here a year ago.
Did your mother turn you out on your own
To gather your winter's food all alone?
Knowing full well that God would care
And show you the nuts that had fallen there.
Then scurry around and gather them in
And hide them away in your acorn bin
There, nestled away where no one knows,
You'll have plenty to eat when the north wind
blows.

— Eleanor Kimberly
October 1999

More Weight

We shrug at shade like wind or fog, though autumn
gusts of paper-shuffling in lofty offices
will roil a lawn like God's face on the waters.

True, these don't shake the thrones of thickened things
—a banker's manse sprawled on its throne of lawn,
where heavy elms warn lovers to move on.

They'll fall in time the way all despots fall:
first the midget in his braided tunic,
then his statue toppled with a rope.

Although we'd rather have the apple than
the apple's shadow, it's not wrong to think
how clouds as vast as ranches sadden Kansas.

— Don Barkin

In Winter, Warmth

In winter, warmth is what we want and need;
its value rises with the bitter chill.
The potent force of weather we'll concede.

No longer is it sun for which we plead;
with meager substitutes its place we fill.
In winter, warmth is what we want and need.

Warm weather often makes our pains recede.
But now we must oppose with all our skill
the potent force of weather. We'll concede

that cold may cause our skin to crack and bleed,
that we can't bend the weather to our will.
In winter, warmth is what we want and need;

we urge each warming trend to pick up speed.
Our hopes for some respite are high, until
the potent force of weather we concede.

There are few wants on which we're all agreed.
The climate of each life is volatile.
Yet, winter warmth is something we all need.
The potent force of weather we'll concede.

— Ed Schur
January 2006

From the Meetinghouse

I use the word “worship” a lot. So used to it am I, in fact, that I only realize this when I say it around someone who seems to find it discomfiting. As if too insinuating a term for common use, “worship” will have some people flinch. But it’s become habit. Where I used to say “church,” as in, “I have church on Sunday,” I now say “worship,” as in, “I have worship on Sunday.” Where you could say service, as in, “What time is the service?” I say “worship,” as in, “Worship is at 10 o’clock.” I say this because church means something other than what we’re *doing* here, as it means something other than the building in which we’re doing it. Church is the gathered body, a physical and worldwide manifestation of the mystical body of Christ. I say this because “service” means something more general than what we’re doing here. I say “worship” because it’s one-word quick and because it actually means what I’m trying to say.

It’s also not *that* discomfiting a word. Worship is just the modern English rendering of the old English *weorthscipe*, which is about making manifest a recognition of worth or worthiness. It’s about making in demonstration one’s sense of that which has worth. To worship is to recognize worth. To worship is to pay attention. And to worship rightly is to pay attention to the right thing, to pay attention to that which is worthy of such payment.

Notice, please, how attention is conceived in terms of payment.

Notice, also, something that has gotten by with our inattention to it, that we are these days thought to be living in an attention economy.

Did you know that this thing, our attention, has become commodified in recent time, is increasingly supposed to be the most valuable commodity now available for sale? It is, in fact, more and more discussed that the role we each play in the marketplace, now globalized, has changed, and not just in the last, say, forty years as the economy has become truly globalized, but in the last, say, ten years as the economy has become increasingly about information and therefore about our attention.

Long ago, we of course were thought to be people—and long discourses of theological anthropology would wonder about that, implying that to be a person was no plain and simple thing, was actually one of the deepest mysteries there is. “What is the person that you are mindful of him or her?” one of the psalms famously asks.

More recently, in modern times, with the rise of the liberal state, we were considered citizens—and long discourses of political theory would speculate about what the citizen is and ought to be, what with our capacity for reason and self-interest.

Over the course of my lifetime so far, we’ve been reduced to consumers, each to play our part in keeping the economy humming along, working to produce wealth, to spend that wealth on consumer goods which, though perhaps each cheap themselves (cheap clothes, cheap shoes, cheap appliances, cheap trinkets and gadgets and widgets and jib-jabs), are valuable in their keeping that capital flowing.

Now, we are the product.

Most reduced of the list, most dehumanized of all (if you ask me)—we’re the commodity, our attention the thing that corporations (Facebook, Google,

YouTube) vie for. This is where the money is—in what we can be compelled to pay our attention to.

This grotesque situation: I find myself looking for escape from it. I find myself searching the now dark early morning, to spend (again with the terms of value!) it on my porch with books, literature or spiritual classics. I sneak out of my bed sometimes as early as 4:30, though risking being grumpy and ready for bed by early evening, because I simply can’t stand the condition of my mind these days, the condition that preys upon all our attention these days—distraction, un-focus, and the reckless, careless, mindless state it all puts us in, which buzzes and pixelates and hums us into forgetting the deep value of our attention and imagination, the deep value of our slow and soft humanity.

For a long time, “going to church” was something of a given in American life. In the time since that’s passed away, leaders of the church, at least in mainline traditions, addressed the dissipation of this as a given by creating liturgies of welcome, litanies of all the sorts of people who’d be welcome here (which, spoiler alert, are meant to imply everyone). We were compensating for a notion out there that people were leaving church because churches were being felt as places of doctrinaire unwelcome—and I suppose there was a time when that’s exactly how we’ve been, and to express new welcome really did feel relevant, even pressing.

But I think times have changed—again. I don’t think people stay away



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Bonsai Cox asks, "Can you tell it's fall yet?"

from congregational life because they can't tolerate our anticipated intolerance (litanies of welcome aside). I think people stay away because they can't think of why they'd come in the first place. A whole generation into non-participation in congregational life, we're assuming the world is rejecting us, when I think they're more likely puzzled as to why anyone would bother coming in the first, why anyone would bother with this weird, vestigial practice in the first place. "Do people even go to church anymore?" one person asked me when she found out I'm a pastor. She was honestly amazed, and more than a little amused.

For what it's worth, I think our calling card here at the congregation in Monterey is less about "welcome" (though there is that) and is more about sanctuary—sanctuary from a world that is treating us people more and more like something to be mined for real value all in service of machines that never sleep and thus never allow us to either.

Or at least this is what *my* participation in the congregation here in Monterey is about—sanctuary for this aspect of myself most vulnerable, most preyed upon. My invaluable attention, each of our astonishingly powerful and vulnerable minds: here these are treated as they were created to be treated, as full of promise and potential, as

sources of peace and new possibility, and as in need of honoring, a sort of cultivation and irrigation, respect, and care.

We fritter them away. We squander our minds and imaginations and attention because that's what the new realms we've created have demanded of us. That's what bargain we've struck under surveillance capitalism. We are the treasure being mined, and we're apparently okay with that.

It's a really ugly bargain.

If you think so too, then consider giving yourself at least one hour a week to rest in a beautiful building long cared for by people of Monterey who've come before, and who sought to offer this place as sanctuary, where the nurture of humanity and humanism is a central cause. We gather every Sunday at 10 a.m.

Perhaps you only suspect this is a gift you'd like to offer yourself. Perhaps the attention economy has so captured you (as often me) that you don't even know what a free mind actually feels like, and worse don't know you don't know. I think there are people who fit this description, which I myself often fit.

If so, come find us—in this plain sanctuary where there is little to pay attention to but what most deserves it. Your mined mind might find what's truly worthy of it here.

—Liz Goodman

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us October 16 to hear:
Devin Franklin

Program Director
Flying Deer Nature Center

See the community potluck supper
article on page 11.

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Bountiful Harvests at Bracken Brae Farm

Potted mums—muted russet, ochre, mauve—\$6 for a generous cluster. Pumpkins, soccer- to beach-ball sized, \$3 to \$6. Coolers are filled with loose leaf lettuce and cartons of eggs. There are shiny, deep purple eggplants, green and yellow string beans, tiny red sugar plums (the standard ones didn't do much this year), tomatoes of many sizes, pale green cabbages, rose-tinged apples, spherical watermelons, winter squash in three varieties and summer squash in two, peppers, cucumbers and onions.

Since July, the sweet corn, just \$7 a dozen, has been reliably tender and delicious. The juicy peaches have disappeared, but if we get a good frost, we may be able to pick up some sweet/tart Concord grapes and who knows what else. It's harvest time at the Bracken Brae Farm stand, and the pickings are good.

My food buying strategy this summer has been: if I can't get it from Bracken-Brae, or the weekly farmer's market, or my own somewhat neglected garden patch at the community center that nevertheless keeps me well supplied in greens, then I don't really need it (with a few exceptions of course). Because, other than growing your own, you can't get better, more local, more affordable produce than that of this Monterey food purveyor. As a big vegetable consumer, I've seen a dramatic decline in my food spending over the last four months.



Janet Jensen

To those who rarely make it past the center of town heading east, the farm stand is up a hill and dale (which is what its alliterative name, Bracken-Brae, means in Scottish), to the left, not far past Sandisfield Road.

When I was first tipped off to the stand a few years ago, it was essentially a roadside table, a 10' x 10' pop-up tent and hand-lettered sign. Back then, I thought of it more as a place to check for salad ingredients than as my go-to vegetable source.

But, like the crops that Anna and Dale Duryea cultivate (using compost for fertilizer and garlic spray for pests), the enterprise itself has grown organically over the last several years. Anna has always raised vegetables, she says, and the couple started their business selling at the Otis farmers market years ago. Then they installed the roadside pop-up right at the farm—later replaced by a twenty-two footer farther off the road, and, this year, by an even larger tent that shades two rows of tables.

Their marketing efforts, still a charmingly casual mix of signage in various sizes and fonts, morphed as well. The "Open" and "Farm Stand" banners were bequeathed by Steve Pullen, who gave up selling home-grown vegetables from his Greenhaven Farm near the fire station some years back. The wood painted sign, with the modest "organically grown" eyebrow, was painted by the Duryeas's niece, a graphic designer, three years ago. Other than that, advertising is strictly word of mouth.

As the tents have enlarged, so have the choices. "I've been trying to add variety, a little of this and that," says Anna. New this year are the brown and white

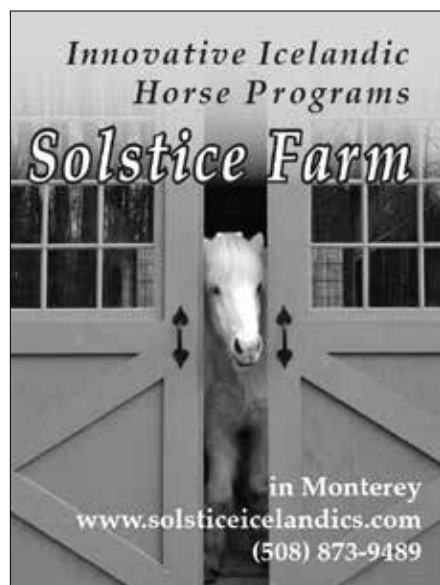
eggs on a regular basis, fresh from Sue Thompson's farm down the Sandisfield Road a bit.

People are taking notice. "This year has been tremendous," says Anna. "They're coming from everywhere—we've got steady customers from Lakeville and Canaan. They're coming up from Danbury. And Hillsdale, New York." One weekend afternoon there were twelve cars squeezed into the rutted parking lot, Dale says. A friend of mine from Great Barrington was so impressed by the quality and price (\$2) of the spaghetti squashes, a mainstay of her husband's vegan, heart-healthy diet, that she asked me to pick up five. When I stopped by one evening, waiting for the Duryeas to close up and chat with me, there was a steady stream of happy shoppers.

The farm was established in 1895 by Anna's great-grandparents, the Parkers. Her grandparents, who planted some of the still bearing fruit trees, and parents, who came up from West Virginia for the summers, kept it up. "During the Depression, everyone farmed a bit," said Anna. "They had to."

Her siblings weren't that interested in keeping up the farm, but Anna took to it. She does the bulk of the farming herself on five to ten acres of the sixty-five acres, most of which are woodlands.

"Someone comes in to till the potato and squash plots," she says. "I do the littler ones." When she needs extra pairs of hands for harvesting beans or weighing tomatoes, her kids often show up and pitch in. Dale helps with the daily setup and breakdown. But Anna does all of the planting, she says. That includes starting many of the plants early in their basement, under





Dale and Anna Duryea

grow lights. That's all in addition to her work as a one-on-one teacher's aid during the school year, which started in August. And to taking care of her disabled sister.

The day essentially starts the night before, when their order of corn is called in—based on that day's sales and general trends—to the Calabreeze Farm in Southwick, MA. There, the combination of the warmer valley climate and heat mats maintains a hospitable ground temperature that allows for bi-weekly plantings through mid-August and typically ensures a local supply from the Fourth of July through mid-October. Dale or Anna make the forty-three-mile, two-hour trek to pick up the field-fresh ears. "Sometimes the bags are ready, and sometimes we have to wait for them to bring them in from the field," Dale says.

Meanwhile, the tables are set up, the white board revised, the cash box and notecards put in place, all by around 6:15 to take advantage of the morning traffic—although the sales are better later in the day. During the peak tourist season, Dale checks and replenishes the inventory and looks in on the stand every forty minutes or so. Other than that, the stand pretty much runs itself, with the help of several surveillance cameras that caught a couple of thieves red-handed. It made the couple angry, especially because Anna says she's ready to lower her already low prices, or even give food away, in cases of genuine hardship.

Although they weren't able to prosecute, apparently the Duryeas's efforts did work—the thieves haven't been back lately.

In any case, the couple doesn't seem like one you'd want to mess with.

"People don't horse around with me. I'm stronger than I look," says Anna. "I lift fifty pound bags of corn several times a day. That builds up muscle."

Dale seems pretty tough as well. Long-time residents may know him as Monterey's long-serving (he started while still in high school and kept at it for thirty years) animal control officer, back when that was a full-time job, or more. Certainly it was in 1995, the year the rabies virus hit, when he was working fifteen to twenty hours a day. That year, too, he got bit by one rabid raccoon, and underwent a series of shots—gamma globulin in the buttocks, vaccinations in the arm.

"Are the watermelons good?" one customer asked the day I was lurking about. Dale assured me that they were extremely sweet, as were the cantaloupes, which I could vouch for from personal experience. This year, in Anna's words, "they just kept growing and growing."

In the interest of accurate reporting, I bought a watermelon and split it with friends, all of whom heartily endorsed the flavor and texture. It was as ripe and sweet as the Duryeas are tough.

Can't get a better deal on them anywhere I know, but hurry – Bracken-Brae farm stand is open just through Columbus Day weekend. Otherwise you'll have to wait until mid-June, or whenever the crops are ready.

— Janet Jensen

Editor's Note: During the summer months, Bracken Brae farm stand is one of only two places where you can pick up the Monterey News 24/7, unless they've run out again.



Berkshire Botanical Garden 85th Harvest Festival

Berkshire Botanical Garden will hold its 85th annual Harvest Festival on Saturday and Sunday, October 12 and 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival encompasses the entire twenty-acre Garden campus, brimming with children's activities, pony and hay rides, games, live entertainment, over one hundred regional artisan vendors, a farm market, tag and plant sales, and education offerings scheduled throughout the weekend. Proceeds from this event benefit the Garden's horticulture and education programs. Admission is \$7 for adults; children under 12 are admitted free. Free parking in the Garden's lots.

Berkshire Botanical Garden is located at 5 West Stockbridge Road, on either side of Route 102, in Stockbridge, MA.



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A True Frog

There is a tiny masked frog in these parts called a wood frog, *Lithobates sylvaticus*. When they first emerge from their swimming pollywog stage, they are froglets, only half an inch long but fully ready for life in the woods. Winter will come, and they will be tucked away under bark or grasses, slowing down for hibernation. They may even freeze, and live to tell the tale. These wood frogs are our most northern amphibians and some live way up above the Arctic Circle. Even the ones around here may freeze solid in a cold winter, but like a lot of invertebrate animals, they have a sort of antifreeze which saves them from ice damage.

In the early spring, before the ice is fully off the ponds and lakes, the wood frogs emerge and head for the water where they begin their courtship calls, as early as March. We think of the spring peepers as being our earliest frog singers, but the wood frogs are there, too. They sound like ducks quacking, but if you approach the pond the sound suddenly stops and there are no ducks to be seen. Male wood frogs have vocal sacs on either side of their bodies which swell into spheres above their arms and look a little like water wings. During the mating season, they look for a female and clasp her from behind, just below her arms. She then swims around until she finds a submerged stick or branch and starts her egg laying. She may put out a thousand eggs, in a small black ball or disc, and the male fertilizes them as they are laid. This process can take a couple of hours or even two or three days, but when she is finished laying eggs, the frogs separate and leave the pond, to spend the rest of the year in their terrestrial habitat, which is the woods.

Meanwhile, the eggs, encased in a jelly glob, start developing into larvae. The jelly around the outside of the egg mass is clear at first, but it soon turns green as it becomes imbedded with a green alga. This obscures the eggs and developing larvae and protects them from some of their many predators.

Wood frogs often head for seasonal or vernal pools, and here at least there are no fish to gobble them up. These pools dry up by late summer, but the eggs hatch in

three weeks and the pollywogs turn into little frogs in another month or so. They go from eggs to froglets in about fifty days, though development can be slowed by cooler temperatures.



It takes two years for the frogs to reach their full adult size, which is about two inches long. They are members of the family Ranidae, considered to be the “true frogs,” and all members of this group have long legs, narrow waists, and smooth skin. The fingers are free and the hind toes are joined by webs, like flippers. Wood frogs don’t have spots or decorations other than their raccoon-like mask. This is a dark or black patch that extends backward from the eye and is highlighted by a light line along the upper jaw back to the shoulder. The overall body color can be many variations from light fawn to shades of brown to almost black, and the underparts are creamy or white.

In March when the wood frogs go back to those chilly ponds for mating, they will start up with a clacking call known as the “advertisement call.” Their other call is a “release call,” and this is the little chirp made by a female who is not ready to lay eggs and wants the male to unclasp himself from her. Males make the same release call when other males make the mistake of clasping them. This is all about reproduction. All systems must be “go.”

Some other Ranids, or true frogs, in these parts are the northern leopard frog, the pickerel frog, and the green frog. Green frogs put out their egg masses in June and early July. They hatch as pollywogs in less than a week and some turn into frogs that

same summer. Others overwinter as pollywogs and emerge the following spring. Green frogs look for the shallows in large bodies of water. They will not be able to overwinter in the temporary vernal pools favored by the wood frogs.

The wood frog’s Latin name, *Lithobates sylvaticus*, means a “stone that walks or hunts” and is a creature of the woods.

This is a practical and descriptive name. When I see a little masked character flying over the ground in its long leaps, I don’t think of a walking stone. I am thinking Tiny Zorro, or the Little Lone Ranger, “away!” A bit of romance and excitement, to honor an excellent true frog.

—Bonner McAllester



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Remembrance

Thomas E. Andrus

Tom passed away peacefully at home on Friday, September 20. He was born July 24, 1927, in Great Barrington, to Franklin and Mabel Stalker Andrus. In his youth, Tom delivered the *Berkshire Courier*, was a farmhand, and did any other work so he could bring home money to help his parents. Tom's hard work ethic continued throughout his life. Tom graduated from Searles High School. He was an air raid spotter and member of the Massachusetts State Guard from 1942-45. He proudly served his country with the U.S. Army and was stationed in Panama near the end of World War II.

He was co-owner of A&C Auto Body from 1959-75 and then worked at Plaza Ford. In 1979, he joined his son Tommy in his auto body shop, Precision Autocraft, in Monterey (just west of the Roadside Cafe) and stayed with it through its relocation to Sheffield.

Tom was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River and Our Lady of the Valley Church in Sheffield. He sang in the choir in both churches. From 1965-2005, Tom was a volunteer fireman for the Town of Monterey and during that time saw the construction of the new firehouse. He was a mentor for the area youth interested in the auto body field. Thursday nights were devoted to the Shrine of Divine Mercy as an acolyte for over fifteen years. In his free time, Tom was an avid bowler. He enjoyed spending time with his family and was always helping his children through various construction projects.

Tom leaves his wife of sixty-one years, the former Patricia A. Stanley, whom he married May 3, 1958, in Immaculate Conception Church. Tom leaves daughter Susan Marie Lukas and husband Kenneth of Pleasant Valley, Missouri; daughter-in-law Kathy Andrus of Mill River and grandchildren Melissa and Max and wife Jenny; son Daniel Sr. and wife Julie of Sandisfield and grandchildren Daniel II, Nicole and Ukiah; son Richard F. and wife Denise of Monterey and grandchildren Lauren and Hunter; son Jon C. and wife Heather of Otis and grandchildren Morgan, Rene, Ashley, Alison and Felicity. Tom also leaves six great-grandchildren (with another due in November), and many



nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Tom was predeceased by his son Thomas M. and his sister Lois Curtiss.

Funeral services for Thomas E. Andrus were held on Saturday, September 28, at Our Lady of the Valley Church, with the Reverend Peter Naranjo officiating. Burial followed in Corashire Cemetery, Monterey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that expressions of sympathy in Tom's memory be made to either HospiceCare in the Berkshires or to Our Lady of the Valley Building Fund, both in care of the Birches Roy funeral home at 33 South St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Condolences may be made through birchesroy funeralservices.com.

Bidwell House Museum

Early Epitaphs

Join us on October 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., as Tyringham resident John Hanson gives a talk titled "Early Epitaphs." Hanson has been collecting and studying early New England epitaph verse for years. In this talk, he will share some favorite verses from local gravestones and discuss their sources, including scripture, hymnody, lyric poetry, and epitaphs made-to-order for a particular individual. The talk will consider how eighteenth-century Berkshire residents might have accessed the source texts, far from the centers of commerce and publishing. Hanson will also discuss what these very personal choices tell us about early New Englanders' attitudes towards life and death.

John Hanson is a Williamstown native, a business executive in Cambridge, and third-generation homeowner in Tyringham.

This program will start with a presentation at the museum and then the group will travel to the Chestnut Hill Cemetery in Monterey to see examples of the epitaphs discussed. Dress for the weather and plan for a short four-mile drive from the Museum to the cemetery. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.

The Bidwell House Museum is open Thursdays to Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to late October. The museum grounds are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website, bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



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The Vocal Whip-poor-will

Most avid birdwatchers will always remember hearing the insistent chant of Whip-poor-will's summer evening song. It may seem to go on forever, as long as several hundred times, making it very easy to imitate the exact verbal sequence. The song is unusually vociferous because the repetitious message is first driven by seeking a mate and then a territorial obsession. This bird is more often heard than seen, sleeping by day, camouflaged by colors and patterns emulating horizontal low-lying tree branches. It does not wake up until twilight, but then will flutter up into the air, along the edge of a woodland clearing, to catch insects. It nests on the ground and lays two eggs, cleverly inconspicuous on a layer of deciduous leaves. If it feels the nest has been discovered, then, like the ground-nesting Woodcock, it will fly a short way with the eggs between its legs to a more secret location.

The time of hatching is closely tied to the lunar cycle. After incubation of about twenty-one days, the hatching will coincide just a few days before a full moon, as illustrated. This lunar orchestration aids their survival so parents will be able to catch enough prey for their new offspring. Nighttime moths are their principal prey, which are attracted to and motivated by the bright moonlight, just like a bright street light on a dark night. They hunt by flying with their mouths wide open.

However, the reproductive population is dwindling everywhere. Similar to its cousins, the Nighthawk, Nightjar, and Chuck-wills-widow, the population has annually dwindled by 2.5% to 3.5%



depending on area, and this has been happening for perhaps fifty years. This decline may be due to a vital loss of moths and other insects. This may have been caused by a man-made decrease of fire-adapted regrowth of favorite pitch pine and scrub oak habitat, in addition to agricultural practices and the general loss of habitat.

Research to clarify the recent classification by the Audubon Society of the eastern Whip-poor-will as a species of national concern is underway at three nearby locations of Massachusetts Wildlife Management areas at Cape Cod, Bolton Flats, and Montague Plains. After netting and banding, a tiny micro-chip G.P.S. is attached, to track migratory routes and final destinations. This eventually showed a deviation from other bird migration routes along the traditional

Atlantic Flyway. The Whip-poor-will is able to reach Central America strictly by an overland route, not crossing the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This is critical for survival during stopovers to rest. However, significant questions about the Whip-poor-will's natural history, and solutions to help stabilize their population decline, are still pending and unanswered.


The Whip-poor-will's almost mystical evening song welcoming the darkness, just as young children are being put to bed, has left a lasting impression in the human mind. The Whip-poor-will has inspired paintings by James Audubon, poetry by Robert Frost, and homespun country humor by Mark Twain. It ranks in melody with other feathered vocalists famed for the sounds and meaning of their musical words, including the Bobwhite Quail, the mythical Swan, the eloquent Mockingbird, Poe's Raven, and Britain's Elizabethan Nightingale.

Native American natural interpretations of bird calls are even more meaningful. They heard the reverberating wail of a Loon across a lake as a tone that could forecast rain. To the elderly, the hoot of an Owl could seem to call out a person's name when it was time for them to go. And across a peaceful summer setting of twilight, they heard the Whip-poor-will as a soul snatcher, rising up from the Earth to rescue a human dying spirit, before nightfall.

— George B. Emmons

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Here's a Thought... Never Cry Wolf

Never, never. At least that's what the old folk tale says. Don't do it unless you want to wind up a laughingstock and labeled a liar whose words have people rolling their eyes with amusement. It's something I've understood since childhood. It's also something I keep learning over and over.

Last spring, raccoons started having territorial wars under the oak trees a few yards from the house, snarling and screaming not long after my bedtime. Now I have this habit of turning on the deck lights before I go to bed, to see if I spy any raccoons strolling across the lawn or making the nearby shrubbery shake. It's not that I actually expect to see them, but if I do I'll be more prepared for the late-night racket.

At various times of the day or night, I've seen plenty of other critters through those windows over the last thirty-plus years, too. My short list, long on birds, includes a diverse congregation of songbirds, geese, mallards, mergansers, turkeys, blue herons, bald eagles, crows, cardinals, finches, grosbeaks, woodpeckers and owls; and foxes, white-tailed deer, skunks, a coyote, a bobcat, black bears with and without ear tags, and a multitude of squirrels and chipmunks.

It's a pretty good list, so I was shocked, in the first hour of Sunday, September 8, to find myself staring at someone totally unexpected. My first thought?

Anything that big with long fur and standing on four feet here in Monterey should be black.



Yes, this is a picture of a coaster sitting on my dining room table. Best I could do, considering the circumstances. Read on...

But while he, or she, was definitely big and definitely not a bear, that coat was snow white, charcoal-tipped on the head and back, with no brown, beige, tan, or similar shade anywhere. His, or her, thick coat shone with health. The upstanding ears looked more rounded than pointed. The front legs looked strong, well-muscled over bones both large and dense.

Never cry... never even came into play. Simultaneous with shock melting, every fiber of me rang with one sensation: That's... that's a... OMG, that's a wolf!

The regal head turned slowly toward the light I'd flicked on, but that was the only move I saw. No *what's that? who's there?* twitch, no dash for cover. Then the powerful left front leg rose, slowly, deliberately, as if, curiosity satisfied by nothing particularly noteworthy, he or she walked away.

I've seen coyotes both here and elsewhere in the wild, and wolves in captivity

in both NY and Washington states. I've seen dogs, gorgeous ones, ugly ones, big ones, small ones. I once had a dog, Toby, who weighed in at a hundred pounds, a German Shepherd-Maremma mix. The animal I saw through my window was similar in size to Toby, but with more powerful legs, a wider body, with upright ears and a less-pointed snout.

I did the same thing the next morning. I wrote to Bonner, asked her if she thought I was crazy. She didn't. Later she sent me an article written by a man who, with his wife, had seen a pair of wolves on Quabbin Reservoir a few winters ago. That writer reported the same visceral discernment as I had felt. And he described those animals as regal, a word I'd used writing to Bonner, and now to you.

For days I had flashes of *Did that really happen?* It was almost too wonderful to contain. So call me crazy if you like, but now I'm going to risk crying it right out loud. I'm writing "Wolf!"

—Mary Kate Jordan



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Wildlife Report

Late August to mid-September

Coyotes, Beavers, Little Frogs, a Beetle and a Wolf

Late in August, Chris and Ron Goldfinger spotted a coyote in the field next door, nibbling on apples on the ground. That night they heard "the chorus of his friends singing the wild coyote song." Also at the end of August, Susanne Sawyer found some caterpillars called milkweed tussock moths on her butterfly weed. She also reports seeing seventeen monarch caterpillars in one day eating the leaves and seedpods on those butterfly weed plants. Even as late as the second week in September, the Sawyers had monarch caterpillars starting to pupate in their chrysalises.



Ed Salsitz sent in a photograph (above) late in August, of a female sawyer beetle. It is the females that have those extremely long antennae. They must need them for something special!

Early in September, Mary Kate Jordan wrote with much excitement of having seen a wolf very near her deck. This was after dark, when she'd just turned on the outdoor lights. Mary Kate gives a good physical description of a wild canid much too big to be a coyote, with a thick coat that was "full, mostly cream-to-white with charcoal markings on the back and head." The animal was calm, deliberate, and "there was a majestic quality to this presence." There was no brown in the coat, and the ears were "rimmed in dark fur." (See Mary Kate's article on page 23.)

Steve Snyder got in touch about this time to say there have been bats in the evenings at Gould Farm, as many as five at a time. There also has been a porcupine around there, with a limp, and lots of turkeys and deer. Bob Rausch reported a "big black bear" on the driveway, which left when Barbara Swann loudly urged it to go away.

Mary Makuc sent in a photo of a tiny wood frog, found in the hydrangeas at her place. See essay on tree frogs, this issue, page 20.

Earlier in September, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen were boating on Benedict Pond at dusk and saw five different beavers there, swimming and making loud splashings with their tails. Steve writes that the beavers are cutting and harvesting brush to stash away for winter fodder. More recently, Cora Baker and I put the canoe in at Thousand Acre Swamp in New Marlborough and we saw a very large, blond beaver swimming near us, just keeping an eye on things. We also saw a noisy sandhill crane, first standing up on

a big rock, and then flying low over the water squawking away.

Joe Baker has been working outdoors and hearing pileated woodpeckers, drumming and calling. There was one near the house, and one off in the state forest. We hear barred owls calling at night in our neighborhood. Recently one sounded very like a loon, before it got to its characteristic call: "Who cooks for you?"



Last month the Banners sent in a photo of a tomato hornworm that had been parasitized by what I thought must have been a tachinid fly. Now they have sent another picture (above) that shows the little white parasitic creatures' cocoons empty, open at one end, and I realized these must be those of the tiny braconid wasp. Those flies (see Colta Ives' photo in the August Wildlife Report) only lay

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one egg per caterpillar, and do not specialize in hornworms. In fact, they often parasitize monarch caterpillars. The little wasps lay many eggs under the skin of the hornworm, which hatch and feed as larvae, before emerging and constructing tiny white cocoons, standing up on short stalks. After five days in the cocoon, the new adult wasps emerge and fly off, leaving a weakened and doomed hornworm with a lot of white ornaments still attached to its body. These adult braconid wasps are less than one-eighth inch long.



We have another photograph (above) from the Banners showing a different species of wasp, with orange wings, which is carrying off a spider. There is a big family of these “spider wasps” with five thousand different species. As a group they are called pompilid wasps.

Thank you for your wildlife news and observations! I welcome them all.

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



Bonsai Cox caught this picture of a coyote, which Mary Kate Jordan described as, “this healthy critter dancing up our driveway.”

Housing Rehabilitation Project \$1.3 Million Additional Funding

The Resource, Inc. (TRI) has been working for the Town of Monterey to manage their FY18 Housing Rehabilitation Program funded with a grant award of Community Development Block Grant Funds. These funds are benefiting low- to moderate-income homeowners in the towns of Monterey, Egremont, and Sandisfield.

Since February 1, 2019, TRI has successfully reviewed more than thirty projects to make sure that they meet both program and income guidelines. We have utilized all our funds from FY18 and have twenty-eight projects under construction. Monterey residents are benefiting significantly from the various repairs that our program offers.

Additional Grant Award

Although we have depleted our FY18 funds, we have been awarded \$1.3 million in new funding for FY19, which means we are accepting applications for an additional twenty-two projects. We are looking forward to continuing assisting our residents and making critical repairs to their homes.

In addition, the income limits for 2019 have increased by approximately \$4500 to \$8500 depending on your household size.

Each income-eligible unit will qualify for up to \$40,000 of moderate rehabilitation expense. Moderate rehabilitation includes, but is not limited to: roofing, siding, heating system, hot water heater replacement, electrical and plumbing issues, doors, windows, and ingress and egress issues.

If you were not within the income limits and think you now possibly could be with the increase, please contact me. If you need home repairs, have questions about the program, would like a copy of the new application, or need help filling out the application or gathering supporting documents, I would love to help.

Contact me, Dawn Odell Lemon, Assistant Program Manager. I can be reached by telephone at (413) 645-3448, or via email at dawn@theresource.org.

—Dawn Lemon
The Resource, Inc.



Bidwell House Museum

The Bidwell House Museum’s final day of tours on October 28. If you have never been to the museum, now is a great time to visit.

As we look back on the 2019 season, the museum has much to celebrate.

Our intern program returned in June with seven local high school and college students, supervised by our Seasonal Docent Dan Brown.

The museum also had an engaging schedule of events. We opened with a concert featuring Diane Taraz. We held four history talks. The Bidwell Country Fair, despite the forecasted rain, drew a record crowd. John Demos spoke eloquently at our annual fundraising party in August about why we should all care about history.

We would like to thank the Monterey residents who attend the Bidwell House Museum programs and the Monterey Cultural Council which provided grants for the Bidwell Country Fair, the history talk series, and the internship program.

Finally, save the date for the Museum’s autumn fund-raising soirée on Saturday, November 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. More details will be in the November Monterey News.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

Linda Worster Concert Friday, November 8

The Monterey Community Center is beginning a coffeehouse series on November 8, at 7 p.m., with Linda Worster, singer/songwriter.

From her website (lindaworster.com): Linda’s music and lyrics proclaim the joy and explore the struggle of inner discovery. They are alive with the vitality of her dedication to seeking and discovering the magic and the mysteries of life. Linda’s deep concern for the environment and for the choices we need to make to turn things around for future generations have inspired much of her writing. Her songs speak the truth of feelings that many people say they find hard to express.



Select Board Corner

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

MontereyMA.gov

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

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, October 7 and 21, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, October 9, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Monday, October 28, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, October 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Planning Board: Thursdays, October 10 and 24, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesdays, October 2 at 6:30 p.m., and October 16, at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

Construction on Blue Hill Road will begin the week of September 30. We will post traffic updates on our website and through our news & announcements emails. If you aren't already a subscriber please go to www.montereyma.gov and click on the "subscribe to e-alerts" button in the citizen action center on the homepage.

Dave Gilmore



The transfer station has a new sand shed. As soon as there's a roof on top to keep the snow and rain off, so it doesn't need to be shoveled or freeze up, the town will relocate the sand for people to use for sanding their sidewalks and driveways. Sand will be available during regular transfer station hours.

There will be a flu shot clinic on Thursday, October 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. The clinic is open to adults over the age 18 and no appointment is necessary. Bring your Medicare and Mass Health cards. \$30 for non-Medicare/Mass Health attendees. Wear short sleeves.

The annual drawdown of Lake Garfield will begin on Tuesday, October 15.

All water vessels must be removed from the area across from the town beach by October 15. See page 2.

The Town of Monterey has been awarded \$1.3 million in additional funding for the Housing Rehabilitation Project. For more detailed information, see page 25.

—Kenn Basler, Chair
Don Coburn and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)

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Calendar

Regular Events

Mondays: Mahjong, at the community center, at 7 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Chair Yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m., at the community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

Bridge and Pitch, 1 p.m., community center.

Community chorus, with Owen Rosenthal, at the community center, 7 to 8:15 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Balance review classes, 10:30 a.m., community center.

Mahjong, community center, at 3:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Canasta lessons, community center, 7 to 9 p.m. See page 6.

October 3 and 17: Darn Yarners, 1 p.m., community center.

Saturdays: October 12, 19, and 26: Ping pong, 2 p.m., community center.

October Events

Saturday, October 5:

Lakes and Ponds Association symposium, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 2.

Bidwell House Museum talk, "Early Epitaphs," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 21.

Knox Gallery opening, *Perennial*, 6:30 to 8 p.m., library. See page 10.

Thursday, October 10: Berkshire Visiting Nurse, flu shot clinic, from 2 to 3 p.m., at town hall. See page 3.

Saturday and Sunday, October 12 and 13: Berkshire Botanical Garden's Harvest Festival. See page 19.

Sunday, October 13: Community gong bath, 4 to 5:30 p.m. See page 13.

Tuesday, October 15:

Lake Garfield drawdown begins.

Last date to remove water vessels opposite from town beach. See page 2.

Sacred Hearth, with Mary Kate Jordan, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., community center.

Lake Garfield Working Group, 7 p.m., town hall. See page 2.

Movie night in town hall, 7 p.m. *Coco*. See page 3.

Wednesday, October 16: First community potluck, Devin Franklin from Flying Deer Nature Center, 6 p.m., Monterey church basement. See page 11.

Saturday, October 19: Monterey Oral History Project: the *Monterey News* at fifty. 10:30 a.m., library. See page 3.

Lenox Contra Dance: 8 to 11 p.m. Live traditional New England dance music with calling by renowned caller, Lisa Greenleaf. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Sunday, October 20: *Monterey News* deadline.

Wednesday, October 23: Council on Aging bus trip, Eleanor Roosevelt's home. See page 3.

Saturday, October 25: Contradance with Mountain Laurel Band (Joe Baker, Bonner McAllester, Donny MacLean) and acclaimed guest fiddler David Kaynor. 8 to 11 p.m., Dewey Hall in Sheffield. Call Bonner and Joe for information, 528-9385.

Monday, October 28: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., library. *Killers of the Flower Moon*. See page 11.

Thursday, October 31: Halloween program at library, storyteller MaryJo, 4:30 p.m. See page 3.

November Events

Saturday, November 2: "How to be a smart college shopper" presentation, 10 a.m., community center. See page 7.

Friday, November 8: Linda Worster coffeehouse series, 7 p.m., community center. See page 25.

Saturday, November 16: Bidwell House Museum autumn fund-raising soirée, 4 to 7 p.m. See page 25.

Upcoming Blood Drives

RedCrossBlood.org

Note: The blood collection center decided to discontinue blood drives throughout western and central Massachusetts. These may be the last local opportunities to donate in this area.

Friday, October 4: Berkshire South community center, 15 Chrissey Road, Great Barrington, 2 to 7 p.m.

Friday, October 25: Simon's Rock, Kilpatrick Center, 84 Alford Road, Great Barrington, 1 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, October 29: Lee Middle & High School, 300 Greylock Street, Lee, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at 413-528-4007 or email.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443

x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600

center@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) 413-229-877

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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

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*Check out the new Springfield
Museum's passes.*

Monday.....7-9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2-5 p.m.
Thursday.....4-6 p.m.
Friday.....4-8 p.m.
Saturday..9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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Wildlife Editor.....Bonner McAllester
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*Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 22; Bonner McAllester, p. 20.;
MaryEllen J. O'Brien, p. 15; Kit Patten, pgs. 20 and 23.*

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