



MONTEREY NEWS



June 2020
Est. 1970 Vol. L · Number 6

Pick up at: the library (outside), transfer station, and later this month at Bracken Brae farm stand.



Orange you glad the Baltimore orioles have returned this year? From all reports they have come back in surprising numbers, perhaps just what we need this unusual spring. Photos by (l. to r.) Maureen Banner, Bonsai Cox, and Cindy Hoogs.



I've read that it is the formation of memories by novel episodes that gives time a certain fullness.

Notes on Sheltering in Place page 20

Welcome to the new way of checking out items from the Monterey Library in the era of Covid-19.

Library Curbside Pickup page 6

I am writing. As I write, I am the words I write. As you read, you are the words you read. That's either comfortable, or not.

Here's a Thought page 14



Fossil- (not yet!) page 10

Given the board's past, seemingly joyful spending, the finance committee has to be a fiscal hawk and a check on the town's spending habits, if the select board does not want to do that job.

John Weingold-Select Board page 13

Others less apt to stand back and correlate are more likely to smile and freely identify with the bird, with pure expression. We say, "That doggone bird is making my day. Must be having a good day, himself." The Catbird is Back page 15

In the end, the day was sad, it was moving, it was important! There was no parade, no hot dogs, no backyard barbecues, no celebration. And maybe, it was the most memorable and appropriate kind of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day page 2

When bears come around, they may even leave their muddy footprints on your kitchen window.

Wildlife page 24-25

Budgeting has been a difficult process this year because of the intervention of the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic uncertainty.

In My View/Town Budget page 4

On Wednesday, May 13, 2020, the boards of the MBI and the MTC approved a grant award to Fiber Connect to expand their fiber optic broadband coverage to at least 96% of Monterey and Egremont.

Fiber Connect Update page 16

As of July 1, everyone will need a new transfer station sticker placed in the right rear window of your vehicle. Because of the coronavirus there will be NO exceptions.

Transfer Station Stickers page 10



Cottontail Rabbits page 22

Memorial Day Ceremony Very Different—Very Memorable

Memorial Day this year was the same but not the same. There was a grey sky and a slight chill in the air—somehow it felt appropriate. There were a few people participating, a few more watching—not the usual throng. Everyone was wearing face masks and staying apart—even the honor guard stood six feet apart. The flag was raised and lowered to half staff. The Star Spangled Banner played and everyone saluted. Rev. Elizabeth Goodman gave a short benediction honoring the memory of those who fought and died, the families they left behind. The three members of the honor guard—Julio Rodriguez, Donald Coburn, and Brian Fahey—fired one round each, accompanied by the barking of dog who was startled by the sound; the report from the rifles seemed to echo for a long time. Taps was played. Liz gave a final benediction. Followed by the bagpipes. And in eight minutes, the ceremony was over.



But the important things were the same: the wreaths were laid at the memorial; the three black stelae glimmered with the names of the veterans of all the country's wars; and Dick Tryon was there (above)—age 96, the oldest citizen of Monterey, and a World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy who served in both the Mediterranean and Pacific fleets. At the end of the ceremony, Dick stood, gripping the honorary Boston Post Cane, and saluted the flag and his fellow veterans. Somehow, that small gesture spoke volumes: “Thank you to all the veterans of all the wars. God be with you. May you rest in peace.”

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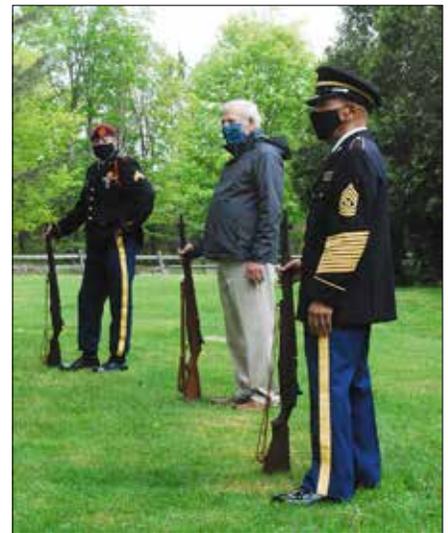
Every year the Sawyer family line their fence with flags. Photo by Linda Thorpe.

In the end, the day was sad, it was moving, it was important! There was no parade, no hot dogs, no backyard barbecues, no celebration. Memorial Day this year honored the past. Maybe the reflection it stimulated this year will help us improve our future. And maybe, it was the most memorable and appropriate kind of Memorial Day.

—Rob Hoogs



Photos by Rob Hoogs



The honor guard consisted of Sgt. Brian Fahey, Don Coburn, and US Army Command Sgt. Major, Julio Rodriguez, retired.

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For your safety, there is currently no dining on site.



Shira Sawyer and Ivy Webster BenDavid represented the Mount Everett Band Monday morning. We had a small audience: my husband Tom, daughter Donovan (who is now active military), and Ivy's family, Mike Mielke and Linda, and neighbors who were walking by. Chief Backus also drove by and waved. In the afternoon, Shira also played "Taps" from our back deck at 3 o'clock as part of the national event, and Linda Thorpe heard her from her house down on River Road.

—Suzanne Sawyer

Town Meeting and Town Elections Dates

Town Meeting

Town meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse pavilion. Preparations for social distancing will be in place and masks will be required.

Elections

Local elections will be held on Tuesday, June 30, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Absentee ballot applications are being mailed to every voter, and absentee ballots can also be requested from the town clerk. Please contact Monterey Town Clerk, Terry Walker at 413-528-1443 ext. 113, or by cell phone at 413-329-4185.

Also, you may vote at town hall, which will be open for voting only, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Masks required.

—Town of Monterey



- Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)**
Susan Cooper* (R & D)
- Board of Appeals (Zoning) (1 year)**
Michael Banner (D)
- Board of Assessors (3 year)**
Gary Shaw (R & D)
- Board of Assessors (2 years)**
Scott Steibel (D & R)
- Board of Health (3 years)**
John Makuc* (R & D)
- Cemetery Commission (3 years)**
David Brown* (R & D)
- Finance Committee (3 years)**
Michele Miller (D & R)
- Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)**
John Higgins* (D & R)
Shannon Amidon Castille* (D)
- Moderator (1 year)**
Mark Makuc* (D & R)
- Parks Commission (3 years)**
Wendy Benjamin* (D)
- Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)**
Laura Mensi (R)
No nominee
- Planning Board (3 years)**
Bill Johnson (R & D)
- Select Board (3 years)**
John Weingold (D & R)
- Tree Warden (1 year)**
Kevin Fitzpatrick* (R & D)

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates



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

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In My View



As I write these words while sitting under a perfect Berkshire cloudless shining blue sky, I'm struck by how surreal these times have become. Although our governor is leading us admirably and compassionately, at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue the country is being managed as if the only important issue we face is the re-election of a man whose name will be scorched into the history of this nation as our greatest electoral and moral failure.

My fervent hope is that when we vote in November we will signal to all mankind that the United States of America rejects isolationism and is prepared to perform its necessary role as leader of the free world; that we will be committed to reason, science, and respect for people everywhere.

But in the meantime there is much happening in town worthy of comment.

Broadband

Perhaps the best news is on broadband. Fiber Connect and MBI, with assistance from the select board, have struck a deal resolving the terms under which the \$1.1 million grant set aside for Monterey's broadband system will be made available to Fiber Connect. Fiber Connect and the town can now concentrate their efforts on resolving the disputes with the utility companies so that the "make-ready" process can be concluded as speedily as possible. This process would be aided

substantially by homeowners deciding to sign up for the service now, and showing their commitment by making a nominal \$50 deposit. (For more information about this broadband news, see pages 16–18.)

Coronavirus Impacts

The select board has been inundated with issues arising because of the coronavirus crisis. So, we have doubled our number of meetings per month and spent many hours resolving matters as best we can given the voluminous and sometimes changing guidance from Commonwealth.

Town Meeting: For example, pursuant to Commonwealth emergency legislation, with the approval of town moderator Mark Makuc, we have rescheduled the town meeting from the customary date to Saturday, June 27, at 9:30 a.m., and we have tentatively decided to hold it in the firehouse pavilion. We plan to assure social distancing and we want to remind everyone that given the size of the gathering, the governor's order would require the wearing of masks.

Town Elections: We also rescheduled the general election to June 30, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For safety and convenience, we have mailed applications for absentee ballots to all voters so that they can avoid coming to town hall to vote in person. Anyone can use an absentee ballot regardless of whether you are in town or not. Town hall will be open for voting only during those hours.

Town Beach: We decided to re-open the beach for the summer effective on Memorial Day, but its use will be limited

by the continued need to respect social distancing rules. For that reason, we decided to limit the available parking and to remove the picnic tables. We also decided not to open the beach toilet. I hope that beach users will be mindful of the needs of their neighbors and consequently will limit the time they spend there so that the beach and swimming can be available to as many people as possible during each day.

As of this writing, the basketball court, the softball field, and the children's playground remain closed.

Every week the select board discusses coronavirus issues, and considers modification of prior decisions with input from our local board of health. I would urge anyone who thinks we've gotten something wrong to speak up at our meetings. Keep in mind that we now meet by video conference. You can join the meeting by computer or telephone. Just follow the instructions on our published agenda at montereyma.gov.

Town Budget

Budgeting has been a difficult process this year because of the intervention of the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic uncertainty. As a result, we have put off some large capital expenditures and reduced some operating line items. However, as you will see on June 27, the budget respects the financial circumstances of our citizens while assuring that services will not be diminished. It is the product of extensive and careful consideration by both the select board and the finance committee.

One other matter. You have probably noticed the sign saying that town hall was closed. We intended to convey that it was closed to the public to increase the safety and health of the town's employees. It has never been closed for work.

—Don Coburn

Monterey Select Board

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



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Village Culvert Project

Since 2018, the Town of Monterey has actively been participating in the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. Through the program, the state provides assistance to towns and cities throughout the Commonwealth to begin planning for climate change. This includes identifying municipal vulnerabilities and corresponding mitigation strategies to reduce damage and disruptions caused by heavy downpours, flooding, high winds, drought, spread of invasive pests/disease, and so forth—all of which are exacerbated by climate change.

The Project

Through the MVP planning process, the Main Road/Route 23 crossing in the village was identified as a key vulnerability, as climate data for the region projects heavier and more frequent rainfall events. Changes in precipitation increase the likelihood of flooding and roadway ponding in certain areas which damages infrastructure, slows commutes and commerce, and can isolate neighborhoods and critical facilities from emergency access. As a result, the town was awarded funding to begin the process of redesigning the crossing structure—referred to by this project as the Main Road/Route 23 culvert.

In early 2019, the town contracted GZA Environmental (GZA) to provide conceptual design associated with the replacement of the Main Road culvert over Konkapot River. By the end of this Phase I project, GZA will complete wetlands delineation work, site survey and topographic map, subsurface ex-



Photo courtesy GZA Environmental

plorations for the culvert, and a hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) study to better understand movement of the water, including volume and rate of flow, as it moves through the channel. After this, GZA will conduct an environmental constraints analysis, concluding with the engineering evaluation and permitting-level design for the culvert. After the conceptual design is completed, the town will eventually move this project toward the construction of a replacement structure.

River and Stream Crossing Standards

This culvert replacement project is particularly relevant to river and stream crossing standards. The Division of Ecological Restoration's (DER) 2nd edition *Massachusetts Stream Crossing Handbook* outlines the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards, which are meant to assist local decision-makers in the design of culverts and bridges for fish and wildlife passage.

Improving wildlife passage of small bridges and culverts further enhances a

Notice of Passing

Dorothy Enlund, 82, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, April 26, with her loving husband Bill by her side.

Editor's Note: The News learned of her passing just before going to print.

structure's ability to handle excess flows during high precipitation events (i.e. heavy rainstorms). This reduces the likelihood of roadway ponding, road washouts, and flood-induced property damage from re-directed flows of blocked culverts.

Participatory Planning

The town would like to hear from residents about this replacement project. If you would like more information about the project, or have ideas for the project that you'd like town officials to hear, such as suggestions for incorporating green infrastructure (ex. rain gardens) or considerations that should be given to the surrounding area, please contact: Senior Planner Caroline Massa, at Cmassa@berkshireplanning.org, and Transportation Planner Justin Gilmore, at Jgilmore@berkshireplanning.org.

—Dennis Lynch
Town of Monterey

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Library Curbside Pickup

Welcome to the new way of checking out items from the Monterey Library in the era of Covid-19. Governor Baker is allowing curbside services, so the Monterey Library began on Tuesday, May 26. We ask for your understanding as we will be working this out as we go. We appreciate your patience! The safety of the patrons and the staff require that we take the extra time and effort to making this process safe.

Though much of the process is familiar, here are a few tips that will help to make the process more successful.

As before, the software for CWMARS allows you to place a hold on an item in another library as before. But without statewide delivery, and not knowing for sure if the other owning library is even open, you will not get that item. So it is easy to get confused.

What you can get is any item that is physically in the Monterey Library. However:

- Some of our materials are in transit or currently borrowed by patrons from other libraries. Until delivery starts up again, those items will remain unavailable.
- All of our materials will undergo a quarantine once they are returned, so even though you know that item was returned, it will take up to a week before it is available.
- It is also unclear how the hold system itself will behave—for instance if someone from another library is higher on the queue.

To Order Curbside Materials

Your first step to take advantage of the curbside is to get to the online catalog and find out what is in the building.

- Search for “bark CWMARS” in your browser. You will be brought a link for the CWMARS catalog. What you should look at first are the three main options of the search.
- The **first option** is defaulted to “Keyword.” You may elect to search instead for a title or the author.
- The **second option** you’ll see is defaulted to “All Formats.” You need to choose a specific format. If you don’t, you will receive results which may include electronic resources. You are welcome to download those resources and use them, but this will reliably distinguish between actual books and the e-resources. Please select book, DVD, or whatever format you’d like. If you want both the movie and the book, you should do two separate searches. If you use the default, you will not be easily able to tell what exists within this building.
- The **third option** is also important. The default is “All CWMARS libraries,” but again, you can only borrow what is here. Scroll down and click on Monterey for the most direct way to find out what is here. (If you don’t mind driving to another library that has curbside, and others will be starting soon, you can click on that town in your search and contact them about getting it from there.)
- After you’ve set the three options, you can type what you’d like to borrow in the search field and click.

If you have success, the next step is to look at the status, which is on the righthand side of the line with details of the copy. It may say “available,” “in transit,” “on hold shelf,” or even “checked out.” Because we are not fully in synch with delivery and other libraries, the item may look available, but we may not be able to help you. If it is checked out to someone from a library that is still closed and delivery has not yet started, it may be a long time to come to Monterey.

Hopefully what you see on the screen is what you were looking for, so regardless of the status, the next step is to click “copy hold,” found on the right side to the left of the status. If you just click the normal “hold” it might get assigned to a book from another library and you won’t get it. (If you click simply “hold” it can be assigned to another library.

There are even more options in searching just below the previously mentioned three. To be clear, you should not click to “limit to available items” because as I wrote, the actual status is not always available. The status could change, and if you put a hold on it, we will notify you when it is available. Do not click on “show results from all libraries.” You may click on “exclude electronic resources,” again just to make sure there is no confusion with downloadable items.

Now that you have told the CWMARS software you want the item, we still need another step which will greatly aid us in getting you your materials.

PETER S. VALLIANOS ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Please email us, montereylibrarycurbside@gmail.com, with your name and how best to contact you, let us know that you have placed holds, and we will be able to follow up with you. You can also call 413-528-3795 during open hours with questions and requests. We will contact you when we have the materials ready and arrange for a pickup time.

Pickup will be outside the library during regular library hours. The front door is sheltered under a roof so we should be ok except in very bad weather. We ask that you pick up your bag promptly so the next patron can do the same while using social distancing. Your bag will contain the already checked out items that have been retrieved from the shelf and checked out by our staff, who will be wearing masks and gloves.

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Items can be returned in the book and media drops as before. We will be quarantining them, so expect a delay between when you drop them in the box and when they are checked in. Monterey library has no late fines, so do not worry about that. However, as soon as you are done with your items, it would be helpful for you to return them so we can start the quarantine process and lend those items back out again.

Here are a few other points. If you would like to borrow a stack of picture books for children, feel free to email or call. We can do our best to pick out a selection. Magazines are often harder to find in the catalog. You can ask us for the most recent one if you have no preference for a specific issue. If you are looking for a specific issue, under format options, you would select “serial publications and magazines.” Make sure Monterey is selected under the location.

Online Browsing New Items

We realize what is missing is the browsing experience. There are two options to help you find out what is new to our collection. On the CWMARS catalog home page, there is a search option that allows you to click to see new titles at your library, from within the last fourteen days. You can also sign up for Wowbrary, and those instructions are on our website. For this period of the reopening you will have to browse electronically.

The library doors will not open to the public until the governor allows it during the next phase, the trustees and local Board of Health approve the plan, and the staff has made modifications and trained to make the library safe. There may also be restrictions and baby steps along the way before all services are restored. Hopefully no steps sideways or backward.

This is a new experience to all of us. Thank you for having patience while we work out the bugs. Feel free to email montereylibrarycurbside@gmail.com, or call 413-528-3795 with questions. As with electronic resources since the beginning of this shutdown, we can issue a card to you remotely if you don't have one. Let us know how we can help you.

— Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org



Paul Epstein is convinced the town library was upgraded to compete for market share with his own remodeled library on Hupi Road. The Elephant Rock Book Swap has offered curbside pickup ever since its beginning.

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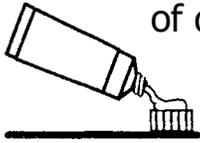


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Route 23 Monterey

Lake Garfield Working Group

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held its monthly meeting remotely by phone conference on Tuesday, May 12. Dennis Lynch gave an update of the work being done on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection water quality management grant 604b. Dennis met with Shawn Tryon of the Monterey Highway Department and Rob Hoogs of Foresight Land Services to review the scope and location of work aimed at mitigating surface water runoff, a source of phosphorus loading, in Lake Garfield. The grant is to be funded by the state except for two separate contributions intended as good faith representation of local support from the Town of Monterey and The Friends of Lake Garfield pending approval by both organizations at their respective annual meetings. Included in the projected work of the grant will be a surface water catchment along the low lying area of Hupi Road as well as assistance for rain garden construction for interested property owners.

Michael Germain reported on the recent survey and the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) of invasive Eurasian milfoil, and reviewed the report

of last year's success in diminishing these weeds. The DASH work performed this spring under contract between the Town of Monterey and New England Aquatics took place in the third week of May. New England Aquatics reported that the divers were able to view all active areas of milfoil growth, eliminate two large but sparsely vegetated patches, and continue to work on the largest patch of dense growth.

The last item on our agenda was a review and discussion of the funding anticipated for the 2021 fiscal year, including the importance of continuing the progress made against the spread of milfoil, and the importance of maintaining continuity in lake research, to inform and enable best management practices going forward.

The next meeting of the LGWG is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, at 7 p.m. Unless otherwise noted, the meeting will be by remote conference call, with call-in details to be found on the town website, montereyma.gov. Go to "Boards & Commissions" and find the agenda on the LGWG page. All interested parties are encouraged to join.

—Steve Snyder
Chair, Lake Garfield Working Group

Monterey Community Center

One of the few positive things about being in the midst of a pandemic is that it showcases the ability of people to adapt and just get on with their lives, in spite of the hardships. Three months ago the idea of conducting most of our social and recreational pursuits primarily online would have seemed ludicrous. Now it is the norm.

So the spirit of the Monterey Community Center continues to thrive, in spite of the building being physically closed. Yoga classes and the Monterey Community Chorus continue to meet as usual, just not in person. (See articles by Oren Rosenthal and Connie Wilson on page 11). The bridge players have discovered Bridge Base Online, where you can play bridge anytime with people from all over the world. The Monterey group generally tends to convene at their usual 1 p.m. time, but if you feel like playing at some other time there is the opportunity to do so. You can chat with the people who are playing, join a game, or just watch if you choose. The Monterey Community Center committee is busy planning possible online classes as well as some outdoor activities when we get the go ahead to do so. We will keep you posted on these as they are developed.

The need to get outside and garden has really surged and the community garden at the MCC now has all its plots taken. If you are still interested in having a plot elsewhere near Monterey call the Monterey Mutual Aid network. 413-248-6080. They may know of another option.

AI-Anon was holding meetings at the MCC. Since face-to-face meetings are suspended now, if you are looking for an online meeting, go to AI-Anon.org and find out how you can attend a virtual meeting.

Be safe and well and embrace the technology that allows us to be together even when we are apart.

—Laurie Shaw
Chair, Monterey Community Center



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Council on Aging

In early April, while the Council of Aging was mostly canceling activities, Kay Purcell started calling around to active members of the community to join her in a group to try to do something about the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and its social isolation. The CoA had started calling vulnerable seniors, and we were finding that many were doing okay, so far. We realized we didn't really know what the needs were. Michael Johnson offered to help with coordinating and with a free conference call line (this was before any of us ever heard of Zoom!), Melanie Kern came up with a group called Berkshire Community Aid that had a survey about volunteerism. Mary Makuc immediately started a group of mask makers. Andrea Dubrow was working on getting food to compromised people. Kenn Basler offered town funds for sending out a survey. And the Covid-19 committee was formed. In addition to those already mentioned are Norma Champigny, Ruth Campigny, Roz Halberstadter, JoAnn Bell (from California!), Laurie Shaw, Steve Moore, and Evelyn Vallianos. There is a lot of work in printing, folding, addressing, stuffing and stamping 530 envelopes!

So now it's up to you. Please fill out and return the yellow CoA survey you received in the mail to town hall. Go to the town's website, montereyma.gov, to fill out the Monterey Community Aid survey, which can be found by clicking on the Coronavirus Disease Information banner on the website's homepage. We would really appreciate the support. Maybe by the time this comes out, some of the restrictions will be loosened. We can hope...

—Kyle Pierce

Food Access Grocery and Meal Distribution

There are numerous food options available for those in our community needing extra support at this time, especially our senior population, those who have lost their jobs, and those otherwise financially struggling.

The People's Pantry: 5 Taconic Avenue, Great Barrington. Open to shoppers Mondays, 5 to 6:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Due to coronavirus the pantry has replaced its usual self-selection model of shopping with pre-packed bags of staples and fresh foods. Go to: saint-jamesplace.net

WIC Great Barrington: 442 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington. Food distribution once a week, Tuesday, 9:15 a.m. Go to: chpberkshires.org

CHP Great Barrington: 444 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington. Food distribution once a month on Wednesdays. Check their website for date. Go to: chpberkshires.org/calendar/

Sheffield Food Assistance: For residents of Southern Berkshire Regional School District, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Mondays, Old Parish Church, 125 Main St., Sheffield, 413-229-2624.

Berkshire South Regional Community Center: 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. Berkshire South is introducing the Nourishing Neighbors emergency meal supplemental program. Each Wednesday five hundred cold meals from local restaurants will be available through a non-contact drive-thru pick-up distribution program at Berkshire South.

Meal pick-up is 1 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday. Please—no early birds and be prepared to follow traffic routing.



The new cell tower on Chestnut Hill, looking towards the northeast. Photo by Fiber Connect's drone.

Reservations for delivery for those who are home bound can be made each week before Tuesday at 10 a.m. Call 413-717-2674. For all reservations for delivery, or any questions about volunteering, please email meals@berkshiresouth.org.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance) enrollment: phone enrollments are ongoing. Call 413-247-9738. (Formerly known as food stamps.) The Food Bank of western Massachusetts is part of this program.

Mobile Food Bank (Part of Food Bank): 444 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, on the first Tuesday of the month, from 11 a.m. to noon. No eligibility requirements.

Doorstep Delivers: Free store-to-door volunteer delivery service for elderly and immunocompromised community members during COVID-19 outbreak. Go to: doorstepdeliverers.org.

—Andrea DuBrow

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Fossils, watercolor and gouache (36" x 60"), by Katie Ryan Waveris.

Knox Gallery Update

Such great news that the library has begun curbside service during library hours! Unfortunately, however, since the building remains closed to the public for the foreseeable future, the Knox Gallery is still on hiatus. We were disappointed to be forced to postpone both Alan Roland's *Jazz at the Old Smalls* (which was to open in April) and *Every Day*, paintings by Monterey artist Katherine Ryan Waveris (which was to open June 5.) We have rescheduled both for the same slots next year.

Like so much in the world around us right now, Knox Gallery's activities for the balance of 2020 are up in the air. *Cross-currents*, featuring recent work by Julie Shapiro, is tentatively scheduled to open in August, but it, too, may be postponed until

next summer. (Three additional exhibits are scheduled following the summer season: photography by New Marlborough resident Lee Backer, needlepoint by Great Barrington resident Mark Olshansky, and our traditional holiday exhibition.)

We look forward to opening the gallery as soon as is appropriate.

Stay tuned to the *Monterey News*, the library's website, and our facebook page for more details on our exhibits and events, which are admission-free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery. MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

Transfer Station Mandatory—New Stickers

As of July 1, everyone will need a new transfer station sticker placed in the right rear window of your vehicle. Because of the coronavirus there will be NO exceptions.

To purchase your sticker, go to the town website, montereyma.gov, and search "Transfer Station." Follow the prompts. You'll need your license plate number(s), correct street address, and a method of payment. If you use your bank account information, there is no additional charge. If you pay with a credit card there is a nominal transaction fee.

We hope everyone is well and safe, and we hope to see you at the transfer station soon.

—Beth and Dave
Transfer Station Attendants

Monterey Garden Tour Last Week in July

With Tanglewood and Jacob's Pillow closed this summer, and theater productions limited, we need something to look forward to. So mark your calendar for the last week in July for a Monterey Garden Tour!

Once again, Clark's Nursery in Lee, will donate plants to make the garden tour even more exciting. The \$10 admission will go directly to a local food bank. Details in the July issue of the *Monterey News*.

—Myrna Rosen
413-528-9090

Monterey News Late July Issue

Readers,

Another unexpected result of the Covid-19 impact is that the July issue will be delayed. The select board moved the annual town meeting (June 27) and town elections (June 30). To be able to report on both of these significant annual events, the paper will be later. I hope to have it available by the middle of the second week of July.

Thank you for reading,

—Stephen Moore, Editor



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Zooming Yoga

Tuesday mornings at 10, join us for free chair yoga class every week until we can be physically together again! Whether you've come to our community center class in the past or are a brand new beginner, all are welcome to enjoy the practice of yoga without getting down on the floor and without leaving the comfort of your own home.

The length of the class is about thirty-five minutes, including centering, breathing practice, and movement. We close with a few minutes of relaxation and integration so you can let the benefits of your practice sink in. Sponsored by the Monterey Parks Commission, this class is appropriate for people of all ages and physical abilities. Participants are always offered options to adopt the practice as needed.

The Zoom link to the class is available by calling Connie Wilson at 528-3798, or by emailing Mary Makuc forty-eight hours ahead of time at calendar@ccmonterey.org.

—Connie Wilson

Monterey Community Chorus

Covid-19 has certainly changed the way we sing together. The Monterey Community Chorus is in the same boat as millions of churches and community choruses and even professional choruses. The problem is this—there is no way we can sing together as a group simultaneously, live online, because of a phenomenon called “lag time.” There is a delay between the host and others, and even between participants, which makes “group singing” impossible.

In our initial ignorant state, we tried a live unmuted group Zoom chorus, and though it was good to see people, as one member put it, singing was “tedious.” But we didn't give up. Through trial and error, and watching how other choruses dealt with it, we have figured out a way to make it work...well enough. Learning how to mute and unmute people is the key. While singing a song, usually everyone can hear just me and themselves, but they can see everyone else smiling and moving their mouths. It is enough to feel like we are together, engaged in singing together, and just the act of singing is therapeutic. In between songs we can all unmute and chat and laugh and hear about how we all are doing.

And we are experimenting with call and response singing, unmuted, where for instance, a leader sings a line of a song like “Michael Row the Boat Ashore,” and each member, one at a time, can sing a response such as “Hallelujah!”

Does all this work? Let me put it this way—one of our chorus members initially said she wouldn't participate, and would wait until we could get together live. She decided to try online once, and now, she is enthusiastic and regular in her participation. We humans can adapt, amazingly so.

We still welcome new members, and anyone interested in trying it out can send their email to me (Orenrose@aol.com) or Mary Makuc (calendar@ccmonterey.org) and we can send you a Zoom invite, and some words to the music, and even a “voice note” so you can hear the song! Let us know! In fact, you can live anywhere in the world and attend chorus rehearsals! We meet every other week on Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m., EST. This month we will sing on June 3 and June 17. However, it is possible we might try at least one meeting at 4 p.m., outdoors. If you're at all interested, please email me so I can give you the details.

—Oren Rosenthal

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Candidate Statement

John Weingold for Select Board

I have been told by the powers that be and/or the town's voters that I am not "well known." My name is John F. Weingold, I am running for a Monterey Select Board position to represent the residents and the taxpayers. I have lived in town since 1989. I started building my home in 1988 on Fairview Road. I am a licensed attorney in three states—Florida, New York, and Massachusetts. I have been practicing civil injury law in Pittsfield for over thirty years. I have handled major car defect cases, wrongful death cases, car wrecks, and various other injury cases in those years.

Family History

My family and I have strong ties with Monterey starting in the mid-to-late 1950s. My parents worked in the kitchen at Gould Farm to pay for their ship passage from Europe to Ellis Island, then to Monterey, chasing the American dream of a better life. The family moved briefly to Great Barrington, then settled in a home in Housatonic on Route 41, where I was raised. I remember years later, as a youngster, being dragged from Housatonic to attend square dances at Gould Farm. My mother, with me in tow, spent a great deal of time at Chief Backhaus's grandparents' home having tea and cookies and occasionally picking mushrooms in the woods.

My parents saw forest land for sale on Fairview Road (I think it was called Prospect Road then, and earlier appropriately named "Mud Road") and they purchased it. We hand-built a small cabin and sheds from lumber from the sawmill in Hartsville. We stayed many summers through the 60s at the cabin. We made maple syrup, had chickens, collected firewood, and went deer hunting in the fall. The cabin had no foundation, no electricity, no running water; we had an outhouse and a rotary phone. The refrigerator ran on propane gas. Light was by Coleman lantern and candles. The woodstove had an oven and a fifteen-gallon hot water tank. Water was from a hand dug well with a hand pump. In the winter, the road was not plowed, so access to the cabin was slogging through deep snow for check ups and deer hunting.

Many of my summer days, when not playing baseball in Great Barrington, were spent at the Lake Garfield beach, swimming. Brewer pond then was a swamp across the street from the beach and the original road curved up the hill. I learned to swim in Fran Amidon's swim classes at the beach. In those days the Roadside Store was a general store with penny candy, ice cream bars, and gas pumps. I would see the campers walking single file down the hill to the Roadside Store to get their goodies.

Select Board Seat

I think a select board member's decisions should be based on facts, data, logic, fiscal moderation, empathy, advancing the town's long range goals and plans, with the taxpayers' tax burden in mind. By my nature, I'm a penny pincher and a coupon clipper. I don't like to see taxpayer dollars being wasted on the few at the expense of the majority of the full-time residents. While nearly half of the town's taxpayers, the second-home owners, have no vote on the town budget, I don't think that gives government an open checkbook for all kinds of department spending on very questionable budget items. This pandemic should focus town spending on items that are truly needed versus wants.

I think the select board should be setting town policy (short and long term) and establishing the town's strategic long-range direction. Let a town administrator handle the daily administration of town personnel and other micro-management issues of government procedures. This would free up the select board to start focusing on strategy for the town's future success and financial strength.

The town's current long-ignored Bylaws need to be pulled out of the dark abyss into present-day reality. The Bylaws need to be debated, issues addressed and updated sooner than later.

I'm interested in the topic of a town Charter, but don't yet have enough information to formulate a position.

With high-speed internet now in the town hall (a special thank you to my



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neighbor Larry Klein who has spent so much time and life energy on this issue), all meetings should be video-recorded and available for all to see at their leisure. The public taxpayer is entitled to see the entire decision-making process affecting their lives and their money; not just the various decisions by the board and the end results. I think the town's website needs to be professionally updated and secured with relevant town financial data, i.e. any information that the citizen needs to make informed decisions about their government and how it is spending their tax money, well before the annual town meeting. The website should, by law, be accessible to upload data, reports, minutes, and financials by all town departments and boards. One person should not control the town's website, uploads, and all the town

data. Missing from the town's website are the executive sessions minutes on issues that have long passed and should have been released under the MA law, Public Records Act MGL c. 66, § 10, which states, "Executive session minutes must be released to the public as soon as the stated purpose for the executive session protection has ceased" (*Handbook of Public Records Law*).

I think the select board needs to be more critical of spending, and foster and build a team approach with the finance committee, for the best interests of the community, by which I mean the taxpayers. I don't think downplaying and overlooking the finance committee's hard work on budget items are what the powers of a select board member necessarily entail. I don't see much respect between

the select board and finance committee. I don't think that helps the budget process or the town. I'm unsure that the recently proposed power shift by a board member to control the budget process over the finance committee will benefit the taxpayer. Given the board's past, seemingly joyful spending, the finance committee has to be a fiscal hawk and a check on the town's spending habits, if the select board does not want to do that job.

I have serious reservations on many proposed town spending projects, annual budget, borrowing, and debt accumulation, and certain departments' spending. I don't know what one person can do to change things in town, but with your support and input, I will be trying to effectuate change with a view on a sound fiscal future and long-range planning, while keeping the small town feel, and in a town where locals on a fixed income can still comfortably live.

— John Weingold

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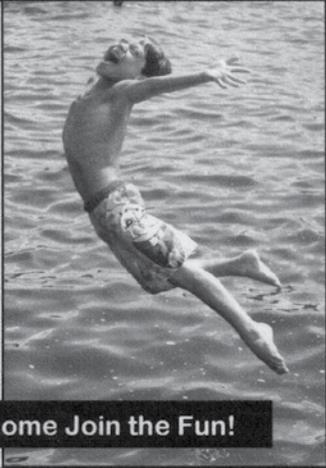
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To order t-shirts, go to MontereyT-shirts.com and click on the "Local Town" store to find the beautiful *Monterey News* shirts, with the medallion designed by Maureen Banner. The shirts are available from sizes extra-small to extra-large.

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

Here's a Thought

After last month's snow, isn't it a relief to indulge in the warm sunshine? We've been aiming toward summer solstice, June 21, for six months and this longest day of the year is finally in our sights.



The world around us is responding, too. Stand outdoors and listen: songbirds are singing; woodpeckers are pecking. Look around: trees are in leaf; flowering plants are blooming. Feel the air as it moves past your face. Inhale: the fragrances are specific to the season, too. Pick a plant you can definitely identify as edible—if you aren't well versed in wild edibles, the best choice for this month is strawberries from Guido's—and taste what it offers.



None of these beings, or activities, show up entirely on their own, of course. They're part of a larger cycle of life that's bigger than the sum of its parts.

We humans, at least in western culture, tend to categorize both the cycle and those parts in our attempts to understand them. In this case, we've named the cycle

The Seasons and call this month's parts The End of Spring and The Beginning of Summer.

But neither cycle nor parts stay still long enough for our labels to stick, except in our minds. While we're busy categorizing, life keeps on doing what it does best: living. After all, the cycle and the parts aren't nouns, they're verbs.

Really? Yes, really. Try this sentence, for example: Songbirds are singing. It usually describes an action that certain birds perform. When the verb "are" stands alone, rather than as part of the participle are singing, the sentence offers the listener, or you, dear reader, another layer of meaning altogether: when they are singing, songbirds are what they do. In other words, (the) songbirds are (their) singing.

Of course, the same is true if I say, songbirds are nesting. Or hatching. Or flying. The songbirds, themselves, are verbs. They're living unions of being and action, much more than the sum of their parts.

It's true for us, too. As these words show up on the screen, I am writing. I'm both currently performing that action and also, as I write, I am the words I write. As you read, you are the words you read. That's either comfortable, or not. They resonate with you, raise your hackles, or have already left you so indifferent that you haven't read this far.

We're more than reading and writing, though. Like the songbirds, like spring, like summer, we're each a living union of being and action. And so is our town.

Luckily, we have the *Monterey News*, which, editor after editor, strives to capture who we are as well as what we do. That may be what makes our paper, too, more than the sum of its parts. It's the living document of our lived experience.

That approach to writing reminds me of Thornton Wilder's classic play *Our Town*. I can still remember how deeply it moved me when I first saw it, then read it. Hoping to find it in performance this summer is off the table, of course, so I'm going to reread it instead. My favorite online used-bookstore (alibris) had at least ten more copies at less than two dollars apiece on May 20. Small Covid-19 fringe benefit here: even with shipping, that's way less than a theater ticket.

—Mary Kate Jordan



Donovan Sawyer is at left, above. US Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey.

Donovan Sawyer National Guard

Our daughter Donovan is attending Nicholls College as a criminal justice major with the intent to go to the police academy some time after college. She enlisted in the Army National Guard in January 2019, and completed her basic and specialty training as military police this past August through January. She jumped right back into school and ended up home in March to finish remotely like everyone else. Her unit was activated in early April, so she finished school while providing security for a facility for testing and housing the homeless population that needs observation or Covid-19 care.

The picture was sent to me by Sheffield police chief Eric Munson, who saw it in the Penny Saver. He worked with the girls at Kops 'N Kids. Donovan's the tall one on the left!

—Suzanne Sawyer

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The Catbird is Back

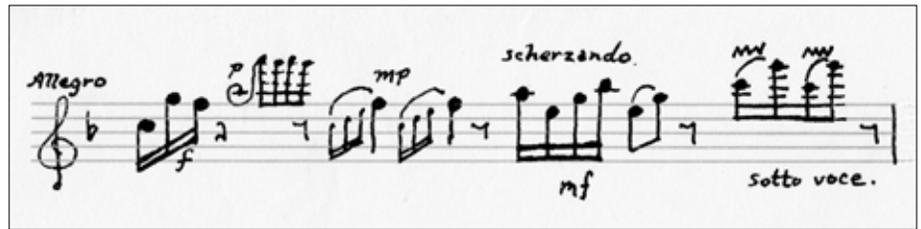
April comes, May slides in, and we wonder if “the catbird” will be back. Times are uncertain always, but many of us hope this is one of those seasonal pleasures that will come again this year.

There are others. In the bird department I have been wistful about the chewinks, as my dad called them. They are also called rufous-sided towhees, or just towhees. These different common names for the same bird have been chosen by folks who focus some on sound and some on appearance. The birds do have rufous sides. To some they seem to say “chewink,” and to others they say “towhee.” Still others think the bird says something like “Drink your tea.” Or maybe “Chewink, towhee!”

The towhees stay low to the ground, mostly, and scritch up dead leaves looking for things to eat. They scritch with both feet at once, then hop back and do it again. When not actually foraging, they hop or fly up into the bushes and say “chewink, towhee!” Sometimes just one or the other of these remarks. I have been wistful about towhees the last few years, neither seeing nor hearing them in these parts. This year I was nervous about the catbirds, too. Where was everybody?

And then one morning in May I heard the towhee! What a welcome sound, full of memories of all our lives here, of Dad who preferred “chewinks,” of our own kids growing up and us pointing out these birds. I listened to the call again, my sentimental memories on the alert. I thought, “This call sounds slightly odd, maybe less strident and more musical than I’d remembered.”

I was suspicious I might actually have been hearing a catbird. I hadn’t seen one yet, but they do come every year. Their name makes you think they must sound like cats, and sometimes they do. They are mockers or copiers of other sounds. Someone once took notes on this and I read in Edward Howe Forbush’s *Birds of Massachusetts* (1929) that catbirds can imitate thirty-four species of birds. He also recounts that there was a catbird heard every evening from a front porch in Fall River, which sang repeatedly the first three phrases of “Taps.” Forbush writes that there was a cemetery nearby where the bird no doubt heard a bugle play this salute from time to time.



Catbird music, after F. Schuyler Mathews, *Field Book of Wild Birds and their Music*. G.P. Putnam and Sons, N.Y., 1904.

Having heard the song of the towhee, I kept my eye out for him and hoped to hear it again, though it had been absent here for years. In a few days I saw the singer—and it was a catbird! I was happy to have him back, and he was pretty quiet. This is so when they first arrive. In a few days the males will be up in the higher branches of the shrubbery giving voice with considerable “vocal appropriation,” as it is called.

Forbush writes, “The bird’s moods are many. It is in turn a merry jester, a fine musician, a mocking sprite, and a screaming termagant, —but always an interesting study.” He goes on, “It is somewhat startling at times to hear the catbird’s sweetest song interrupted by a perfect imitation of some harsh cry such as that of the great-crested flycatcher, the squawk of a hen, the cry of a lost chicken, or the spitting of a cat.”

So we humans identify with each other, and with other critters in our neighborhood. What is the catbird really saying? What is the point of all this repertoire? Those given to counting and measuring might be able to correlate some territorial, practical, or reproductive success rate that can be attributed to strongest voice, or most appropriated songs expressed per day. Others less apt to stand back and correlate are more

likely to smile and freely identify with the bird, with pure expression. We say, “That doggone bird is making my day. Must be having a good day, himself.”

What of the original author of the song? How about the towhee, the bugler, the spitting cat? These singers are just as expressive as the mocker and when we hear them firsthand, many of us will say, “That doggone bugler is speaking to me, speaking for me. I am making a salute.”

So we folks do have an ability, a tendency, to interpret and to appropriate. We empathize, we take in and make of another’s song our own heart feelings. For me, hearing the catbird sing the song of the towhee let me picture that strong bright bird, scritch and hopping back on the ground, with his bright orange and handsome black. My pleasure was shaded with memories, and some concern.

And then one day. . . ! I kid you not. I saw an actual rufous-sided towhee near the path up to the garden. This is the first one in years and there is no doubt. Is this the bird I heard sing “Drink your tea!” days back, before I’d seen either him or the catbird? Who cares! I was happy then and I am happy now. Thank you, dear birds of this place, of this season.

—Bonner McAllester

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Fiber Connect Update Funding Agreement with MBI

On Wednesday, May 13, 2020, the boards of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) approved a grant award to Fiber Connect to expand their fiber optic broadband coverage to at least 96% of Monterey and Egremont. The grant will commit the full MBI allocations for each town. This action by the MBI and the MTC boards reflects the culmination of sustained negotiations between MBI and Fiber Connect to reach mutual agreement on a grant term sheet. The “grant term sheet” is a high-level outline of the terms and conditions that will constitute the final agreement. Fiber Connect expects the remaining details will be resolved quickly and satisfactorily for both parties. With the grant award made, we anticipate working with the Monterey Select Board to conclude a separate broadband services agreement based on our response to the town’s request for proposal (RFP).

51% Registration Requirement

A key prerequisite of project commencement is for each town to reach a 51% take-rate for our service. Monterey’s current take-rate is approximately 27%, whereas Egremont’s take-rate meets this requirement. MBI has expressed that intent alone among new sign-ups is insufficient proof of a take-rate percentage, whereas registration coupled with a deposit will validate intent. Going forward, we will ask all existing and future registrations for a \$50 deposit to be applied toward installation. You can access our registration form on our website bfcma.com. Once your registration is reviewed, you will be invoiced for the \$50 deposit. Payment options—credit/debit cards, Apple Pay and check—are explained on the invoice. To learn more visit bfcma.com/egremontmontereysubsidizedbuild. To hasten network completion, we encourage you to sign up as soon as possible.

Next Steps

Once the 51% take rate requirement is met, Fiber Connect will make pole license applications for the remaining poles in each town. This will start the “make ready”



process with the pole owners, National Grid and Verizon. Monterey residents are already familiar with the utilities’ delays in make ready, and that Fiber Connect has no control over its pace. Given this, Fiber Connect will build in neighborhoods where make ready is completed instead of waiting until all licenses are approved for cable attachment.

Covid-19 Policies

Deemed an essential business under Covid-19 directives, Fiber Connect has not halted making drops and installs within its footprint. To continue to keep our crew, staff, and customers safe, we have adopted new operational policies that you can find at bfcma.com/fiber-connect-policies. Within

these policies we require premise owners and their representatives to maintain social distancing from our crew, to wear face coverings while crews are on site, to complete a questionnaire and to sign a waiver stating that they understand the risks of Covid-19 transmission and are still voluntarily choosing to proceed. Fiber Connect reserves the right to deny any service visit.

Our Monterey office remains a remote operation. We ask that you prioritize email contact over phone using sales@bfcma.com for general business questions plus assistance with sign up and support@bfcma.com for remote technical assistance.

—Adam Chait, CEO
Fiber Connect

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Newly Formed Ad Hoc Broadband Committee

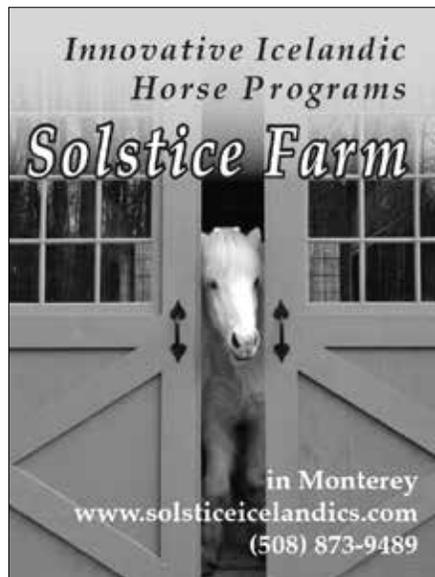
This winter, during a regular Wednesday morning Monterey Select Board meeting, before the Covid-19 changed the way we work, one of the topics was high-speed internet. The board reiterated its frustration with the lack of progress in getting reliable, high-speed fiber optic broadband service installed in our town, and suggested to the townspeople in attendance that day that perhaps they would consider taking a fresh look and offer new insights into how the town might move along with its quest.

That's how this ad hoc broadband committee came to be. We wish we had more news to share with you at this time, but the pandemic has slowed our progress. We have met several times and see some ways in which we may be able to help. We will begin to share information with you as it becomes available.

—Chris Blair, Dennis Downing,
BJ Johnson, Hillel Maximon,
Stephen Moore, and Cliff Weiss

Having a Good Day

- You arrive at the grocery store and realize that you forgot your mask! But just then a friend calls to you, and realizing your predicament, leaves a new mask on the hood of his car.



Stevens Lake Area Broadband

I decided to see what was needed to break the logjam for Fiber Connect LLC to connect to our homes in the Stevens Lake area and along that section of Route 23. One of the major blockages is the “make ready” work to be done on Route 23 involving only four poles that Verizon wants replaced. A proposal by Fiber Connect to route the fiber cable along the backside of a stretch of guard rails was accepted by the select board. This proposal should eliminate the pole problem.

I asked members of the Stevens Lake Association, homeowners on Stevens Lake Road and Route 23 from 66 Main Road (by the solar array) to Blue Hill Road (by the Veterans Memorial) to express their interest in this endeavor. To date the twenty homes in the Stevens Lake Association

(100%), three of four homes on Stevens Lake Road, and nine homes on Route 23 have expressed an interest. This represents a total of thirty-two positive responses, one no, and five who have not replied.

The next step will be getting Verizon to issue the “make ready” report. If Fiber Connect removes the four problematic poles from their pole application to the utilities, and then expresses an immediate need to Verizon, we can hopefully get moving on at least this portion of the Monterey network.

It is worth pointing out that this problem area along Route 23 has prevented Fiber Connect from being able to connect their network from their head-end located near the fire house over to the west end of Route 57 and then east on Route 57 towards Hartsville.

—William ‘BJ’ Johnson

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

Name(s): _____

Monterey Street Address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Contact: (check better way) Phone: _____

Email: (print legibly) _____

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

Letters

Getting Governor Baker Involved

The following letter was sent to the governor on May 18, 2020.

Dear Governor Baker:

Most of us have never lived through such uncharted circumstances as those brought on by the current COVID19 pandemic. We are grateful to you and to your administration for doing your utmost to keep the citizens and residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—and in particular, our small Town of Monterey—healthy and safe.

You asked us to help stem the spread of the pandemic by staying at and working from home. It is fair to say that, by-and-large, we have complied. Now, we are asking you for help in getting the necessary tool to enable us to continue staying at and working from home safely—reliable and secure high-speed broadband internet service.

No Longer a Luxury—the Internet is a Necessity

Internet connectivity is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Today, we pay our income taxes, real estate taxes, and our bills online. We renew licenses and apply for jobs online. We have been encouraged to complete the 2020 census online. Companies have ceased publishing catalogues and refer us to their websites for product and service information. Brick-and-mortar stores are giving way to internet sites.

Zooming has taken on a whole new meaning. It sounds like an oxymoron to say that we zoom at home, but we do! Zooming has replaced the classroom, in-person religious services, and family communications and celebrations. Zooming and the internet have transformed health and medical care from the personal to the virtual, and from the necessary to the urgent. The world has been zooming, while we are at a standstill in Monterey. Without reliable and secure internet connectivity, we cannot accomplish any of this—and stay at home safely.

Social Considerations

There is more to life than just work. People need a balance between work and the things that interest them. Some people like to read books, but with no physical access to libraries, they need the internet to download books. Others enjoy going to the movies or attending the theater, but with no open venues, they need the internet to view these arts.

Staying at home for very long periods of time, with very little to do other than work, brings on cabin-fever—and with cabin-fever ill social behaviors. The recent reports of spousal and child abuse, increased drug and alcohol use, petty thefts and break-ins, as well as suicides should be enough for us to want to take steps to ease the pains associated with dealing with this, and any future pandemic.

If Not Now—When?

More than ninety years ago, in the days before television and the internet, it took just eighteen months to build the Empire State Building. More than fifty years ago, in the days before personal computers and cell service, man landed on the moon only eight years after the first manned space mission. Something seems wrong when in this high-tech world, we cannot get reliable internet service that we were promised more than twelve years ago.

The horse is out of the barn, as the saying goes, but the pundits believe it will come back bigger and stronger than when it left. Now is the time to prepare for such eventualities, and we are respectfully asking you for your guidance and help.

How Can You Help Us?

We are hoping that your office would become actively involved in solving the specific dilemmas facing our town, ones that have seemingly defied a solution for many years. Monterey desperately needs to get passed the roadblocks, and move quickly to a fully built-out, high-speed, secure, and reliable fiberoptic broadband network.

— Hillel Maximon and Stephen Moore

If you wish to contact our state government officials, refer to the list below. (Rep. Michael Barrett is chair for the legislature’s Commission on Telecommunications and Utilities.) One of the best ways the state could help Monterey right now is for support to move the utilities to complete outstanding pole license applications, and to move quickly on new applications and the “make-ready” work.

- The Governor: Go to mass.gov; enter “Baker” in the search box; and then click on “Email the Governor.”
- Senator Adam Hinds: adam.hinds@masenate.gov
- Senator Michael Barrett: Michael.Barrett@masenate.gov
- Representative Smitty Pignatelli: repsmitty@mahouse.gov

Remembrance Jane Volckhausen

Jane Braucher Volckhausen died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, at the age of one hundred, on January 26, 2019. Jane lived her long life with compassion, joy, and commitment to helping to create a better world for all of us. Jane grew up in Long Island and received her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College. Her father was director of the National Recreation Association and her early jobs involved creative family recreation programs. At age twenty, she lived in Geneva working for the International Labor Organization, until the escalation of World War II forced her to take one of the last passenger ships still sailing to the USA. While working in public housing in Washington, D.C., she met a young man involved in organizing healthcare and food cooperatives—Bob Volckhausen. They married in 1947 and lived in Greenbelt, Maryland, a town built as a model of cooperative housing during the New Deal. Moving to Hampton,

Virginia, Jane and Bob joined the Friends Meeting, where Quaker values of simplicity, justice, and caring for all people shaped their lives. Working for peace and civil rights, they took their four children to demonstrations against the war in Vietnam. Jane agreed to speak to a small rally against segregation, but then found herself in front of television cameras and a huge crowd which broke into applause at her words. Later the family attended Highlander Folk School, where Martin Luther King spoke with great inspiration. A photo of Jane with an interracial group of children went out on the AP wire across the country, and Jane and Bob were labeled “Communists.” They continued undaunted. Jane was a leader in the League of Women Voters and the United Nations Association in Virginia, recipient of a humanitarian award, and Hampton Woman of the Year.

Jane and Bob never forgot how to play. The family enjoyed summers swimming and sailing at their cottage in Monterey, Massachusetts. Jane and Bob danced together every evening until shortly before



Bob’s death. Jane loved theatre, books, music, dance, and song. Her family feels that in the world of spirit, she is dancing now in the light with Bob. After Bob’s death in 2003, Jane moved to Boulder, Colorado, to live near her son Tom, daughter-in-law Françoise, and grandchildren Taran and Tasia, who embraced Jane into their family and community of friends for many wonderful years. Jane blossomed in her new life at the age of 85, finding close friends and immersing herself in the community of Boulder. She joined the Boulder Friends Meeting, which she called her “spiritual family.” While planning one of her three one-hundredth birthday parties, she said, “If it’s going to be a party, there better be dancing.” And dancing there was, led by her son Jim and friend Tamara. Jane remained vigorous, doing errands by foot in her neighborhood, touching people she met. Visits to the Monterey cottage and to Paul and Karen’s farm in Maine provided cherished reunions with her family. During Jane’s final years, Brookdale North Boulder’s senior community welcomed and supported her. Jane is survived by four children and their spouses: Janet Rose, Paul (Karen), Tom (Françoise Poinatte), and Jim (Gabrielle) Volckhausen; eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Contributions in Jane’s honor can be made to American Friends Service Committee Development, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Visit ahlberg-funeralchapel.com to share condolences.

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Monterey, MA — David Brown, Owner

Field Notes on Sheltering in Place

Where are we now? Week nine, is it? Ten? The days and weeks seem to run into one together in a timeless, dreamlike flow.

I've read that it is the formation of memories by novel episodes that gives time a certain fullness. It's the reason a long vacation weekend filled with different places and activities can feel so expansive. "True experiential variety ... is what gives life the feeling of passing more slowly — getting out of our routines, having adventures," says Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow in a review for *The Nation* of a book called *Pressed for Time*. "It's when the days pass by in a barely distinguishable blur that we look back and think, 'Where did the time go?'"

There was a certain sense of adventure and esprit d' corps for the first two weeks of sheltering in place: the stocking up of staples, the procurement of masks and sanitizers, the challenge of making meals out of whatever was at hand. People looked at the silver linings: Some mentioned relief at being able to slow down a bit and catch one's breath. Tackle set aside projects. Finally get organized. For those who live in a generalized state of high anxiety, said one who knows, a real crisis can almost feel good—finally one's inner world reflects more accurately the outer reality.

Initially I was under the impression that we would sit tight for a couple of weeks, waiting for the peak of the crisis to

pass. It was around week three, I believe, with the closure of Kripalu and Jacob's Pillow, on top of schools, stores and churches, that it became clear that the end was not in sight, that some establishments might not weather the storm, that we would not be going back to the world we knew before. Masks had become *de rigor*, and then, mandatory. Zoom yoga classes were in full swing. Grooming fell by the wayside. Conspiracy theories gained force.

Around that time, I began to seriously miss my coffee shop. I enjoy spending time in what sociologists and urban planners refer to as third places (after home and work): coffee shops, libraries, restaurants, parks, churches, museums, community centers—all the places that are now shut down. Working at home offers too many immediate pleasures and distractions for someone of my proclivities: the phone, the refrigerator, the cats and the many corners that need tidying up. For me, coffee shops, even beyond the power of the brew itself, serve to focus the mind.

Third places also afford at least a chance for spontaneous or casual interactions with friends, acquaintances, and strangers alike. They give one an illusion of being in the stream of life, rather than at home beset with what has become a popular Twitter acronym: FOMO, fear of missing out. My coffee shop used to be the Monterey General Store. When that closed (and, regrettably, shows little sign of opening anytime soon), I shifted my base of operations—essentially my

laptop, phone, and glasses—over to Rubi's in Great Barrington.

Both served well from an eavesdropping point of view. Both attracted a cast of regulars, which lent a certain narrative quality to the experience. At the General Store the gossipy tidbits were quite useful to me as a relative newcomer trying to make sense of local concerns and social dynamics. At Rubi's, conversations take—or took—a more philosophical bent. Politics, metaphysics and environmental activism were all spoken there. Sometimes I would have to stop myself from interjecting my own two cents. And the lattes, soups, and music were all quite to my liking.

As weeks four, five and six merged together, concentration was becoming a real problem. A certain crankiness set in, despite my full acknowledgement of how good I have it. I grew a bit annoyed with what I thought were hysterical reactions to the virus, including having to go to the pavilion behind the fire station to pick up a copy of this paper. Still, the stealth and capriciousness of the virus could not be denied. I had firsthand reports from healthy friends, people younger than I, who had been seriously and painfully ill for extended periods and whose symptoms lingered on. A friend in Mount Vernon knows several people who have died, including a child. And I read accounts of people falling sick who had no idea how they had come in contact with the virus.

Most of the people in my privileged social network are very good sports about the situation we find ourselves in. Several have noted that this is nothing compared with what people suffer during war. Watching episodes of *World on Fire* make this abundantly clear. A couple of artist friends tell me life has not changed all that much for them—they already worked and spent much time alone. And then there are those who seem to have discovered their inner agoraphobia.

A couple of tick bites reminded me that formidable pathogens lie in wait outdoors as well as in the social realm. To ward off depression, I counted my myriad blessings: Meaningful work during March and April when there was really not all that much else to do. An amusing and cheerful boyfriend and two(!) domiciles to hang out in. The possibility that I may



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actually make some headway this year against the invasive plants and catch up with old friends.

As weeks seven, eight and nine sped by, the novelty of staying put and the initial freedom of not having to adhere to schedules began to wear thin. I started to realize how effectively deadlines serve to motivate, to make me more efficient and productive. But then even the notion of productivity itself came into question.

I went to Great Barrington last week to pick up some Mexican food. The parking was wide open. The streets and sidewalks were mostly empty. The few passers by were wearing a variety of masks of different shapes and colors that lent a surreal aspect to the scene, as if they were characters in a dream. As I put mine on, I thought about how much expression veiled Muslim women must have to convey just through their eyes.

Meanwhile a stream of awful news kept coming over the radio—another inspector general fired, another abrupt high-level resignation. More EPA regulations undone, more states being urged to re-open, new levels of incoherence from the White House. As in a dream, nothing was making logical sense.

When the unconscious material they reveal is confronted and somehow reckoned with, dreams can have great transformative power. The Covid-19 nightmare is certainly bringing new levels of shadow to the fore. What's less clear is whether the fissures, vulnerabilities, and dark places laid bare will be acknowledged, processed and transformed, whether something better will emerge.

—Janet Jensen



Stephen Moore

Contributions in May 2020

In our small household, this time of having been released from schedules, appointments, arrangements to meet up with friends and family, has gifted us freedom to concentrate and be busy with daily and seasonal work in a new way.

However, we coincidentally find ourselves relaxed, even lax, at getting to tasks we know we need to do... car inspections, filing our taxes (the new extension didn't help us with getting it done), paying bills, and so on.

If you've been meaning to respond to our annual fund, and, well, just haven't gotten to it, just know we'll appreciate it whenever you can.

Your check can find us at P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

Thank you to everyone below who is helping to keep the paper going!

- Ruth Rosenblatt
- Lee Pachter
- Jeffrey Macklis & Carol Levin
- Rose Marie Johnson
- Everett & Mary Ann Fennelly
- Nancy Kalodner
- Leslie Naughton & Jeff Rubin
- Alice & Joel Schick
- Rosanna Murray & Liz Sanchez
- Jim & Elaine Mazza
- Ed & Meryl Mandelbaum

- Ricki Long & Walter Corwin
- Laura & Stu Litwin
- Joyce Lebewohl
- Marjorie & Barry Jaffe
- Jerry Green
- Laura Dubester
- Paul & Delight Dodyk
- Jodi Clarin
- Earl & Ruth Champigny
- David & Donna Brown
- Brinberg/Lundy Family
- Stella Bodnar
- Ginger Van Wagenen
- Nancy Torrico
- Joanne O'Connell
- Amos Neufeld
- Bill Michaud
- Dede Loring
- Jonathan Levin & Paula Hartstein
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- Joel Goldstein
- Rudy Gero
- Sue & Paul Epstein
- Allan Dean & Julie Shapiro
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Eastern Cottontail Rabbits

When the morning sun rises over Little Bay on Sciticut Neck in Fairhaven, our outlook brightens with every passing day, especially after the coronavirus spread peaked and has continued to decline. Now Jan and I finally see a light at the end of the tunnel after April showers and stormy nights to get outside for spring clean up. We remember many rewarding hours spent with friends on this annual gathering event in the Bidwell House Museum gardens. We are surprised to be greeted here by three or four cottontail rabbits who are already ahead of us, munching on lush blades of our green lawn. We haven't seen much of them all winter as they hung out on edges of nearby woodlands to survive by chewing on bark at the base of young trees.

This feeding damage is not a good recommendation, but when we approach to raise some doubt at their appetite for perennial leaves, they always freeze in stature with a wide-eyed stare of in-nocent astonishment. If we then come closer, they can turn on a dime to bound away with the classic bunny hippity-hop, while flashing their cottontails as a flag of seemingly unconditional surrender. This timid and shy soul has a Latin species name of *Sylvilagus floridamus*, the latter term sounding like a love of flowers. However, any bad habits are compounded by leading a very promiscuous reproductive existence. After breeding in April with five or six young born in May, there will follow three or four more



litters before the end of summer, while the first to be born in May will already be starting their first families.

This cornucopia of rabbits, who annually populate their habitat with nourishing food for many predators, is subsequently written off in a hard-hearted expression of merely “the balance of nature.” Whether we should welcome rabbits in our yard is debatable, but my daughter who lives nearby, loves and raises an English domestic breed. She is very partial to our visitors. Perhaps she read *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit* as a child. As in my illustration, the often naughty Peter was warned by his mother, Molly, not to go near Mr. MacGregor's vegetable garden, or he might wind up in a rabbit pie. This anthropomorphism

in children's literature, with the giving of human names, and our standards of moral behavior, to animated characters is well known to be delightful to children and some caring adults.

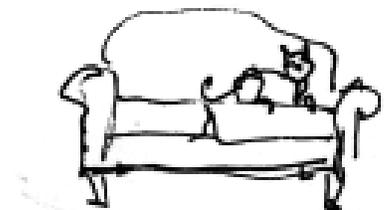
This imaginative portrayal presents very commendable examples of humanistic awareness for our youngsters. Like Felix Salten's *Bambi*, they become aware of treating domestic and wild creatures the way we all would like to be treated. When I was a boy I was given a book, *Wild Animals I Have Known*, by E.T. Seton, who was a literary pioneer as a writer and illustrator. His book provided me with a lifetime interest to write and draw about the animal world. In the middle of the last century, Hollywood and the national entertainment industry came alive with similar documentaries and cartoons founded largely by Walt Disney studios. I hope you have found my tale of neighborhood rabbits entertaining, and a pleasant diversion from a hopefully ebb tide of viral invasion to every shore.

—George Emmons


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"A Family Guide to Mental Health Recovery"

Virgil Stucker and Stephanie McMahon have co-authored and published the book, *A Family Guide to Mental Health Recovery: What You Need to Know From Day One*. Benedict Carey, Science reporter for The New York Times, has endorsed the book:

"Across my career covering mental health, I have fielded scores of urgent calls from readers: 'My brother's suicidal,' or, 'my daughter is on the street, psychotic'—what do I do? There was never one good answer. But now there is: a warmly written, deeply informed guide for families in crisis, by true experts with a lifetime of experience."

A Family Guide to Mental Health Recovery is for parents of adult children who struggle with a serious mental illness. Serious mental illness is complex, the mental health treatment system in the U.S. is fragmented, and families often feel like their child's future has been overlooked. Stucker and McMahon want readers to know there is hope for recovery. Their guide is intended to help families get their bearings, understand the mental health system, and at the very least, know they are not alone.

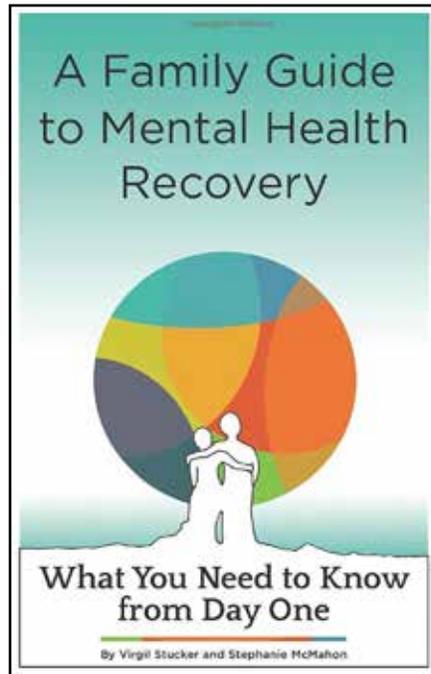
Additional endorsements from early readers:

"This is a 'break the glass' kind of document to help you know how to respond to an emergency."

"When you have just gotten the diagnosis, you think, 'What the heck should we do?' This guide would have given us a new way of thinking about what was going on and what to do next. And it would have helped us in a crisis to know about all of the options."

"I like how you have helped us to see that there is no single path to recovery. It would be good to repeat that there is no tried and true method for everyone. Each person is different."

"Your treatment planning section shows that having a diagnosis does not mean that my family member should forget about her dreams of having a good life. The overall theme is that there is hope; there are things that are useful to try."



Virgil Stucker is founder and president of Virgil Stucker and Associates, LLC, a therapeutic consulting firm based in the Berkshires and North Carolina. Stucker has a thirty-year career leading nonprofit mental health programs. Virgil first came to Monterey in 1975 to work at Gould Farm, America's oldest therapeutic community for people recovering from mental illness. Thinking he would stay for three months, he remained for fourteen years, serving as wood shop manager, house parent, work program leader, development

director, treasurer, administrator, and also was founding program director for Gould Farm's Boston Program.

Some locals also know Virgil from his service as president of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation or as senior VP at Legacy Banks where he was in charge of investment and trust services.

He met his wife Lis at Gould Farm during her year as a volunteer through a German peace corps. Their four children thrived at Gould Farm, including Stephanie, the co-author of the book. The book is dedicated to Lis.

As a family, they loved Gould Farm so much that they tried to replicate it. Virgil was the founding executive director of three similar places; Gateway Homes in VA, Rose Hill Center in MI, and CooperRiis in NC. Virgil and Lis now have a summer home on Blue Hill Road in Monterey.

Stephanie McMahon worked with Virgil from 2017 to 2020 in his consulting business and was the creator of their podcast, Mental Horizons. McMahon now runs her own business as a health coach.

If you want to purchase the book, visit VirgilStuckerandAssociates.com or just search for "Virgil Stucker" on Amazon. Virgil is also donating two copies to be available through the Monterey Library.

—Stephanie McMahon and Virgil Stucker

The image is an advertisement for Fiber Connect broadband service. It features a white pill bottle with a white cap. The bottle has the Fiber Connect logo on it, which includes a stylized house icon and the text "Fiber Connect Data @ the Speed of Light www.bfcma.com". To the left of the bottle, there is a list of service benefits: "Looking for a cure for your broadband headaches?", "Fiber Direct to Premise", "1 Gbps Download", "No Data Caps", "Low Latency", "Data Privacy", "24/7 Support", "Digital Phone Service", and "3 Pricing Options". Below the list, it says "Sign Up: bfcma.com". At the bottom left, the phone number "413.429.4109" is displayed. At the bottom right, there is a Facebook logo and the text "Follow Us".

Wildlife in April and May Bears, Birds, and Trilling Toads

Spring at last, and here come the warblers, the grosbeaks, indigo buntings, and still more hummingbirds. Rob and Cindy Hoogs welcomed back the bobolinks in their fields early in May, just before one of those crazy snowstorms. They also have five orioles and took a good photograph of one hanging onto the hummingbird feeder (front page). The Banners also hosted an oriole sipping sugar water at the hummingbird feeder.

Across the road from the community center and community garden, Paul DePreter has many bird boxes up with different species of residents: tree swallows, wrens, and even bluebirds. For a long time we had an old outlier birdbox in our upper pasture, on a wooden post. Deermice lived happily in that one.

Beavers are back and at work across Sandisfield Road from Lanny Lanoue's place, and the pond in Tyringham up at the top of the McLennan Reservation trail is all fixed up since its washout some years back. Those beavers use rocks in their dam building, easy to see right along the top of the new dam.

Porcupines are all about, too. Several people have reported them and sent good photographs, and our young dog Rocky found old porcupine remains down in the East Garfield swamp near the wigwam. There wasn't much left of this big quill pig except the quills, lying in clumps, but there was some old hide attached and Rocky grabbed up a piece of this and ran joyously shaking it, quills flying in all directions. I had visions of an emergency vet trip but not one quill lodged in the dog, inner or outer.



Thanks to Liz Sanchez for a porcupine sighting on Fairview Road (above), and Michelle Arnot (right) for one up an apple tree on West Street (a.k.a. Sandisfield

Road). Steve Snyder at Gould Farm says there are porcupines "everywhere including my cabin." Steve also lists "red foxes, turkeys, ruffed grouse, swallows, black flies, ticks, deer, mice... the whole recipe."

Down in the East Garfield swamp there were many long, loud trillings going on in broad daylight, and I knew it was mating time for the toads. I saw one couple "in amplexus" with the smaller male sitting on top of the female. She gives out two streams of eggs, each in a long transparent tube. As these emerge from her cloaca, he gives out his sperm. This is external fertilization. Like some other amphibians, the toads are terrestrial as adults, but come back to the water to lay eggs. The tadpoles hatch out and develop in the water, then come ashore for the rest of their lives (except mating time).



We have a romantic photograph from Jacob Edelman (above) of a soft and handsome barred owl. The big owl was at a distance, but Jacob got his telescope and camera lined up and was even able to take a video of the owl gently and systematically straightening and preening those long wing feathers.



Spotted salamanders and wood frogs have a similar life story. Even if we don't ever see them in their terrestrial adult phase, many people have been writing in about egg masses in shallow water. The masses are easy to confuse, but the wood frogs' are kind of stuck together in clumps and often turn green with microscopic algae growing on the "jelly." The salamander eggs are about the same size, also stuck together, but are embedded in a thick covering of jelly, which sometimes turns cloudy. Both kinds of egg masses may show up in the same woodland pond or shallow lake water.

Colta Ives, who has come to Monterey for forty-five years, is happy to have seen her first bobcat at her house in all this time. Janet Jensen tells of a bobcat not so fortunate, spotted dead on Route 23 near the Otis town line in early May. Colta also noticed the spring azures (butterflies) back in early May, and Janet reports a "large blondish fox" crossing Tyringham Road from Beartown Mountain Road, heading east a little before sunset, also in early May.

Cora and I saw red foxes on Hupi Road, one about one-third size, fluffy and every inch a perfect fox. The other, at another time, was closer to our house and fully grown. Over by Stevens Pond, Stacy Wallach took photographs of a woodchuck in the edge of the woods (below).



Nancy Kalodner, high up on Mount Hunger Road, hosted a bear and a turkey by the outdoor sculptures in her yard, though perhaps not at the same time (both to the right). And down on Beartown Mountain Road, Nancy Kleban had both bear and turkey visitors.

When bears come around, they may even leave their muddy footprints on your kitchen window, which happened here as the bear climbed the ladder leaning against the cellar wall, to get up high to the next floor level and grab the suet sack that hangs near our birdfeeder. The next morning we found the ladder fallen over backwards and hoped our bear landed on its feet. At least it got a good greasy snack for its trouble.



Jon Sylbert sent photos (above and top right) of a handsome bear visitor at his house, being admired or at least noted out the window by the household cat.

Suzanne Sawyer sent in photos and observations of what must have been a sharp-shinned or a Cooper's hawk at her house, the main difference being size, though both are small. And one observer sent in an account of "palliative woodpecker" at her house, which is a wonderful concept. We have spellcheck to thank for that one!



Farther east on the paved end of Hupi, the Edelmans received their recent bear visitor with no ladder and no accidents. It just strolled onto the deck to check on things, looking like a suburban resident (above).

Thank you, one and all. You keep us grounded in the wild, our beloved home.

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

Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen walked by the skunk cabbage patch on New Marlborough Road and saw two bears having lunch at that vegetarian café by the place where Tim and Grace Burke's house once stood. We noticed last year that this is a popular stop for bears hungry for spring salad.

To the right, birds photographed by Maureen Banner:

- Red-bellied woodpecker
- Rose breasted grosbeak
- Northern flicker



And don't miss the three Baltimore orioles on the front page!





MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town. Use the website to access a calendar for upcoming meetings, and how to log into them. While the state’s Open Meeting Law still applies, recent legislation has provided flexibility for online or conference call meetings to allow public participation.

All non-essential meetings have been canceled. Go to “Boards & Committees,” select the group, and click the agendas listed in the right column for the call-in instructions.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:
528-3211.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:

528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

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

Community Center: 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136, chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department.: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670
SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877

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

(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

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

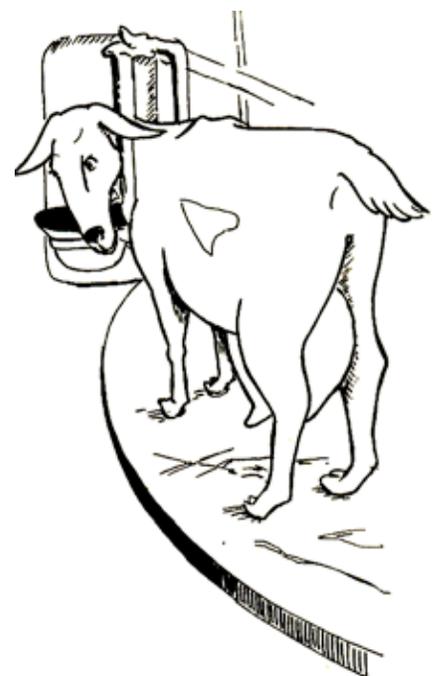


Local Farm Stands Bracken Brae

Bracken Brae Farm Stand will be open for the season around mid-June, depending on when things get ripe. I have started to get things ready for planting. I hope to get it all in when it gets warmer for the plants. As with everywhere, please keep your social distancing in mind. If there are a lot of people at the stand, please wait in your car until there is room. If you would like I can package your purchase and have it ready for you at a time that is good for you to pick it up at the stand. You can call the house at 413-528-9335 or you can text me at 413-429-7401. Also, you can email me at bbfarmstand@gmail.com, and I will send you a list of what I currently have. You can also find the farmstand on Facebook. Send me your list of what you would like and when you would like to pick it up, and I will have it ready for you. The farm stand is half a mile east of the village on Route 23. Thank you,
—Anna Duryea, Bracken Brae Farm

Rawson Brook Goat Farm

At Rawson Brook Farm, (down New Marlboro Road, left across the bridge) Susan Sellew and her herd of girls are busy making goat cheese. Stop by her outdoor stand for a summer treat.
Goat (at milking time), Glynis Oliver, January 2000



Bidwell House Museum

As the Bidwell House Museum learns to navigate this new “normal,” the staff has been working behind the scenes to plan digital programming and outdoor self-guided tours so that we can offer something interesting and fun for our visitors during this time of social distancing.

June Programs

In June we are excited to offer two programs online. First, on Saturday June 13, we will present our first online history talk live, via Zoom, at 10 a.m. Amherst College Professor Lisa Brooks will read from her recent book *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War*. In the book she recovers a complex picture of war, captivity, and Native resistance during the “First Indian War” (later named King Philip’s War) by relaying the stories of Weetamoo, a female Wampanoag leader, and James Printer, a Nipmuc scholar, whose stories converge in the captivity of Puritan mistress Mary Rowlandson. Brooks’s pathbreaking scholarship is grounded not just in extensive archival research but also in the land and communities of Native New England, reading the actions of actors during the seventeenth century alongside an analysis of the landscape and interpretations informed by tribal history. Lisa Brooks is an Abenaki writer and scholar who lives and works in the Kwinitekw(Connecticut River) Valley. She is Professor of English and American Studies at Amherst College and is active in the Five College Native American and Indigenous Studies Program, which she chaired from 2013-2017. To receive the Zoom link to attend the talk, you must register on the museum’s website under “Events.”

Next, on Saturday, June 27, join the museum at 7 p.m. for a livestream concert of “She Called Him Adonijah,” with beloved local musician Diane Taraz. Through a selection of eighteenth-century folk songs that tell us much about life in Britain’s American colonies, Diane explores the world in which little Adonijah Bidwell grew up, and his eventful life as a teacher, shipboard chaplain, husband of three, father of four, and minister of Township No. 1. Diane wears the clothing of

the time and accompanies her singing on an instrument similar to the now-extinct English guitar played by colonial ladies.

A Pittsfield native, Diane has long made her home in the Boston area, performing extensively throughout New England. She is the director of the Lexington Historical Society Colonial Singers and a longtime member of the Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society, a traditional band that plays maritime, Celtic, and colonial music. She also sings with Vox Lucens, a twelve-member *a cappella* Renaissance choir, and the UUlations, a women’s *a cappella* group. Her recordings are available through her website at dianetaraz.com. To receive the Zoom link to attend the concert, you must register on the museum’s website (below) under “Events.”

Museum Outside Tours

In addition to the museum’s digital offerings, we want to encourage Monterey residents to use the grounds for walking, hiking, and picnicking and so we have expanded the self-guided tours available to visitors. In 2018 the museum created the Native American Interpretive Trail with four stops on a self-guided tour. This trail has been expanded to eight stops with more information about woodland management, land use, hunting, and maple sugaring. Updated trail maps can be found at the parking kiosk and on the front porch. The Bidwell House Museum has also created a new outside-the-house tour, with a history primer and map so that you can learn about the story of the Bidwell family and the history of the house while walking the grounds. Copies of the primer and map

Monterey News

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

can be found at the parking kiosk and on the museum front porch. These materials can also be downloaded from the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/the-museum/guided-tours/.

We are planning more digital events in July so check the website often for updates. We also send out twice weekly email newsletters, “Bidwell Lore” on Tuesdays and updates from the museum on Fridays. If you would like to receive the museum’s newsletters, head to the bottom of the museum’s home page to sign up.

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

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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MONTEREY LIBRARY

The library is temporarily closed during the Covid-19 crisis.

For curbside pickup, email:
MontereyLibraryCurbside@gmail.com

MontereyMassLibrary.org

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 3; Maureen Banner, pgs. 8, 22;
George Emmons, p. 22; Bonner McAllester, p. 15.*

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