



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

All at once, summer and the end of the pandemic were in sight, or at least imaginable after the attenuated year of living safely.
Under the Tent page 3

Do nine people matter? Yes, and knowing that each person who contracts Covid often spreads it to one or two.
CHP Mobile Vaccination Van page 14

Although citizen petitions are a recognized method for bringing new bylaw proposals to the attention of the town meeting, we've never been confronted with so many being presented at one time.
Letters-Articles 23 & 24 page 7

These actions and others were accomplished by *deeds*, not *words*.
In My View page 5

It's a celebration month for all of us who count plants as near-kin and family.
Plants and I Celebrate June page 15

If you think that the rules that are governing our town could be changed in order to make our town government work better, you should probably consider some of the proposed bylaw changes.
In My View page 6

My worries about the wider world continue. But Monterey has become my home instead of my getaway, and I couldn't be happier.
My Monterey Education page 19

The articles deserve careful consideration, and good questions support good decision making.
Twenty Articles Remaining page 8

As of June 15 the governor will have ended the state of emergency, meaning that all town board, committee, and commission meetings will need to return to in-person meetings.
Town Administrator Notes page 2

Talewise will present "Aliens: Escape from the Earth."
Summer Library Programs page 12

They are very small, and like everything else about this skunk (or polecat) plant, they have a fetid odor.
Skunk Cabbage in the Swamps page 17

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the Covid-19 pandemic.
Broadband Payment Assistance page 13

With the state opening up, the Monterey Council on Aging is too. The tent will be set up at the community center by Memorial Day weekend.
Council on Aging page 11

His courtship dance for each female is remarkably acrobatic.
Northern Harrier page 21



Purple Iris

—Bonsai Cox



Trillium

—Wendy Jensen



Poppies

—Stephen Moore

Town Administrator Notes

May was a busy month!

I am pleased to announce that the grant written for a shared Human Resource Director was successfully approved by the Commonwealth. Monterey, along with the towns of New Marlborough, Sheffield, Great Barrington, and West Stockbridge will be awarded \$75,000 to hire a shared full-time HR Director. The five towns have been busy working on a job description and inter-municipal agreement, and will soon begin on the hiring details with the hopes of having someone in place by September 1.

Other exciting news is that on June 1 town hall will return to its normal operating hours, and will be open to the public. All people who enter town hall must wear a face covering or mask, covering the nose and mouth, except due to medical condition or disability, when in any common area. Surgical masks are available for everyone in the town hall lobby. Town employees and officials, and their visitors, shall be able to remove their mask in their own office with the door closed at the discretion of the town employee/official, and with the consent of everyone in the room.

As of June 15 the governor will have ended the state of emergency, meaning that all town board, committee, and commission meetings will need to return to in-person meetings whether at town hall or an outside venue that is handicap acces-

sible in town. The legislature is considering bills that would permanently incorporate some remote meeting provisions into the Open Meeting Law but as of writing this it has not yet been done.

Lastly, by the time you are reading this, town clerk Terry Walker, director of operations Shawn Tryon, and myself will have completed and submitted an application to the Commonwealth applying for another grant for \$1 million to repair two miles of Beartown Mountain Road. We hope to be successful in our submission and will keep you updated.

Respectfully,

—Melissa Noe
Town Administrator

Employees Corner

Welcome to the third installment of the Employees Corner.

The town administrator, with assistance from department heads, are pleased to report that since the March issue we have received the following in grant monies:

- \$46,540 from FEMA for the fire department duty-shift program,
- \$15,000 for "Addressing Social Isolation/Loneliness" in older adults,
- \$8,500 from the Department of Fire Services for additional turnout gear.

Congratulations to Randon Ziegler, a member of the Monterey Highway Department, for successfully passing his hoisting license exam.

We all thank you for your continued support.

—Melissa Noe,
Town Administrator

Lake Garfield Pollution Control Runoff Project

Two components of a project that addresses sediment and phosphorus pollution in Lake Garfield are underway. Conceptual design plans to capture and treat stormwater drainage from the Hupi Road area on the north side of the lake are nearly complete. Once ready, these plans will be added to the drafted Lake Garfield Watershed-Based Plan, which will be made available for public review on the town website possibly during June.

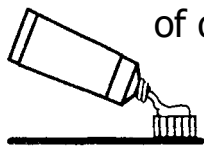
The overall project is funded by a grant awarded from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection under the Federal Clean Water Act to help protect and restore streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds. With help from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Town of Monterey will use the project designs and the watershed-based plan to apply for and competitively secure another Federal Clean Water Act grant referred to as Section 319 funding. If awarded, the grant will allow Monterey to create permit-ready design plans and in turn implement "green infrastructure" such as sediment-trapping technology and a bioretention system called a "rain garden" in the Hupi Road area. This will reduce runoff pollution into Lake Garfield that can lead to harmful algal blooms and poor water quality.

Stay tuned for further updates

—Courteny Morehouse, Senior Planner
Berkshire Regional Planning

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



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Under the Tent, Online and Around Town

What's happening on the Monterey cultural beat?

Last month so many things changed so abruptly.

The trees that had been bare so long leafed out or flowered, transforming the landscape with color and texture, and filling in our sightlines through the woods with dozens of shades of green.

One day it seemed like we were still in the grip of the pandemic, and then the next, those of us who were vaccinated could dispense with masks and social distancing among friends (although admittedly the guidance was somewhat confusing).

All at once, summer and the end of the pandemic were in sight, or at least imaginable after the attenuated year of living safely. Tanglewood and Jacob's Pillow announced their reopening, and live music in smaller venues such as Dewey Hall and the Barn has begun. People seem ready to ease into a new normal.

I am happy to report that the local cultural scene too is springing back to life, often in new, creative, and flexible formats, including activities under the tent that will once again be erected at the Monterey Community Center. The tent will afford the possibility of many open-air events, from chair yoga (Tuesdays at 10) and Tai Chi (Wednesdays at 11) to all-occasion card-making (June 6).

Taking advantage of this new venue, Monterey Cultural Council co-chair Maggie Barkin will be hosting a weekly series on Mondays, "What's Happening." Starting on June 7, the tent is reserved from 4 to 5 p.m. for interactions about the local arts—it could be anything from playing with the text of *King Lear* or *Othello* to interviews and back stories related to upcoming events. "I want to provide a venue for us to talk about what moves us and to try the collaborative process ourselves," Maggie said. "Many of us feel a desire to connect and when it comes to artistic questions, there are no right answers; all responses are valuable." Please bring your own chair.

If you've ever wondered about the mysterious process of how words and melodies merge to become songs—or if you've considered giving it a go—Robin O'Herin, an acoustic blues and gospel musician, is offering what she calls a "nuts and bolts online songwriting intensive for all ages" that will take place over four Tuesday evening Zoom gatherings from mid-June to mid-July (June 22 and 29, and July 6 and 13). "This interactive, hands-on workshop will focus on lyrics that will work with any genre, chord progressions, poetic techniques, and locking lyrics into the rhythm of a song," she said. "Our goal will be to finish at least one song."

On Sunday, June 27, the Monterey Community Center will host a multimedia

presentation, "The Making of a Protest Artist." (Location to be decided.) In it, local artist and businessman Pops Peterson will explore protest art and some of the artists behind it, along with the conditions that drove them to speak truth to power through paintings, novels, dances, and songs. A show of Peterson's political art, *Reinventing Rockwell*, was on display through May at the Rockwell Museum, where it lent a different and contemporary perspective to some of the famous illustrator's most iconic and popular images.

Over in the community gardens, the biodiversity box, featuring native plants beloved by pollinators, is coming to life as well. Eight plug-sized plant starters will be added each week to the raised bed on the plot nearest the compost bins. Feel free to track its progress. You can expect to see a profusion of colorful flowers by late summer, with butterflies and bees fluttering or buzzing around them. The biodiversity project, like several of the other items mentioned here, is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The organizers are working on a tour of local native plant gardens to take place in mid-July. Stay tuned!

For more information on any of these events, check out the Monterey Community Center website: www.ccmonterey.org

—Janet Jensen

Monterey Cultural Council

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local
References



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Free Car Show-Saturday, June 12

The historic New Boston Inn is sponsoring a car show with got rods, rat rods, classics, Corvette club, pick-up trucks, and the Indian Motorcycle Club. Come check out the old, the new, and the shiny. There'll be food and music. The car show starts at 1 p.m. and it's free. Free popcorn, too. The New Boston Inn is located on Route 8 in the village of New Boston, eight miles south of the Otis town center, a lovely ride alongside the Farmington River.

—Barbara Colorio, owner

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Town Meeting, resumes June 12

Resumed Town Meeting Bylaw Articles Remaining

Below is a list of the twenty articles still pending for the resumed annual town meeting on June 12. The page references refer to the pagination on the warrant which can be obtained as a pdf from the town website. Paper copies of the warrant will be available at the town meeting.

ARTICLE 2 (p. 11) Proposal for Monterey to adopt a Town Charter.

ARTICLE 3 (p.12) New Bylaw: Select Board Chair Powers Defined: Limits ability of the chair to represent the full board; and to restrict all interactions of only the chair with any other persons in town government or operations.

ARTICLE 4 (p. 13) New Bylaw: Special Town Meetings: To restrict the ability of the select board to call special town meetings.

ARTICLE 5 (p. 14) New Bylaw: Bylaw Enforcement: Select board to uphold all town bylaws; and to appoint members to fill various commissions and committees that have sat idle.

ARTICLE 6 (p. 15) New Bylaw: Town Employment and Employment Contracts: To define and restrict the ability of the select board to hire employees; and stipulations for all hirings and employee contracts.

ARTICLE 7 (p. 16) New Bylaw: Procurement Contracts, Competitive Bids Required over \$20,000.

ARTICLE 8 (p. 17) New Bylaw: Procurement Contracts: Record keeping for purchases of \$5,000 or more.

ARTICLE 9 (p. 18) New Bylaw: Public Records/Procurement Contracts/Warrants: All public documents available via link on town website, including procurement contracts, warrants, documents used in any public meetings, no document charge for public documents.

ARTICLE 10 (p. 19) New Bylaw: Residents' Bylaw Review Committee: five private individuals appointed/then elected, reviewing, proposing revisions and additions to, for voting at annual town meetings.

ARTICLE 11 (p. 20–23) New Bylaw: Town administrator position, job description.

ARTICLE 12 (p. 24) New Bylaw: Conservation Commission Stipend.

ARTICLE 13 (p. 25) New Bylaw: Finance Committee Stipend.

ARTICLE 14 (p. 26) New Bylaw: Expand select board membership from three to five members, effective upon passage.

ARTICLE 15 (p. 27) Additions to the Town Bylaw (Article II, Section 3) re: Finance Committee powers and responsibilities.

ARTICLE 16 (p. 28) New Bylaw: Select Board Meetings: Times/Recording.

ARTICLE 17 (p. 29) New Bylaw: Section 18-All boards Quarterly Meetings.

ARTICLE 18 (p. 30) New Bylaw: Public Comment period in Select Board (only) meetings.

ARTICLE 19 (p. 31–34) New Bylaw: Monterey Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE 23 (p. 6) Bylaw amendment: Article II, Section 3. Budget responsibilities of the Select Board and Finance Committee.

ARTICLE 24 (p. 6–7) New Bylaw: Authorizing recall elections of elected town officials.



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KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
reading sponsored by MA and Monterey Cultural Councils

In My View Deeds, or Words?



I have sat on the Monterey Select Board for five years and I have learned a great deal.

The most important lesson that I have learned is that Monterey is a small town built on *deeds*, not *words*.

In the last six years *deeds* by the Monterey Select Board, the town's employees, boards, volunteers, and committees, have brought you: cell service, high-speed internet, a new library, a new transfer station, a new community center, an herbicide-free Lake Garfield, the best fire company and police department in Berkshire County, the best maintained roads, bridges, and culverts, and the finest town employees.

This was all done, while keeping taxes low and continually working to make improvements.

Deeds did this. Not *words*.

On Saturday, June 12, at 9:30 a.m., the town will debate eighteen articles, seventeen of which are proposed bylaws, all written by a single author, John Weingold. These bylaws are just *words*. Many aspects of the proposed bylaws are rooted in a desire to make Monterey work and act like a big city. Other aspects are drawn from a misunderstanding of how Monterey actually works. Several are just poorly masked attempts at revenge for long-standing grudges.

In my opinion and through my years of experience, these bylaws—*words*—will stop progress in Monterey, make life more expensive for you, and dramatically diminish the services that we all benefit from.

I sincerely apologize for the negative tone of this article, but I am tired of watching our achievements as a town be destroyed by angry and ill-informed individuals.

Monterey has always been about progress, from "Monterey Lights the Way," the successful push against the Route 23 bypass, and all the more recent gains and

improvements. These actions and others were accomplished by *deeds*, not *words*.

Please attend our town meeting. Together, we can ask John Weingold questions like, "Why is a town charter important, but broadband and flood control are not?" (The author voted against broadband and flood control), or "Why should we be the *only* town in Massachusetts of fewer than one thousand that has a five-person select board?" or "How do your recommended Bylaw constraints in procurement and hiring, help me keep my road passable during a bad winter or hurricane season?" (Hint: It will not.) Perhaps the author will explain why he would rather spend taxpayer dollars on exorbitant stipends for certain selected committee members, but not a fire rescue boat (yes, the author voted against that as well).

Lastly, and most importantly, perhaps we can ask why such dramatic changes to our town governance are being rushed through. Especially when the analysis of the ramifications of these bylaws have not been studied and discussed by townspeople in public hearings.

The future of your town is on the hook.

We will need every voice at town meeting. Please attend on June 12, at 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse pavilion.

—Steven Weisz

Chair, Monterey Select Board

Memorial for Robert McMahon

Please join us in remembering our dear Bob McMahon who passed away last year. We will be sharing some of Bob's artwork and architectural designs in the cabin he renovated shortly before his cancer diagnosis. We look forward to sharing our favorite stories and memories with you.

Saturday, June 12, 2:30 to 5 p.m., or at a later date by arrangement.

1309 Monterey Road, West Otis.

(Please bring a mask.)

—Jeanne Randorf

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.

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In My View Town Meeting Articles




When you received the town meeting warrant this spring, you may have flipped through the pages and seen all of the citizen petitions and other bylaw proposals. You might have even been confused by the inconsistent inclusion of all of the signatures on some of the citizen petitions, or maybe you were overwhelmed by the sheer volume of proposed changes. Without addressing every proposed bylaw change, I'd like to provide a few reasons why you might want to consider some of the articles at the continued town meeting on June 12.

If you think that our town government in Monterey has been running generally well and you can't recall any significant failures or room for improvement, you probably have no interest in any of the proposed bylaw changes. I also haven't met you yet, so please feel free to reach out.



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If you think that the town government has room for improvement, you may think the problem is just the people who are currently serving in the elected and appointed offices. In that case, the problem could be solved simply at the ballot box at future town elections and with appointments made by the select board. However, if you think that the rules that are governing our town could be changed in order to make our town government work better, you should probably consider some of the proposed bylaw changes.

Articles 3, 14, 16, 18: If you think the select board has been the root of some of the town's problems, you may want to consider some of the articles that would change the structure and functions of the board. Article 3 would delineate the powers of the select board chair to limit him or her from exercising significant powers beyond that of the other members. Article 14 would change the composition of the board from three members to five. Supporters of this change might believe that a harmful two-to-one dynamic often develops in a three-person board, whereas opponents may think that it will be hard to find five people willing to be on the board and that a larger board may actually concentrate more power in the chair. Article 16 would establish a regular meeting time for the select board so that it would be easier for Monterey citizens with regular work weeks to attend the meetings, and it would also require that the meetings be recorded and available for public access. Article 18 would require that the public be allowed to comment before any vote by the select board, and this would apply to every town board, committee, and commission. It should be noted that the current select board has recently adopted a similar rule, but approving this bylaw at town meeting would require every town body to adopt this same rule, and would guarantee that the select board keeps this rule unless and until the bylaws change.

Article 24: If you are concerned that our elected officials are not able to be held accountable between elections (in the middle of their term), you might want to consider Article 24 which would give voters the opportunity to recall elected officials who are failing to do their job.

Article 4: If you think that special town meetings have been used inappropriately to pass non-emergency items that typically wouldn't pass in front of a regular annual town meeting, you might want to consider Article 4.

Articles 5, 10: If you think that the town bylaws are out of date and should be updated, you might want to consider Articles 5 and 10. Article 5 asserts that all bylaws currently on the books shall be followed, while Article 10 would institute a five-person bylaw review committee to review the town's bylaws and propose suggested changes to be considered at town meeting.

Articles 15, 23: If you were displeased with the conflict between the select board and finance committee during last year's budget process, you might want to consider Articles 15 and 23. Article 15 would give the finance committee complete control over the budget that is presented at town meeting. Article 23 would guarantee the select board final authority over the budget that is presented at town meeting.

Article 19: If you think that the Town of Monterey could benefit from a code of ethics in addition to the ethics requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you might want to consider Article 19.

Articles 12, 13: If you think that the conservation commission is failing to fill out its roster because of the lack of pay, you might want to consider Article 12. And similarly if you think the finance committee should receive pay in return for the work they do for the taxpayers, you may want to consider Article 13. It should be noted that the select board, board of assessors, and board of health already do receive pay in varied amounts.

These are only some of the items that are on the agenda for the June 12 town meeting, so I hope that you will consider the remaining warrant in its entirety. I would like to hear what you think about the proposed changes to our town government if you're willing to share. The best ways to reach me are to email me at justinmakuc@gmail.com, or call me at (413) 429-5854. Please don't hesitate to reach out for discussion.

—Justin Makuc
Member, Monterey Select Board

Letters

Articles 23 and 24

When the town meeting resumes on June 12, you will be asked to debate two by-law articles recommended by the select board. I believe they deserve your careful consideration.

Article 23: Budget Bylaw

Article 23 asks for amendment of the bylaw which created the Finance Committee in 1957. The amendment states this: "The Select Board shall work cooperatively with the Finance Committee in the budgetary process, but the Select Board shall be responsible for the preparation and submission of the budget to the town meeting in the warrant. Any differences between the Select Board's and the Finance Committee's recommendations to the town meeting shall be noted on the warrant."

Adoption of this amendment will confirm and legalize the town's budgetary process as it has been practiced since we created our finance committee over sixty-five years ago. So, you might ask, why do we need it? The need has arisen because in recent years the finance committee has been pressing very hard for complete control over the preparation of the budget. I've always conceded that the finance committee's statutory argument is technically correct. In other words, if the proposed amendment is not adopted, the town's sixty-five-year-old budget practice will be in doubt. I've nonetheless resisted, so far successfully, changing the longstanding practice of select board control over the process without a vote of the town meeting.

Critical to sensibly resolving the issue is the recognition that Commonwealth law requires that each town decide whether the select board or the finance committee will be put in control over the budgetary process. This statute states that when a town has a select board and a finance committee "the selectmen if authorized by a by-law of the town . . . shall submit a budget at the annual town meeting." (Massachusetts General Law, Title VII, Chapter 39, Section 16). If, as is presently the case in Monterey, the bylaw does not so authorize the select board, then the

finance committee submits the budget and, under related statutes, controls the entire budgetary process.

Clearly, when the town meeting adopted the finance committee bylaw sixty-five years ago it was not aware that technically it was removing the select board from the budgetary process. That is not particularly surprising because the original bylaw did not expressly state in words that it was empowering the finance committee to take over the budget to the exclusion of the select board. Instead of words, it only cited the statute. Consequently, what the bylaw meant could only be determined by reading the statute. Isn't it clear from our sixty-five years of practice that no one so understood the effect of the original bylaw? Now is the time to confirm our original choice by adopting the proposed amendment.

The overarching goal should be to create a system and atmosphere in which the select board and the finance committee engage in a cooperative process leading to a proposed budget that minimizes unresolved issues, thereby making the town meeting's job of finalizing the budget easier and less contentious. As the law of Massachusetts recognizes, reaching that goal requires placing one elected board in control of the process. The select board is best positioned to perform that task because its members have far greater involvement in governing and have better access to administrative assistance. But, please recall that the proposed bylaw amendment insures that the finance committee will be actively and productively involved at every step of the process.

Article 24: Recall Bylaw

Article 24 proposes a recall election bylaw. It is intended to deal with such problems as an elected official who has been involuntarily committed for a mental condition, or has become subject to a guardianship or conservatorship, or has been convicted of a crime, or has neglected to perform his or her duties. The proposed bylaw adopts the language of the many municipal recall election bylaws adopted all around the Commonwealth and frequently approved by the legislature. However, ours is more conservative than many others in that the process cannot lead to an election unless at least 15% of registered voters sign the recall petition. This is a tool rarely to be used, but it is one that ought to be in Monterey's tool box so that we can best preserve our common good.

Although citizen petitions are a recognized method for bringing new bylaw proposals to the attention of the town meeting, we've never been confronted with so many being presented at one time. A far better course is for such matters to be first presented to the select board for research, debate, and review by the town attorney for form and legality. Because that wasn't done, shouldn't we seriously consider voting to refer all of the Weingold articles to the select board for further study?

—Don Coburn,

Former chair, Select Board

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Twenty Articles Remaining

Preface

For over fifty years the *Monterey News* has been a forum open to everyone to express opinions, to inform the town of news or to share interesting thoughts, and to provide inspiration through essays, poems, illustrations. There are few limitations for what can be published, principally no personal (*ad hominem*) attacks against the character of other people.

This spring the town has been asked to consider a substantial number of citizens petitions for bylaws that could have considerable impact on our town government structure and functioning.

As editor I have tried to solicit perspectives and commentary from the town while also hoping to receive letters for publication. Near the end of the May issue I published an open call for commentary. Immediately after the adjourned May 1 town meeting I wrote to select board member John Weingold to see if he would provide information and advocacy for the articles he wrote as citizen petitions. I also wrote to all the current and former select board members for perspective and commentary. I sent many messages to folks in town who have been active in town affairs.

The response was minimal. Other than select board members (preceeding pages) no one else wrote opinions or advocacy or opposition to any of the questions posed by these petitions.

The bulk of the town bylaws concerning the structure and functioning of town hall were written in the mid-to-late 1950s. See the budget from 1960 on page 9, which totaled \$82,738 with 307 registered voters. Times have changed. Adjusted for inflation, the 1960 budget would represent \$750,000 to \$800,000 today. Sixty years later, with a budget of \$4.5 million (six times the 1960 budget in real dollars), twice as many domiciles, twice as many voters, a great deal more requirements and regulations from the state and federal governments, it may be a very reasonable thing to reconsider how our town government is structured and functions.

In lieu of other public comments, I would like to present some questions concerning some of these many articles in hopes of engaging voters to think about these articles prior to the June 12 meeting.

The articles deserve careful consideration, and good questions support good decision making. There is no need to be afraid of good questions—good questions should be heard. I do not have answers to any of these questions, but I would like to hear responses to them before voting.

I look forward to interesting debates, and careful listening, on June 12.

—Stephen Moore,
Editor, *Monterey News*

Article 2 asks the town to vote to adopt a town charter.

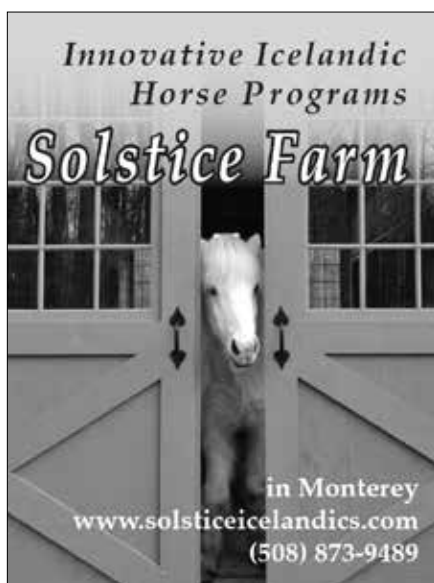
Massachusetts General Law (MGL) chapter 43B, section 3, provides the processes for adopting a charter. It calls for a petition “signed by at least fifteen per cent of the number of registered voters,” which for Monterey would be in the neighborhood of one hundred certified signatures. Does passage of Article 2 obligate the town in any way?

Adopting a charter is a lengthy process. What real, specific advantages would a charter form of government bring to Monterey?

Article 3 seeks to place substantial restrictions on the ability of the titular head of town government, the chair of the select board, to interact with any elected or appointed member of town government, or any town employee. These restrictions would apply to only this one individual in that position.

In what ways would the town benefit by isolating the chair from all other members involved in town government? What is the reasoning for the chair to have such restrictions and not the other select board members?

Article 10 seeks to establish a by-law review committee. Would it be best to consider this article prior to the other proposed bylaw articles?



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19

REPORT OF SELECTMEN

BUDGET

	1960	1960	1961
	Approp.	Expended	Budget
Reserve Fund	\$2,000.00	\$1,870.26	\$2,000.00
Berkshire County Retirement System	685.15	685.15	629.74
Board of Public Welfare, Att. at Meetings	30.00	30.00	30.00
Bonds and Insurance	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Bridges	300.00	286.74	300.00
Care of Town Dump	300.00	297.00	300.00
Cemetery	800.00	798.00	450.00
Civil Defense	100.00	4.40	100.00
Contingent	500.00	539.18	500.00
Control of Insect Pests	100.00	99.00	100.00
Dutch Elm Disease Control	550.00	492.95	550.00
Fire Protection and Water Holes	1,000.00	1,021.49	1,000.00
Forest Fires	250.00	250.00	250.00
Library	850.00	846.21	850.00
Machinery and Tools	3,500.00	3,502.15	3,500.00
Police Protection	600.00	369.06	600.00
Printing and Stationery	700.00	859.01	850.00
Public Welfare	11,100.00	8,949.53	10,100.00
Recreation Facilities	500.00	405.04	—
Shade Trees	600.00	316.88	600.00
Snow Removal	9,000.00	10,425.43	11,000.00
Southern Berk. Regional School District	34,348.17	34,348.17	38,363.95
Southeastern Berk. Welfare Dist., Adm.	400.00	240.72	350.00
Street Lights	525.00	525.00	525.00
Town Officers	4,400.00	3,992.89	4,400.00
Town Parks and Recreation	200.00	105.87	700.00
Veterans' Benefits	400.00	321.50	400.00
Chapter 81 Highways	3,000.00	16,831.28*	3,000.00
Chapter 90 Highway Construction	2,500.00	9,999.89†	2,500.00
Chapter 90 Highway Maintenance	1,500.00	4,641.72‡	2,000.00
	\$82,738.32	\$100,182.16	\$87,888.69

*Includes State Allotment.
†Includes State and County Allotment
‡Includes State and County Allotment

Thanks to Linda Thorpe, who dug through her archive of Monterey Town Reports to find this budget from 1960.

In February 2020 select board member Steven Weisz attempted to form a by-law review committee for that very reason (reprinted on page 10). But as with much that happened last year, it was quickly overshadowed by public health concerns. If such a committee can be organized without a bylaw, what is the reasoning for establishing one by another bylaw?

Article 11 provides a lengthy job description for a town administrator. (It is 1,850 words long. Bylaw reference to road superintendent job description consists of two sentences, to town clerk just one sentence.) By making the job description a bylaw, would any revisions or additions have to be made by a town vote at an annual town meeting? The supervising authority (the select board) could not change the job description on their own. For future hires in that position, would a successful candidate have to be able to fit the job description entirely?

What benefits are gained by having a job description for any town employee encoded in the bylaws?

Budget: There is a real struggle over control of budget process. **Article 11**, a lengthy list of town administrator responsibilities, would assign the responsibility to the town administrator for organizing and presenting a town budget to town boards. **Article 15** says that the finance committee shall assemble the budget from town departments and create a budget per Division of Local Services best practices. **Article 23** asks that the finance committee and select board work in a cooperative manner to create a budget, with submission to the voters by the select board.



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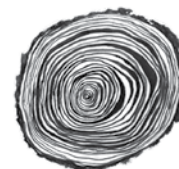
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Twenty Articles, cont.

How will conflict over who creates the budget be avoided? With the complexity of budget issues, how is the town best served—by a single office, or by the cooperation of more offices?

Article 14 proposes expanding the select board from three to five members. No reference is made to keeping the same term of service or rotation of members' elections. The Article "shall take effect upon passage." There is no language as to how the initial expansion will take place immediately. Would waiting until next town election in 2022 be contrary to the "effect upon passage" requirement?

Two of the three sitting select board members were elected unopposed. Most elections for other town offices are unopposed. Would a required five-member board be sustainable? With three-person boards, members may not speak with each other about town affairs outside open meetings as they form a quorum of members. With five-person boards two members can speak with each other, opening up the possibility of triangular conversations (A with B; B with C; C with A) possibly resulting in reaching a majority "agreements" outside of open meetings. Should all board members be precluded from discussing any town business among themselves outside open meetings, even if they don't form a quorum?

What would be the principal advantages of a five-person board? Monterey is one of the smallest towns in the state. No town under one thousand (approximately twenty-seven) has five-member boards. Of seventy-five towns in Massachusetts with populations under three thousand, only three have five-member boards (*Massachusetts Municipal Directory, 2020-2021*). What makes our situation exceptional?

Employment and Procurement: **Article**

15 (Employment) and **Articles 16 and 17** (Procurement) would place additional requirements for public notification, interviews/bids, that might hamper the ability of a small town to meet objectives.

What history exists that should require the hiring of even a very part-time employee—for example someone cleaning the community center, or a critical vacancy created by an emergency, or replacing part-time police officers—be subjected to a thirty-day notification period, review by a resume review committee, etc.? Have there been issues around imprudent procurement of necessary goods or services, or improper hirings?

June 12: The annual town meeting is on the first Saturday of May. This date is known by all interested parties well beforehand. The resumption date of June 12 was established on an impromptu basis (it was cold, people wanted to leave). This short notice puts people at a disadvantage for attending as they may have prior commitments. Is this then an appropriate setting for deciding such significant proposals?

Each of the proposed articles may have merit. They were thought worthy by the required number of people. Citizens petitions are an important tool for direct democracy. However, isn't it in the town's best, long-term interest, to consider these many articles beforehand in focused public hearings, by asking questions, and listening to each other in public discussion, in a setting where everyone can be heard (literally... being heard in the pavilion is difficult)?

The town will be well served by robust attendance at the June 12 meeting, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the firehouse pavilion. As a courtesy, and for the safety of others, please be prepared to wear masks.

—Stephen Moore

From February 2020 Monterey News:^o

Town Bylaws Review

Simply put, the Town of Monterey bylaws are the "operating instructions" that guide all of us on how to handle the affairs of our town. Many are based on Massachusetts General Law, others on common practices of other towns and municipalities. Town bylaws are meant to spell out what types of positions, committees, and boards we should have, how they are to be empaneled, and what their jobs are. They also give instructions on the day-to-day obligations of our town officials, residents, and visitors.

Why review them?

Town bylaws are meant to be "living documents" that adapt with the times.

Recently, the select board and the finance committee discovered that many of the town bylaws (often written in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s) are outdated, and often do not reflect how our town, or other Massachusetts towns, operate.

The select board feels that 2020 is the perfect time to take a look at our bylaws and present updated versions for those in need of revision. It is important to note that the select board cannot change any town bylaws. All updates or revisions must be approved by the voters at an annual town meeting.

Bylaw Review Committee

We need your input. I am pleased to chair the new Monterey Bylaw Review Committee. We are looking for town residents who wish to help review the town bylaws and make suggestions on how to update them (or leave them alone). We are specifically looking for full-time residents who have some understanding of how Monterey's town government works. The committee will meet once a month. We anticipate a small group of about five people.

If you are interested or have questions, please email me at steve@montereyma.gov. You will be emailed the time and date for an informational meeting.

—Steven Weisz
Monterey Select Board



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Monterey Council on Aging

With the state opening up May 29, the Monterey Council on Aging is too. The tent will be set up at the community center by Memorial Day weekend, and we expect to make good use of it. David Crowe of Berkshire Tai Chi will be starting on Wednesday, June 2, at 10 a.m., and continuing on Wednesdays at 10 throughout June, July, and August under the tent. The Council on Aging will be sponsoring him for the month of June. Please register by email to calendar@ccmonterey.org or call (413) 528-3600. This year we have no restrictions on attendees outside.

The popular Bridge and Cards will be starting up on Tuesday, June 1, at 1 p.m. Please call Kyle Pierce for bridge, 528-9213, and Norma Champigny for pitch, 528-0294. We are assuming everyone is vaccinated.

The Elder Law seminar, sponsored by MassBar and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys scheduled for May 26 has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 22, at 11 a.m. This is a Zoom presentation that will also be shown at the community center for those without Zoom or computer access. The presenter is James Loughman of Donovan, O'Connor and Dodig, LLP, in North Adams. Elder Law includes asset protection planning, Social Security retirement planning, and estate planning, things we all need. Please register by email to calendar@ccmonterey.org, or call 528-3600 and we will send you the Zoom link.

Beverly Dunn, our foot nurse, is seeing residents in their homes. Please call her directly at (413) 446-2469 for an appointment. The council covers \$10 of her fee.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Nancy Slattery, actually sponsored by the Board of Health, has a monthly Wellness Clinic every second Thursday at the Monterey Community Center from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Transportation for those over sixty, and the disabled of any age, for medical appointments or shopping in Great Barrington is available through the Great Barrington Council on Aging, which we support. Please call 528-1881, give 48 hours' notice; round trip from your home to town is \$10, \$15 to Pittsfield when available.

And, yes! We are going to watch the Pittsfield Suns this year on Wahconah Street in Pittsfield. Reservations have been made for Sunday, July 25, at 4:30 p.m., for our usual picnic lunch under the tent, and baseball game against Nashua. Please call the Council on Aging at (413) 528-1443, ext. 247 for reservations. Admission is \$5 per person—drop off a check at town hall.

Summer is here!

— Kyle Pierce
Chair, Council on Aging



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MONTEREY COMMUNITY CENTER JUNE

Under the Tent (Outdoors-ish)

What's Happening

Every Monday 4 to 5 PM Maggie Barkin hosts
presented by the Monterey Cultural Council



Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson Tuesdays at 10 AM

* Tai Chi With David Crowe Wednesdays at 10 AM

* Vicki MacDonald

All Occasion Card Making
Sunday June 6 - 1 PM

* Jill Esterson

Length & Strength June 12 - 1:00 PM

* Pops Peterson

The Making of a Protest Artist
June 27 - 3 PM

Location to be
determined



* preregister calendar@ccmonterey.org
or 413-528-3600

For detailed information, refer to the May Monterey News page 6 or ccmonterey.org

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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Facsimile: (413) 229-7085

Steak Roast

Saturday, July 31

Save the date! Take out or in the pavilion to be decided.

Monterey Library

I'll start by thanking the Friends of the Monterey Library for funding some of the finishing touches on our building project. This past week Honorcrafter, a company that specializes in helping organizations recognize donors, installed our permanent recognition plaques and wall banner. We had in excess of five hundred names to list as having contributed to the building project. Stop in and see what a beautiful job they did. The Friends bought some deck furniture, so please come enjoy the view of the Konkapot waterfall. We are also hard at work trying to put some landscaping in around the building, as well as take care of some of the details inside. The donors and volunteers of the Friends have made these finishing touches possible.

Summer Programs

Another exciting thing the Friends, and just as importantly the Monterey Cultural Council, are sponsoring, is a great lineup of programming for children during July and August on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Starting on July 3, Talewise will present "Aliens: Escape from the Earth," a story complete with science experiments. July 10 will be Ed the Wizard teaching balloon twisting. July 17 will be announced, but on July 24 Davis Bates will sing and tell stories. On July 31, Jeff Boyer, also known as the Bubble Man, will again perform amazing things with bubbles.



Mark Makuc

On August 7 Tom Seiling will take us on a "Tromp through the Swamp," and on August 14 MaryJo Maichack will tell more stories. As planned now, all these programs will be outside the library. In case of inclement weather, we will move to the tent at the Monterey Community Center just up the street. These performers missed a year to the pandemic and are eager to get back in front of live audiences again, and I hope you are all eager to see live performances as well. Check the library website for details on the above programming, montereymasslibrary.org.

Lessening Covid Restrictions

As we have all been hearing, the restrictions and regulations from the pandemic are on the verge of being not only lessened, but even dismissed. There is of course the



Dedication wall plaque in the foyer.

—Photos by Stephen Moore

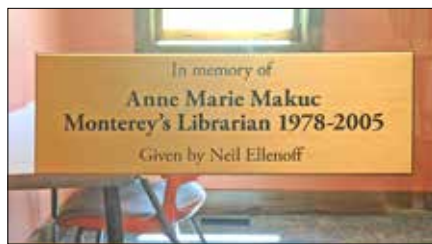
option of the business or entity to keep some of the requirements. The science has shown that surface contamination is not responsible for much spread. For that reason, quarantining of items is being greatly shortened. That should result in quicker turnarounds when ordering and returning items. However, even with great ventilation, there will be children under the age of twelve using the library. To protect them and others who cannot be vaccinated or are especially vulnerable, the library anticipates we will continue to require mask wearing for the foreseeable future. If you feel uncomfortable wearing a mask, you can always ask for items to be placed outside during regular hours, or if you can't make those hours, we can place them in an exterior locker and make arrangements for you to pick the items up. We feel it is important to protect everyone as best as we can. You will see things changing, but masks are an easy and effective way to protect others. If you forget yours we have plenty for you to wear and enjoy the services of the library. Looking forward to seeing all of you over the course of the summer!



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Above: Dedication plaque for the gift of the deck. Below: Dedication plaques for the two study rooms.



Welcoming New Babies

Southern Berkshire Kids and the Monterey Library are working together to welcome new babies in town. "Hello Berkshire Baby!" bags are available at the library, with free books and a packet of parenting resources and reading tips. Stop into the library and get one if you have a child less than a year old. You'll find out about great resources and start your child off with a good introduction to the library.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

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Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

Broadband Payment Assistance

Steven Weisz recently learned about this program and wants to spread the word. Go to cc.gov/broadbandbenefit for full information.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households, and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;

- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or Covid-19 program.

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CHP Mobile Vaccination Van Vaccinations in Monterey

On May 20 the Community Health Program's mobile vaccination unit rolled in to park at the Monterey Community Center. That morning they had Moderna and J & J in their armament in the war to stop the spread of Covid. Nine people got their jabs, as the Brits say. Three were from Monterey. Others were from Tyringham, Otis, Sandisfield, New Marlborough, and two from New York state. Some were first shots. Some were second shots of Moderna. Several were on their way to work and lined up just before 9 a.m.

Some heard about it through Facebook, or a relative, or saw the signs posted in the center of town. One person had travelled all the way out near Cape Cod to get her first. She was thrilled to get her second shot right near home.

The capable nurses made sure the recipients were fine for fifteen minutes after and sent them on their way. Any who wanted partook of coffee, donuts, BOLA Granola, and a Guido's gift card.

Do nine people matter? Yes, and knowing that each person who contracts Covid often spreads it to one or two. Yes, that ripple effect is real. Let's continue to be part of the wave that stops the spread, not the ones causing it.

The CHP van will be back in Monterey on Thursday, June 17. Exact time and place to be announced.

Thank you to all those who made it possible: Katie Race and her colleagues at



Photos by Stephen Moore

Above: Mary, working with Sue Thomson to set up the table with coffee, donuts, BOLA granola and gift cards to Guido's, has been the queen of vaccinations for Monterey and area towns. If you feel safer in town, thank her.

Community Health Programs, Sue Thomson, Michele Miller of BOLA Granola, Chief Backhaus, Steve Moore, Guidos, Kit Patten, and the Monterey Library,

If you want to help with the logistics or the press release for the next time let me know.

—Mary Makuc
marymakuc@gmail.com



Bracken Brae

Bracken Brae Farm Stand will be open for the season around mid-June, depending on when things get ripe. I have started to get things ready for planting. I hope to get it all in when it gets warmer for the plants. If you would like, I can package your purchase and have it ready for you at a time that is good for you to pick it up at the stand. You can call the house at (413) 528-9335, or you can text me at (413) 429-7401. Also, you can email me at bbfarmstand@gmail.com, and I will send you a list of what I currently have. The farm stand is half a mile east of the village on Route 23. Thank you,

—Anna Duryea
Bracken Brae Farm



Monterey Softball

Open Call

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Summer Sunday mornings

Greene Park, Monterey

Batting practice at 10

Games begin at 10:30

Here's a Thought Plants and I Celebrate June

I love June. I revel in the fact that June's generally kind to plant life. It's when certain potted plants move outdoors for the season. By June the planting's done in any small garden I've ever grown so it's water-wait-weed-and-maintenance time. Foraging opportunities open up. It's a celebration month for all of us who count plants as near-kin and family.

That's why I love June now, but actually, I've always loved her. Before I was old enough to go to school, June meant going-to-the-country for a stretch of the summer. I spent long days on what we called "The Farm," though its pastures were rented to Mr. Preston, the dairy farmer across the road, and the only "crops" I recall were lilacs, tiger lilies, and raspberries.

The raspberries grew in several thickets in those broad pastures, far from the electric fences that kept the cows away from the house. Mr. Preston's Holsteins didn't seem to care when Grandma and I ducked through the fence with our pails and busied ourselves with a raspberry harvest.

When I grew into my student days, and then my school-system-teaching days, the end of June meant freedom. I was always a good student, but by the end of June I was panting for the end of Monday-through-Friday schedules. Each June, rebuild, refresh, renew became the order of the day. That June freedom rolled on for weeks, for months.

By the time school started again, I was ready for a little more routine. Besides,



Saint Johnswort in full bloom.

I had a September birthday. That meant cupcakes and singing, right there in the classroom, and it was always the first party of the year. That feeling of celebration colored my teaching career as well, except for one grey year when I made 180 chalk marks on the blackboard in the teachers' cafeteria to mark the length of the school year. I erased one chalk mark each day until, miraculously, June actually rolled around again, a thing of feathers made of hope and sunshine. When I left formal teaching, I high-tailed it out of Manhattan like a white-tailed deer on a bee-line for western Massachusetts. That may sound like a familiar path to some of the rest of you, too.

For my first decade in the Berkshires, each June meant that—alleluia!—herb-gathering season was shifting into second gear. Dandelion root was already drying in the barn. Red clover flowers beckoned.

Yarrow blossoms called out for attention. Herb season rolled on well past the first school days in September, but June was the month when planning and early gathering gave way to ongoing, if weather-dependent, activity.

Mother Earth always offered more abundance than I needed, so I learned to gauge the amount I foraged with an eye to what I could tend to properly. After all, gathering was only a first step before drying, or preparation into salves, oils, or tinctures.

I learned to recognize self-heal, coltsfoot, comfrey, and so many more. But from the moment I first identified it, Saint Johnswort became one of my favorites of the local herbal repertoire. That was probably because of its folklore, as well as its cheerful color. It has jaunty yellow flowers with tiny red dots on the backs of the petals. If the flowers are used to make an herbal oil, the red dots release their color to dye the oil a beautiful red.

Saint Johnswort flowers on, or near, June 24. That's Saint John's Day, his feast day on the traditional Christian church calendar. The bloom-date is so dependable that, years ago in Europe, the date gave this plant its name. I'll be looking for it and now you know when to look for it, too.

—Mary Kate Jordan

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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June at the Knox Gallery

Geoffrey Young's *Habit: Selections of Drawings and Paintings from 1970 until Easter, 2021*, opened on May 22 at the Knox Gallery. This exhibit is curated by Monterey residents Sue Muskat Knoll and Phil Knoll, both of whom are artists and curators. Young is a man of many talents, known for his tireless prolific production of his body of work—poems, books published, and visual art. As an exemplary contributor to the arts community, he mentors and supports many local artists.

Young hails from Southern California and has lived in Great Barrington since the 1980s. He is an artist, a poet, a writer, a publisher, and was proprietor of his well-respected, eponymous gallery in Great Barrington for over twenty years.

Young's prose, poetry, and visual art comprise twenty short books currently in print. In conjunction with the exhibition, Young will offer a reading at the library, outdoors, on Saturday, June 12, at 5 p.m. He will share selections of short poems and sonnets from his recently printed tome entitled *Habit*. He may also include a few pieces from earlier books, prose and poetry.



Julie Shapiro

Covid protocol conditions will apply for this event (and all library events). Please call the library to learn the specifics, which we will establish closer to the performance date due to the evolving nature of the pandemic and the governor's directives.

We are happy to host this accomplished and generous Berkshire artist's exhibition and hope you will join us to see the show (which will be on view through July 10) and to attend the reading.

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

—MaryPaul Yates

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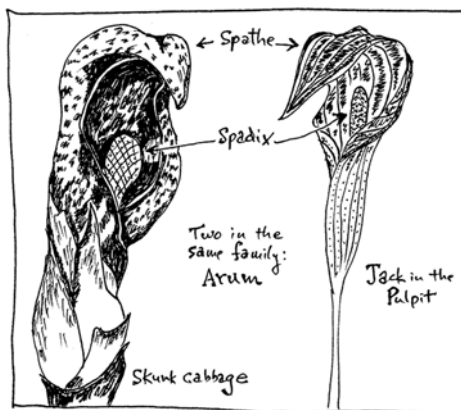


Skunk Cabbage in the Swamps

Two months ago the first flowers of spring were well along in the wet places. These were the skunk cabbage spathes, maroon with yellow-green spots. The spathe is a kind of protective hood over the spadix inside, and on the spadix are the flowers. They are very small, and like everything else about this skunk (or polecat) plant, they have a fetid odor. The plant has many names, and the Latin one is *Symplocarpus foetidus*. The first word is based on the idea that the many ovaries combine to make a single fruit. And the second word is one we know, fetid.

Inside that colorful sheath or spathe, the little flowers are lined up and down the spadix. Not only do they smell attractive to bees and carrion flies, but inside the spathe a visiting insect can warm up when it's cold outside. This is not just because the spathe makes a windbreak. The skunk cabbage or polecat weed is one of a small group of thermogenic plants thanks to something called "cyanide resistant cellular respiration."

In high school biology class we all had to learn the Krebs cycle and hang onto it until after the quiz. By now most of us are free of these details, if we ever got a firm grip on them in the first place. Adding in about four other steps in the way cells gobble down sugar and produce energy, the skunk cabbage can maintain a temperature of 71.6° F, as long as the air temperature is above freezing. When it is near freezing outside, little flies can go into the spathe and warm up, then fly out again for more adventures.



In his *Journal*, Henry Thoreau writes in early March 1853, "I see the skunk cabbage springing freshly, the points of the spathes just peeping out of the ground." Ten days later he found the spathes "quite conspicuous" though not unrolled or opened yet. Then, the next week, the spathes were open half an inch. He heard bees in the skunk cabbage patch and commented, "It is lucky this flower does not flavor their honey."

People have found ways to eat skunk cabbage, and I notice that you can buy various tinctures of this plant to help with some ailments. There is a very big root, or rhizome, which native people and others have dug up and made into flour. My old edible plants book says also, "The young tuft of leaves makes a not wholly unpalatable vegetable," but you have to "boil in several waters and serve with butter and vinegar or some other sauce."

Bears love to eat skunk cabbage leaves in the spring. Some other names for the plant are bear's foot, bear's leaf, and bear's root. Another is devil's tobacco and

in 1723 a colonial botanist sent a sample back to London to a colleague, writing "I dried and smoked some on't but it stunk so wretchedly as to make me spew; but the Indians have a way of dressing it so as to make it less hideous."

Our local swamp cabbage is anything but hideous just now, with great big leaves growing in a bunch from the ground. The plants occur not singly but in clumps, and if you waded in among them you may find the short spathe and fruit collapsed onto the ground right next to the tall bouquet of leaves. The spathe is withered now so the fruits are visible, packed closely together. This has been called a brown mass, but to me they are arranged in a geometry that is handsome.

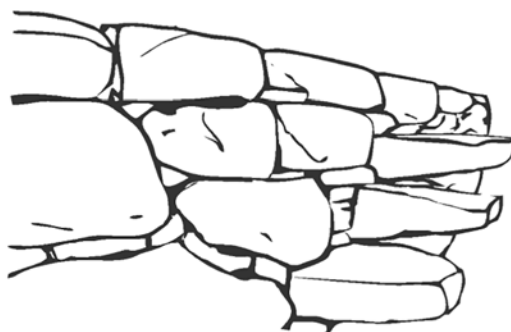
In Monterey, there is a glorious green skunk cabbage garden along New Marlborough Road. Walk, or drive slowly, to the first low point south from Route 23. There is a pasture on the right, a brook under the road, and a swamp filled with these cabbages on the left. Tim and Grace Burke once lived next to it but they are gone now and so is their house. The skunk cabbage patch remains, full of life.

—Bonner McAllester

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My Monterey Education

Everything was in motion for our new life together. I had sold my apartment. Bob and I were living in his Brooklyn home, preparing to move to Manhattan, and engaged to be married. A truly exciting time, except that the World Health Organization had declared Covid-19 a pandemic and New York City's numbers were alarming. We completed a virtual closing on our new Manhattan apartment on Friday, March 13, and drove to Bob's house on Lake Garfield the next day, just over a week before New York City shut down. Bob had been coming to Monterey for over forty years, and his wonderful house of windows had been our weekend getaway for our five years together. We expected to stay for a month, maybe two, to make the best of a frightening situation and then return to the business of moving. It would be a welcome break, and our families would worry less about us older folk.

It was the ideal place for Bob and me to seek comfort and shelter, because

Monterey is where we met. In 1993, I joined a share house on Lake Garfield organized by Bob and his then wife Laura. The house was a little red cottage on the exact spot where we live now. For several years, I spent glorious summer weekends there that were among the absolute best of my life. My housemates, forty- and fifty-something New Yorkers escaping the steamy city, were smart, sophisticated, energetic, and fun. The setting was idyllic, the energy electric and the laughs nonstop. Never before or since have I enjoyed being with a group as much as I did during those summers on the lake. But lives change. I stopped spending weekends in Monterey when I adopted my daughter Leah and left my single life behind. Though I remained close to several of my share house friends, I lost touch with Bob and Laura.

Bob and I reconnected five years ago when share house friends took him out to dinner in New York City after Laura's passing. A few months later we all gathered at the new house that Bob and Laura had built after they bought the cottage. It was

magic to be back on the lake. We relaxed into the lush green of deep summer and soaked in the sun on the dock, just as we had in the old days. Despite the passing of so many years, the joy of being with this group of friends was undiminished. After a second Lake Garfield reunion, Bob and I started spending time together in the city as a new couple. This was something I surely could not have imagined back in the red cottage days. I could hardly believe it was happening.

The beginning of our retreat last spring felt almost like vacation. We were living an unexpected chapter of our new life together in our hide-away. It was a relief to know that for at least a month I could forget about packing. I looked forward to falling asleep in silence and starlight. I could just sit and watch the ever-changing lake without feeling the urgency to fit as much activity as possible into a three-day weekend.

But Covid's devastation cast a large, growing shadow, and April in Monterey presented its own challenges. The calendar said spring, but the weather was chilly and damp, the skies grey and the trees bare. Significantly increasing screen time became a way to cope with the pandemic, but instead of welcoming the steady stream of emails offering every type of online entertainment and self-improvement imaginable, I was overwhelmed by the choices. It didn't help that our "smart" TV was not; Netflix seldom worked. Seeing forsythia and daffodils cheered me a bit. Then Bob got us out clearing brush along our property line. The best part was pulling down the thick nasty vines that were strangling our bushes and tree branches. We always laughed when the vines gave way and we came tumbling down with them. Now that was fun. With Mark Makuc's expert help and the right weather, we set all the debris ablaze, a great way to warm up a chilly day.

Through much of May the unwelcome cold continued. I was engaged in a standoff with the weather. If it wouldn't get warm, I wasn't going out. And so, I stayed in. A lot. Snow fell the day before Mother's Day and hail the day after. Because of Covid, we were afraid in the grocery store, afraid to touch the food we brought home, and afraid to see anyone. And then Covid



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brought more loss our way: the cancellation of our July wedding in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. We didn't want to wait another year. Reluctantly, we gave up our outdoor wedding and rescheduled for December. Sending out our first wedding save-the-date had been exciting, but this one just made me angry and sad. The deep disappointment was of a piece with so much else that wasn't going as planned or expected in 2020. The loss of life and livelihoods was beyond comprehension. And this unadorned life without family and friends, and entertainment limited to screens, was hard. I kept reading about the importance of practicing gratitude, but the only thing I felt I would be grateful for was an end to articles about gratitude.

Meanwhile, we watched on Facetime as movers brought everything from our two fully furnished homes into the new apartment. This so-called home was a maze of furniture and boxes. We saw the photographs and videos of empty streets and shuttered storefronts and grieved for all New York City had lost. And we thought often of our friends remaining there. But we dreaded being in the apartment that had once represented our shared future. Neither the city nor Monterey felt like home.

Finally, after what seemed an eternity, though was only two months, the long-awaited spring began. As the weather warmed and those first bright green leaf tips appeared, I was filled with hope. Everything grew greener bit by bit, and then, seemingly overnight, the background of our lives was deep green again. I was thrilled when perennials I had planted for

the first time last year actually came up. I enthusiastically dug up bluets and violets growing wild on the lawn and replanted them in a wood barrel that had been empty for years. Soon we were biking and playing tennis, two activities where social distancing could be observed. We ate outside with friends, even hosted a Memorial Day barbecue for four.

Summer brought even more to enjoy. Gardens bursting with color. Rosy morning skies and striking pastel sunsets. Covid infections were way down. We had more frequent visits with friends, even eating outside at restaurants. I swam across the lake and back for the first time and almost learned how to paddle our canoe.

Choosing to brave the pandemic, Bob's daughter Lisa and family drove up from Kentucky in July, bringing us much-needed hugs. The last day of their visit coincided with our originally planned wedding date. As evening approached, I told Bob I wanted to have a wedding ceremony, a suggestion we had dismissed as impossible when made earlier in the day by our neighbors Marcy and Steve. A flurry of last-minute planning ensued. I dressed in white shorts and a white linen top and marched down the "aisle" —our dock—to "Here Comes the Bride," played on clarinet by Bob's son-in-law John. The ceremony was complete with a lace chuppah held up by tennis rackets and guests in small boats, though without an officiant to make it legal. Bob and I exchanged impromptu vows, the Prosecco flowed freely, and we danced a bit precariously to "Blue Skies." Perhaps because it took place on the lake where we met, the

wedding felt almost like the real thing. I emailed the video to everyone we knew.

As the days grew shorter, I dreaded losing the summer's warmth and ease. But fall leaf season was spectacular, and each time I felt the colors couldn't get more vibrant, they did. I couldn't stop taking photos, trying to keep alive my feeling of being cloaked in those incredible leaves. Many friends were still here and our tennis and biking continued. And to make it a perfect autumn, in early November, I took advantage of the low Covid numbers and, wearing a mask and plastic shield, flew to Bloomington, Indiana to visit my daughter after ten long months apart. I can still recall every detail of that reunion with Leah: where we were, how tightly we hugged, how we didn't want to let go.

After prolonged and painful indecision, Bob and I decided to forego my family's annual Thanksgiving and eat our turkey and stuffing alone. But first we shared cocktails with Marcy and Steve in their somewhat-heated shed. Surrounded by kayaks, snowshoes, all manner of skis and garden equipment, we talked until our turkeys were ready and our fingers quite frozen. A quintessential Monterey pandemic experience. >

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Some surprising joys of winter.

My Monterey Education, cont.

Throughout the fall, Bob and I had planned to return to our apartment for the winter. There was much to do there, and we were aching to spend time with family and friends. But in the weeks after Thanksgiving the number of infections climbed, and we chose to remain in Monterey. Though we had to reschedule our Brooklyn wedding celebration again, we managed a small ceremony at our synagogue in the city in December. Our thirteen permitted in-person guests were almost invisible in the huge main sanctuary, and immediate family members and our closest friends joined us on Zoom. Even the rabbi and cantor were on screens, officiating from different rooms in the synagogue so that they, Bob, and I could remain unmasked. Both bride and groom wore real wedding



Bob Cutick

clothes this time, proper prayers and vows were said, documents signed, and rings exchanged. There was, however, no reception. After one socially-distanced photo, we gave our guests tiny paper cups of Champagne and wrapped chocolates as they left the building. We were at last officially married, and again looking forward to a summer wedding in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. And I was becoming quite adept at rescheduling weddings.

I now faced my first winter in Monterey, a season darker and colder than the spring that had so challenged me. Fortunately, indoor life had become much easier. Our TV had become much smarter with high-speed internet, and I had learned to manage the deluge of streaming options. More important, this simpler, slower life had given me time for welcome and unhurried reflection. I had become more

accepting of myself and started changing certain patterns of thought that were, to say the least, not helpful. But I feared the months ahead. It was already too cold for the outdoor sports and dining we had so enjoyed over the previous six months. I also worried about isolation. Most of our friends had gone back to the city, and the few who remained were now afraid to be together indoors.

The winter season started on a positive note with a holiday visit from Bob's family, who got us out in weather I had never before considered acceptable for a walk. Soon I was regularly taking walks with temperatures in the teens. The branches I had dismissed as bare last March I began to see as tracing gentle arcs across the sky. And what are those little trees whose paper thin shivering leaves still cling to them in the midst of winter? (Beech.) Tennis and biking were replaced by cross-country skiing and skating in the firehouse pavilion, and even briefly on a small patch of Lake Garfield we cleared. Best of all was sledding down our long, steep driveway on an old Flexible Flyer. Those sleds aren't called Flyers for nothing! Thanks to Marcy and Steve and their trusty shed, we met more of our nearby neighbors, which led to afternoon coffee for seven people and two dogs on Lauren and Jeff's porch, and the inevitable exchange of Netflix recommendations. We had found a circle of friends.

As I write this it is spring again. I made it through an entire Berkshires winter. My walks have lengthened and are more frequent. Tennis and biking are back. Flowers are peeking up. It snowed a few days ago and I actually enjoyed watching the flakes float down.

When we first came to Monterey last March, I counted days, then weeks, then months, and then seasons. How long had we been here and how long would we stay? Then, at some point, I stopped counting and started appreciating. Gratitude snuck into my life. I am married to a man whose company I never tire of, living in the bucolic Berkshires, part of a vibrant and caring community. Our apartment still needs a lot of work and I miss Leah, our extended family, and friends. My worries about the wider world continue. But Monterey has become my home instead of my getaway, and I couldn't be happier.

—Lin Saberski

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Northern Harriers

The northern harrier is quite different in appearance and behavior than any other birds of prey. Also known as a marsh hawk, its upper body plumage is distinctively more grey-colored. It also has an easily identifiable owl-shaped head and face that funnels the faintest sounds directly into enlarged ear openings. Consequently, it can hear even a small vole rustling around in the grass long before it comes into view. A harrier also has a very long black tail and wingtips that stabilize a slow and feathery quiet flight path and is able to turn on a dime to drop on a slow and unsuspecting target. Using this aerial ambush it catches small rabbits, frogs, young birds, and often snakes, as in my illustration.

Harriers are more likely to be found hunting low along the edges of country roads, and sometimes eating what they have caught on the ground in plain sight, which birdwatchers can appreciate. Harriers are only occasionally present along coastal Buzzards Bay because they seasonally pass through down from the north, for which they are named. Like the snowy owl, they may appear in greater numbers every five or six years, the result of a cyclical downturn in the population of their staple diet of rodents and lemmings. Unlike most other aerial raptors that mate for life (unless one of a pair dies), the male harrier may mate with several females at the same time. The male is also busy providing most of the food for its mates and their growing chicks.

His courtship dance for each female is remarkably acrobatic. As he circles his intended partner in the air, he may call out to her with a "purrduk" sound signaling he has caught some prey so she should fly under him. When he drops it, she can catch it as her reward for the mating exhibition. The male also uses a similar dropping tactic when finding a mouse nest to feed his fledglings. He will pick it up and shake it over the hungry family for a quick snack into the open-wide mouths of the chicks below. This teaches them to hunt in a similar fashion, by dropping down upon any moving object that looks like a living creature and which might be edible. If a



youngster wanders too far from the nest the mother carries it back home by the nape of its neck.

In late August, the whole family is ready to start moving southward for the annual autumn migration. For the next several months, they may be found following the coastal plains areas not far from the Atlantic flyway. However, wherever they arrive in their travels, they are received as welcome visitors by the people in the area, recognized for their reputation for keeping down the

population of unwanted rodents, as well as venomous reptiles. Sadly, population research shows that harrier numbers are dwindling all across their migratory range because of the loss of marshland habitat and spraying of pesticides harmful to the thickness of their eggshells. The Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918 still protects the northern harrier. They are a valuable species to write about and illustrate for environmental awareness to readers of the *Monterey News*.

—George Emmons

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Late April and May Wildlife Report

The month has been full of life, from fox pups to rose-breasted grosbeaks, to ducks, and even a moose. These animals are heralded by all sorts of birds and birdsong, also the explosion of greenery and the soft fall of tree blossoms: maples, birches, beeches, oaks. Their pollen-bearing catkins and pompoms decorate the ground, leaving the female blossoms still aloft, making seeds and nuts in the higher branches, for later.



At the end of April, Michael and Maureen Banner sent a photo of a pill bug (above), sometimes called a sow bug. These can curl up into a ball, more or less, and are not insects but isopods, likely to show up in the garden or in the duff in the woods. The Banners also found a little pseudoscorpion, and took a photo (above right). It is very small and might be mistaken for a new kind of tick. These little arachnids are harmless and seldom seen, though they are common and numerous. Those forelegs brandishing little pincers are called pedipalps and look a lot like mini-crabclaws.



Colta Ives wrote in late April about a pair of courting barred owls. She said that they were “nuzzling each other high up on a branch of a near-the-house maple. This was an absorbing sight lasting about five minutes until the two birds flew off together. We saw one owl apparently nipping the other’s neck and repeatedly lifting one talon in an ‘I want to hold your hand’ gesture. Is this what you would call romance?”

Our bobcat for the month was crossing Tryingham Road when Janet Jensen came along on her bike. This was at the place where Lime Rock Road comes out. Janet stopped and called “kitty, kitty,” but the small wildcat turned shy and ran into the woods.

So many of us have been thrilled to see the rose-breasted grosbeaks this year. The males are striking in red, black, and white, and the females in handsome browns. Sharon Rosenberg is happy every year to see them by her apartment close to the Konkapot, and Carol Edelman wrote of them the first week in May at her feeders, on what she called an “epic day,” with gold and purple finches, red-

bellied woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, juncos, nuthatches, cardinals, blue jays, and hummingbirds, too.

A bit farther west, along Route 23, Suzanne Sawyer saw rose-breasted grosbeaks that same week, as well as a Baltimore oriole. She saw a yellowthroat, which is a pale warbler with a yellow throat and a striking black mask.

By the middle of the month, other folks were reporting those rose-breasted grosbeaks, including Lin Saberski and Bob Cutick at their place by Lake Garfield. Around this time, Cindy Hoogs told of a male Baltimore oriole at her feeder.



Bonsai Cox sent a photo of woodpecker holes in a standing pine (below). These are the characteristic rectangular work of the pileated woodpecker. They may become much bigger if there is good hunting in the tree for carpenter ants or sawyer beetle larvae.



Ed Salsitz came upon a trio of dark, handsome ducks when out for a walk in the woods by the side of the road in Mill



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River. He says they were not shy. They look like domestic ducks of some kind, says our in-house duck expert (above). Ed also has some carpenter bees at his house. They look like bumble bees, and they make holes in wood, including in the boards on people's houses (below).



There were two red-backed salamanders under the mulch in one of the Community Garden plots, and Suzanne Sawyer has seen a long lovely northern water snake and sent a photograph (below with inset photo with markings). The markings are clear on this one but sometimes these snakes can be so dark as to appear almost black, especially if they are in the water, swimming. They are not venomous.



In the mammals department, besides the small bobcat of Tyringham Road, we have Elizabeth Maschmeyer's excited account of a young moose "about the

size of a pony," crossing Route 23 just west of the Otis-Monterey line. Later that same evening, Elizabeth saw a bobcat also crossing Route 23, but farther west past the Monterey Firehouse.

Ethan McCarty and his son Zev were walking on Bidwell Road when Zev spotted fox pups near a house. They sent in a fine photo of one of the fox youngsters (below). Joe Baker saw an adult red fox in the woods near the sugarhouse road here at our place on Hupi Road. This fox was striking in color, and shedding its long winter coat.



Roz Halberstadter showed me a photograph she'd taken of a white squirrel running along a fence. And she told of a black mouse at her place, too.

We had a young bear up a hemlock tree just outside the kitchen window. It had gone there in response to serious barking from the dog but was ready to climb down and depart as soon as we quieted Rocky.

The young luna moths are emerging, and I saw one recently, hanging low to the ground (above right). The moth was on a low moose maple branch and looked very like its new green leaves. Dark markings along the top edges of the pale green moth wings look like maple twigs, and there are two other symmetrical dark markings that could be tree buds.



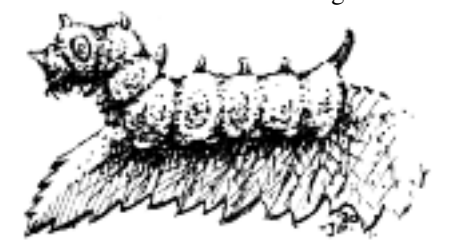
Colta Ives sent a perfect spring photo of a showy orchis (below left), the first she has seen at her place. Cait Ryan and her dog came upon a young fawn, perfectly hidden in the woods, a spring youngster waiting perfectly and safely for the doe to come back (below). And Kyle Pierce has seen fireflies. The orchis, the fawn, the flashing fireflies.



And so we welcome the season, as we ourselves feel welcomed by these wilds. This is communion.

Thanks, all, for your photographs, accounts, and your excitement over the wild. This is our connection, our world.

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



Bidwell House Museum

At the Bidwell House Museum, we are so excited to welcome you all to our Thirtieth Anniversary Season! We had been planning to celebrate our thirtieth anniversary in 2020, but Covid had other plans for the museum. This summer, as we celebrate thirty seasons of sharing the Bidwell story, early Berkshire history, and our gardens and trails, we can also celebrate the re-opening of the Berkshires after a long and trying year.

June Programs

In June the museum has two very interesting lectures planned. First up on Wednesday, June 9, at 7 p.m., via Zoom, Harvard Professor and Historian Tiya Miles will discuss her new book *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*. In this book, Professor Miles unearths the faint presence of two enslaved women in archival records and draws on objects and art to follow the paths of their lives in a singular and revelatory history of the experience of slavery. Tiya Miles is professor of history and Radcliffe Alumnae Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. This talk will be held via Zoom and attendees can register at bidwellhousemuseum.org under Events, Upcoming Events. Tickets for members are free, non-members are \$10. This talk is generously sponsored by The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

On Saturday, June 19, at 10 a.m., the museum is happy to present a conversation with Simon Winchester on his recent book *Land: How the Hunger for Ownership*



Bidwell museum volunteers Rob Hoogs, Rick Wilcox, Ruth Green, and Frank and Julie Kern.

Shaped the Modern World. Published in January, *Land* examines in depth how we acquire land, how we steward it, how and why we fight over it, and finally, how we can, and on occasion do, come to share it. Simon Winchester is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Professor and the Madman*, *The Men Who United the States*, and *The Perfectionists*.

This conversation will be held in-person and streamed via Zoom. There will be a very limited number of in-person tickets available and all attendees will need to register in advance on the Bidwell House Museum website's events page. Tickets will be free for members and \$10 for non-members.

Volunteer

Finally, the museum is looking for volunteers. Each season the Bidwell House Museum relies on dozens of volunteers to help with events, fundraisers, garden clean-up, house tours, and more. We were closed to most in-person activities in 2020, but in 2021, as we work towards hosting some small outdoor gatherings and in-



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Dandelion by Bonsai Cox.

person house tours along with an onsite re-enactment weekend in September, we are looking for people to help.

- Have you been looking for a meaningful way to spend your free time?
- Do you have an interest in or want to learn more about local history? If so, you could help during our reenactment weekend September 18 and 19.
- Are you interested in meeting new people who also love history? If so volunteer to be a docent when the museum begins tours later in the summer or volunteer to help with fundraiser planning.
- Do you enjoy gardening or working outdoors? If so, come by on Thursday mornings to help our garden staff.

For more information about all of our volunteer opportunities, call or email the museum at (413) 528-6888, or email us at bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road, and while the house will remain closed for tours until July, the museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open every day free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director



National Grid planted a few new trees in town to thank Monterey for participating in their Wire Safety Program. This red maple was planted at the entry to the transfer station. Kevin Fitzpatrick (right), Monterey Tree Warden, supervised, and select board member Steven Weisz (left) was there to thank National Grid.



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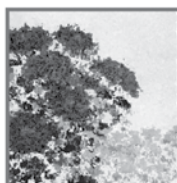
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Boundary Busting

We once understood and largely accepted the boundaries that defined much of what we believed, the way we arranged our lives, and how societies were organized. They allowed us to go about our business and to avoid surprises, especially unpleasant ones. Of course, people who were expected to “know their place,” and small, local business operations their geographic limits, regarded the prescribed boundaries as unwelcome and unfair.

But America has always been about testing and stretching boundaries. England’s aristocratic society and established church both crumbled after the American Revolution. The former colonial boundaries burst apart as Americans surged westward. More recently, the boundaries that long confined women were redrawn or simply disappeared.

Today, boundaries long in place are being breached, even obliterated. Whether welcomed or deeply resented, the process, for many, has been unusually unsettling. Take note of the following developments.

Businesses have changed shape, expanded beyond long established limits. Gas stations now have mini marts attached. Walmart sells groceries and Amazon has exploded far beyond peddling books. Once a successful enterprise goes the franchise route thousands of units spring up across the country. Businesses expand globally: their products arriving on our shores from anywhere in the world.

Male and female boundaries can no longer contain the many additional

identities people have claimed. Families now present in many sizes, shapes and relationships. They are single, extended, blended, co-parented, same sex, etc.

We’re stretching the boundaries of earth, heading into space more consistently and confidently than ever before.

News sources spill out beyond all former and formal boundaries. Social media, podcasts, talk radio, the internet, and television—all compete for our attention.

Facts, validity, evidence were once understood and generally agreed upon. Now truth is under assault, become a contested arena amidst a swirl of opinions, suspicions, falsehoods, a polarized citizenry, and conspiratorial fantasies.

All the above is both liberating and unsettling, leaving many of us confused and conflicted as boundaries shift continuously. Barriers have been lifted and freedoms expanded, but let’s not forget that boundaries have also helped us define and reinforce what is worth defending and preserving.

—Richard Skolnik



Mary Makuc



Judy Kaminstein

In mid-May, (from left) Judy Kaminstein, Julie Kern, Myrna Rosen, and Janet Jensen planted the first native perennials as part of a project to support pollinators at the Monterey Community Center garden. The group is planning a tour of local native plant gardens later in the summer. Check the next issue for details.

Contributions in May 2021

Jeff Purvis
Malinka Jackson
Matthew Tannenbaum
Seth Kershner
Jane & Larry Burke
Kenn & Kate Basler
Myrna Randolph
Holly Kulka
Cathy Roth & Vicki Reed
Phyllis Epstein
Phil Stoiber
JoAnn Bell & Doug McTavish
Adrienne O’Connell &
John Branton
Ann Vetter
Elizabeth & Michael Germain
Carole & Gerry Clarin



A “younger Oreo” says Bonsai Cox. She’s a Dutch Belted.

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

— Steven Weisz, Chair
John Weingold and Justin Makuc
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(weinjohnsb@gmail.com)
(justin@montereyma.gov)

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

Police Emergency Contacts

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

528-3211

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

calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):

528-3136

chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734

dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211

mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

SBRSD (Schools): (413)-229-8778

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117

montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113

clerk@montereyma.gov

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

Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center

Sundays: Monterey softball begins again.

Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30. See page 14.

Mondays: “What’s Happening,” discussing local arts, 4 to 5 p.m., MCC. See page 3.

Tuesdays: Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., MCC.

Wednesdays: Tai Chi with David Crowe, 11 a.m., MCC.

Tuesdays from June 22 to July 13: Song writing with Robin O’Herin. See page 3.

Tuesdays: Bridge and cards, 1 p.m. MCC. See page 11.

Sunday, June 6: Card making with Vicki MacDonald, 1 p.m., MCC. See page 11.

Tuesday, June 8: Visiting nurse wellness clinic, (2nd Tuesdays), 2 to 3 p.m. See page 11.

Wednesday, June 9: Online history talk with Tiya Miles, Bidwell House Museum/Zoom, 7 p.m. See page 24.

Saturday, June 12:

Resumed Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m., firehouse pavilion.

Length & Strength with Jill Esterson, 1 p.m. MCC.

Car Show, New Boston Inn, 1 p.m. See page 3.

Memorial for Robert McMahon, 2:30 to 5 p.m. See page 5.

Poetry reading by Geoffrey Young, outside at the library, 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 17: CHP vaccination van, time to be decided. See page 14.

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.

Sunday June 19: History talk with Simon Winchester, Bidwell House Museum/Zoom, 10 a.m. See page 24.

Tuesday, June 22: Elder Law seminar, 11 a.m., MCC. See page 11.

Sunday, June 27: Pops Peterson, “The Making of a Protest Artist.” Location to be decided. See page 3.

Coming in July

Saturday, July 3: Talewise, “Aliens: Escape from the Earth,” 10:30 a.m., library. See page 12.

Saturday, July 24: Singing and story telling with Davis Bates, 10:30 a.m., library. See page 12.

Sunday, July 25: Pittsfield Suns picnic and game, 4:30 p.m. See page 11.

Saturday, July 31:

“Bubble Man” Jeff Boyer, 10:30 a.m., library. See page 12.

Annual Steak Roast



Mid-May progress on the community garden. Spring, summer, fresh veggies, and flowers are certainly on their way!
— Stephen Moore

MONTEREY NEWS

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.....& 2-5 p.m.
Thursday4-8 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to noon., & 4-8 p.m.
Saturday ...9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
..... & 7-9 p.m.

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

Contributions from local artists this month:

Rachel Jo Arnow, pgs. 14, 23;

George Emmons, p. 21; Bonner McAllester, p. 17.

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