



MONTEREY NEWS



August 2020
Est. 1970 Vol. L · Number 8

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), Bracken Brae farm stand, firehouse pavilion.



Left: Hummingbird on crocosima; right: Monarch on orange butterfly weed —Suzanne Sawyer. For more garden photos, see pages 24–27.

Stranger still was Boston’s “Molasses Disaster” in which a huge tank of molasses exploded, releasing its contents in waves of deadly liquid (twenty-five feet high in places)...
Tough Times page 18

We are fortunate to live in a state with a law on the books that protects our public roadside trees.
Letters-Town Trees Lost page 12

If you would like to be a part of this effort to protect the school house and the village area, please email me soon at barbara_swann@hotmail.com.
Historic District in Monterey? page 7

Construction debris is *not* free. Small amounts, a garbage can or less is okay, but beyond that there is a fee.
Transfer Station page 9

Kyle Pierce reports the baby eagles at Lake Buel are flying now. Kyle also has seen a deer in the lake, walking in the shallows.
Wildlife pages 28–29

The Monterey Fire Company recently sent out their first fund appeal in several years. Your donations can be made to the Monterey Fire Company, and be mailed to PO Box 99, Monterey, MA 01245.
Fire Company Fund Appeal page 3

If you split your time evenly between two or more places, a response is required from **each** and **every** property.
Complete Census page 2

People have such different notions of their gardens, and this is well displayed on these four pages.
July Gardens pages 24–27

Things are very different this year at the Bidwell House Museum as we have had to transition to all online or outdoor programs including our new “Outside the House” tour.
Bidwell House page 23

The feeling of singing together—it’s hard to put into words.
Monterey Community Chorus page 9

Massachusetts Primary September 1 Primary Ballot page 2

Yes! The Friends of the Library are going to have a boxful book sale this year.
Monterey Library Book Sale page 14

This is the only thing residents can do to support having a fiber-to-the-home broadband network built. **Sign up**, and **make a deposit**.
Broadband Network Build page 10

The Monterey Cultural Council is part of the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation.
Monterey’s Cultural Life page 21

On sultry summer days the fish in us must second-guess its wish to trade a watery world for one where mist conspires with the sun.
Far Out page 17

“Don’t assume that if a snake isn’t moving it isn’t doing anything.”—Thomas E. Tynning.
Northern Water Snakes page 20

Monterey Library News Limited Browsing

Limited browsing? What does that mean?

Governor Baker allowed libraries to open for limited browsing in Stage 3 of the reopening. The Monterey Library plan was developed and approved by the Monterey Library Board of Trustees and the Monterey Board of Health. The ideas behind limited browsing are that people spend just enough time to pick out materials, check them out, and leave. There are two formulas for determining capacity of people in a building that allows for social distancing and minimizes risk of Covid-19 spread.

Using these formulas, the library has worked out the building capacity, and we have determined that for now it is better to even have fewer people than the formulas allow. We require masks and that you sanitize your hands upon entering. Practice social distancing. Browse with your eyes as much as possible. You can continue to order holds on your CWMARS account, and we will be glad to put your order outside the building during library hours if you prefer not to enter the building. The option is here now, though, to browse the collection. We are open our normal scheduled hours. We've already added two hours on Thursdays, and hopefully will be adding some more in the coming weeks.

Along with that, we are also allowing limited computer use. The desktops and iPads are available. If you need something printed, please come in during library hours. The seating has been rearranged. There are limited seats in the building which are meant for those who need access to the internet. You are welcome to bring your own device inside. The ventilation system in the library is new and should help tremendously to stifle spread of the virus. Whether the HVAC is calling for AC, heat, or nothing, the fans are running while we are open to take out the existing air in the building and replace it with fresh air from outside.

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

For a Complete Census All Seasonal Homes Included

If you live at multiple places throughout the year, count yourself at the address where you live and sleep most of the time. If you split your time evenly between two or more places, count yourself where you were staying on April 1, 2020.

A census response is required from **each and every** property.

For any property you own, but only use part of the time, follow these instructions:

1. Visit my2020census.gov.
2. Enter the Census ID or address for this secondary property.
3. Enter "0" for the number of people living at this property.
4. Hit "Next," and if a "soft error" occurs, click "Next" again.
5. Select "No" when asked to confirm no person lives at this property.
6. Select primary reason—Seasonal (most likely).
7. Complete!

As of July 27, Monterey had just fewer than a 30% response rate, versus the average US response of 64.6%. It is worth mentioning that funding across all departments of government are heavily influenced by the most recent ten-year census information.

It is important to ensure that all properties are counted.

For more information, go to 2020census.gov.

—From the Town of Monterey

It's not too late to sign up your child for the reading program and watch shows that are linked on our website of some of our favorite performers. Details are found on the children's page of the website. Keep checking the main page of the website for updates and additional services. The library is committed to following Governor Baker's plan. A controlled plan for browsing is part of that, and the staff is excited to see some of you coming back already!

—Mark Makuc

Library Director
montereymasslibrary.org

Editor's Note: See page 15 for Friends of the Monterey Library booksale.

Massachusetts Primary September 1, 2020

Voting for the state primary for party candidates will be on Tuesday, September 1, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registration deadline is August 12. Absentee ballots must be received by September 1. To receive an absentee ballot, contact Terry Walker, Monterey Town Clerk, by calling (413)-0528-1443.

Republican US Senate

- Shiva Ayyadurai
- Kevin O'Connor

US House of Representatives, District 1

- No Republican candidate

Democratic US Senate

- Ed Markey
- Joe Kennedy

US House of Representatives, District 1

- Richard Neal
- Alex Morse



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Monterey Fire Company Fund Appeal

The Monterey Fire Company recently sent out their first fund appeal in several years. The letter makes clear just how much the fire company has been doing for the community, and to improve their ability to provide safe and professional responses to emergencies in Monterey and throughout the mutual aid area. For the period between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 the fire company responded to 135 calls.

They've had to develop procedures to cope with Covid-19—to protect the firefighters, as well as when they interact with the public. They're close to finishing phase 1 of their remodeling project, much of which has been funded by members donating their training pay and personal time to carry out the work. They've begun having a two-person staff at the station overnight, with a chief officer and command vehicle at the ready to reduce response times to calls. This staffing plan also provides more frequent readiness and maintenance checks on the equipment, and along with an on-line training system, allows training as individuals or in small groups. All of this means quicker, better service for you and your family.

The fund appeal letter also details the ways in which the town already supports and cooperates with the fire company, which is a separate, non-profit, 401(c) 3 entity from the town. The company has plans for phase two and phase three for renovations to the fire station to improve the functioning of the aging building (phase two: heating system repairs, new apparatus floor, upgrading the kitchen area; phase three: expanded interior training space and additional small vehicle bays behind the fire station) and is looking to the townspeople for financial support.

Knox Gallery News

Hooray! The Knox Gallery is back—if in mitigated fashion. As you know, the gallery and the Monterey Library closed in March following the Commonwealth's restrictions. All library events since then were cancelled, postponed, or have been redesigned.

The current good news is that, in keeping with current protocol, the library has been able to expand on the curbside service that it has offered since May, and we are pleased to enthusiastically join in the limited reopening. The library and the Knox Gallery can accept some visitors! Six viewers at a time are welcome to check out the current exhibition of PL Meriam's *Nature's Beauty and Fragility*. Meriam's mission "to help people notice the beauty and detail of the natural environment so that they will be motivated to preserve it" and her statement that "artists' voices are critical in this time of the world's fragility" seem even more prescient than when the show was installed. Please take the time to view these beautiful paintings.

As we have previously mentioned, our planned exhibitions for 2020 (Alan Roland, Katherine Waiveris, Julie Shapiro, and Lee Backer) have been rescheduled

At this point the experimental curbside steak roast is over, but they need your additional generous financial donations to ready the fire station for the next fifty years. Your donations can be made to the Monterey Fire Company, and be mailed to PO Box 99, Monterey, MA 01245.



PL Meriam's Jailbranch.

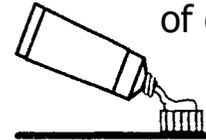
for 2021. Please continue to check the *Monterey News* for updates on our schedule.

Meanwhile, our co-director Julie Shapiro, who was planning to exhibit her recent work later this summer, has been coerced to put up an impromptu exhibit. A selection of her drawings will be on display following Meriam's paintings. In the September *Monterey News* she will describe her inspiration for this group of work.

—MaryPaul Yates

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In My View



Greetings,

Thank you to all the voters who voted for me in the recent town election. I am very appreciative of your support. I know voting for someone with no track record in politics can lead to a truly horrific result, as many of us have seen in the past few years. I was endorsed by both political parties in March and ran unopposed. However, I should have seen the red flags before March, when I received an email from a select board member wanting to know if I was really running, what my positions were, whether he could support me and work with me. He was on the Democratic committee, and if he wanted me on the board, he'd stop looking for another candidate. I did not respond. This individual then went to both March party caucuses to not support me. From March to June everything was quiet. Then, after my views were disclosed in the *Monterey News* June edition concerning a town administrator (apparently touching the high-voltage power line of town politics of the current status quo), it seemed the very next day I was "warmly greeted" to the political septic tank that is town politics.

Privately, in emails, my welcome to my likely election to the select board was all warm and fuzzy. Behind the scenes, a very different plan was in motion. In June 2020, on a invite-and-approval google group run by Chris Blair of ninety-nine-plus people (MontereyCommunity Google group), after someone asked who I was and why I was unopposed, a select board member posted that the only thing he knows is that "he's (I'm) a friend of (naming another person in town)." It seems that statement was the straw that broke the ass's back and the campaign led by two of the select board members against me started. A write-in candidate announced himself on the Google group. Someone notified me of what was going on in the Google group, and I quickly joined this unknown-to-me group to watch. Finally, I was forced to respond to the attacks, the disinformation, and the hypocrisy. I would not be taking a knee to the incumbent or be their rubber stamp. After I posted the warm and fuzzy welcome email to the google group to point out the hypocrisy of the person and the situation, then the smear campaign on my character and the personal attacks really took flight. The personal, baseless attacks came from people I never met. Incumbent select board members, both in the google group, supported the write-in candidate. I unsubscribed from the group after a character attack piece appeared. Pardon me if I do not now believe the narrative

of the two incumbent board members claiming they welcomed me with open arms and open minds and tried to help me learn the ropes of town government. I had learned and seen plenty. My election was only accomplished because the mail-in ballots could not be altered. But that is a story for another column and time. And people wonder why no one runs for the select board in this town?

Town Administrator

To kick the will of voters from 2015 down the road again, the prior select board placed article 6 on the 2019 Warrant, asking to spend \$6,000 to pay the Collins Center to "see if the Town needed a town administrator." A board member in 2019 pleaded to the Annual Town Meeting to "give them another year." (*Monterey News* June 2019 issue). Well, their time is up. The select board ignored the people's will and got their new 2020 report from the Collins Center. \$6,000 of taxpayer money well spent? Sadly, not quite.

In January, the 2020 Collins Center first draft report findings/highlights/recommendations were sent for comment to the select board and the town administrative assistant (who was included in the contract with Collins Center to be a "reviewer" of the findings along with select board). After not liking what the draft said about town hall culture, the select board then spent two months arguing with the

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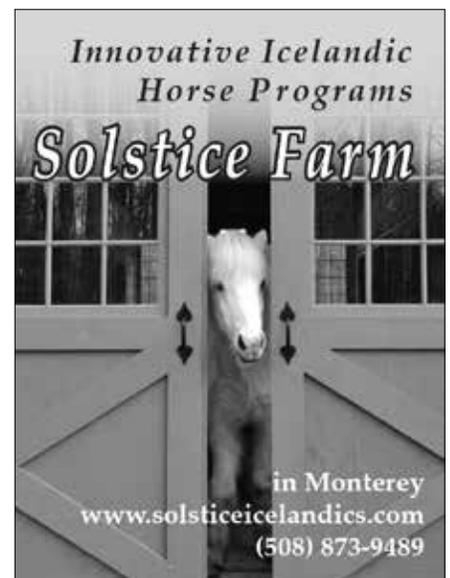
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expert report's conclusions, wanting to change the title of the report, asking to have entire sections of "Town Hall Culture" redacted/changed, asking to change the negative tone of the report, and sharing their concerns and opinions privately among themselves, before release of the watered down final report to the general public in March 2020. The emails are public reports and can be obtained from the town.

One select board member in a January email to the Collins Center commented, "I also am concerned with a general bias toward 'having a Town Administrator' at all costs, as a panacea for all Town problems." After the second draft of the report was sent, the following email was sent: "I realize that your redraft tried to present a somewhat more positive picture of the culture, but we have a lot of very sensitive people in our little town government, and think a further redraft would help. I think that you should withdraw this section (pages 7 through 8) entirely because its subject matter is outside the scope of the report as described in our contract. We were looking for a report on "operations," not one on the interpersonal issues in town hall. The problems described on the pages in question are well known to everyone in town hall and by most citizens." The Collins Center, in disbelief, emailed back, on February 14, "Your request to remove a section of the report is a highly unusual one, and I will have to discuss it with my boss before responding substantively." The select board member response: "If your boss does not agree with me during your conversation with him, I would like to speak with him directly." Apparently, the select board and thus the town got "their" version and a watered down \$6,000 report.

Some first draft Collins Center unaltered findings:

- "Interviews demonstrated that distrust and interpersonal conflict continue to define the Town Hall culture. The people closest to the daily activities of Town Hall were the most likely to see this and provided numerous examples; some exhibited it in the interviews. It is clear to the Collins Center that civil discourse around municipal governance in the Town

of Monterey is lacking." (page 6)

- "Unfortunately, interviews and other information collected by the project team demonstrated that the conflict surrounding the Town Administrator position in Monterey has become this kind of destructive conflict, mired by entanglement with past interpersonal issues and perceived mistakes of staff and elected or appointed officials. This situation has caused dysfunction and harm in Monterey in predictable ways." (page 6)
- "The Collins Center project team saw numerous examples of distrust, eroded civility and civil discourse, and disunity, in interviews." (page 6)
- "In the experience of the Collins Center, the environment and culture in Town Hall is not typical amongst Massachusetts municipalities, nor does it reflect a healthy and effective organization." (page 7)
- "The project team recommends that the Town hire a skilled, professional Town

Administrator. As documented earlier in this report, both the Restructuring Committee and the Division of Local Services (DLS) recommended the Town create a Town Administrator position, and Town Meeting adopted the enabling statute." (page 7)

- "It is clear that Monterey faces a number of challenges. A Town Administrator would be able to mitigate several risks and improve day-to-day management and oversight, project management, financial management, human resources management, and compliance." (page 9)
- "The Town Administrator position would necessarily involve considering and documenting the roles and responsibilities of the Select Board and Administrative Assistant. There are many tasks currently assigned by design or default to the Select Board and Administrative Assistant that would fall to the Town Administrator. It is undisputed that the position of Administrative Assistant needs to be clarified, and in fact the Select Board >

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In My View, cont. page 5

has for some time been engaged in the process of documenting the roles and responsibilities of that position.” (page 10)

• “In its 2016 report, DLS noted that the incumbent [Administrative Assistant] “has assumed many responsibilities, often exceeding her job description and without clear authority. Additionally, the Center project team reiterates the recommendation from DLS that the Administrative Assistant position should report to the Town Administrator rather than to the Select Board.” (page 10)

Folks, this is data and facts, from the University of Massachusetts Management experts investigation into the facts at town hall. These expert opinions on dysfunction and the fixes are during 2019 and 2020, not 2015 or 2016! This was written before the select board softened the findings, removed the culture language, before the final report.

Given the current make-up of two-thirds of the board, they seem not to want a town administrator (TA) with any professional oversight. In four months, they apparently did draft several TA job descriptions (which apparently cannot now be found), did not apply for Com-

munity Compact Grants, nor seek any free help from the Collins Center to hire a TA. Although we are living in the Trump era nationally—to me, facts still do matter. Expert opinions still do matter. Facts and expert recommendations for the town administrator and twelve other management recommendations “trump” (irony intended) any select board member’s personal opinions on the management issues and recommendations. If not, the voters should demand their \$6,000 back. Lastly, the will of the voters from 2015 and 2019 on the TA position is once again being slow-played and not diligently acted upon. Instead, the board is acting on really important issues like revoking someone’s dump access, town beach parking (all TA functions), recalling bylaws (for many citizens too late), and trying to destroy the finance committee’s role in the budget, attacking the committee’s bylaw and state statutory oversight, and planning on giving more and more TA duties to the administrative assistant. It seems under current state law secretaries have no power or authority to run the daily operations of town government. Monterey is unique.

The current executive power in town is three-against-one: two select board members and the administrative assistant against a functional government and

departments that can get along. Nothing will get done to address the culture, dysfunction, and lack of professional oversight. If you don’t acknowledge the issues, how can you correct the problems? You can’t. You won’t. You are the problem. I, and many people, do not want to wait until next May for movement on professional town management, accountability, civility, and a transparent government.

Myself along with the chair of the finance committee will gladly hold monthly meetings with all citizens at 6:30 p.m., probably on Wednesdays or Thursdays (electronically at first), to listen and absorb your ideas for the town, listen to new ideas on spending, and help the government become more transparent and responsive to taxpayers.

If you would like to reach me, my email is weinjohnsb@gmail.com.

—John Weingold
Select Board (for now)

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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Historic District in Monterey?

A historic district study committee presented the following request to the Monterey select board in mid-July.

The Town of Monterey can preserve almost the entire village area of Main Road as a predominantly, quintessentially, and basically unchanged New England Civil War era townscape.

The following steps illustrate what is needed to first establish a Local Historic District in the Monterey School House and then designate our town center as a National Heritage District.

Step 1: Establish a local historic district committee. This committee will work with the Massachusetts Historical Commission towards the goal of preserving the Monterey School House as a "Local Historic District" so as to put work on the quickest path for the school's preservation. Despite it being only one building, this is the legal term for the building, and is needed for our major fundraising. While a local historic district must pass a Town Meeting bylaw proposal, it is the fastest way to gain the funds for the school house rather than as a building within a National Register District.

Step 2: Establish a "heritage district." After the establishment of the school house as a local historic district a new or expanded committee would work with

the Massachusetts Historical Commission (adding nominees as suggested by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the experts they send us for consultation, including the Monterey Historical Commission, Monterey Historical Society, Monterey Architects and Realtors). The goal will be to define a "national register district." This part could take up to two years.

Step 3: A town meeting vote. To be listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a National Register District a town vote would take place. Each household in the proposed district will be asked for their input for this district. The committee will work with Massachusetts Historical Commission, National Parks, and the town on this. If the households agree, the town becomes listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a National Register District.

Fundraising

Obtaining both the Local Historic District and National Register District designations offers major fundraising opportunities through state grants and through private foundations. Properties in the National Register District and the school house Local District would be eligible for 50% state-funded matching grants through the MA Preservation Projects Fund. These funds could be very welcome to the home owners.

There are some nine hundred National Register Districts in Massachusetts eligible for grants by the state government to ensure their upkeep and beauty for generations to come. It is time Monterey recognized its unique character and added itself to that number. South Egremont used this position recently when they renewed their school house. That school house was in both a Local District and a National Register District. We need to follow their timely lead.

Historical District Study Sources

Massachusetts Historical Commission: go to www.sec.state.ma.us, search for "historical commission."

To see the Monterey Schoolhouse listed within the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System:

- Go to <http://mhc-macris.net/>. On the first screen you must agree to their usage terms.
- Select "Monterey" town from the dropdown list and add it to the search.
- Enter in the appropriate fields, "Monterey Village Schoolhouse," "459 Main Rd," and "1845" (the year it was built.)
- If you want to look at other properties in the village area, select "Next" at the bottom of the page, and then select "Next 15" until you get into the 440s of Monterey Main Road. Each result has an image that can be hovered over or clicked on to see the edifice. Rich information about each building is listed under the "INV" button.

If you would like to be a part of this effort to protect the school house and the village area, please email me soon at barbara_swann@hotmail.com.

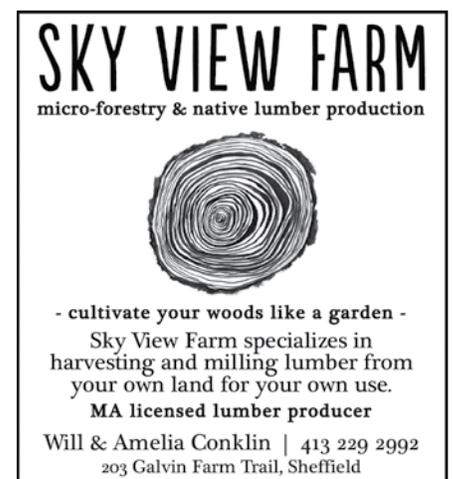
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Monterey Community Center

If you are wondering about that huge white tent on the grounds of the Monterey Community Center, it's not because the circus has come to town. The MCC is finally open for recreational use—at least on the outside. The tent provides a comfortable outdoor space in which to conduct classes and activities and allows plenty of distance to spread out, although participants are still urged to wear masks.

Chair Yoga: The tent is currently being used for chair yoga classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. with Connie Wilson. These have now become hybrid classes with some in-person participants under the tent and some people preferring to participate by Zoom. Connie has become adept at making sure that both groups are fully involved and can interact with one another. It's a lovely way to spend a morning, so if you are interested, either show up at the Community Center on Tuesday mornings or leave a message at the MCC to get the Zoom link.

Drumming: Kit Patten is offering the second of his drumming classes under the tent on Tuesday, August 4 at 4:30 p.m. Eighteen people showed up at the first session and had a great time. Bring a drum or anything to bang on and show up to have some fun. No experience is needed and the class is free of charge. Ping pong has also resumed on Saturdays at 2 p.m. The table is moved outside to play and in order to keep social distancing, only single games are played. Anyone is welcome, and if you have your own paddle, please bring it. Otherwise, gloves are advised if you are sharing paddles.



New Events

Tai Chi: Thanks to the generosity of the Council on Aging, Tai Chi classes are taking place under the tent. The first class took place on July 29 and two more will be offered on Wednesday, August 5 and 12 at 10 a.m. The slow gentle movements of traditional Tai Chi and Qigong (energy cultivation) have been shown to be extremely effective in managing stress, enhancing health, increasing mental focus, balance, and energy. David Crowe, certified lineage instructor from Berkshire Tai Chi, will share several ancient and powerful exercises to help you cultivate your mind, body, and spirit. For all ages, no experience necessary, free of charge. Since the class is limited to twelve people, please leave a message at the MCC, (413)-528-3600, if you would like to participate, or you can email montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com. If you think you might need a chair, please bring it with you.

Jewelry Making: On Thursday, August 6 at 10 a.m., there will be a jewelry-making class with Jilly Lederman (at left). A new resident to Monterey, Jilly Lederman has lived in the Berkshires since 2004. A life-long crafter and collector of jewelry, Jilly is excited to share some of her favorite projects with the Monterey community. She teaches English and Ancient History at Berkshire Country Day School where she is a National Geographic Educator. She spent twenty-six summers working at Camp Seneca Lake, near Ithaca, New York where she directed the arts and crafts program, retiring in 2015. Since then, she has spent her non-pandemic summers working on archaeological digs in the Balkans with the Balkan Heritage Foundation. For the jewelry-making class, participants will be making “Chan Luu” style bracelets. There is a \$20 fee to cover the cost of the Swarovski crystals and other supplies. Tools will be provided but please remember to bring glasses if you need them for close work. The class is limited to eight participants and pre-registration is required.

Pollinators: On Thursday, August 13 at 7 p.m., naturalist and landscaper John Root will offer a ninety-minute PowerPoint presentation, “Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees, and Other Beneficials,” via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86811851311>, Meeting ID: 868 1185 1311). Discover fascinating details about the lives of these organisms and learn how to meet their needs for food, cover, water, and reproduction. Since this is an online event, it is open to any number of participants and pre-registration is not required. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

It's wonderful to see people enjoying the community center again, even with restrictions. If you have any questions, suggestions for classes or events or want to register for a class, please leave a message at (413) 528-3600, or email at montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com. See you at the community center!

—Laurie Shaw
Chair, Monterey Community Center

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Monterey Community Chorus

The Monterey Community Chorus was dealt a significant blow as Covid-19 swept across the world so suddenly in February. We had been scheduled to do a concert in the middle of February and the very day we were going to have the concert the nursing home at which we were going to perform cancelled all outside visitors.

Shortly after, it became obvious we could not meet together in the same room. And to make it worse, singing was found to be an effective way to spread the disease! Pretty bad. The one thing that can heal our spirits and bring people together was actually bad for our health!

Even going online couldn't give us the same group singing experience because of an awful technical fact called "latency." Not only us, but millions of church choirs and singing groups and bands and orchestras around the world discovered that technology didn't allow simultaneous group singing or playing; there was always a lack of synchronicity. We tried it once and it was a disaster.

But we persevered. We found ways of making it work online, and using the technology to at least approximate getting together and singing. True, most of the time people could only hear themselves and the leader singing, but just seeing our fellow singers singing, and unmuting ourselves to chat between songs kept the spirit of our group alive. And we did some call/response songs that actually worked for everyone to hear at least one fellow member singing live and unmuted.

Then a few weeks ago, after consulting with the Monterey Board of Health, we set up in the pavilion behind the firehouse, very far apart, and began singing live. Would it work? We weren't sure, but because of the high roof, acoustics were good enough, and the feeling of singing together—it's hard to put into words. There is an energy there that is special. The only good thing about being deprived of something is how much you appreciate it when you get it again!

We meet every other Wednesday (August 5, 19, and September 2), at 5 p.m., at the firehouse pavilion. Anyone interested in joining should email me at Orenrose@aol.com. Thanks!

—Oren Rosenthal



Thirteen cars waiting on Gould Road to get into the transfer station, with ten already ahead of them on the drive up. Photos thanks to Monterey Officer Sabrina Wilson.

Transfer Station Construction Debris Fees

Construction debris is *not* free. Small amounts, a garbage can or less is okay, but beyond that there is a fee. Depending on the amount and the weight the cost will be determined before dumping. Fees range from \$10 for a second garbage can full up to \$100-plus for a pick-up truck or trailer full. No liquids please.

Always see Beth or Dave before dumping even if you have only a small amount.

—Beth Parks and Dave Gilmore

Editor's Note: For another place to be rid of construction waste, look up lenoxvalleywtf.com/ situated in Lenoxdale. They weigh-in, weigh-out any volume, and you don't need a commercial account.



Peeper on rose of Sharon

For more garden photos, go to pages 24–27



Transfer Station Road Jam

With the transfer station closed on Saturday, July 4, there was "pent-up" demand beginning Sunday morning. Dave Gilmore said there were seventeen cars waiting to get in when he opened up, and at 11:00 there was still a long line of cars down past the highway department. With folks coming from both directions along Gould Road, Dave called for reinforcements to direct traffic. Officer Sabrina Wilson responded, and took these photos to document the traffic jam.

—Stephen Moore

☺

Monterey Residents Can Support Building a Broadband Network

Due to an agreement between Fiber Conect (FC) and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), this is the **only** thing residents can do to support having a fiber-to-the-home broadband network built. **Sign Up, and make a deposit.**



National Grid owns the utility poles in Monterey. Verizon rents space on these poles. Fiber Connect (FC) has applied for licenses to rent space for their cable. Licenses are issued only after the poles are “made ready” for the additional use. National Grid surveys the poles and establishes conditions (pole replacements, the cost of moving existing uses to make room, etc.) Then Verizon does the same using their own standards. Negotiations ensue, FC pays the “make ready” costs, the utilities do the work, and then FC can run their cables. It is slow, it is balky, but it is the way it is. FC has no control over the time this takes.

Once FC has all the pole licenses for Monterey, it will be eligible to receive 25% (\$285,000) of the MBI grant allocation.

MBI is prepared to provide public funding to FC—a private company. The grant allocation is \$1,140,000. A condition is a documented interest in the service on the part of the community. MBI is requiring a minimum of 51% of households to register with FC, and pay a \$50 deposit. This goal will be certified in two ways to assure MBI, so FC would like to have well more than 51%.

Important: Registering and providing a deposit absolutely does not obligate taking service when it becomes available in your area. If, when it is available, you decide not to subscribe, FC will refund your deposit.

Achieving this certified goal will make FC eligible for another 25% (\$285,000) of the MBI grant allocation once FC receives all the pole licenses.

Monterey could reach this 51%+ goal quickly, considering that already 30%+ of homes are getting FC service. When the 51% goal is satisfied, as soon as FC has the pole licenses, FC will get both tranches of grant allocation from MBI, \$570,000.

Every homeowner—full-time or part-time—can register, make a deposit, to push the state funding for Fiber Connect to finish the network. FC has assured the town that this will be sufficient capital, along with private funds, to do the work.

FC will be eligible for the last 50% (\$570,000) once the network is fully operational and MBI-mandated conditions have been met.

Sign Up (see the coupon below)

Make a \$50 deposit.

—Ad Hoc Broadband Committee:
Christopher Blair, Dennis Downing,
BJ Johnson, Stephen Moore, Cliff Weiss.

Register with Fiber Connect.

To begin the process of registering your interest in high-speed fiber optic broadband, you can:

- Go online to bfcma.com, click on the “Sign Up” button (preferred);
- Call at 413-429-4109;
- or • Complete this coupon and send it to Fiber Connect, P.O. Box 764, Monterey, MA 01245.

Name(s): _____

Monterey Street Address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Contact: (check better way) Phone: _____

Email: (print legibly) _____

Fiber Connect will make a follow-up contact for further information about your property, and will forward an invoice for an optional \$50 deposit. Your deposit is necessary to meet the state requirement for state financing.

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Broadband Streaming Alternatives to TV

So, you just got or are about to get the Internet solution from Fiber Connect here in Monterey. The next thing you may want to look at is receiving television over the Internet as a less expensive alternative to DirecTV or Dish. “Cord cutting” is the term used when replacing classic cable (including DirecTV and Dish) with “streaming services” over the Internet. With any “disruptive” technology or service, there is a learning curve you need to travel to get used to the different user experiences. While the inconsistency may be frustrating at first, you will quickly learn how to navigate each of the services in your portfolio.

The biggest advantages to “cord cutting” are reduced costs and the ability to pick and pay for the content you wish to watch and not be saddled with all of the additional channels that you don’t care about, but still are made to pay for.

While many of us are already familiar with “streaming services” such as Netflix or Amazon Prime, there are other services that let you fill out your content portfolio. Services such as YouTube TV, Sling, Hulu, Locast, etc. are subscription services offering a wide variety of classic cable stations (HGTV, USA Network, BBC, History Channel, ESPN, etc.). Many of these major services offer local broadcast channels as well so you never have to miss “60 Minutes” when broadcast in its normal time slot. In some cases, it is also possible to go to the website of the content you wish to look at, say CNN, and stream their programming directly.

My suggestion is to take a close look at the content you watch or want to watch and do a little research into each of the services above as well as any others. Determine which service or suite of services offer the content you desire and then sign up! At that point you can get used to streaming and then cancel your satellite service, saving money as well. YouTubeTV, one of the most complete offerings is \$65.00/month and most likely a significant savings over your satellite service. If that price still causes heartburn, there are a number of alternatives in the articles listed below.

For those of you with “Smart TVs,” some of these services are already part of the television’s user interface.

Below is a list of sites/articles that can help you through the process.

—Cliff Weiss

Member, Ad Hoc Broadband Committee

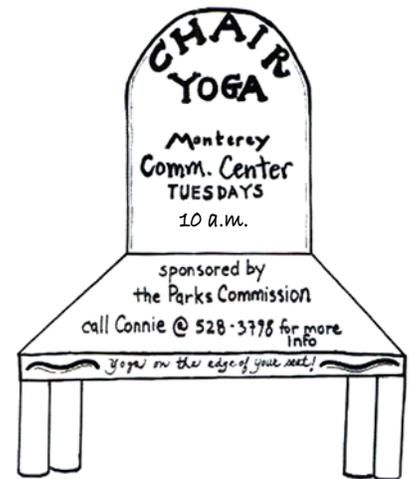
- Go to cnet.com and search for “best tv streaming service.”
- Go to whattowatch.com and search for “cancelling YouTube TV.”
- Go to venturebeat.com and search for the article “RIP YouTube TV” for a cost comparison to other streaming services.
- Go to locast.org for a list of markets for which you can stream local broadcasts for free, which include Boston and New York.



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Stephen Moore

The canopy of tall trees over the northern end of New Marlboro Road.

Letters Town Trees Lost

We are fortunate to live in a state with a law on the books that protects our public roadside trees. The Massachusetts Shade Tree Law provides for public input regarding town trees, and imposes constraints on their trimming and removal, in order to protect and preserve traditional landscapes and the many benefits that these trees provide to all.

In 2011, the law was revised to exempt utilities from important provisions of the Shade Tree Law, as long as the local tree warden approves of a cutting plan they submit in advance. Unless the tree warden exercises his option to modify or deny the plan, the new process allows utilities to

circumvent standards that have been in place for decades, and were universally required prior to 2011. Not surprisingly, since the passage of this revision, utilities have pursued ever more drastic tree clearing strategies.

In Monterey, we are, at present, witnessing firsthand the irrevocable impact of allowing these excessive tree pruning strategies to be implemented. In a recent article that appeared in the *Berkshire Eagle*, our tree warden and two additional town officials presented the tree clearing now underway along Routes 57 and 23, and proposed for other areas in town, as work being done in the interest of public safety. In reality, the work is being done by National Grid in order to clear their power lines.

Trees that may pose a threat to the public are the responsibility of the tree warden. On a frequent and ongoing basis, he must monitor all town trees to identify those that present public safety concerns and prune or remove them. If a tree in question is close to an electrical line, he contacts the power company to arrange for it to be pruned or removed.

By contrast, the type of work now being done in town is initiated by the power company, and includes healthy trees that do not endanger the public. It is done on occasion to create clearance between power lines and any tree limbs. While National Grid may argue that this work enhances public safety by limiting exposure to downed electrical lines, it is also true that aggressive pruning strategies weaken trees by creating structural imbalances, and actually create public safety issues where they previously did not exist. At present, this is occurring in Monterey.

According to the *Berkshire Eagle* article, “[Some] say public safety in a town with many older residents is most important.” This tree work is not being done for reasons of safety. But we might pause to reflect. Are we truly a population that must be cosseted in our frailty? Are we ready for a pre-nursing home existence where all risk has been eliminated from public life, protected in our feebleness, afraid of our trees? Or are we still a healthy, vibrant community able to enjoy the benefits that shade trees provide and actively engage in nurturing and preserving the town landscape that is our legacy to future generations?

Shade trees play an important role in the life of our community and provide a variety of public health benefits. In addition to preserving and enhancing the character and scenic beauty of our rural roads, trees are linked to cleaner, healthier air, provide comforting, protective shade, and suppress noise. The excessive pruning and wholesale tree removal that is occurring along our roadsides is a dramatic departure from past town policy and the collective experience of those who have lived in small towns across New England for centuries.

Any roadside tree line requires maintenance, and this routine care also

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addresses potential public safety issues. Dead and dying limbs must be pruned, and trees that have reached the end of their lifespan may become structurally unsound and need to be removed. Nurturing the undergrowth and the systematic replanting of smaller trees are also crucial for the viability and future stability of the tree line. Clear-cutting will not ensure healthy and safe tree lines in the long term. Over time, it will eliminate them, exposing the power lines to full view.

It is a misconception that utility line clear-cutting saves the town a large sum of money. It needs to be noted that electric companies are responsible for trees near their power lines. This expense does not fall to the town for any trees left standing, and town employees are not likely to be qualified to work near the lines. In any case, a financial benefit should not be sought or accepted: A tree warden does not want to be indebted to the power company—by allowing them to remove dead and dying trees that would otherwise be his responsibility, for example—since that could compromise his ability and commitment to relentlessly advocate for the healthy and more marginal trees in his care.

As of this writing, the tree removals are proceeding apace. Due to a concerted effort on the part of abutting landowners, some trees may be spared along New Marlboro Road. Sadly, this represents only a very small portion of the trees being taken in our town.

It doesn't have to be this way. We are not at the mercy of the power company, and we need not live in fear of our trees. As mentioned earlier, tree wardens may modify or deny utility cutting plans, and utilities are still required to submit a plan that complies with local ordinances and regulations. In the town of Sandwich, electrical line clearing must be done in a manner that protects tree health, development, and aesthetics, and the utility must replace, at their expense, any healthy trees that are removed as a result of their work.

In our town, unlike others, the tree warden and select board have determined that the wholesale loss of town trees does not merit a public hearing, and both approved this cutting plan without engaging the

townspeople in any manner. In the months since, they have defended that position. Our roadside trees are a cherished public resource, and our tree warden is entrusted to protect and preserve them while maintaining the tree lines along our rural roads for all to enjoy safely, young and old, for generations to come. In the recent *Berkshire Eagle* article, the warden indicated that he must “do what’s best for the town as a whole.” He needs public input from the town as a whole in order to do that.

But ultimately, that is not his mission. When all is said and done, the tree warden must do what’s best for the trees.

—Roger and Katherine Tryon
Lowland Farm

Editor’s Note: To read the Berkshire Eagle article, go to BerkshireEagle.com and search, “Monterey residents upset by power company” or simple search for 608841.



Support the Monterey News 50th Year

Dean Huston, owner of Monterey T-shirts, has a real offer for everyone. He will print and send you a high-quality t-shirt with the *Monterey News* 50th-year medallion printed on it for \$20, of which \$10 goes directly to support your local paper.

Go to MontereyTshirts.com and click on the “Local Town” store to find the beautiful Monterey News shirts, with the medallion designed by Maureen Banner. The shirts are available from sizes extra-small to extra-large.

Dean produces custom-printed t-shirts on River Road.

Letters

Objecting to Roadside Tree Cutting

I just wanted to express my displeasure at all the tree cutting that’s being done! Whether it’s from National Grid, the state, the select board, or the tree warden, it seems local input wasn’t sought out. Now every day these cutting teams get closer to the center of town, with all the grim red X’s marked everywhere. I get that there are plenty of trees not within eight feet of the wires, but these trees and the canopy along the roads really contribute to the character of the town, the feeling of calm and green you get when you leave the frenzy of Great Barrington or Lee.

I’m all for safety and keeping the power on, but it just seems extreme. This is just going to encourage people in cars to drive faster, too, which will make these roads less safe. Noisier, as well (which is saying a lot; with the summer tourist, motorcycle, and heavy truck traffic, it’s already obnoxiously loud).

It’s also worse for bicyclists and pedestrians (faster traffic, no shade). We should be encouraging eco-friendly forms of transportation and recreation—healthy bodies and minds moving in a green world. My generation (I’m in my 30s) is sick of everything looking like an interstate or a strip mall.

I moved out here because this area *isn’t* like the eastern part of the state where I’m from. Just sad that folks don’t value the slower, quieter, greener ways. Hopefully we can keep that ethos alive in other ways.

Thanks for listening,

—Sam Reggio

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lenoxucc.org/blog

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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www.montereychurch.org

Find us on Facebook too.

Letters

"Who's Who" in Monterey

I have been honored in the past to interview Montereyans for the *Monterey News*. I always tried to stress what they have contributed to this community. In this unusual time, there are community members and workers who define our town in many ways.

The services they provide are integral to the functioning of this town. We have a police department and highway department that make living here year round a possibility. We have people who are dedicated in the jobs they perform at our town hall. The fire company is always on call for fire and medical emergencies. We must not forget Beth and Dave at the transfer station or Beth and Ed at the post office. In these unusual times, these amazing people have done their best, in spite of the overload of work since the pandemic began. They deserve everyone's respect and cooperation in these extraordinary times. It is disheartening to witness behavior from within our community that is less-than-respectful.

These hard-working public servants are the people who are "who's who" in Monterey.

—Cheryl Zellman

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Monterey Library Book Sale

Yes! The Friends of the Library are going to have a book sale this year. Sorry it won't be the usual "browsing in the sun for several hours" kind of book sale. This will be a Covid-19 social distancing sale. You will be able to choose the genre of book you would like. The surprise will be what book we pack for you. We think it's going to be a fun twist!

After our July 2018 sale, before we had to take a year off because of the library construction, we donated all the leftover books to the Salvation Army. So all the books we have now are new to the Friends sale. We have about one hundred boxes of fiction and another hundred boxes of non-fiction.

We are offering the books by the boxful, with about ten to twenty books per box. You can order a full box of fiction, or a particular genre of non-fiction. Or you can ask for a mix—say three fiction, four autobiographies, six cookbooks. You get the idea. Unfortunately, we can't pick out individual titles.

Since donated books depend on who donated them and what their collection consisted of, choices year-to-year can be very varied. So, step out of your comfort zone and include a book genre you may never have looked at before. Maybe you'd like to try out a book from a theater and poetry box. This year a long-time resident,

who was a Hollywood and Broadway actor, passed away. His collection was very varied and interesting, with not only poetry but also books of plays he appeared in. At least we assume so, since in some books a part was underlined. Some of his collection appears in other places as well.

How about an "older book?" The cut off was about 1960, but some date back to the 1800s. These may not be the tidiest, but there are some very interesting books in that group.

The dates for pick-ups will be the second, third, and fourth Saturday mornings in August, (August 8, 15, and 22) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be no set price. Your donation should be an amount you are comfortable with. All proceeds go to the library programs and other library needs. Order forms must be received by the Thursday morning preceding your pick-up date. Make checks payable to the Friends of the Monterey Library.

We hope you will want at least one box full, but if you prefer, we do have bags and will fill a smaller order if necessary. And maybe, just maybe, we will slip something of a surprise in with your order. We hope you enjoy this different, distancing, masked-up book sale. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept any book donations during the month of August.

—Mickey Jervas

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Friends of the Monterey Library 2020 Book Sale Order Form

Drop off this form at the library or order online at montereymalibrary.org. Orders must be received by the Thursday morning preceding the pickup date. Donations may be made on the website listed above or when you pick up your order with cash or check (made out to the Friends of the Monterey Library).

Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

Circle pickup date (between 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.): August 8 August 15 August 22

Please identify the number of boxes **OR** the number of items for each category you are interested in. (We'll do our best to fulfill your requests, but understand that we can't make any guarantees.)

# of Boxes	# of items	Category
		Hard Cover Fiction
		Trade Paperback Fiction
		Arts & Crafts
		Biographies, Autobiographies, Memoirs
		Business, Finance, Economics
		Classics
		Cookbooks, Diet, Food
		Education, How To
		Reference
		Fine Art
		Gardening, Nature, Science
		General Non-fiction
		Government, History, Politics, War
		Health, Family
		Home Improvements, Repair, Design
		Older Books (pre-1960)

# of Boxes	# of items	Category
		Religion, Philosophy
		Social Sciences, Anthropology
		Sports, Games
		Theater, Poetry
		Travel
		Children's (indicate age group)
		Unrated DVDs
		Rated DVDs
		Foreign DVDs
		PG DVDs
		PG-13 DVDs
		Children's DVDs
		Music CDs (style preference: _____)
		Howard Stern Cassettes
		Coffee Table Books

We have a set of Mark Twain books – Volume 1-25, but volume 12 is missing. A few of the books are not in pristine condition, but most are. We are going to take bids on this item and award it August 22. Let us know if you are interested. Wish you luck! I bid \$ _____

Fireflies are Out and About Shining Brightly

The firefly, in the insect family of *Lampyridae*, which suddenly appeared after night-fall in our backyards, is actually a ground beetle that comes out to flash a signal that it is time to reproduce. This is how fireflies find their mates. The male is the first to pulse an attention-getting signal with four or five flashes, before waiting another five seconds to repeat his message. The female, playing hard to get, waits in the grass before answering or acknowledging her intentions, and then answers with two or three flashes, then waits another few seconds before visually blinking her final approval.

This romantic aerial performance, which adults recall from the time they were children, was written about by William Shakespeare in 1600 in his play, "A Midsummer's Night Dream." His inspirational poetic license portraying the twilight image of dancing fireflies in nature shows that love is in the air.

His observation has been proven to be true in places like the Great Smokey Mountain National Park in this country. At that park there is a truly remarkable phenomena which occurs when all the fireflies flash together at exactly the same time. These are a species of synchronous fireflies that synchronize the beginning and ending of their flashing in huge swarms, and are observed by swarms of people who come to the park each spring for this simultaneous compulsive brilliance.

My illustration highlights the firefly abdomen that generates the glowing but cool bright energy in a fatty membrane network through which oxygen passes and is converted to a shining chemical effect. It is so brilliant that children often mislabeled them as glow worms or lightning bugs to be collected in a glass jar to light up their rooms at night to read by. In Japan, they are gathered to make charming outdoor lanterns, which for them radiates with a mythology representing dead Samurai warriors who have fallen in battle, leaving behind a memory of their brave spirits for posterity.

The firefly produces a defensive chemical that tastes bad to predators.



Even so, populations are unfortunately declining due to conservation failures, especially where light pollution interferes with their own glowing to attract mates. The appearance in midsummer meadows, fields, and Lake Garfield shorelines in Monterey are a bell weather of an evidently healthily low-illuminated

environment. As Benjamin Franklin once said about clean water in our living standards, "We never know the true value of what we have until we don't have it." My hope is that we continue to be aware of and appreciate the mystical and magical illumination of the firefly.

— George Emmons

— DESIGN AND PLANNING — Christopher Blair —

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Because everything is liminal

Everyone is taking off for someplace decisive.
One friend gets a one-way ticket to Hawaii
to wait things out, eat tropical fruit on the beach.

Another friend texts, "I have a cowboy boyfriend
and might be moving to Alaska in July!"
Tired of liminal things, I drive north

craving mountaintops, stunted spruces
that jut into wind, ice, snow,
familiar with the things that limit them.

In the last three hours of daylight, I haul myself up
to their world, pitch a tent amid ferns. Bicknell's
thrush sling urgent notes into the almost-dark,

still here for now. Solstice, the darkness brief,
threadbare. But even here the hardwoods
are creeping up the mountain slopes, overtaking.

Everywhere liminal zones themselves on the move:
the lines between wave and sand, sand and salt-
marsh, saltmarsh and intractable oceanfront

real estate. Even here I am in between
that which is now and that which will come:
a great silent migration of trees.

A forest full of ghosts and nowhere to go
but sky. The ground beneath me mossed,
softer than ever.

— Kateri Kosek



— Kit Patten



Maureen Banner

Far Out

On sultry summer days the fish
in us must second-guess its wish
to trade a watery world for one
where mist conspires with the sun.
Content to be in Adam's debt
for sweating fruit but not for sweat,
we go to where the waves ride in
to hear their oceanic din
recall the life we left behind
yet never quite put out of mind.

Like Wilbur Wright forsaking land
for sky we jog across the sand
then plunge below the surface lace
toward the bottom's cool embrace.
We swim out so far our friends
wonder how such clowning ends
and whether we'll go dumbly down
like fish who never went to town --
or stride ashore to moon-eyed looks
from strangers surfacing from books.

— Don Barkin

Tough Times

As a student of American history, I long had the impression that much bad stuff had occurred in the US in the years 1917–1920. But had we really experienced such a calamitous cluster? When I dug deeper into those years I concluded that a strong case could be made about these terrible times. Take note.

Accidents always happen, but some of the following stand out as both deadly and bizarre. In 1918, explosives stacked to be shipped overseas to US “doughboys” and our Allies detonated over three days in New York, killed over one hundred. Another one in Pennsylvania claimed two hundred. An immense forest fire in Cloquet, Minnesota took 453 lives. A disastrous subway crash in Brooklyn, in the midst of a transit workers strike, killed over ninety-three; and there was the “Great Train Wreck” in Nashville, Tennessee, which took 101 lives. Stranger still was Boston’s Molasses Disaster in which a huge tank of molasses exploded, releasing its contents in waves of deadly liquid (twenty-five feet high in places), moving at a top speed of 35 mph, engulfing bystanders, and killing twenty-one and injuring 150!

Of course the overriding crisis of these years was the flu pandemic. First observed in January of 1917, it spread quickly in military camps where US soldiers were training for combat in World

War I. Ultimately, half of the American troops fighting overseas who died had succumbed to the flu. Back home, most unusual was the fact that the flu proved especially severe among young adults, with outbreaks more widespread in the summer and autumn. A second and more deadly wave began in October of 1918. Mortality rates were calculated to be around 2.5%. Chicago was one of the many cities that closed theaters and movie houses and prohibited public gatherings, while San Francisco mandated masks for many of its citizens. New York City required all flu cases to be isolated at home, and its health department outlawed spitting. Philadelphia was hard hit—more than five hundred corpses awaiting burial, some for more than a week. In total, 28% of Americans became infected and overall fatalities may have been as high as 675,000. Post-war periods are typically unstable; this time even more chaotic with a pandemic into the mix.

Laboring men and women were deeply discontented owing to a combination of sharply rising prices and economic recession. Many prepared to strike, hoping to pressure employers. America’s first-ever general strike occurred in Seattle, together with a major steel strike and walkouts of coal miners, longshoremen, and most of Boston’s police force, threatening public safety.

The position of African Americans after the war was even more precarious

than that of most other Americans. Many had left the South, encouraged to fill jobs left open by those entering the armed forces. Still, they encountered extreme hostility after they arrived. The KKK had once again become active and contributed to an acceleration of racist violence long prevalent in American society. Race riots, both large and small, broke out all across the United States. In Chicago they raged over a period of about a week and claimed thirty-eight lives. In Elaine, Arkansas, three hundred were killed in three days of fighting. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a massive riot occurred in 1921, which destroyed the entire black section of the city and led to the deaths of a substantial and, to this day, unknown number of victims. In short, the post-war period, difficult for most Americans, tested the black community even more severely.

The bleak characterization of these years becomes even more pronounced when we add the following events.

American troops are dispatched to Russia in an attempt to undo the Russian Revolution... The New York State Assembly expels five Socialist members for disloyalty to the United States... Swindler Charles Ponzi, promising large returns with postal coupons, makes millions from unsuspecting “investors”... The Supreme Court rules regulation of child labor unconstitutional... Teddy Roosevelt dies in 1919 at age sixty... President Woodrow Wilson suffers stroke and partial paralysis as wife assumes many presidential responsibilities... The US does not join the League of Nations... Congress passes the Volstead Act (Prohibition)... US Army Motor Transport Corps (including Lieutenant Colonel Dwight Eisenhower) drives 3,250 miles across country (Washington, D.C. to Oakland, California) and suffers twenty-one injuries and 230 road accidents... Local leaders of IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) are lynched in Centralia, Washington... Prices double between 1916 and 1919...

Sure there was upbeat news in this period: women’s suffrage, for example. But overall, the evidence seems to support the conclusion that these were far from being “the good old days.”

—Richard Skolnik



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Our most recent episode is “Season 3, Episode 2: Pandemic-Adapted Legal Remedies to Optimize Mental Health Treatment.” I recorded the podcast in our cottage on my cell phone in Monterey, where high speed Internet is still elusive!

Please also check out our recent book, *A Family Guide to Mental Health Recovery*, at the Monterey library. We would love to know what you think of it. You will see that many of its concepts arise from the practices and principles of Gould Farm.

Stay calm and physically but not socially distant!

—Virgil Stucker
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Here's a Thought...

three potato four

no fence can't grow tomatoes
the critters eat them all
one potato forgotten in a cupboard
sprouted long white eyes
prompted me to ask
can't i risk crops underground
call it one potato two
now look here it is
my first potato flower

much as i want to stop here
call it one potato two
history sprouted long white arms
grasping cold unseen
call it two potato three

national harvest underground
sprouted fangs in oregon
reaches claws across the nation

white privilege my shock

undocumented provocative men
patrol in unmarked cars
kidnap folks then let them go

yes i said kidnap

wake up white America
take our rightful place
in a long line of human grief

brown children at the border
in cages behind fences
now prone to diseases

black women whose
men and sons are still
called amos andy
and may not ever return
any time the door
closes behind them

yellow kids taunted at school
as if they caused the virus
with their almond eyes



their ancestors provided
our locomotive highway
transcontinental shipping
built on gold and blood

red men offered alcohol
and smallpox tainted blankets
in exchange for sacred land

more than sixty years ago
three potato four
bishop fulton sheen
came into catholic homes
each week on live tv
prayed for the souls of the world
every one of us alive
on a special rosary
fifty-four Jacob's-jacket beads
red yellow blue white green
no need to be literal
still they birthed me liberal
the others are real as me
we're not all painted white
in the living heart of the world

the living heart of the world
beats such strong bold music
i give it a ninety-nine
i know we can dance to it
new world we will dance to it
call it three potato four

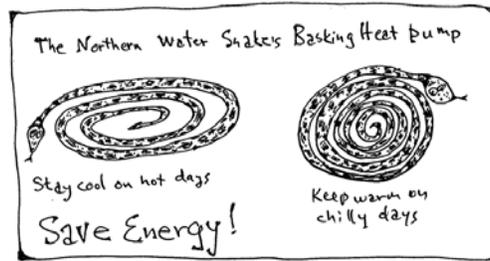
—Mary Kate Jordan

Northern Water Snakes The Importance of Basking

Some people have pet snakes, even big ones. We had a friend who would lift his large snake out of its terrarium and drape it around his neck. I don't remember what sort of snake this was, but it made our friend very happy and looked quite content itself.

When I was a youngster we had a pet snake that I remember clearly as being my mother's personal snake. This was not a family pet for all of us, like the cat. She named it Melissa, I always thought, because the name has a little "hiss" in it. This was a small garter snake and was kept in a glass aquarium we had, with plants and moss. I am sure mom fed her worms, also that we didn't keep her all that long. We understood her to be beautiful, remarkable, a miracle. We never learned to fear or bad-mouth snakes.

I don't see many snakes hereabouts, but a few weeks ago there was a lovely garter snake basking on a rock by the little frog pool in the garden. I'd gone over there to see how the frogs were doing. They'd suffered some harassment from our young dog, but there were still three present, also this snake. I decided that if she (thinking of Melissa's gender assignment, here) was not basking but hunting for a meal, she had a right to one of those frogs. As it happened, I never saw her again, and we still have three frogs. I built a strong wire fence around the pool to keep the dog out. The frogs can get through it.



The only other snake I have seen lately was also basking. This was a large dark snake, on a tussock of grass at a wild pond I like to visit. We surprised each other, and the snake disappeared into the water almost without a ripple. There is plenty of vegetation in the water and on the shore, perfect for this northern water snake.

These are our largest snakes. Their scientific name is *Nerodia sipedon*, and this has been translated as "a serpent whose bite causes mortifaction." I don't know Greek myself, but I did give a try with three dictionaries to learn what the English word "mortifaction" means. No luck. But anything with "mort" in it can't be very healthy. These water snakes are not venomous, but they have long teeth meant for hanging onto wriggling and thrashing fish. And one of my books claims the bite contains an anticoagulant which can cause problems in a wound. Ticks put anticoagulant into the little bites they make, and it causes trouble—not talking about Lyme here, just soreness and slow healing.

My books also tell me that water snakes are not aggressive but will bite to defend themselves, so do not pick one up. They bite repeatedly, seriously wanting to be let go.

This is the time of year for water snakes to be giving birth. They have litters of "live young," not eggs, and these little ones can be six to twelve inches long. There also may be from twelve to sixty babies in a litter, one born right after another. They hit the ground ready to go off on their own, find their way to food and a life near water.

When young, the northern water snake has a colorful pattern with dark crossbands on the first third of the body and then a series of dorsal and lateral blotches on the back and sides on a basic background color that is pale grey to dark brown. The markings (blotches) are reddish brown to black. As the snakes get older, they get darker overall and the pattern is somewhat obscured. That pattern is good camouflage for a swimmer. It has a dappled effect. Unfortunately, folks confuse this snake with a copperhead and many northern water snakes are killed because of this. But copperheads have a different pattern, one designed to blend in with fallen leaves in the woods. It is a bolder, more contrasty look, with big pale blotches on a reddish brown background.

There is a good book by a local herpetologist, Tom Tying. It is one of the Stokes field guides, *A Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians* (1990). Tying gives an account of basking and how important it is, also how careful the snake may loop itself in ovals or else in tight circular arrangement, in order to keep just the right body temperature. Snakes are "cold blooded," or poikilothermic, which means their internal body temperature varies with the surrounding temperature. We are homoeothermic, or "warm-blooded," maintaining a steady internal temperature. Tying writes that snakes spend much of their day basking, and make tiny adjustments which are critical to how alert or comfortable they are.

"Don't assume that if a snake isn't moving it isn't doing anything."—Thomas E. Tying.

—Bonner McAllester

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Monterey's Cultural Life Reweaving the Fabric

After months of dormancy, the resilient Monterey cultural community is springing back to life, if in slightly altered forms. The community center is now hosting outdoor activities as well as a Zoom talk on pollinators by John Root on August 13. (See page 8.) The Monterey Library and the Knox Gallery is open for limited browsing. *The Monterey News* is keeping us informed and in June reported that our community chorus has found a way to sing alone together. (See page 9.)

The Monterey Cultural Council, whose mission is to support local artists and cultural events, has added two new members, Dorene Beller and Carol Clarin. We are looking for more members of the Monterey community to join us. If you are interested, kindly contact Maggie Barkin (maggierobertsbarkin@gmail.com).

The local council is inviting grantees whose projects and plans have been affected by Covid-19 to a virtual meeting on Monday, August 10, at 4 p.m. Those of us on the council know that musicians, artists, performers, storytellers, and educators, who often find creative ways to patch together a livelihood, have been especially hard hit by this crisis, and we are looking for ways to be supportive. This Zoom meeting is open to anyone who is interested or who has ideas to share. Check the "Local Cultural Council" page on the town website (montereyma.gov) for access information to dial into this meeting.

We all miss live theater! I was reminded of this last week as I live-streamed the

vibrant Judith Kalaora in her engaging one-woman show, "I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone." Presented by the Bidwell House Museum, it told the story of a significant, yet largely unknown figure in the history of abolition and women's rights, whose speeches inspired Susan B. Anthony, among others.

Like so many other institutions, the Bidwell House has had to cancel hallmark events, including its annual Country Fair. Check the website to keep up on ways it is managing to keep local history alive, including by turning the annual fundraiser into a virtual party on August 22. (See page 23.)

We are also exploring ways to add to the local cultural fabric by offering a play reading for anyone who, like Maggie Barkin, "loves live theater and sorely misses the professional productions usually found in the Berkshires each summer." Among the plays she thinks would be interesting and fun to read is Joe Turner's *Come and Gone*, by August Wilson, a writer she describes as "America's Bard." This play is one in the series that Wilson wrote in collaboration with the director Lloyd Richards to chronicle the lives of African Americans in and around Pittsburgh, PA over the last century. As such, it seems particularly appropriate at this moment in our history. "I'm hoping folks will want to join this process," says Maggie. "A play reading wouldn't require the intense preparation and memorization that goes into a full-scale production."

Maggie envisions a read-through followed in a few days by one rehearsal and then

a reading before a live audience. The work would be presented at a venue where voices could be amplified and appropriate social distancing measures could be implemented. Contact Maggie (maggierobertsbarkin@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

The Monterey Cultural Council is part of the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation. Local councils in the state award over \$4 million every year, including to support musical and dance performances, artists' talks, craft fairs, talks, workshops, children's programming and public art installations. The application for the 2021 round of grants opens September 1, with an October 15 deadline. For an application, go to MassCulturalCouncil.org, select "Communities," and then "Local cultural council program."

The local council typically awards grants totaling about \$7,800 each year to non-profits and individuals. The state grants Monterey about \$4,800 and the town has typically contributed \$3,000. In 2020, twenty-nine grants were awarded. The Massachusetts Cultural Council website offers detailed information about this and its many other programs, including the Covid-19 Relief Fund to support individual and independent artists/humanists/scientists whose creative practices and incomes have been adversely impacted by the pandemic.

—Janet Jensen
Monterey Cultural Council



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Remembrance Aleta Estreicher

Aleta G. Estreicher, 72, passed away unexpectedly on July 7 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Aleta was born May 27, 1948 to Daniel and Celentha Glaseroff of Farmingdale, New York. The oldest of two children, Aleta was a great older sister to her brother, Alan Glaseroff, who currently lives with his family in McKinleyville, California.

Aleta attended Bryn Mawr College, graduating in 1970 with BA in archeology. During her college years, she met her future husband, Sam Estreicher, and the two were married in New York City in the summer of '69.

After getting married, Aleta taught third grade in Watkins Glen, New York while Sam attended graduate school at Cornell. Aleta and Sam subsequently moved to New York City where both graduated from Columbia Law School in 1981. At Columbia, Aleta was the articles editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. After graduation Aleta clerked for Judge Eugene Nickerson (E.D. N.Y.), followed by a short stint as a corporate associate at Cleary Gottlieb, before going on to teach property law and corporations at New York Law School for over thirty years. Her writings focused on short-term orientation afflicting US corporate decisions. She also founded New York Law's Securities Arbitration Clinic for small investors.

In addition to her successful career, Aleta was blessed with an amazing family which she cherished more than anything else in the world. Aleta is survived by two loving children, Michael Simon and Hannah Rose. Michael is married to Jessica Estreicher, and the two live just around the corner from Aleta and Sam in



Aleta and Sam at their fiftieth wedding celebration in June holding a photo of the couple when they first met. Below is Aleta in 2010.

Maplewood, New Jersey, with their two amazing girls, Sophia Rose and Lyla Bea. Hannah and her husband Brian Wurzer live in Lockport, New York.

In retirement, Aleta loved spending time with her grandchildren, enjoying the peace and quiet of her second home in Monterey with Sam, and excelling in pottery (giving her a chance to tap into a longstanding talent in visual arts). This past summer, Aleta and Sam were fortunate enough to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary surrounded by their children and grandchildren, cousins, and friends, who all gathered in Monterey to shower Aleta and Sam with love.

Aleta was an amazing wife, mother, colleague, professor, and friend to all that knew her and loved her. She will be dearly missed.

—Sam Estreicher



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Notice of Passing Susan Kuder

The *Monterey News* was informed that Susan Kuder, 77, who with her partner, Channing Mendelsohn, was one of the earliest residents of Brookbend condominiums, passed away on July 22. Susan earned a BA in Foreign Languages, an MA in linguistics, and an MBA, served in the Peace Corp, and remained engaged in social action.

A full remembrance will appear in the September issue.

Bidwell House Museum

Normally in August the Bidwell House Museum is a hub of activity with house tour visitors and the popular summer fundraising party. Things are very different this year as we have had to transition to all online or outdoor programs including our new “Outside the House” tour. If you have not had a chance to visit the museum yet this summer, take a drive down Art School Road and enjoy the well groomed trails, thanks to board member Richard Greene and the Greenagers, along with the beautiful flower and vegetable gardens, thanks to gardener Ruth Green, garden intern Charles Annecharico, and board member Rob Hoogs. This summer, we have expanded the Heritage Garden in the hopes of growing more food that can eventually be donated to local food banks. You can also find a new Native American garden bed (below) where the Three Sisters (corns, beans, and squash) are growing, and expanded educational signage along the Native American Interpretive Trail (at right).



Heather Kowalski

On Saturday, August 22 we are partnering with Mass Audubon to present the guided walk “Time Traveling with Trees.” Have you ever wondered the stories trees could tell if they had words? On this walk with an educator from Mass Audubon, learn how to interpret the language of trees so we can open our minds to ponder past, present, and future forests in new ways. This guided hike will take place on the Bidwell House Museum grounds and will happen rain or shine, so dress appropriately. Bring water or a snack and expect that some of the hiking could be over uneven terrain. Due to Covid-19 regulations, attendance on this walk is limited to nine people and



Heather Kowalski

pre-registration via the museum website is required. The walk will begin at 10 a.m., in front of the museum. Members: \$10, non-members: \$15

After you finish your guided walk, join us on the evening of Saturday, August 22, for our first ever virtual fundraising party. While we cannot gather in person this year, we are still planning a fun event. From the comfort of your living room you can enjoy local musicians Mountain Laurel, Paula Bradley, Eric Martin, and Oakes & Smith as they perform mini-concerts in the house and garden. We will also give you a tour of the recently completed accessibility and restoration work and offer an online art auction with work from local artists. It should be a great evening! The fun starts at 7 p.m., and registration is

free. In order to get the link to attend the online bash you must register in advance on the museum’s website.

In addition to our programs, the museum also sends out twice-weekly email newsletters, Bidwell Lore on Tuesdays and updates from the museum on Fridays. If you would like to receive the museum’s newsletters, head to the bottom of the museum’s home page to sign up.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road and while the house will remain closed for tours for the time being, 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



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Monterey Garden Tour—Success!

The weather on Saturday, July 18 was perfect and the garden enthusiasts, donning masks, began their stroll through the four available gardens along Sylvan and Point Roads.

With complimentary bottled water for everyone, the approximately fifty visitors wended their way through raised perennial beds, shade gardens, and along winding woodland paths. The plant sale, with trays of annuals donated by Clark Nursery in Lee, and dozens of native rudbeckia, completely sold out, and in combination with donations, the Monterey Garden Tour raised slightly over \$1,000 for the People’s Pantry in Great Barrington.

Thanks to all who visited the tour and to my fellow gardeners, Carole and Gerry Clarin, Jane and Paul Lang, and Roberta and Bob Epstein. (Right: Myrna in her garden, photo by Hy Rosen.)

—Myrna and Hy Rosen



July Gardens

In May Myrna Rosen sent a notice to the *Monterey News* that she planned to sponsor a garden tour to raise money for the People’s Pantry in Great Barrington. That sparked an interest as editor to publish a display of gardens from Monterey, and I put a solicitation for garden photos in the July issue. People have such different notions of their gardens, and this is well displayed on these four pages.

I would be happy to publish more late summer garden photos in the September issue.

—Stephen Moore





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Opposite page:

Middle row- Robert Kuhner's garden path, and his "Brandwein" garden steps

Bottom right- Maureen Banner's day lillies

This page:

Top row right and left, and below left- Pam Johnson's shaded garden

Lower right- One of Wendy Jensen's vegetable gardens. (Tomatoes in a tunnel, blueberries behind)

Bottom left- Ma Nature's rose garden from Bonner McAllester





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Above: Four views of Maureen and Michael Banner's gardens
 Opposite page:

Top row left- "Marching Mulleins," and right- day lillies at sunset, Paul DePreter

Middle row left- Living willow shade bower, and right- living willow fence, Wendy Jensen

Bottom row left- Long stone wall garden at Hume New England, and right- Joe Baker's forest garden

Bottom left- Jacob Edelman's middle school birdhouse project, and right- Hume New England entry garden

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Wildlife Report, June and July

In early June, Ann Higgins saw a large bear which “strolled through our yard, passing right in front of our porch as John and I were sitting there having dinner.” The Higginses were eating steelhead trout which they promptly took inside, and the bear went on up Route 23. A few days later, a deer walked up the Higginses’ driveway, following right behind Ann as she carried in the morning *Berkshire Eagle*. This is a lot of wildlife for downtown Monterey. Ann walks up Tyringham Road early every morning and recently saw a road-killed beaver near the Beartown Mountain Road intersection.



Terry Myers, of Griswold Road, sent a photograph (above) of their “guard bear” walking through their garden. Michael Banner sent a photograph (below, and below right) of the scattering of feathers that mark the demise of a mourning dove. My guess is that a hawk got lucky here.



Julie Kern wrote in early July about a family of red foxes living under an outbuilding at their place at the corner of



Art School Road and Tyringham Road. She sent a photograph (above) of the four pups. Julie says they are not as “skittish” as the adults.

Julie Johnston on Chestnut Hill Road saw a red fox trotting through the yard. This visitor seemed to be shedding some of its winter coat, still. Julie also reports happily about the installation of a “Beaver Deceiver” at a pond on West Street where Julie goes running. Sandisfield selectman George Riley was there with his wife Annalee, also the crew installing this device which keeps the water level stable at a point which won’t harm the road, but lets the beavers inhabit a safe pond. Financial aid to towns and landowners for installing these comes from the generosity of Bob Thieriot (above right). Many of us in Monterey remember Bob on Wellman Road, where his son Jim and family now live. Bob was a supporter of wildlife and preservation of habitat, and Julie sent a photo of him with a wild friend.



Gordon and Tina Soule, who moved to Monterey about a year ago, live on Beartown Mountain Road. In mid-June, driving on their road near the Appalachian Trail crossing they saw a moose walk right in front of them. There were no antlers, and the moose was big. Ed Salsitz saw a red fox in Sharon, Connecticut, carrying something dark and unidentifiable, maybe dinner for a family of pups.

Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have fox pups nearby, too, and heard them barking one day. The next day they watched as an adult fox traveled the length of their field along its near horizon, headed west toward the place where the barking was the day before.

In mid-July, Roz Halberstadter saw a grey fox along Tyringham Road. Cindy Hoogs reports that the young bluebirds at her place fledged in June and the adults nested again. There were tree swallows with eggs in one nestbox at the Hoogses’ place, but a bear took the box down and one adult bird was killed and eaten. (*Maybe the eggs, too. —B.McA.*)

The bears at Dennis and Elaine Lynch’s place have been snacking at the crabapple tree, as have the deer.

Kyle Pierce reports the baby eagles at Lake Buel are flying now. Kyle also has seen a deer in the lake, walking in the shallows. Steve Moore has seen three great blue herons flying together, which is unusual, and Kit Patten reports a scarlet tanager at his place, glorious red with black wings.



injuries to the head, also the distal portion of a snake, dead. Flying up from this place was a hawk being mobbed by several crows. This is all we know at the present time, though our agent on the ground witnessed another mobbing, crows after a hawk, over his field two days later. No snakes were involved.

Thanks, as always, for all your reports and wild interests.

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



Right: Brown-spotted yellow wing dragonfly, also known as Halloween pennants. They are "skimmers." Photo by Maureen Banner

Margery Spagnoletti sent a colorful photograph (above) of a tiger swallowtail butterfly, sipping nectar from a day lily, and Suzanne Sawyer writes that the monarchs are back at her place. They are visiting her butterfly weed flowers (a milkweed relative) and she sent in a wonderful photograph.

The breaking news as we go to print comes from Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen who went for a walk on Wellman Road and came upon a three-species scene of attack and carnage. In the road were a dead crow with



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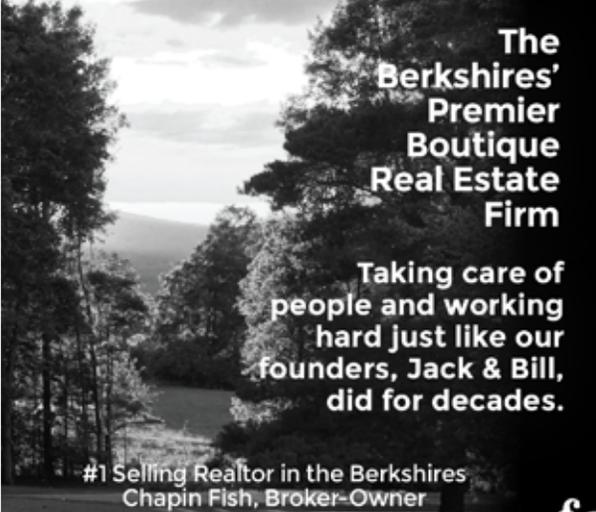
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The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be emailed to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at 413-528-4007.

The 43rd Annual Fire Company Steak Roast

The day began looking perfect for the steak roast. The air had dried out, there were clear skies, and the temperatures were to be in the low-to-mid 80s.

Not long after noon sirens were heard. First the police, then the fire trucks could be heard rushing away from the village. I was immediately reminded of the Memorial Day parade last year when everyone was lined up on Sandisfield Road awaiting the fire trucks. They showed up alright, but with the firefighters in gear, sirens blaring, lights flashing, and they raced past headed east on Main Road.

As I did last year, I thought, what a day to get called out! But I figured they must have everything so in hand that the show would still go on.

And then about 4:00 there was a repeat... police sirens making a staccato screaming, fire truck horns loudly honking, and they were off again.

The fire company responded to two calls on the day when they were looking



Stephen Moore

to host (hopefully) much of the town to a socially-distanced dinner party. I headed over to the mustering area at the community center five minutes before 6:00, our pickup time. They used the looped driveway to get the order numbers and relay them to the cooks. At the firehouse, the parking area on the west side was divided into three lanes. Captain Mark Makuc approached each car in turn, asked for the order number, and then released the cars down to the pickup tent. The pickup was executed beautifully.

We had our perfectly cooked dinners on our table, ready to be eaten at 6:18. Pretty good for a first-ever curbside steak roast. I hope we won't have to do this again...

— Stephen Moore

“Where is Roger the Jester?” Mark Makuc asked. Photos by Stephen Moore

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 16; Bonner McAllester, p. 20.*

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