



The Monterey Ladies Synchronized Pumpkin Bowling Team gave an impromtu demonstration of their form. See pages 14-15.

Each of us reached the church through an arch created by the raised ladders of two fire trucks, tipped together.

Pablo Rodriquez

Page 14

Besides that one incident with the box of Life cereal in the superintendent's office, you guys were angels!

Outgoing Thoughts

Page 6

The mostly untold story of Jewish farming communities in the Berkshires in the early 1900s.

Jews in the Berkshires

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Free Concert

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slipping through... some thin place into layers of hidden worlds.

Winter Wren Page 17



Beartown Mtn. Fire

"Why am I not comforted by the idea that

the state will protect us?"

Special Town Meeting

Pages 2-5

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Back in the Day

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"The hand-harvesting program is providing effective invasive management."

Lake Garfield Group Pages 10-11

Special Town Meeting October 6

Special town meetings in Monterey usually draw a few diehard citizens and are over pretty quickly. This was not the case on October 6, when a packed firehouse was the scene of a lengthy and sometimes contentious special town meeting with a nine-page warrant covering twelve articles.

Note: This was a lengthy meeting with a lot of participation, so in the interest of a degree of brevity, some of the discussion is not reported.

Once the assistive hearing devices were handed out, the reading of the warrant was waived and a request was made for speakers to state their name before speaking. Articles 1 and 2 concerned the proposed plan to renovate the library, so Mark Makuc stepped down as moderator due to a conflict of interest. Joe Baker was quickly nominated and approved to act as temporary moderator. Library Trustees chair Lisa Smyle gave a brief history of the library project. The project began in 2009 and has now progressed to asking the town to accept a schematic design for the library and to apply for a state grant to cover the construction costs. Voters were able to look at a display of the proposed design, and project manager Dan Palotta described the "amazing opportunity" in the possibility that the state could pay for two-thirds of the construction costs, estimated at \$1,917,459. Another \$1,122,324 would need to be raised through other sources. After some further discussion, both Articles 1 and 2 were passed by unanimous vote. (See note at the bottom explaining "unanimous" votes.) Mark Makuc resumed his moderator duties, and the meeting continued.

Articles 3 and 4 asked the town would vote to change the position of treasurer from an elected to an appointed position, and to reduce the term from three years to one year. Kenn Basler, chair of the

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120 voters, plus others, turned out for the meeting.

select board, stood to address this issue and cited the concern about having had four treasurers in the past five years. He said that "the pool of available candidates was limited" in the town, and the position requires someone with specific skills and an ability to work closely with the MA Department of Revenue.

Questions were raised about the term of an appointed treasurer. Jon Sylbert stated that appointed positions usually have a term of one year. Steve Pullen questioned whether an appointed treasurer would gain legal rights to the job, thus requiring cause for removal. Jeremiah Pollard, town attorney, said that all town employees not covered by contract are "at-will" employees and can be terminated at any time without cause. Both Article 3 and Article 4 passed unanimously.

Article 5 proposed appropriating \$18,000 to pay for a grant writer. Select board member Carol Edelman explained that last May the town voted to hire a grant writer under the assumption that the grant writer's fee could be included in the grant. After interviewing several grant writers, the board realized that this is seldom the case and that the grant writer must be paid separately. She said that for this modest investment the town could reap many benefits, adding, "The money is out there and we have been able to access very little of it." Jon Sylbert wondered why funds were being requested for a grant writer when the town had already set aside \$35,000 for a potential town administrator whose job description included grant writing. Edelman replied, "We're a long way from hiring a town administrator," and so it would make sense to try this as a pilot program in the meantime.

Jerry Raab asked if the select board had any indication of what a grant writer might charge. Edelman said the experienced grant writers whom they interviewed indicated that \$25 an hour is usually acceptable.

More discussion ensued and Mari Enoch asked why this matter was being proposed at mid-year, saying that it was the equivalent of adding a new position. She suggested waiting until the exact amount of the tax rate was known. Karen Shreefter said that \$18,000 is a small amount of money if large grants are awarded, especially as there would be no employment benefits for the grant writer. She declared it a "no brainer." Michelle Miller said, "Mari has her finger on the pulse" and suggested waiting until May. However, Carol Edelman replied that several grants have already been identified, but they cannot be pursued unless there is some ability to pay the grant writer. A motion was made to call the question. Article 5 passed with no objection.

Articles 6 and 7 concerned the long overdue need for broadband in the town. The articles asked for \$40,000 for a consultant and \$750 for attachment agreements. Cliff Weiss, a member of the broadband committee, explained that since Wired West is no longer able provide the town

with construction services, the committee is seeking other options and would like to hire a telecommunications consultant to help with this complicated process. He said that in order "to get the highest amount of broadband in the shortest amount of time," the committee needs professional assistance. Roy Carwile asked what the committee would do if the funds were not approved, and Weiss said they would just have to do it on their own without the resources and expertise needed to protect the town. Joe Baker then suggested that "we don't second guess the broadband committee." With that, the question was called, the vote was taken, and Article 6, followed by Article 7, passed. Steve Snyder said he would like to acknowledge and show appreciation for the people from Wired West who worked so hard and, through no fault of their own, could not achieve the goal of broadband access for the town. There was a round of appreciative applause to Steve's suggestion.

Article 8 proposed raising \$5,000 to hire an independent lake scientist for the Lake Garfield Working Group. And so began the first part of a heated lake discussion began. Michael Germain, representing the Friends of Lake Garfield, said he supported the article, and added that "the whole idea is that we work together" for the benefit of the lake. Hy Rosen spoke about the increasing problem with milfoil in the lake, pointing out that three years ago there were 5 acres of milfoil, two years ago there were 13 acres, and this year the milfoil had grown to 27 acres. "It's not going away," he said. Ed Mandelbaum added, "It's everywhere. It's a Monterey problem and affects the whole community." Susan Cooper said that having an additional professional opinion. about the lake would not be a bad idea, as it might provide more information for discussion. However, she noted that while science can provide information, ultimately a value decision has to be made based on that information. The question was called and Article 8 resoundingly passed.

Article 9 also concerned Lake Garfield requesting \$6,725 for a state matching grant. The Friends of Lake Garfield and the Town of Monterey worked together on this for a comprehensive watershed analysis of the lake in order to gather facts needed to make decisions about maintaining the health of the lake. Susan Cooper asked that if the source of the problem in the lake is found, what recourse might be available to the town. Jon Sylbert suggested coming up with a plan for prevention in addition to the usual chemical, biological, or mechanical means of keeping a lake healthy. A motion was made to move the question. The motion passed, thus ending discussion. Article 9 also passed.

Articles 10 and 11 provided a brief respite from the lake controversy. As a result of Article 10, \$120 was appropriated to pay for two bills from fiscal year 2016. Article 11 was approved to appropriate \$3,600 to pay for police rental facilities for fiscal year 2017. This provides for lock-up facilities in Great Barrington as well as back-up dispatch service; this item had been removed from the warrant in May because the town had not been billed for it, but now the funds are needed.

Then, back to the lake discussion for Article 12, which asked the town to authorize the select board to petition the legislature to enact a special act entitled "An Act Establishing the Lake Garfield Preservation District in the Town of Monterey."

After reading the first paragraph, Moderator Mark Makuc said, "I am not reading the rest," referring to the seven page document that followed, and the audience laughed with relief. Michael Germain, who has been instrumental in developing this proposal, reminded the voters that this act had been approved at a special town meeting last February but, due to lack of information from the town clerk, it could not be presented to the legislature. He said that to go into effect, multiple layers of approval would be needed, starting with the town, then the state legislature, the governor, and finally by the people who own property on or near the lake.

Germain stressed that this group, the "proprietors," would have no power or authority more than anyone else and would have no special powers. The act would only allow the group to raise funds for lake maintenance in a fairer way, creating more options to maintain the lake. He reminded everyone that Lake Garfield is a "great pond" and is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Lois Storch questioned Section 3 of the article that referred to the application of chemical and biological weed controls. Germain responded that this wording was not about what the proposed district would do, rather what it might do. Roy Carwile retorted, "Section 3 is very clear . . . it specifically gives the power to use chemicals." Germain stated that the recent ban on the use of herbicides, which was passed at the May annual town meeting, is actually not binding, as it is superseded by state law. >



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Bob Carlson commented that this proposal "disenfranchises everyone who does not have property on the lake" and suggested that the decision-making should be kept within the town as a whole to make sure everyone has a say. Jerry Clarin responded by saying that the act is solely about finding a way to raise money to take care of the lake. Kit Patten said it is "an inherently bad idea to have two classes of citizens in Monterey." Elizabeth Goodman, an attorney with Cain, Hibbard and Myers, who drafted the by-laws for the proposed Lake Garfield Preservation District, explained that if you create the district as a sub-governmental entity, you must stipulate all the powers. She reiterated that because the state controls the lake, no one loses their rights. Michele Miller then said, "Why am I not comforted by the idea that the state will protectus?" She cited recent concerns about nearby Lower Spectacle Pond in Sandisfield. She then suggested, "If you want to raise money and give it to the town, then do so." Goodman replied, "Do you want to have a charitable organization running the lake?" Wendy Germain said that her family has lived on the lake since 1965, and when you ask people to give money voluntarily, it doesn't work. She said the lake district is a way to raise the money.

Finally, Rick Mielke made a motion to table the discussion. When an oral vote did not show a clear-cut majority, a show of cards provided the two-thirds vote needed to pass this motion, with 79 in favor of tabling the discussion and 39 against. The issue of a Lake Garfield Preservation District, as well as the milfoil problem, will most likely be facing the voters again, but for this evening, the discussion and the special town meeting were over.

—Laurie Shaw

Note: Most of us probably think that a unanimous vote is one in which 100% of the voters agree, yea or nay. However, in the context of town meetings, a "unanimous vote" means that, in the moderator's judgment, there was a clear voice vote one way or the other. It is recorded as such by the town clerk, regardless of whether there was one or many dissenting votes. If the moderator has any doubt as to a clear voice vote, then a counted vote is called for, and the yea or nay votes are recorded as counted.

In My View Thoughts on Our Town

Town Hall Organization

When town departments fail to work together, the results are disjointed, ineffective service delivery. This can create an atmosphere where single mistakes compound



and yield widespread deficiencies.

The part-time nature of town departments can lead to the isolation of individuals and their offices, which presents major obstacles to a smoothly running town hall. Currently, there is only one full-time employee working in town hall, and we realize the problems inherent in that structure. That individual, being one of only three full-time service departments in town (highway department, police, and administrative assistant) is, for many, the face of the town government. This means that when she gets calls or someone comes looking for help or information, she tries to help. She may know the answer, or if she doesn't, she knows how to direct the caller to find the sought-after information. It's a very important position, and is done with great competency, but the lack of a clearly defined role has led to some difficulty in maintaining a positive atmosphere within town hall. Resolving this problem falls squarely on the shoulders of the select board. The board is tasked with policy decisions, not day-to-day running of town hall, but finds itself in the difficult position of having to do both.

Fortunately, the tide is turning. By the time you read this, the town administrator candidate review committee will have narrowed the applicants down to two candidates and will be conducting interviews. We are hopeful that by the end of December the committee will be sending its finalist to the select board for interviews and a final selection. Although it is a lengthy process, this will be one of the most important decisions that we make this year. Coupled with a move to an appointed treasurer and the possibility of changing the clerk's position from elected to appointed, we have the opportunity to create the professional and supportive town hall environment that Monterey deserves.

The tumult in the treasurer and clerk's offices over the past two years is now a thing of the past. We were able to find two highly qualified individuals to fill the positions until the next town election. The really good news is a recent clarification on the future treasurer's status. At the recent special town meeting the town voted to change the position from elected to appointed, and to change the term of service from three years to one, which would hasten the transition. A second vote on the elected/appointed change at the next annual town meeting is required, and an election of a new treasurer. However, the Department of Revenue and the attorney general's office has corrected a misconception. Once approved at town meeting, and after an election, the position can become an appointed one should the newly elected treasurer resign. No year-long wait. The town should have an



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individual in the role of treasurer with the knowledge, education, and training that the position warrants.

The clerk's office offers another chance to move from the "we've always done it this way" attitude of the past to understanding what is needed in the clerk's position looking towards the future. Finding Terry Walker to fill in for this year has allowed us to see what a well-run clerk's office can bring to a town. We knew we had someone special when she was asked about office hours, and she responded that there should be one morning time, one evening time and, of course, on Saturday, since people work and you have to be open for their convenience. She sees the job as working for the residents of Monterey. With her helpful, pleasant attitude we should count ourselves lucky.

However, we find ourselves in the same position with the clerk as with the treasurer. It is a complex position that should now be appointed but is still elected. More than 60% of the towns/cities in Massachusetts have changed from elected to appointed clerks for the very same reasons that I think it should change here. It's not a position that formulates town policy. It is a position that needs competency, a detail-oriented work ethic, computer skills, ability to work with the public, patience, availability, and a good attitude—all attributes that you could find in a person running for the office but harder and harder to find when the candidate pool is the size of Monterey's. There should be some interesting conversations over the winter months.

Around Town

A quick shout-out to Director of Operations Shawn Tryon and the highway crew for the incredible work they have done over the past year. All you have to do is drive a few miles in any direction outside our town boundaries to understand that Monterey is second to none in infrastructure maintenance. And what you see is only the tip of the iceberg. It's what you don't see that puts Monterey in a class by itself in Berkshire County: thirty culverts replaced, including the major culvert project on Main Road by River Road last fall; two bridges replaced, thirty miles of dirt road graded; fourteen miles

of new pavement; a new transfer station only weeks from opening; a new roof on town hall; and still one of the lowest tax rates in the state.

Speaking of the transfer station—a special thanks to Dave, Ben, and Beth, our intrepid transfer station crew. They represent what a Monterey town employee should be—always willing to help, and with a smile.

There's a bit of craziness going on as we begin the final push to open the new transfer station. I think there is a feeling of the sand shifting beneath our feet. The new facility will be much bigger and different than the current one, and that sometimes is hard. Let's all be supportive as the change happens.

Remember—there are no problems only solutions.

—Kenn Basler Select board member

Editor's Note: In My View is a monthly feature for this paper. It provides the individual select board members an opportunity, on a rotating basis, 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.



Daylight Savings Time "Falls Behind" Sunday, November 6, at 2 a.m.

State and Presidential election: Tuesday, November 8, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., at the fire station.

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mary Kate Jordon

will discuss her current manuscript, Honey in the Tree of Life (working title) Friday, November 4, 6-7:30pm



Off the Grid

Peggy Reeves, Mark Olshansky, Geoffrey Young Process & Reality: The Artists Discuss Their Work Saturday, Nov. 19, 5:30-6:30

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library Artists' Talks sponsored by Massachusetts & Monterey Cultural Councils

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Broadband Network Update

The Monterey Broadband Committee has made steady progress toward providing homeowners with true high-speed Internet.

On Wednesday, October 19, the broadband committee, the select board, and the finance committee met and announced that the town has reached the final stages for securing a broadband provider. This entails the drafting of a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) and submitting it by November 28.

Once submitted, there will be a thirty-day review process in which proposals from broadband providers will be analyzed and vetted. A provider will then be chosen by the select board. Work on the design and the build-out of the network will begin immediately thereafter.

While there has been confusion over several mailings that were sent to Monterey residents, please note that the town has not yet chosen any broadband company.

Lastly, it is the goal of our Monterey Broadband Network that:

- A minimum of 96% of Monterey homes will be eligible for free, basic installation.
- All available state funds will be used to minimize costs.
- The majority of homes will be wired in 2017.
- Homes will be wired automatically. There is no need to "sign up" or "prepay" for this town service.
- In addition, extra services such as phone and television will be requested in the RFP.

The broadband committee thanks the town for their commitment to building this network, with the passage at the recent special town meeting of the article approving funding to hire a consultant to assist in the preparation of the RFP and analysis of the proposals.

Any questions can be answered by emailing Broadband@MontereyMA.gov.

SBRSD Representative Outgoing Thoughts

This past Thursday was my last meeting as a member of the SBRSD School Committee. I'm so grateful for the privilege of serving in this role for the last four years and for the people with whom I've had the honor to work: my fellow school committee members, the administration, and our local town officials. I've learned something from every meeting, every hard conversation, every win and every loss.

It is a profound sadness to me that our Monterey School program has been suspended and the building is empty. I honestly tried everything I could think of to keep the school open, including policy changes to favor Monterey's enrollment prospects and funds to repair the building. I made sure I was at every meeting where people were talking about the Monterey School, prepared and ready to refute disinformation, put a human face on the people and parents of Monterey, and to bring reason and compassion to the conversation. Ultimately, it was not a funding issue that suspended the program, it was the fact that we only had three children enrolled in the program, all of whom were too young to even be in early kindergarten elsewhere in the district. I tried to leave no stone unturned in my effort to keep the school open, and I remain hopeful that the district will find an authentic need for the school in the future.

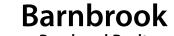
Thank you to Mari Enoch, Cynthia Makuc, Dominic Stucker, Steve Snyder, my parents, and everyone who watched my kids while I went to meetings. Thank you to my kids who spent untold hours sitting in hallways, eating cereal for dinner and watching "The Lion King" for the hundredth time. Besides that one incident with the box of Life cereal in the superintendent's office, you guys were angels! I'm so grateful to my husband for supporting

me and listening to me over these last four years—it sure turned out to be a larger commitment than one meeting a month...

And I'd like to thank the people of Monterey for supporting education and making space in our town to have the difficult conversations about what it takes to fund public education. Every time I came to the town to ask for help, I found smart, engaged, caring people who asked good questions and demanded accountability of the district, and who ultimately acted again and again to generously support education in our community.

The truth is that the state's calculation for our region's budget assessment is missing the mark for our rural communities. Between declining enrollment, unfunded mandates, and transportation challenges, Boston has no clue about what it takes to educate our children out here in the Berkshires. So towns are left fighting over nickels and dimes, trying to protect our seniors who are on a fixed income, and still provide a public education for our children that will prepare them for the challenges of a global economy. We will all need to continue to work together and listen to each other in order to find solutions.

—Maria Rundle Monterey SBRSD Representative



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P.O. Box 9 Vote No on Question 2

I urge all voters to support our public schools and vote no on ballot question 2 on November 8. Question 2 seeks to increase the number of charter schools allowed in Massachusetts. Charter schools siphon millions of dollars away from our already underfunded public schools into privately operated charter schools that have no local oversight.

A yes vote would allow the state to add up to 12 new charter schools each year, forever. This year alone, under the current cap, charter schools take \$450 million away from public schools. A new charter school nearby in Berkshire County would gut the already shrinking and meager district funding, and we would see a severe loss of quality and opportunities for our local children in the public schools.

So who is behind the yes vote? Corporations and billionaires who seek to profit from education. Backers in Massachusetts include the Waltons of Walmart fame, Michael Bloomberg, the Koch Brothers, and Rupert Murdoch of Fox News, among many other private corporate organizations. These are not people with any interest in the quality of education of our children in Massachusetts.

In all, 130 school committees oppose Question 2, along with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and more than 120 organizations and town committees across the state.

Please Vote NO on ballot question 2!
—Christine Martin
Parent and Teacher, SBRSC

P.O. Box 9 Town and Lake Cooperation

Folks who attended the special town meeting on October 6 witnessed a motivated town having a spirited, and at times difficult, conversation over aspects of managing Lake Garfield. I would like to make a couple of observations and a suggestion for moving forward on the lake issues.

Everybody I've spoken with since the meeting agrees that, had the vote on Article 12 (concerning the act to form a lake tax district) not been tabled, it would have been defeated. Clearly people were roused to attend the meeting because of concerns both in favor of, and opposed to, the formation of the special district.

At the same time, there were two smaller articles, Articles 8 and 9, asking the town to vote money to hire a lake consultant and to fund the town's portion of a much larger matching grant from the state for a comprehensive water quality study. While there were many questions, when the motions were called, both of these articles were passed unanimously.

It was interesting. The town was clearly supportive of efforts to learn about the lake and get advice as to how to proceed, while at the same time very likely opposed to a specific group—created through the funding vehicle of the special tax district—taking actions on their own. My view was that there was a lack of trust.

I made a suggestion at the second meeting of the Lake Garfield working group for a way to bridge the trust issue. Clearly there are different degrees of interest in the "health" of the lake, for various reasons. When the lake is your front yard, you would reasonably be very concerned about how the lake is managed. Folks that live elsewhere in town may still care what happens to the lake, but it is less of a priority.

I propose that for the tax district to be formed, there be an preliminary agreement that expenditures on lake management be shared by both the town and the proprietors of the tax district. The proportion of this support could be negotiated depending on the objective. For example, perhaps for some efforts the tax district would carry 80% of the cost while the town takes on 20%.

What this would permit is that the select board, presumably acting at the request of the Lake Garfield working group, would need to ask the voters for spending approval at a town meeting, providing a forum for questions and discussion, and then a vote.

Right now any agreement would have to be in good faith, because the tax district is not yet an entity. A consensus agreement to share responsibility might restore trust to the process and make the formation of the tax district sensible and possible.

—Stephen Moore

Note: This letter is my opinion, and should not be read as an editorial opinion by the Monterey News.

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Beartown House Fire Ladder Truck 172

Well, that didn't take long. Less than three months after the arrival of the Monterey Fire Company's new ladder truck, fire-fighters were called to a blaze on October 12 on Beartown Mountain Road. The new vehicle made a key difference in the outcome.

The house—part of the original Nathan Abbott Farm, built in 1785—was saved. No one was injured.

"It was a textbook case of why fire departments across the country are incorporating into their arsenal fire engines that have aerial capabilities," said Fire Chief Shawn Tryon.

Namely, a ladder deployed off an engine can significantly improve safety for firefighters engaged in roof ventilation. Traditionally, firefighters have accessed roofs by means of ground ladders. Because roof ventilation often requires working over the fire itself, often on a pitched surface, and often without knowing a roof's structural integrity, roof ventilation is considered the most difficult, dangerous, and deadly fire tactic. An aerial ladder provides quicker access to the roof, a safe platform from which to work and store tools, and a reliable escape route, if need be.

At 5:41 p.m. on October 12, at the very moment a crew from the fire company was training on the training structure at the fire station, using the new aerial ladder, their pagers went off: a "reported structure fire." And with that, Truck 172 was officially placed into service.

Over the last two months, the fire company had been putting in extra training hours each week to learn to operate the truck and to develop standard operating procedures for its use. Its maiden run went like clockwork.

Truck 172 was the first to arrive on the scene. While smoke poured from the eaves from the left portion of the sprawling, 4,674-square-foot structure, a crew deployed the truck's four outriggers used to stabilize the vehicle for aerial operations. From a control panel installed on top of the truck, they then extended the ladder and set it into position over the roof, climbed up the ladder and on top of the roof, and proceeded to use a chain saw and hand tools to cut two holes into the roof. Such holes allow for heat and smoke to rise up and out of a structure, thus



Engine 172 in its first deployment, and it immediately proved its value in safety for the firefighters and effectiveness in battling the fire.

providing a safer environment for interior firefighters.

While the roof crew went to work, interior attack crews pulled hose lines from Truck 172 and made entry into the smoke-filled building. Once the roof was ventilated, visibility within the building dramatically improved, which enabled firefighters inside to get a full sense of the extent of the fire, which was soon discovered on all three levels of the structure.

Meanwhile, Chief Tryon had dispatched firefighters from neighboring towns to shuttle water to the scene using their tanker trucks. Crews from neighboring town fire companies also assisted with the fire attack and overhaul of the structure, once the fire was knocked down.

Because of fast work done by the firefighters, the blaze was contained to the left portion of the timber-frame structure. The owners of the house were not home at the time of the fire.

Crews remained on scene till after midnight as the state fire marshal's office began an investigation. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The Monterey Fire Company extends its thanks to Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad and fire departments from the towns of Great Barrington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield, Tyringham, Egremont, Alford, and Becket.

"Also, I want to thank Monterey residents for supporting the fire company," Chief Tryon said. "When we went before voters in May for approval to purchase the new engine, the town stepped forward to significantly improve the fire company's safety and efficiency."

Because Truck 172 had been used by the manufacturer, KME, as a demonstration model, the town was able to purchase it at a significantly reduced price. What would have easily been an \$850,000 purchase was reduced to less than \$650,000, less the trade-in of Engine 1.

Our town, our fire fighters, and communities in the region will all be safer with Truck 172 in the area.

—Felix Carroll
Monterey Fire Company

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Gould Farm Running for Recovery

On Sunday, September 25, Gould Farm hosted its fourth annual 5K Running for Recovery race. Participants tackled the challenging course while enjoying the scenic countryside of Monterey. At the finish line, spectators and runners could treat themselves to an assortment of refreshments, including doughnuts, coffee, water, and fresh fruits. After the race was over the winners were awarded bottles of maple syrup and medals handcarved from the rustic wood of Gould Farm's very own maple sugar shack. Also, thanks to the generous contributions from local businesses, the organization raffled off many wonderful prizes and gave out well-stocked goodie bags to pre-registered participants.

Apart from the healthy competition and a great deal of fun, this event was a major fundraiser for Gould Farm's financial aid program. This program provides guests and their families with over \$1 million each year, helping make the residential treatment care at Gould Farm

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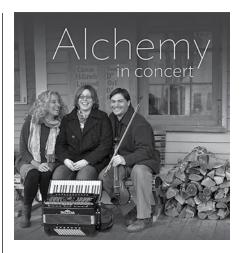
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accessible for people seeking recovery. Gould Farm hoped to raise \$40,000 dollars by holding the event. Because of the large turnout and the dedication of each runner to recruit sponsors, the race raised over \$51,000 dollars. This will be a tremendous benefit to the Gould Farm community, and the farm would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated, donated money, or came to cheer on the runners.

Running for Recovery concluded Gould Farm's Family and Friend's Weekend. The race was also a great family outing for our current guests and Gould Farm alumni. The team that won the top fundraising prize was the "GO Fish" team, made up of seventeen family members of a former guest of Gould Farm. Their team raised over \$10,000 in financial aid! They came out to support their family member who came to Gould Farm after trying to cope with his mental illness for many years on his own at home. He noted, "Gould Farm gave me the tools to cope with the challenges of my illness. . . . The community made a huge difference to me for my getting back to life as it should be. I function easily day-to-day. My relationships are good. I am feeling my best." He and his family hope that through his fundraising, others can be fortunate enough to have a similar healing experience.

—Justin Naylor



On Friday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m., the Monterey Cultural Council will present a free concert featuring Alchemy, a trio of dynamic musicians (above): Karen Axelrod (piano, accordion), Rachel Bell (accordion), and Eric Martin (violin, viola, voice), who love to bring the vibrancy of traditional and newly composed tunes and songs to the concert stage. Listeners can expect to be swept away on a musical journey to various lands, including Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Argentina, Quebec, Appalachia, and New England. Alchemy's arrangements are contemporary, powerful, whimsical, and always heartfelt. -Eric Martin

The Monterey Cultural Council receives support from both the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Town of Monterey.



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Lake Garfield Working Group Hand-pulling Milfoil

The Town of Monterey's Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) met for the first time on September 12, and again on October 17. The LGWG is charged by the select board with assessing and developing strategies to maintain the health of the Lake Garfield watershed. As part of the group's work, the LGWG will present articles and updates in the *Monterey News*. The following article is presented as the first in a series where we explore various methodologies used in the abatement of the invasive aquatic plant species Eurasian milfoil.

The information presented in this article is synthesized from an article written by Mercedes Gallagher, "Handpulling Aquatic Invasives," published by the North American Lake Management Society, and a presentation given by Gallagher to the Lake Garfield Working Group on October 17.

Like many lakes around the Berkshires, including our own Lake Garfield, 125-acre Center Pond in Becket is infested with Eurasian milfoil (EWM), an invasive aquatic plant. (By comparison, Lake Garfield is approximately 275 acres.) By the time significant action was taken to remediate this infestation in the year 2000, the species had spread throughout the entire lake. At this

time, Center Pond underwent a large-scale treatment of approximately 50% of lake area—62.5 acres, the maximum permitted by the state, with an herbicide known as diquat dibromide (diquat). Diquat is a contact herbicide that does not kill the roots of plants, and therefore regrowth after application is expected. Two subsequent "spot treatments" of diquat were applied to the lake (8.5 acres in 2004 and 1.45 acres in 2008). The permit to administer chemical controls held by Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) lapsed in 2010 due to a lack of sufficient need. The decrease in need for chemical treatment was due primarily to manual harvesting, by hand-pulling, of invasive plants by teams of skilled divers and surface skimmers.

Hand-pulling as a means of addressing EWM in Center Pond was pioneered by the Center Pond Weed Project (CPWP), a grassroots nonprofit led by Becket resident Mercedes Gallagher. The CPWP was unofficially started in 2002, with the first dives being conducted at that time. In 2003 the CPWP registered as a nonprofit and at that time put out press releases soliciting community involvement in the form of volunteers and donations. In its early years, the project operated using volunteer divers exclusively. However, in 2004 the CPWP started paying divers who had developed their harvesting skills such that they were being hired by other lakes to perform the same task. Currently,

these "pro divers" operate in the early and late seasons, when the water is cool, and also train volunteer divers upon whom the project relies throughout the summer months. All the divers supply their own diving equipment but are provided with the appropriate collection gear, air-fill cards (to be used locally), lunch, and \$10 compensation to cover travel expenses. The pro divers are paid \$60 for each dive.

As she developed the scope of operations for the CPWP, Gallagher built upon the experiences of professionals who were involved in an unsuccessful attempt to combat EWM in another lake in Massachusetts. It was determined that harvesting should be done throughout the entire growing season in order to effectively manage the proliferating milfoil, and that it is crucial to skim and collect plant fragments that break off during harvesting. Skimming is critical because one major way that EWM reproduces is through fragmentation—pieces that break off will settle and root themselves in the lake bottom.

In CPWP's early years, a typical operation consisted of four support boats, usually canoes or kayaks manned by one skimmer each, supporting four divers. Some areas also required additional support from a paddle boat to transport harvested material to shore. Divers learned to harvest plants into mesh plant collection bags using techniques specifically developed to minimize fragmentation. Once full, bags are

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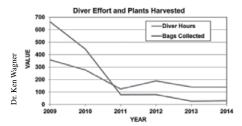
See the community potluck supper article on page 19 for more info.

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brought to the support boat at the surface and stockpiled on land to drain and dry before being composted. While divers are actively harvesting, members of the support boat identify and flag invasive species and collect plant fragments using skimmer nets. Divers and skimmers are trained in identification of aquatic plants, as well as various harvesting and collection techniques developed by the CPWP to minimize impact on native species and maximize effective removal of EWM and other invasive species.



A comparison of total diver hours (paid and volunteer) and the number of bags harvested of all three invasive plant species. (Lower line from 2011 to 2014 is bags harvested.)

As the graph above shows, the general trend over the past seven years has been a significant decrease in the amount of EWM present in Center Pond. Management time and expenses have decreased in response to this. The cost of operations fell from \$11,648 in 2009 to approximately \$5,000 per year since 2011.

With fewer individual plants spread across larger areas, dives are able to cover more territory, and fewer divers are needed in each area. However, regardless of how few individual plants are present, harvesting is still required in all areas of the lake each year. It is important to note, however, that exceptionally warm years (like 2015–2016) can cause an increase in the spread and the growth of EWM, resulting in the need for additional harvesting operations to manage the distribution. Gallagher says that the current challenge facing the CPWP is finding EWM in the deeper portions of the lake, which can be up to seventeen feet in depth. She believes that it is possible that fragments from these deeper dwelling plants contribute to the repopulation of the shallower areas each season. The CPWP hopes to purchase an underwater scooter to increase diver mobility and boost efficiency.

Since the chemical controls permit held by ACT lapsed in 2010, the Center Pond lake association retained counsel with Water Resources Services (WRS) who have since reported that "the handharvesting program is providing effective invasive management to-date."

Meetings of the Lake Garfield Working Group are open to the public and are held at the Town Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14, at 7 p.m. You may also sign up for notice of meetings and agendas through the town website, MontereyMA.org.

—Eric Danforth Lake Garfield Working Group

Cafe Palestina Film Festival

Beginning on November 1, Cafe Palestina will be launching a film festival through December 13 at the Friends Meeting House in Great Barrington. All films start at 7 p.m. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served. On November 1, Occupation of the American Mind will be shown. This film depicts the role media plays in reporting issues and how we think about those issues. On November 29, The Wanted 18 tells the story of residents of the West Bank who want alternatives to Israeli goods. So begins the story of eighteen cows told from the perspective of the cows and the activists.

The third film, *Censored Voices*, will be presented on December 6. One week after the 1967 "Six Day War," a group of young kibbutzniks recorded intimate conversations with returning soldiers, 70% of which were censored by the Israeli Army. This film reveals the original recordings as some of the men, now in the seventies, listen to their younger selves for the first time. The final film, *Omar*, on December 13, is a romantic thriller, with melodramatic elements all brought into stark relief by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its approach and attitude are fresh in that it offers no solutions.

For more information, email cafe. palestina@yahoo.com, or contact Arlene Tolopko at 269-0220.





Bidwell House Museum Building Restoration Campaign

The Bidwell House, the only mid-eighteenth-century historic home in Berkshire County open to the public still on its original site—one of Monterey's treasures—is proud to announce that the museum has begun a phased restoration of the historic building. As the house is over 250 years old, it is in need of major repairs and mandated improvements. The total cost of the work is estimated at \$700,000, a large number for a small museum. The museum has already matched two state grants and raised additional contributions totalling nearly \$500,000. And last month, the Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick Trust announced a \$100,000 one-to-one matching grant for all gifts to the campaign going forward. "This matching grant by the Fitzpatrick Trust is a huge boost to the capital campaign, and a rousing endorsement of the importance of the Bidwell House to the community," stated Rob Hoogs, president of the board of trustees.

The museum is now reaching out to the community to ask for your help to close out the campaign to preserve the historic house. Every dollar you contribute will now be matched by the Fitzpatrick Trust. With your help, this challenge grant will allow the museum to raise the remaining \$200,000 needed to reach the goal and complete the work.

To address the building's needs in a comprehensive way, the museum commissioned an historic structure study in 2015 to determine what needed to be done, and in what sequence, to preserve the historic elements. The work will be done in three phases, with the first two phases being roofing work. Re-roofing of the 1840s wing and the two historic outbuildings has already been completed, with the help of a \$30,000 Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund Grant and matching donations. The next phase includes re-roofing the main house and rear ell, plus significant structural stabilization, insulation, and electrical improvements. The museum, which is listed in the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places, has received a \$50,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts





Ice dams, as pictured above left, lead to sustained roof leakage, pictured above right. Over years this will migrate down and affect the timbers throughout a building. A full new roof over the "piggery," below, is one part of the solution to this problem before it gets worse. Photos courtesy of the Bidwell House Museum.

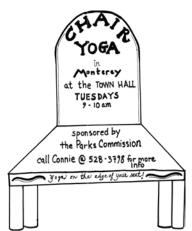


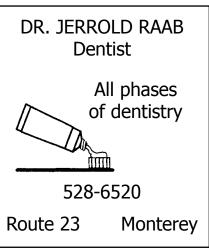
Historical Commission, Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Francis Galvin, Chairman, to help fund this phase.

The final phase—accessibility improvements and visitor enhancements—will significantly improve the visitor experience, providing a universally accessible entryway, flooring in the carriage barn, accessible restroom, a video tour, plus site drainage, exterior painting, and more. The Bidwell House Museum would not be the special place it is today without the support of the Monterey-Tyringham-South Berkshire community. You may have received a letter recently providing additional details about the restoration plans and how you can help the museum reach its goal. Do you have questions? The museum's website, www. bidwellhousemuseum.org, has more information, and there is a way to donate online. Please feel free to call the museum office too, at 528-6888, or contact a board member.

On behalf of all visitors to the historic house, gardens, and trails—now and in the future—the museum's board thanks you for your consideration and generosity.

—Barbara Palmer Executive Director





Knox Gallery in November

First, a big thank you to those of you who helped repaint the Knox Gallery. Wall patching and a fresh coat were sorely needed. Michael Banner, Kenn Basler, Colta Ives, William Carlson, Mark Makuc, Julie Shapiro, Libby Wolf, Marc Simmons, Autumn Snyder, Marya Makuc, and Anne Shatas—we appreciate you.

Please join the friendly conversation Process & Reality: The Artists Discuss Their Work on Saturday, November 19, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., when the three currently exhibiting artists, Mark Olshansky, Peggy Reeves, and Geoffrey Young, attempt to answer common questions asked by museum- and gallerygoers, such as, "What am I looking at?" or, "I wonder how that work was made?" These Great Barrington artists will solve these mysteries for Knox Gallery viewers. "What tricks does Mark Olshansky employ in his stitchery?" "How does Geoffrey Young conceive of the structures of his colored pencil abstractions?" "Which comes first, the photograph or the grid—or some third term still to be confessed—in Peggy Reeves variously layered works?" Come find out more about Off the Grid!

As the three artists evolved the topic for this exhibit, they focused on the grid because, as Young states, "The grid is often at the base of contemporary art-making. Rectangles can be divided in a myriad of ways; a grid remains an aid to composition, whether clearly indicated, or merely implied."

Off the Grid will be on exhibit through November 26.

Special Knox Gallery Event What Makes a Writer?

On November 4, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Monterey resident and writer Mary Kate Jordan will read from her current manuscript, which has the working title *Honey in the Tree of Life*. The work is part memoir, part "book of days" in the traditional sense of the phrase—a collection of words and visual images meant for life as sacred ceremony. Mary Kate states, "Woven of essays, dream sequences, other prose snippets, poetry, collages, and photos, my manuscript is



still in fluid form, developing its own unique shape. This is an interactive talk. Questions and comments will be welcome!"

Jordan began writing poetry at age seven and fiction at age eight. She became an author as well as a writer in 1997 with *Losing Uncle Tim*, the first nationally published children's book focused on loss due to AIDS. She writes a monthly essay column in the *Monterey News*, "From the Meetinghouse." She has lived in Monterey for twenty-eight years.

We hope you can join us for this special event.

Winter Community Group Exhibit Between the Lines

It is time for our all-inclusive winter community exhibit at Knox Gallery. *Between the Lines* will open on Saturday evening, December 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please help us assemble a diverse and stimulating group of pieces that ex-



Peggy Reeves at left, Geoffrey Young and Mark Olshansky above.

press many interpretations of the theme, represent a range of mediums, and are a reflection of our community. We look forward to seeing your work.

We ask all participants to submit an "Intent to Enter" form by November 19. The form, which contains all necessary information, is available in the library and on the library and town websites. One piece of two- or three-dimensional, ready-to-display work per artist will need to be hand-delivered to the library Monday evening, November 28, or Tuesday morning, November 29, during library hours. The exhibit will run until January 14.

All Knox Gallery events are free admission, and we thank the Friends of the Monterey Library for supporting the Knox Gallery and the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Council for the grants that underwrite our artists' talks. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; @Knox_Gallery on Twitter; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

-MaryPaul Yates

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Geography of a Fun Fall Festival Afternoon Monterey Community Center's Octoberfest, October 1

Photos by Christine Cristinat and Stephen Moore.

Monterey Community Center News

Our 4th Annual Octoberfest on October 1 was another remarkable day of fun, food, and community. The rain held off, the day was mild, the brats were so tasty. Many thanks are due to all who helped out and to those who came and made the event such a success. Those who attended were treated to the sight of the completed exterior of the Community Center thanks to the expert crew from M. D. Amstead Associates, and all admired (and kept off) the newly landscaped and seeded grounds, shaped courtesy of Tryon Construction.

The custom stairway is now in place, the interior window trim is ready for installation, and the oak flooring has been delivered. The final trim work is ongoing on the first floor, and we are coming down the home stretch toward opening our doors.

Thank you for your support!

—Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House www.ccmonterey.org

Fire Chief Shawn Tryon, and friends with Monterey's new Engine No. 172.





Easy Ridir (Mountain



Brats with





The quarterhorses were busy working the round-up around the com-

munity gardens.



Goat kissing... is there a prince waiting inside?

Spring Croquet Anyone?

On a recent, sunny fall day, eight friends, all members of the Monterey community, met to play croquet. The event was so successful, they decided that croquet should be played regularly, and Sunday Community Croquet was born.

Keep an eye out for a notice around Memorial Day that we've gotten our equipment out and are ready to begin. The Monterey Community Center has an ideal section of lawn for the course. Join us at noon on Sundays next summer. Bring a picnic, spend a couple of hours playing, or simply visit with friends and neighbors.

-Maggie Barkin





a' Papas, Peter Poirier Laurel also played.)



Gail Heath's paintings, Wendy Jensen's baskets





Hanna Jensen, Sweetish Baker

brats.

Christine Martin and the other food folks were hustling.





Maria and Madeline Rundle from Gould Farm.



Kids letting them roll!



Goat shepards wrangling the landscaping crew.



Hume Camp and Del Martin's Knox Trail Forge



Spooky kid



Face painting, of course.



Newly sided community center building.

In Rememberance Pablo Rodriguez

Julio Rodriguez and I lost our youngest son, Pablo Rodriguez, age 35, on October 6. Pablo died at his home in Damascus, Maryland. His death came as a terrible, impossible shock for all who loved him.

Pablo worked for USFoods, but was best known professionally for his long years as manager of a local barbecue restaurant, Red Hot & Blue, and as the first boss on their first job for innumerable youngsters and neighbors. More recently, Pablo became a dedicated volunteer firefighter with Damascus, Maryland, Engine 13 Fire Company. He found his passion in firefighting and was planning a transition to a career as a firefighter/EMT. He would call us excitedly when he gave a dose of Narcan that restored a person's breathing. He served as a mentor to new volunteers, who could see his dedication to this work. He quickly completed his emergency medical technician courses. He had just been accepted as a professional fire fighter for Montgomery County, Maryland, with a start date of December 1.



He leaves behind his wife, Katie Rodriguez, and three sons, Colin Simpson, 11, Cameron Rodriguez, 5, and Christian Rodriguez, 4; his three loving sisters, Terry, Kira, and Laura; his semi-brother Eric, and his many cousins, nieces, aunts, and uncles, and lifelong friends. His large grieving Maryland family and friends embraced us all and shepherded us through his funeral.

In Maryland, because of his death, we began to learn more about his recent life, in a way parents rarely do. We saw an outpouring of love from his friends. They were remembering his big laugh—like Julio, once Pablo arrived, the fun began. Friends posted on Facebook hundreds of



messages about his big heart, always concerned for the person hurting or in need.

Pablo's funeral brought more than 450 people to the Damascus Lutheran Church of the Redeemer to celebrate his life. Childhood and newer friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws, and his extended Maryland family, neighbors, co-workers, his children's teachers, all brought their shock and grief and tried to comfort us. Even Monterey folks Roz Halberstadter and Tarsi Dunlop were there. Each of us reached the church through an arch created by the raised ladders of two fire trucks, tipped together. Pablo's casket arrived on the community's antique fire engine. Katie's brother, Michael Busbey, led the service. Moving and beautiful farewell remarks were made by his wife Katie. A parting salute by each member of the fire company, was followed by a final farewell salute and a parting kiss from his father, Julio. A few days later we returned Monterey where friends and neighbors are supporting us as we grieve.

We've always adored our son—his big laugh, his open smile, his strong body so like his father's, his lifelong, unwavering

devotion to each and every Michigan team. It moved our hearts to see him embracing his young sons two at a time. When younger, in the Berkshires, he was always on the lake, at the beach flirting with the lifeguards, on the bullhorn at Lake Fest, at the Amidon's cabin, with Dean and Fran's grandsons. But once married, we watched him become a loving, responsible father, on FaceTime and in person. Thankfully, his entire family visited us in early October, and the kids picked apples and rode horseback at Octoberfest, and climbed on the new Monterey fire engine. We all loved that weekend here and promised to repeat it as soon as possible. But his sudden, unexpected death only four days later closed that possibility.

Pablo was a remarkable young man—a loving father and husband, son and brother. His sudden, unexplained death is hard to bear.

-Pat Salomon

Mad Scot

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Winter Wren

There are birds I've heard and never seen, voices rising like a cold spring.

A wink of wings. The rest obscured in trembling leaves. Struck, I tried

to notate descending triplets, then ascending, an eighth rest,

a tone of indiscernible length, so melodic and yet—erasing, listening,

hearing differently each time— I couldn't get it right.

Like the time I dreamed of bluebirds for a week, flying into my face, flutter of summer

sky, pale blaze of rusty breast, then gone so fast I didn't know

which way to find them. Sometimes there was only

a clearing, bright blue feathers strewn—or laid—about the floor. As though

I'd stumbled upon a threshold, and didn't know if I should cross.

Things would be different if I were the girl who befriends the cuckoo bird

that every hour comes out of a clock door and takes her with him, slipping through

some thin place into layers of hidden worlds. No one ever believes you

when you come back from such a place.

—Hannah Fries

Midnight Baking

She makes bread while the town sleeps. Not in the hours before dawn when real bakers work, but late.

Outside it snows. Her apron is snowed with flour. In her hair too, flour,

which turns it softly gray. She would choose to age like this, quietly, pressing her hands

into soft dough, turning it, folding it, pressing again until it begins to resist and hold its shape.

The one she loves is asleep.

Even the bakers are sleeping now.

The dough rises through their dreaming,

and the deep night lifts
just a little as it leavens—
yeast, pungent before baking,

and the baking, that scent of fullness finding every corner of the house.

—Hannah Fries

Hannah Fries's first collection of poetry, *Little Terrarium*, will be published this month by Amherst-based publisher Hedgerow Books. A book launch and reading will be held on Friday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m., at The Bookstore in Lenox. To order, see hedgerowbooks.net/books.

From the Meetinghouse Back in the Day

He had the top down, and the wind ruffled his hair. His cobalt-blue and white letter jacket looked new, and his Corvette gleamed as only a well-loved, pampered status-symbol can. The plate read ROUT-66, and he looked like Tab Hunter. He headed north through Rhode Island toward the end of last month, wearing an indelible smile.

Of course I grinned back as he drove by. His happiness was contagious. After all, even if they're digital, don't we all have memories and artifacts in that scrapbook labeled, Back in The Day . . . ?

For me, back-in-the-day once looked like this:

We were art students enrolled in the same college, but I didn't know them well. We started talking, though, and strayed into a long, animated conversation that included an invitation for me to join them at a concert that weekend. We all wanted to see and hear just one performer, Buffy Sainte Marie, and the Mariposa Folk Festival sounded like fun.

This was 1967. Crossing the Canadian/Stateside border was easier then. All you had to do was know where you were born and say so without being a wise-ass. No papers needed. Early Saturday morning we piled into somebody's car and headed out on Niagara Falls Boulevard. In theory, we should have arrived at Innis Lake, the festival site, before noon. We had sketchy directions, though, and drove a bit too far.



Flowers grace our tables as we prepare for Thanksgiving.

We drove a few hundred miles too far. We arrived after dark, but Buffy hadn't come on stage yet. We nestled down in blankets at the edge of the crowd to wait.

As we settled, we heard a rumor that the festival crowd had been restless earlier in the day. French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians were two opposing faces in a ragged national mirror in 1967. Tension had been ebbing and flowing for years. Separatism was rampant. Earlier that year, Cabinet Minister Lévesque left the Liberal Party and created the Parti Québécois (PQ). It would be best, he stated, for Quebec and Canada to "divorce peacefully," as their union seemed "no longer workable."

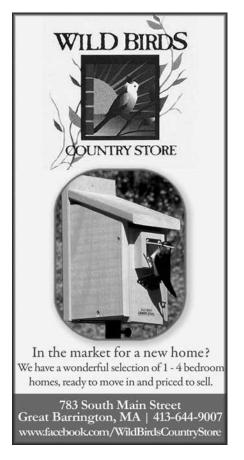
Everything felt peaceful now. Attention was focused on the stage, performers performed, music played. *Then the emcee called out, Buffy Sainte Marie!* The electricity we'd been waiting for filled the night, bright as the stars overhead. The audience roared.

She strode onstage in the red and yellow sari she wore on the cover of her then-new album, *Fire & Fleet & Candlelight*. She was beautiful and tiny, a woman nearly dwarfed by her guitar. She stood and faced us from center stage, a huge energetic presence, earth-rooted, silent as the crowd quieted. Then, with a few compact movements, she began to strum and sing.

We were lifted out of ourselves, the crowd moving together as one as she sang on and on. Though not the City of Love, it was 1967, so yes, we threw flowers. Then she began to sing in French. Somebody in the crowd threw a rock.

Thunk! It landed on the face of her guitar and rolled toward the lip of the stage. The audience sat stunned, silent, holding our collective breath. The Maple Leaf, the flag meant to represent all Canadians, had been flying for just two years,





replacing the red, white, and blue striped one full of British colonial memories. Molotov cocktails hadn't been thrown in the streets of Ottawa for a few years, but some English speakers still felt the Maple Leaf pandered to French speakers, and some French-speaking Quebecois still favored the fleur-de-lis.

We stared at the rock, the flowers, the singer, and the silhouettes of others also sitting under the still-clear summer night. Buffy looked away from the rock, out at the audience. The silence marched on.

"That was a mighty heavy flower," she said. Taking a deep breath, she started to sing again. The same song. In French.

A deep, wide silence followed. Buffy, her courage, and her guitar all stood alone in the night, an incandescence also lit by the lights focused on the stage. Nothing stirred under the starry sky above us all until the audience moved as one, stood, erupted in cheers.

We may have left then, or stayed a bit longer. The festival may have gone on, or ended on that note. I may have slept most of the way home. What stays with me is that moment. May it stay also with you.

-Mary Kate Jordan



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Jews in the Berkshires Historian Michael Hoberman

On November 12, a Sandisfield group that formed to record local Jewish history will host nationally known historian Michael Hoberman for a benefit presentation about the history of Jews in small-town New England at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 11 a.m.

Professor Hoberman will draw on oral history research from his scholarly work How Strange It Seems, including the remarkable but mostly untold story of Jewish farming communities in the Berkshires in the early 1900s. He also will devote attention to his more recent book, New Israel/New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America, which explores the relationship between Jews and Puritans in the colonial and Revolutionary War period.

Publication of a book entitled *A Century of Jewish Life in Sandisfield* is planned by the Sandisfield committee in early 2018.

The circa 1839 Sandisfield Arts Center, originally a Baptist church, was converted in 1922 to an orthodox Jewish synagogue by the Sons of Abraham. In 1995, the renovated building was reopened as an arts center. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit SandisfieldArtsCenter.org, or contact Sandy at (860) 798-1091 or by email at Sandy@SanfordParisky.com; or call Joanne Olson at (718) 966-3543, for more information or directions. The Sandisfield Arts Center is located at 5 Hammertown Road.

Community Potluck Nov. 19

The opening potluck in October was a perfect beginning to the season, with a great speaker who had hopeful things to say. Jane Winn, the executive director of Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), replaced Rosemary Wessel of No Fracked Gas in Mass. Jane told us what was happening in the five pipeline proposals now on the table, especially the Connecticut expansion pipeline through Lower Spectacle Pond in Sandisfield. There is hope that we may prevail. We are very grateful to Jane, and to Rosemary for finding her own replacement, and BEAT for fighting the good fight.

Next month, we have Steve Pullen, who will present a slide show about his grandparents, William and Mary Pullen, British servants who came to America. This is the real Downton Abbey. During the period of 1913 to 1925, they worked for three of the wealthiest families of that time. William worked with horses and trained a world champion trotter named Uhlan. Steve will share photos of his grandparents and the great estates where they worked. One of the estates was Holmwood, now called Fox Hollow in Lenox.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held November 16 in the fellowship hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

-Kyle Pierce

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Spiders and Turkey Tails

Most folks, when finding a feather in the woods or on the trail, like to pick it up and admire it. We did this growing up, smoothing and straightening a feather and then tucking it into a hatband or a buttonhole. We'd get home and display the feather the way you would a posy. Feathers don't need water to keep from wilting. You can stand them in a small vase and they don't shed petals or pollen onto the windowsill. They can stay there for a long time, like other windowsill treasures, and become a dusty bouquet, also a home for spiders.

The window spiders here are a variety named "long-bodied cellar spider." We watch them most in the kitchen and living room since this is where we settle down. They set up shop in the windows and wrap any insects that happen along. After poking a hole in the prey and injecting a few magic potions to make it hold still and then to turn it into a digestible soup, they suck it dry and then cut it loose so it lands on the windowsill, or maybe the kitchen table. Lately these silvery packages, all wrapped up and dropped from the webs, are former ladybugs. Then along comes some tidy human housekeeper and sweeps up the bodies. The sill looks good, but how about the rest of the window? Lovely view outside, but all dusty and cobwebby around the edges on the inside. Obviously these spiders are our pals and housemates,

so we would not dream of sucking them up in a vacuum cleaner.

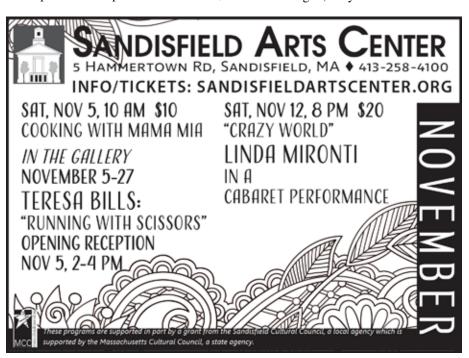
Speaking of dusty, how about that old vaseful of feathers? We brought them home and then couldn't bear to kiss them good-bye. They make us think of blue jays, cardinals, mourning doves, woodpeckers large and small. They remind us of those Pleistocene avian buffaloes still with us today, big and dark and wild: the turkeys. Once in awhile you find the handsomest, big woodsy tail feather, banded in a kind of variegated way, black on brown. It looks more like a batik or tie-dye than a real hard-edged banding. Near the end of the tail feather there is a broad black band, and then the last tip is brown or chestnut.

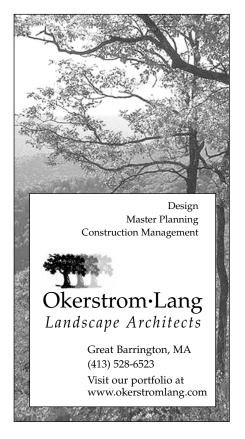


This is different from the tail feathers of our domesticated turkeys, and therein hangs a story. Back in the centuries, when the European Cortez came to the New World, he and his like were after gold. Not finding it, they committed terrible genocide on the Arawak people, which included murder, mayhem, and the kidnapping into slavery of many, many people, whom they took back to Europe. They took other things, including turkeys, and these were the kind found in what we now call Mexico, and places to the south. The tip of the tail feathers of these turkeys is white.

The Mexican turkey was popular in Europe and became domesticated and somehow acquired the name "turkey." When colonial white folks began sailing to the New World to look for a good life, they brought with them turkeys from home. These turkeys with the white-tipped tail feathers did not thrive in New England, but luckily for the colonists, there were already wild turkeys here, well adapted to the woods and the climate. Native people liked to eat them. They treasured the feathers, which they used for all sorts of decorations.

Nowadays you often see domesticated turkeys with the white-tipped tail feathers. When I was in grade school we drew pictures of these in November. White folks with big hats like on the Mass Turnpike signs, brown folks with bows and arrows and little clothing for November, and then the turkeys, with white tail tips. This ver-





sion of history was part of our childhood, along with Columbus Day.

Our local wild turkey feathers have chestnut tips, and in recent years they have found their place here in the housekeeping department, subcategory: spider-friendly. I bundled about ten of them together with two wrappings of red yarn, and then carefully stuck in one end of a dowel for a handle. Now these former dusty windowsill chachkas are a feather duster and keep the region presentable. We hang the duster on the wall near the kitchen windows and take it gently round the spider zones every now and then. Long-bodied cellar spiders scramble out of the way and live to climb and spin another day. We get the sense we have cleaned up a little as the old webs come down and more empty ladybugs hit the floor. We admire our saved turkey tail feathers as we gently and quietly dust.

Male turkeys use their tail feathers for courtship display in the spring, spreading them out in a huge fan. A brief encounter with a female, and then the toms or gobblers are off, back in male society, while the hens fix up nests and lay eggs. One hen may lay seven to eighteen eggs, and sometimes two or more hens join up and put as many as forty-eight eggs in one

nest. Sometimes the grown youngsters and hens form winter flocks of forty to fifty, or many more. With their long strong legs they can easily forage through a foot of snow, making six-inch footprints in long V-shaped scratching about eighteen inches long. Turkeys live on all sorts of seeds, nuts, sumac fruits, buds, insects, and snails and crayfish. They can swallow and store food in a neck pouch called a crop, and then let it down into the powerful gizzard which is the grinding machine. Somehow experimenting turkey scientists set up their subjects with items requiring 400 pounds of pressure per square inch to break them into bits. The turkeys accomplished this within twenty-four hours. The claim has also been made that a turkey can take a steel sewing needle down the gullet, through the crop and into the gizzard where it bends the needle without getting pierced.

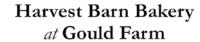
These are the kind of turkey stories most of us can't verify, but anyone can make a feather duster and discover new joys of housework involving peaceful coexistence with indoor window spiders. We can save those fine feathers, and use them to spare the spiders as winter comes on and we all move indoors.

-Bonner McAllester

Mark Warner

Hockey Rink Setup November 19 at 9:30 a.m.

If you're hoping for a colder winter than last year so you can shoot on these goalies, come help lay down the rink behind the firehouse. Coffee and doughnuts courtesy of the parks commission. No experience necessary.





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Your Campaign Companion

Let us, before we head to the polls, put aside "ground games," "pants on fire" statements, shifting poll numbers, PAC money flaws, "battleground" contests, and temperament comparisons, and consider what's happened.

Much of American history can be cast in terms of actions and reactions, of movements to nullify policies and reverse broader trends considered threatening.

The freeing of the slaves and the attempt by the Reconstruction governments in the South to support these "Freedmen" triggered fierce opposition and ultimately Jim Crow legislation and legal segregation across the South.

In response to the rise of the cities and the unprecedented flow of immigrants, Prohibition came our way, largely a rural counterattack against these perceived "threats."

The same dynamics were in play in efforts to roll back the New Deal and later the Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s.

Many more examples exist, but you get the point—which brings us to Donald Trump. Millions of his supporters also want to restore a world they believe has been upended by massive immigrant flows, legal and otherwise; the relentless contraction of America's manufacturing base; the growing gap between the highly educated and those with far fewer academic credentials, between the fantastically rich and those barely afloat; and estrangement from a social and cultural landscape

increasingly unfamiliar and unwelcome. Trump, in rallying those discontented, stoking their anxieties and fueling their anger, is taking us down a familiar path, protesting against the unsettling changes that have always come our way.

Non-politicians ("outsiders") have been a mixed bag when they've become president of the United States. We've had our share of generals: most have been forgettable—William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce, Rutherford B. Hayes, Benjamin Harrison, James Garfield, and lamentable Ulysses S. Grant. Let's not overlook George Washington, Andrew Jackson, and Dwight Eisenhower, however. They left their mark—mostly for good. We've never had a businessman become president. (Herbert Hoover was not strictly a businessman, but was Secretary of Commerce during the 1920s. And should we include Harry Truman's unsuccessful years as a Kansas City haberdasher?) Businessman Wendell Willkie ran for the White House in 1940, as did Ross Perot in 1992, but neither made it to the Oval Office. Many assume the skills of a business executive do translate; others disagree, insisting that different skill sets and objectives disadvantage corporate executives as political leaders.

We've had a president before who was impulsive, combative, craved the spotlight, was a showman, and understood the power of publicity ("bully pulpit"). He criticized reporters ("muckrakers"), the weak ("molly-coddlers"), the indecisive ("pussyfooting") and the evasive ("weasel words"). From him the people could

expect a "Square Deal" while reminding them that he was "strong as a bull moose." Is Donald Trump unwittingly channeling Teddy Roosevelt!?

When you hear someone repeatedly using words such as "huge," "tremendous," "unbelievable," "terrific," "amazing," what comes to mind?

What happened to a campaign in which millions were expected to get excited over the prospect of the first female president of the United States?

Other Questions: How would a Trump victory reshape the Republican Party? Who may become irreconcilable, take defeat the hardest—Trump's movement/supporters or our social and governing elites? And what might they do about it? Who would be willing to serve in a Trump administration? If Trump wins, is it not reasonable to assume Republicans will control all three branches of the Federal government and shape the future of the Supreme Court? If, as reported, foreign leaders are aghast at the rise of Donald Trump, how might they react to a President Trump?

Finally, if Hillary wins and Congress, as is likely, stays in Republican hands, are we not destined to repeat the last six years of bitter polarization, government deadlock, and vital national needs going unaddressed? Such a result means this endless and dispiriting campaign, and the election, will have been a colossal waste of time and energy, a disruptive diversion even as it rekindled frustration and intensified fears.

—Richard Skolnik



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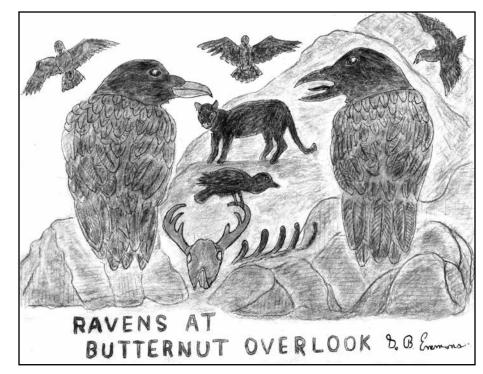
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Remarkably Resourceful Raven

Ravens are passerines, or perching birds, and can be seen in our area soaring where they nest and roost near the high, narrow, rocky ledges of Dry Hill, Monument Mountain, or near the Butternut Overlook. They are held in high esteem in North America, Europe, and Asia. In Bernd Heinrich's book, *The Mind of the Raven*, he demonstrates how ravens, with the largest brains (by body weight) in the bird world, are capable of behavior in which their intelligence seems to overlap with that of humans. Heinrich's observations come from years of studying ravens in very close encounters throughout his life.

In Old World cultures, ravens carried an aura of supernatural powers, stories of which have been handed down through the ages. In early Norse mythology, two ravens, Hugin and Rodin, belonging to the father of all humans, were regarded as symbols of thought and memory. Ravens, to this day, are still kept as guardians of the Tower of London, from the medieval belief that their presence assures that this landmark structure will never fail. In the new world, Native Americans believed they were spiritually instrumental in the creation of life on Earth, and also believed them to be mischief makers, like the wily coyote. They held that ravens established their own importance relative to other creatures on the pecking order in the grand scheme of things. Edgar Allan Poe's choice of a raven was perfect for a superstitious role in the mystical portrayal of a spirit knocking on the door, speaking in paranormal verse about lovelorn Lenore, forever lost, to reappear nevermore.



In real life, ravens establish lifelong pair bonds after performing a ceremonial aerial courtship dance. Heinrich observed that ravens always remain cognizant of sharing food and show a social conscience in their group behavior, cooperation in problem solving, and going out of their way to warn others of impending danger.

Ravens are also prone to playing pranks, just as humans are. They are capable of mob retaliation like the crows, gathering in large numbers as sometimes seen from Butternut Ski Basin up towards the rocky overlook. They are clever in getting what they want, and after following predators like coyotes, wolves, and mountain lions, they will swoop in to share in the carcass. When a carcass

is easily available, they will call in other ravens to join in, which reinforces a very strict social order among them.

Some of us approaching a raven nest have found ourselves being pelted with small objects and stones dropped accurately by the ravens while they utter a rasping croak of displeasure as a warning to stay away. This proof of effective communication with humans made an unforgettable impression on me. To learn more, get a hold of *The Mind of the Raven*, or *Ravens in Winter*, both by Bernd Heinrich. The ravens, like their corvid cousins crows and blue jays, are remarkable, intelligent birds.

-George Emmons





Wildlife in late September and much of October

October felt warm and friendly, stretching out the terribly dry summer. Monterey saw many bears, or maybe many times the same young bear in the same part of town. Some sighters are protective of one youngster, worrying it has no mamma nearby, not much apple crop to eat this year, and three sections of bear-hunting season to survive. Therefore the dates and locations of this junior bear shall remain nameless until after the last killing season. By December 10, we'll all be able to venture out without 500-square inches of Hunter Orange, and we'll feel safe to reveal the whereabouts of our bears. By this time some bears will be underground, though still breathing. Others, not so lucky.



The young bear in Jon Sylbert's photo may be the same one I've heard about from at least four other fans. Jon says this one eats berries, leaves, and grasses. It goes up a tree, drinks from a birdbath, and stares at a cat.

Late in September, Colta Ives sent in a photo of a big mushroom called sulphur



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shelf fungus or chicken of the woods. This one has a similar name to hen of the woods, and Carol Purcell showed me one of those in her yard. They don't look at all alike, but both are edible, in fact "choice," as both my mushroom books put it. Both books also hasten to disclaim that some folks get sick from them, and that maybe they are more edible early in their season than later. You take your chances with most things. Also around that time, Joe and Patty Pac saw a bobcat running along the road near the beach in mid-afternoon.

Carol Edelman saw a coyote at her compost pile, and Michael and Maureen Banner found a mysterious calling card atop a fencepost (top right). This is an owl pellet, the undigestible bits of bone and such that the owl coughs up, rather than running it through the digestive system. Believe it or not, you can buy these through Amazon. What for? I dunno. Teaching tools perhaps. They have been guaranteed clean and disease free, but I still would not eat them. They were coughed up for a reason.

The Banners also spotted a handsome caterpillar (below) with a curved horn at one end. There are a variety of horned caterpillars, all known as "hornworms"



and all growing up to be some species of sphinx moth. Like their caterpillars, these moths show great variety, even though they are all cousins in the family *Sphingidae*.



Itraveled through Maine, New Hampshire, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia last month and never saw a moose. I hit the road for the wild North Country on October 11. Later I heard from Don and Ellen Coburn that on that very day right here at home their son Jeff saw a moose on Beartown Road where the Appalachian Trail crosses. It was a big one, especially at close range, Jeff reported.

Thank you all, for your interest and your reporting. Thoreau wrote, "In wildness is the preservation of the world," so keep the reminders coming, for the good of all.

—Bonner McAllester 528-9385 bonnermca@gmail.com

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230 Telephone: (413) 229-7080 Facsimile: (413) 229-7085 Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net



Transfer Station News

It's apparent, all around town, that many of our summer residents have gone for the year. We do miss the many friendly faces and friends that we got used to seeing weekly.

Lately it seems that one out of three people we have talked to are most interested as to when the new transfer station will be done and will we have a new swap shop. To answer the second question first—it seems that we will have a new swap shop and that it will be bigger and better than the one we now have. As to when the new transfer station will be up and running—all we can say is we hope it's soon. When the new swap shop is ready, we will be looking for help with moving everything from the old to the new. (Don't believe it? Look at the photos above!) If anyone has an interest in helping, please see Beth. Also, we may need materials with which to build new tables and shelving, and help with building them.

We're wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

-Beth, Ben and Dave

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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There is still work to be done at the new transfer station, but the grading is done and seeded, the surfacing is down, and the rolling doors are in place. Photos by Stephen Moore



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October 2016 Contributors

If you are among our readers who receive the *Monterey News* in the mail in town during the warmer months, but spend the winter elsewhere, please remember to tell us so we can use the correct address for the months you're away. Otherwise your copies might not reach you.

Thanks to our contributors!

Dorothy & William Enlund Kirk & Connie Garber Richard & Louise Skolnik Bonner McAllester & Joe Baker Sally & Steve Pullen







Select Board Corner

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

MontereyMA.gov

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

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, November 7 and 21, at 4 p.m. There will be a public meeting to adopt new regulations at 4:30 on November 7.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays from 9 to 10 a.m. Conservation Commission: Tuesday, November 15, at 6 p.m. (This is a week later than usual due to the elections)

Council on Aging: Monday, November 14 and 28, at 10 a.m.

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

Foot Nurse: Thursday, November 10, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, November 2, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, November 10, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

The Town Hall will be closed on Friday, November 11 for Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 24 for Thanksgiving. We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

Due to drought and weather conditions the select board, director of operations/fire chief and conservation commission have all collectively decided to temporarily hold off on the drawdown of Lake Garfield. A final decision will be made by November 15. At this point the precipitation has been minimal at best.

The fire chief is concerned that they may have a huge problem with access to water for loading of tankers if there is a fire. In October there was a large house fire and the fire department was unable to pump

water from the outlet of Lake Garfield so they had to go to the town beach. Even with a partial drawdown, which is impossible to achieve properly with the type of dam we have, the fire department would not be able to reach water from the beach or the dam, leaving that side of town without quick access to water. Wells could also be affected with the lake being drawn down.

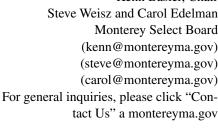
Worst-case scenario—if conditions don't improve, we wouldn't have enough water to fill the lake in the spring, which would lead to many issues with the residents in town.

This is all subject to change with the weather. As a reminder, the town is not responsible for damage to docks and everyone should have removed their docks by October 15 or risk damage should we be unable to perform a drawdown, get a heavy snowfall, or the lake freezes. This has been a difficult decision, but we have to err on the side of safety (fire prevention, private wells drying up, etc).

DOR Report

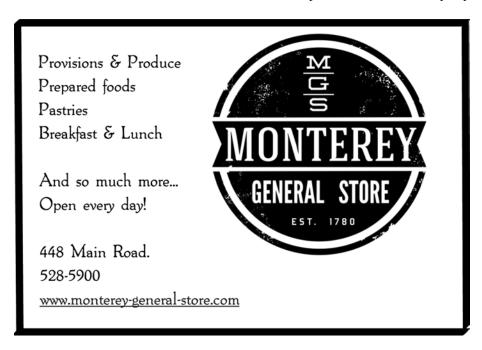
Massachusetts Department of Revenue conducted a comprehensive review of the town's financial operations. The board will be discussing this important document at the November 16 meeting.

-Kenn Basler, Chair Steve Weisz and Carol Edelman Monterey Select Board (kenn@montereyma.gov) (steve@montereyma.gov) (carol@montereyma.gov)



Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews 9@gmail.com.



Calendar

Knox Gallery, Off the Grid, with Mark Olshansky, Peggy Reeves, and Geoff Young, on exhibit through November 26.

Every Tuesday:

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Cards and Games club, 12:30 to 3 p.m., at the town hall.

Friday, November 4: Mary Kate Jordan will read from her newest manuscript, 6to 7:30 p.m., Knox Gallery. See page 13.

Tuesday, November 8: State and Presidential elections, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monterey firehouse.

Wednesday, November 9: Jenn Bailey, SHINE counselor, to help with Medicare enrollment and changes in your plans. Call 528-9151, or 528-1443-ext. 247, for an appointment.

Saturday, November 12: "Jews in the Berkshires," Michael Hoberman, 11 a.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. See page 19.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911 Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111

admin@montereyma.gov

Assessor: 528-1443 x115

(for town boards and misc. questions)

assessors@montereyma.gov **Building Department**: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136

fire service@montereyfire.org

Highway Department.: 528-1734

mhwy@verizon.net **Library**: 528-3795

montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):

528-1443 x116,

Alternate emergency 528-3211 mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117 montereytax@yahoo.com

(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113 clerk@montereyma.gov

(for licenses and town records)

Wednesday, October 16: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 19.

Saturday, November 19:

Ice rink setup, 9:30 a.m., firehouse. Coffee and donuts by Parks Commission.

Knox Gallery, Winter community group exhitibiton "Intent to Enter" forms due. See page 13.

Knox Gallery, Process & Reality, The Artists Discuss Their Work, artists Mark Olshansky, Peggy Reeves, and Geoff Young, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. See page 13.

Bidwell House colonial holiday Thanksgiving party. Music by Mark Kelso, with wine, hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction. \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door. See page 5. For info. and reservations, call 528-6888 or go to BidwellHouseMuseum.org.

Saturday, November 19: (cont.)

Lenox Contra Dance from 8 to 11 p.m., new dancer session at 7:45. Live music by Tempest, with calling by Jon Greene. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org.Contact 528-4007.

Sunday, November 20: Monterey News deadline.

Monday, November 28:

Jenn Bailey, SHINE counselor, to help with Medicare enrollement and changes in your plans. Call 528-9151, or 528-1443-ext. 247, for an appointment.

Adult book group meets to discuss A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.



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Editor	Stephen Moore
Copy Editor	-
Mailing Labels	Joe Baker
Treasurer	

Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 23; Joe Baker, p. 24; Maureen Banner, p. 25.

