

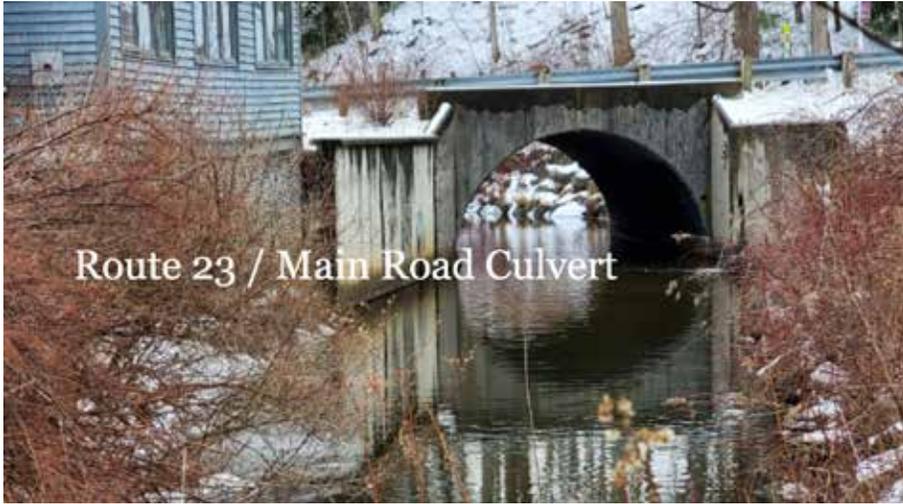


MONTEREY NEWS



September 2020
Est. 1970 Vol. L · Number 9

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



Route 23 / Main Road Culvert

The culvert replacement project to protect the village from anticipated high-water events due to climate change is moving forward. Preliminary engineering has identified four alternatives (in addition to doing nothing) and is reaching the public input stage. See page 2.

As of August 23, the census response rate for Monterey is 32.5%. The Massachusetts self-response rate is 66.5%.

2020 Census page 3

It is highly likely we could move in and out of a Remote and Hybrid model several times throughout the school year due to Covid-19.

Area Schools Reopening Plans page 6

Coming up in September and early October the Bidwell House Museum has two guided hikes planned.

Bidwell House Museum page 27

The Covid-19 Local Resources list can be accessed through the community center website, ccmonterey.org.

Council on Aging page 4

It is my hope that this could be a means to demonstrate the presence of interesting and talented student work in our community.

Student Authors and Artists page 7

The McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship committee is comprised of John Higgins, Shannon Amidon-Castille, Steven Weisz, Ilene Marcus, and Rebecca Wolin. This year's awards total \$72,000.

Scholarship Awards page 5

Whoever does this leaves a broad trail through the ferns and blackberry canes, as if someone had dragged a heavy toboggan through there. Or a bear.

Wildlife page 24

You may or may not have heard the rumor floating about during the late spring that our Monterey Post Office was on a list of offices likely to be closed for financial reasons.

Here's a Thought... page 12

Have you ever wondered about that monument at the beach on Lake Garfield?

The First Garfield Dam page 8

He was also a great story-teller, who always had a twinkle in his eye.

Remembrance-Dick Tryon page 17

It is always good to have new energy on the board, but I sincerely believe Mr. Weingold should do more *listening* and *learning*, before *speaking* and *writing*.

In My View page 10

In August we were finally able to become Fiber Connect customers. A surprise to us has been how much we are going to save on our monthly bills.

Fiber Optic Broadband Finally! page 14

The Friends of the Monterey Library want to thank everyone who participated in our non-browsing curbside pickup book sale.

Library Book Sale page 4

In Monterey, most folks prefer an absence of conflict among the town's leadership. I believe that is a worthy goal.

In My View page 11

How/ out of its throat/smaller than a finger/ can there fall the waters/ of its song?
Watching the Wrens Fledging page 20



They're here! (Still...)

When everyone is exceeding the speed limit, how do policemen decide who to stop? Why are "backseat drivers" just as likely to be found in the front seat?

Unsolved Mysteries of the Road page 26

Route 23 Village Culvert Preparing for Climate Change

The first round of Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grants were allocated in 2017 to facilitate local community-based climate change resilience planning across Massachusetts. In 2020, many communities across the Commonwealth have completed the planning process and created their “Summary of Findings” to serve as a guide for local climate change adaptation projects. Once the “Summary of Findings” is submitted to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, municipalities are eligible for MVP Action Grants to implement identified adaptation projects. The Town of Monterey applied for and received an MVP Action Grant to address concerns at the Route 23 culvert.

During the MVP planning process Monterey residents identified the Route 23 culvert as a top priority vulnerability that needed to be addressed to improve the resilience of the town. During predicted flood events the culvert constricts water flow of the Konkapot River leading to flooding of the adjacent buildings, including town hall. Floods cause costly damage that will be shouldered by the taxpayers. Additionally, in 2018 MassDOT cited four deficiencies after inspecting the Route 23 culvert including exposed wingwall footings, rust in the corrugated metal pipe, coating failure, and isolated cracks. Proactive action is necessary to improve the culvert before major damage occurs.

The engineering firm, GZA, was hired by the town to provide preliminary engineering for the culvert replacement project. They provided four alternative options for replacement in addition to assessing the “no action” alternative of leaving the culvert as is. For a full description of the alternatives please visit: montereymainsreetculvert.wordpress.com/design-alternative-impacts/. Major considerations for each alternative are how the alternative reduces flood damage to public and private property, cost, physical constraints and feasibility, and environmental impacts including water quality and health

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of the riparian zone. This website link will soon be available through the town website, (montereyma.gov) under Boards & Commissions.

(Editor’s Note: Important—After reviewing the alternatives, there is an opportunity to vote by ranking your preferences for the alternatives.)

With an exceptionally active hurricane season underway, and projections for increased intense precipitation events across our region, action to address flooding and potential damage is necessary. Major damage at the Route 23 culvert would not only impact Monterey, but neighboring communities that utilize Route 23 as well.

Potential sources of funding the town is looking at to implement the chosen alternative for replacing the Route 23 culvert include FEMA hazard mitigation grants or a second MVP Action Grant. Both programs require a 25% match from the Town. The match can be in-kind (staff and volunteer time), cash, or sourced from another grant.

The Town will be hosting a web-based conversation on Thursday, September 10, at 5 p.m.

—Caroline Mazza
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Here is the website link again:
MontereyMainSreetCulvert.wordpress.com/design-alternative-impacts/
Please note that “sreet” is misspelled, but must be used exactly when looking it up.

Covid-19 Local Resources Easy Online Access

As you will read in the Monterey Community Center’s monthly article (see page 9) there is an easy way to check the most current “Covid-19 Local Resources” list for Monterey. This list is updated by Andrea DuBrow, and a link for it is on the community center home page.

Go to: ccmonterey.org, and click on the list button.

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Monterey Library Notes

Appreciation

The Friends of the Monterey Library held a book sale that was adapted to deal with the realities of the pandemic. Many people walked away with boxes of books and every effort was made to pick out interesting books that matched what was requested. Thank you for the donations which are going to be used to put the finishing touches on our building project. And the next thank you is to the Knox Gallery Committee. We've been happy to have the art on display during our limited browsing open period, and are looking forward to our new show in September.

Library Services

Here's the update on library services. Our building is open for browsing, and computer and printer access. We've not yet had to ask people to wait outside because our capacity was reached. Come in, find what you need or you ordered, and leave so the next person can enter. It's worked very well. The staff has worked diligently to keep surfaces clean and minimize everyone's potential exposure. None of us ever dreamed we would spend so much time cleaning, but we are committed to your safety and preventing the spread.

Please remember that part of our approved way of quarantining materials is that all returns are to be made outside the building in the book and media returns. We will not be checking in your items for at least seventy-two hours. The quarantine will be happening on your card, and in the case of items from other libraries, we will remove any fines that result from that. By quarantining those items, they won't appear available in the catalog and result in patrons thinking they will be able to take those items out.

The libraries of CWMARS and the rest of Massachusetts are operating on one level or another. Many are still not open for browsing because of building and cleaning issues, but they are filling holds. Keep ordering those items. Expect that the quarantine will make the process take longer because we are quarantining the items for seventy-two hours after delivery as well as the other libraries using practices safe for their employees.

If you are still not comfortable coming in the building, we are glad to put your items outside in a paper bag. Email montereylibrarycurbside@gmail.com, or call (413) 528-3795 when you know when you will come. We are still happy to select things for you if you let us know what you'd like. All the online resources that many discovered last spring are still available as well.

It appears that we will be in this particular reopening phase for a while. Please let us know what we can do for you. We will not be holding gatherings or programming for the foreseeable future, but we will be trying to provide all our other services as best we can. We are here to help!

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

MontereyMassLibrary.org

2020 Census

Monterey's Response Very Low

As of August 23, the census response rate for Monterey is 32.5%. The Massachusetts self-response rate is 66.5%. Monterey is still at the bottom except for Hancock and a handful of towns on the Cape.

Remember:

- Every premises, whether all year or seasonal use, must respond. (Part-time use response will indicate 0 residents.)
- State and Federal program funds are distributed based on the census.
- There is an effort to end the census count early which could seriously disadvantage towns who have not fully filed.





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Lake Garfield Working Group September Update

The Lake Garfield Working Group held their monthly meeting remotely on August 11. On the agenda was a review of the bid process including the timeline for submission, review, and acceptance of potential contracts for the completion of the next phase of milfoil removal through diver-assisted suction harvesting, which should happen sometime in September before the water becomes too cold for diving.

Dennis Lynch gave an update on the progress of the grant application that has been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection with the support of both the Town of Monterey and the Friends of Lake Garfield association. The intention of the grant is to protect and enhance the water quality of Lake Garfield through different methods of reducing surface water nutrients from reaching the lake.

The last item was an update on the monitoring of cyanobacteria by Shannon Poulin in several south county lakes. A motion was made to invite Shannon to our next LGWG meeting to present her findings and answer questions about the process.

This meeting will be held remotely on Monday, September 14, at 7 p.m. Contact instructions and further details will be posted on the Monterey town website (montereyma.gov, under "Boards/Lake Garfield Working Group). All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

—Steve Snyder
Chair, LGWG

Council on Aging

Despite, or maybe because of, Covid-19, the Monterey Council on Aging has been very active. The council sent out a town-wide survey on needs and volunteering with the Covid-19 committee and the Monterey Community Aid Committee. We contacted seniors, and are working with other southern Berkshire towns' councils on aging on transportation and other common issues. The Covid-19 Local Resources list can be accessed through the community center website, ccmonterey.org.

We have instituted tai chi classes at the community center under the tent, which has been well-attended and appreciated. We are working to continue in the future. The foot nurse, Beverly Dunn, has continued to see clients, but in their homes; please call her at (413) 446-2469 to set up an appointment.

The Berkshire VNA nurse, Nancy Slatery, will resume her monthly wellness clinics and blood pressure checks on Tuesday, September 8, at the firehouse pavilion, from 2 to 3 p.m., so long as the town hall is still closed. She will be conducting a flu shot clinic on Thursday, October 8, also from 2 to 3 p.m., location to be determined. The Covid-19 resource list has been updated on the Monterey town website (montereyma.gov). However, things are changing all the time. We are still here, working to support our seniors, so please call (413) 528-1443, ext. 247, for any needs or concerns.

—Kyle Pierce
Chair, Monterey Council on Aging

Monterey Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Monterey Library want to thank everyone who participated in our non-browsing curbside pickup book sale. While we were originally planning to just pick boxes of books as they had been sorted throughout the year, we found buyers wanted to personalize each selection for each order. It was a bit of a fun challenge for the volunteers, and we hope you enjoyed the books, DVDs, and CDs that you received.

For being a small scale effort, it was a big success.

The donations received go right toward children's programs, museum passes, and building expenses. Thank you for continuing to support these projects despite the challenges of this year. Hopefully next year we will be able to hold our usual book sale event and look forward to seeing everyone then. In the meantime, enjoy the limited browsing at the library during its regular hours of operation.

—Marya Makuc and Mickey Jervas
Friends of the Monterey Library



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Knox Gallery News

The Knox Gallery is pleased that with the measured reopening of the Monterey Library we have been able to receive a few visitors to see *Patty Meriam: Nature's Beauty and Fragility*, which was cut short due to the pandemic.

Nonetheless, our plans going forward are a work in progress. As we have previously mentioned, our planned exhibitions for 2020 have been rescheduled for 2021. Please continue to check the *Monterey News* for updates on our schedule.

Meanwhile, our co-director, Julie Shapiro, who was planning to exhibit her recent work at this time, has been coerced to put up an impromptu exhibit. A selection of her drawings will be on display starting September 1, 2020. See her accompanying article for her description of her recent drawings.

All Knox Gallery events and openings are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates



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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Awards

The Berkshire Taconic Foundation, which administers the McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship fund, has announced the upcoming school year's recipients.

The recipients and their college choices are:

Graduating Seniors:

- Elisabeth Enoch, Wellesley College
- Lou Finston-Fox, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Madeleine Makuc, University of Connecticut
- Jake Martin, George Washington University
- Isabella Saporito, University of Rhode Island

Continuing Students:

- Isabel Bronson, Vassar College
- Julia Bronson, St. Lawrence University
- Ella Carlson, Smith College
- Maya Finston-Fox, Baldwin Wallace University
- Jacob Makuc, University of Connecticut
- Joseph Makuc, Temple University
- Marya Makuc, College of the Holy Cross
- Megan Mulvey, Towson University
- Arian Saporito, University of Massachusetts
- Donovan Sawyer, Nichols College
- Dylan Stoll-Tinker, Worcester Polytech Institute
- Evan Sylbert, Columbia University

The McLaughlin-Wilson scholarship committee is comprised of John Higgins, Shannon Amidon-Castille, Steven Weisz, Ilene Marcus, and Rebecca Wolin. This year's awards total \$72,000.

—Berkshire Taconic Foundation



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Area Schools Reopening Plans

Southern Berkshire RSD

Below is an excerpt from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's reopening plan. The whole plan can be found by going to SBRSD.org, and selecting "Final SBRSD Reopening School Plan."

On August 13, 2020 the SBRSD School Committee voted to support the gradual and safe reopening of our schools. We will be starting in a Remote Model on (Monday) September 14, which will be markedly different than we all experienced in the spring. The Remote Learning Model is to be a fully scheduled day, teachers are expected to be teaching from their classrooms, and only high-risk students who meet specific criteria will come in for in-person learning. The School Committee approved starting with this type of Remote Model with the hope and intention to move into a Hybrid Model in a safe, effective and efficient manner on (Monday) September 28. This plan allows educators to properly plan for the complexities associated with bringing our students back to school safely, allows educators to develop and learn the new norms associated with keeping all of our school community safe, and to make the transition back to school as smooth as possible for all students. The details on each model are listed in this document and it is important to note they are subject to change at any time. It is highly likely we could move in and out of a Remote and Hybrid model several times throughout the school year due to Covid-19.

—Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent

Berkshire Hills RSD

Below is an excerpt from the Berkshire Hills Regional School District's reopening plan. The whole plan can be found by going to SBRSD.org, and selecting "BHRSC 8/12/20 Re-opening Plan."

Our school system will reopen for staff on Wednesday, August 26. We will use that time to work with staff on professional development related to CANVAS, our new learning management system, distance learning, and safety and protocols in response to COVID-19. Students will start school on Monday, September 14. At this time and based on available information, I am recommending we start fully remotely with most students, though I propose we work face to face with our neediest students. Over time and informed by newly available metrics, I hope we can transition to a hybrid model. If numbers continue to decrease, I hope we can fully support face-to-face (F2F) learning. In all likelihood, we may switch through all models during the course of the 2020-2021 school year.

—Peter Dillon, Ed.D. Superintendent

Julie Shapiro: Pandemic Drawings

Along with most of our populace, visual artists have lost many opportunities due to the pandemic. Exhibitions, grants, residencies have evaporated. Simultaneously, unexpected doors have opened. Venues for showing work online in new and thoughtful ways have materialized with both artists and galleries curating online exhibitions. Among popular formats are open calls to which any artist may apply, galleries curating from artists they represent, and curators selecting work from artists they admire for still another web-based platform.

I've been fortunate to participate in a number of such opportunities. The Jason McCoy Gallery Drawing Challenges have been particularly thought-provoking for me. These challenges, open to all, ask artists to respond to a provided written prompt from literature. Online exhibitions are then curated from the images the gallery receives in response. Though I do not usually find direct inspiration from written work, I looked forward to the weekly prompts and to making a new drawing each week, or reviewing recent work for appropriate images.

Combining text and imagery is a popular theme in visual art, with a long tradition. The relationship between the two has been explored in many ways. It's an ideal match for work exhibited in a library-sponsored gallery!

The Jason McCoy Gallery (41 E 57th St, New York, NY) initiated the Drawing Challenges in April and planned to continue the project through their pandemic-necessitated closure, but its directors decided, upon recently reopening (by appointment), to keep these challenges going on a monthly basis through the end of the year. Two prompts and my responses are shown on page 13. More of my drawings will be on view at the Knox Gallery later in August, and I hope you will check out additional results from this project, both by me and by other artists, at jasonmccoyinc.com/drawing-challenge.

—Julie Shapiro
julieshapiroart.com

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Student Authors and Artists

As of this writing both the Berkshire Hills school district and the Southern Berkshire district with open with remote learning. (See Area Schools Reopening Plans, page 6.) Regardless of whether schools will be a hybrid or remote-only, this will be a stressful school year for students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

I taught elementary school, K-5, in a small school in Vermont for many years. And I raised two sons with differing academic orientations. One of the most difficult things for many students is to find “authentic” reasons to write or to create artwork. This means their wanting to create, and their creating to address an audience. The audience might be a few friends, it might be their class or family, or it might be a much wider opportunity to have their work viewed. Many students write or create art mostly because their teachers require it, but some form of added incentive can make this more compelling for them.

It is my intention, backed by the support of the *Monterey News* board, to offer space in the paper for student authors and artists from kindergarten through twelfth grade who wish to have their work published. This would be open to resident students in Monterey, as well as to students who have family members who receive the *Monterey News*. The work can be assigned classwork, or freely created.



Nara Jensen, 6. “Emmett’s Monarch Cycle.” Her father wrote, “Nara did this one morning before we got up.” She and her brother Emmett, 4, have milkweed observation containers with monarch caterpillars.

It will be my intention to publish all publishable work, defined as an ability to digitize artwork or text. Longer text, or larger artwork, may be sampled depending on the number of submissions. (For this purpose, a really well-written paragraph may be more a showcase of skill than a full article.) Very young student’s handwritten work could be scanned or photographed for the paper.

It would be a significant motivator and source of satisfaction if readers were to respond with solid comments on the work published. In addition, I may ask some of

our regular contributors to comment on submissions.

If anyone has questions about this, please contact me. The deadline is typically around the twentieth each month. I will reply to everyone interested in sending in a submission with information concerning attribution, contact information, and privacy. Questions, or submissions, can be emailed as attachments (in any document format, or image file format) to me at MontereyNews9@gmail.com, or sent to me personally at P.O. Box 38, Monterey, MA 01245.

It is my hope that this could be a means to demonstrate the presence of interesting and talented student work in our community. Please consider participating.

— Stephen Moore, Editor

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Lake Garfield Dam

Part 1 - The First Dam

Have you ever wondered about that monument at the beach on Lake Garfield?

There have always been dams along the outlet and downriver of the lake, known as the Konkapot River, since the surveyors came here in 1737-39 to lay out the original "lots" of Township Number 1.

The first town meetings were held in Watertown, Massachusetts to draw lots for the first proprietors. There were lots set aside for the first settled minister, a school lot, and a mill lot. It was not until a third drawing that John Brewer acquired the mill lot. The mill lot was first drawn by Samuel Bond who later withdrew. A second drawing was held and subsequently turned down by Thomas Slaton. It was only after a third drawing that John Brewer acquired the lot on the condition that he move it downstream from the original upper end of the lot to a stronger water supply. There he set up a sawmill and grist mill on the lake outlet flow of what we call the Konkapot River.

The proprietors knew it as Twelve Mile Pond for its proximity to the Housatonic River. Later it became Brewer Pond after the early settlers, and then as Lake Garfield, renamed in honor of President James A. Garfield, upon his assassination in 1881. He had fished these waters frequently when visiting relatives here.

Besides the lumber and grist mills there were other mills that relied on waterpower to produce the essential things needed to build a community out of the wilderness. Once the township was established there were, among other things, a twine factory, sawmills, gristmills, a carding mill, a comb factory soapstone stove, a rat trap, as well as several lumber-related mills. Farther downstream in Mill River there were no less than thirteen mills at one time. All supported



Linda Thorpe

by our Konkapot River and many dams.

Derby, Connecticut, located on the east bank of the Housatonic River about fifteen miles from the outlet into Long Island Sound, was a shipping and fishing port where shipbuilding flourished for almost two hundred years. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries waterpower played a dominant roll in the development of industry.

In December 1866, The Ousatonic Water Company (no that is not a misspelling) of Derby, Connecticut was organized by a group of industrialists to build a dam on the Housatonic River, as part of a statewide planned expansion of industrial development.

The Derby-Shelton Dam was considered a successful nineteenth century example of urban development. The biggest objection to the project was from the fishing industry. A fishing weir and two, two-lock canals were added to the plan.

In 1867 construction began. The progress of the dam was closely moni-

tored by local industrialists, fisherman, and legislators and it was frequently the center of conflicts among the groups. The capstone was laid in 1870. Alterations were made in 1883 and 1890. In 1891, a 210-foot section on the Derby side was swept away and had to be replaced.

The effects of the dam in Derby were almost precisely those that had been predicted in 1864. Business expanded in Derby, the manufacturing borough

DESIGN AND PLANNING

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<p>Residential Design Kitchen/Bath Design</p>	<p>Construction Management Project Representation</p>
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of Shelton was created on the west side of the river, and the New Milford shad fishing industry collapsed. All this boom of industry in the area required a steady amount of water. The Ousatonic Water Company went upstream to find ways to keep the water flowing at a steady rate to meet their requirements. They searched upstream for tributaries that flowed into the Housatonic River. Sometime, probably in the early 1870s, a dam was constructed in Monterey to impound the water on the lake, more than eighty miles upstream from Derby, for commercial use by the Ousatonic Water Company. In times of low water in Derby they would send word to open the gate and let out water. By so doing, the lake would recede and leave the shore with the cottages a muddy mess.

About 1912 the summer residents staged a drive to collect money to buy the water rights from the Ousatonic Water Company. In the summer of 1913 a dedication was held, and a marble marker was unveiled. The inscription reads, "Water rights purchased and given to the Town of Monterey by the summer and towns people" 1913.

Next month: The Monterey dam on the lake deteriorated over time, with an ensuing crisis in the late 1960s.

—Linda Thorpe

Monterey Community Center Events

The big white tent at the Monterey Community Center is getting lots of use these days as many of the programs that had previously been meeting inside the building are using the outdoors to safely congregate. This includes Al-Anon, yoga, tai chi, ping pong, and drumming. It has been wonderful to see neighbors coming together again, even though masked and distanced.

There are a few new programs coming up for September which will also be held under the tent. The first will take place on Sunday, September 20, at 1 p.m., (with a rain date of October 4), called *Tea With the First Ladies*. Susan Guppy Farnum, attired in garb from 1912, will discuss the history of tea in the settling of this country, going back to the Tea Party in Boston and up to the twentieth century. She will entertain us with tales about how the First Ladies entertained dignitaries with one of our favorite beverages, tea. Attendees may choose to adorn themselves in vintage gloves and hats to get into the spirit, but this is optional. However, masks are required, as is pre-registration, in order to ensure safe distances between participants. Please call the MCC at 528-3600 and leave a message, or send an email to montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com.

Coming up on Saturday, September 26, at 11 a.m., we have "Monterey Munchies," with partners in pickling and jamming, Liz Howitt and Elizabeth Maschmeyer. They will present a talk on food preservation techniques such as making jams and jellies, canning, freezing, and dehydrating the amazing bounty of the Berkshires. The talk will also touch upon things such as containers and catalogues. Again, masks and pre-registration will be necessary.

Covid-19 Resource List

Finally, if you are looking for information about local resources related to Covid-19, check out the Monterey Community Center website. With one click at the top of the page you can find out how to get tested, where to get help with rides, where to get food, and how to get masks. This list was compiled by the Monterey Covid-19 committee and is updated as needed. Just go to ccmonterey.org and click on the banner at the top to get all the information you need.

—Laurie Shaw, Chair, Monterey Community Center



CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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In My View



I must express my extreme disappointment with new select board member John Weingold's editorial in last month's *Monterey News*.

It is not because of the words he chose (everyone is entitled to their opinion), but rather the fact that he is passing judgment on a select board and the town with little to no actual experience or knowledge.

Any town government should be judged on its accomplishments. Plain and simple.

Here is a small list of what your select boards, town employees, and boards and committees were able to achieve for *you* recently;

1. In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to work together (select board and finance committee) to lower your taxes, give the town employees a raise, and safely hold an annual town meeting.
2. Monterey has received clean, annual financial audits for the first time ever.
3. We will be achieving full cellular phone coverage in the town by autumn.
4. Our lakes are being cleared of milfoil without the use of herbicides.
5. Town grant writers were able to secure a million dollar Massworks grant, plus hundreds of thousands of dollars in other grants.
6. We have built a bridge in three months, when we were told it would take three years, repaired a bridge rather than replace it, and replaced a major culvert under Route 23 in a week and a half. All at a significantly lower taxpayer expense.
7. The Monterey transfer station was built in record time, and is considered to be a model for other transfer stations in Berkshire County.
8. Our town has a new state-of-the-art library and community center, with the bulk of the funds coming from grants and private donations.
9. Monterey has some of the finest, well-cared for roads and bridges in the Commonwealth.
10. Our first responders, police, and



It's always sunny at the transfer station!

Photo by Scott Margol

fire company, are well equipped, well trained, and dedicated to your safety.

The point of this list is to highlight what has actually gone on in town hall. It is not hearsay, or a story someone is telling someone else. These are a few actual, concrete examples of a successful (but not perfect) town government. All done together, as a town. All glossed over by the Collins Center Report.

It is always easier to criticize than to make positive suggestions. Both can be helpful if the person (or organization) offering the criticism or suggestion has actual knowledge of the organization.

In this case, Mr. Weingold's few *weeks* on the select board (or the Collins Center's few *hours* in Town Hall) does not match my *years* on the very same board. I can

tell you from that experience that it will take more than just complaining about our deficiencies to get the job done. It will take a concerted effort by Mr. Weingold to constructively work with his fellow board members and the administrative assistant (as he has yet to do), come in to town hall to review documents (as he has yet to do), meet with the town employees (as he has yet to do), sit in with the boards and committees (as he has yet to do), and learn about how the Town of Monterey actually works.

I look forward to working with our new select board member. It is always good to have new energy on the board, but I sincerely believe Mr. Weingold should do more *listening* and *learning*, before *speaking* and *writing*.

—Steven Weisz
Monterey Select Board

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In My View



In Monterey, most folks prefer an absence of conflict among the town's leadership. I believe that is a worthy goal. So, with one exception, I'm not going to take this opportunity

to refute in detail John Weingold's many baseless charges in his August "In My View" essay in the *Monterey News*. I'm confident that time and facts will show that the public's confidence in Monterey's government is well founded.

But because Mr. Weingold chose to use part of his first "In My View" essay to attack the integrity of our local election, I cannot remain silent. Mr. Weingold wrote these words: "I had learned and seen plenty. My election was only accomplished because the mail-in ballots could not be altered." He is, of course, implying that other ballots were tampered with during the counting. What had he learned and seen to support that outrageous charge? Supposedly nothing that could fit in his two-page essay. Instead, only an empty promise: "But that is a story for another column and time."

What we have here is: the innuendo-laden tease—"I've learned and seen plenty," followed by the unfounded claim—unspecified misconduct by the election employees, and concluded by a

refusal to explain until some unspecified time in the future. This utterly false claim is a grave slander against the town clerk, the other election workers, and the supervising police officer. In fact, they all did their jobs professionally and with complete respect for the electoral process.

Mr. Weingold's words, casting doubt on the integrity of the employees and volunteers who counted the ballots are false and libelous. They are shockingly inappropriate and hurtful, and they really need to be publicly withdrawn.

At the select board meeting immediately following publication of Mr. Weingold's "In My View" essay, I offered him the opportunity to apologize to the election team. He refused "because the issue was not on the agenda." The policy of the select board is that any member may list an item for consideration. So, if he wants this on the agenda, he need only ask. Sadly, my expectations in that regard will probably not bear fruit. Why? Because politics driven by paranoia is contrary to good governance.

—Don Coburn

Chair, Monterey Select Board

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

Contributions August 2020

The *Monterey News* delivers town news, upcoming events, opinions, essays, stories, and artwork every month. People request that printed copies be sent to them via the mail; they ask to receive it electronically via email; or they pick it up at spots around town. (Sorry, no website access yet.)

A subscription has never been required thanks to the continued voluntary support by folks all over the place, not just in Monterey. Feel free to request the *Monterey News* by writing to P.O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245, or emailing MontereyNews9@gmail.com.

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Here's a Thought...

Postmaster General Ben Franklin Is Rolling in His Grave

You may or may not have heard the rumor floating about during the late spring that our Monterey Post Office was on a list of offices likely to be closed for financial reasons. I don't know if that was just chaff from the rumor mill, or whether it has teeth.

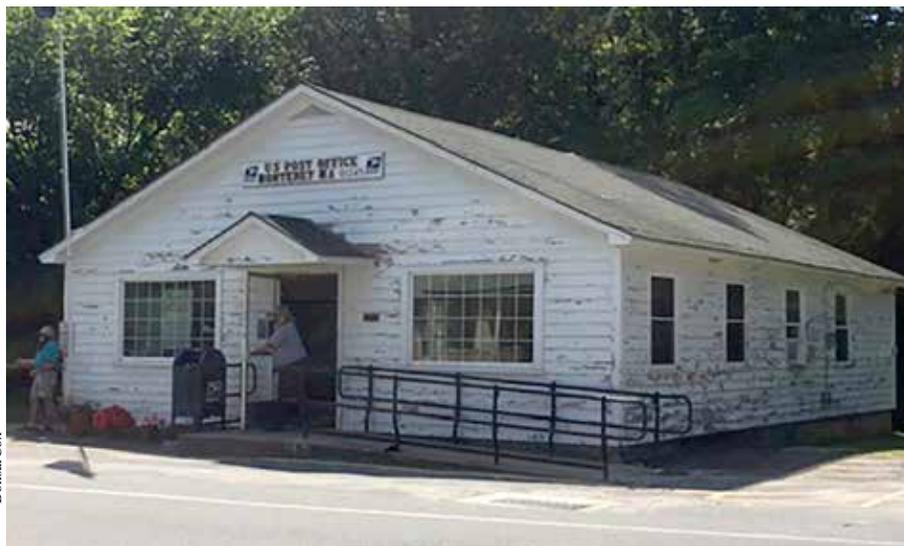
But, thinking nationally as well as locally, the current federal government oversight threats to the US Postal Service itself are real. Although at least theoretically held in abeyance until after the election, they haven't gone away. They could return at any time between November 4 and January 20. As Richard John wrote in an online *Washington Post* article (August 21, 2020), "Five Myths About the US Postal Service," in April, a Boston Globe editorial carried the headline, "The postal service has never been more valuable—or more endangered." Unfortunately, that's not one of the myths in his article.

The post office has deep historical roots, and threats to it go nearly as deep. Look back, if you will, to the mid-1770s; to seventy years later, 1840, and then to 1970.

To paraphrase Winifred Gallagher's article, also on the August 21 online edition of the *Smithsonian Magazine*, "A Brief History of the United States Postal Service," creating the post office was the first, and one of the most important, of our then-new government's actions. All across the fledgling nation, people depended on the post office for personal and business communications, as well as for the delivery of newspapers. This connectivity provided a sense of national unity that helped our young country thrive.

But trouble was afoot. First-class postage had been set up to subsidize the newspaper delivery. By 1840, sending a letter more than 150 miles through the post office cost approximately twenty cents. Converting to our current economic structure, that's equivalent to ten times more than we pay for first-class postage today. So people turned to private carriers. They saved money, but the loss of revenue nearly ran the post office into the ground.

Recognizing its importance to the country, Congress turned the post office



If, as we're hearing, there isn't enough money for timely delivery of the mail (for the past year the Monterey News has been taking weeks to be delivered from Great Barrington) then perhaps it is too much to expect new paint on the now-shabby-looking exterior?

into a public service, and declared it such an important service that it didn't have to break even financially. Five years later, Congress acted again and cut the cost of sending a letter to between five and ten cents, depending on how many miles the letter would have to travel to its destination.

Until fifty years ago, the threats to the post office were all external. In 1970, in the face of a financial crisis that paralleled the one in 1940, Congress reconstructed the post office department and gave birth to the US Postal Service, an amalgam—not quite a business, under government oversight, but no longer considered a service to the American people, as it had been before.

The agency has been bleeding cash, yes, but consider this: 1982 was the last year the agency received any tax money. Since 2006, the agency has paid its retirees' health benefits, so those funds don't come out of tax dollars, either. Revenue went up by \$1.3 billion dollars in 2018-2019, a result of the USPS increased parcel delivery. Interesting facts, in light of the concerns being expressed about cost-effectiveness.

Again, the current threats to postal service across this country are real. They may even go back to the historical purpose the post office filled when Ben Franklin was Postmaster General: to ease communication among the people and to nurture a sense of national unity.

Both the article writers I mentioned have books out about the history of the post office. Thinking locally again, I've seen an "OPEN" flag flying at The Bookloft's new location on Main Street in Great Barrington, in case you'd like to bring those two facts together.

And here's another important local alert, to close. If you're voting by mail, I urge every one of us to ease the stress on Beth and Ed at the Monterey Post Office by getting our ballots back in the mail as soon as possible after they arrive in our hands. And whether you do it by mail or in person, no matter which way you cast your ballot, just do it. For all our sakes, get out and vote.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Letters

Everyone Needs Good Broadband

I'm seventy this year, and I have had several friends who need to have their heart monitored by their doctors. This is done via the internet, and our internet is too slow...even with DSL, which I have. Many of my friends and I have health issues and understand that you need to be your own advocate even before you see a doctor. I have spent much time on Google looking for information about cancer, MS, Parkinson's, heart disease, assisted living, and so much more (the latter for friends who are overwhelmed.) Many of my friends are doing Zoom to see children and grandchildren who live faraway; it is so important for them to have an ongoing relationship with these family members.

Many of us are still working and need good broadband for that. Many people have their children and grandchildren with them, and they need broadband to do their work and school.

And most importantly to me is that we are a community and even though I don't have children, I care about community members who do, and there is no way a student can be competitive without broadband.

I could go on and on, but don't want to bore you.

—Karen Shreefter

Letters

Fiber Optic Broadband Finally!

In August we were finally able to become FiberConnect customers. It has been a very long, frustrating wait, but we are thrilled to enter the twenty-first century. Working from home is at last feasible and our children seem more willing to spend time in Monterey. The installation was very simple and everyone we have interacted with at FC has been professional and a pleasure to deal with, from the installers to billing to tech support.

A surprise to us has been how much we are going to save on our monthly bills. Our alarm company is installing a cellular modem for connectivity, so we can jettison Verizon. We are subscribing to a streaming TV service so we can ditch both Directv in Monterey and our cable service in our Manhattan home as well as giving logins to our children.

Adam Chait and Fiber Connect are doing a huge service to Monterey at a time when good internet service is critical for school and college students and for displaced office workers. I hope the various parties involved can reach agreement to expedite access to Fiber Connect service throughout Monterey.

—Ian and Christa Lindsay
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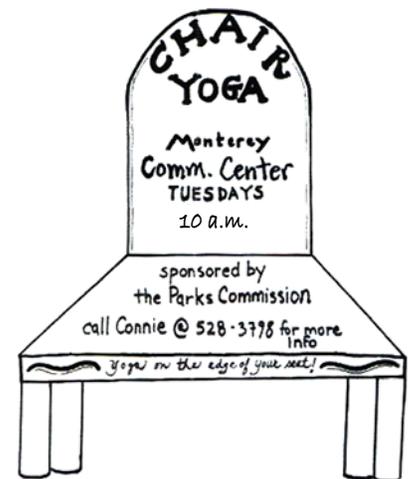
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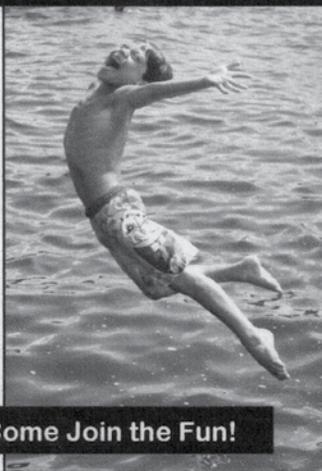
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Woman Owned

Pandemic Drawings

Julie Shaprio writes on page 6 about her experiences with “Pandemic Drawings.” She has responded to prompts from literature for inspiration. Here are two examples.

For other examples of both Julie’s work and other artists’ responses to the same and other prompts, go to her website, julieshapiroart.com, and to the Jason McCoy Gallery Drawing Challenges at jasonmccoyinc.com/drawing-challenge.



Excerpt from T.S. Eliot’s (1888-1965) poem “The Hollow Men, Part V” (1925).

Between the conception
And the creation
Between the emotion
And the response
Falls the Shadow
Life is very long



Words from Martin Luther King, Jr.’s (1929-1968) “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” written on 16 April 1963.

History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helped to perpetuate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.

—Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963

The Dreaming

I journey over ancient hills towards home.
Days gone like mythic waters part for me.
I step through darkness dreaming — there I roam.

Our love of beauty springs from the sea’s foam.
The Galilean hills embrace the sea.
I journey over ancient hills towards home.

Of days unyielding which have I not drawn
From sunlight into shadow into dream
To step through darkness dreaming as I roam.

I climb up winding mountain paths alone
Remembering a boy across the sea
Who would’ve stayed to climb the pine-green hills back home.

I’ve filled the seasons with the light I’ve known—
Still hear the hills, the sweet sea, calling me
To tread the dark — keep searching as I roam.

I seek a place I left — was once my own.
A fading dream—I know may never be.
I journey over pine-green hills towards home
And step through darkness searching — there I roam.

—Amos Neufeld

(this poem first appeared in an earlier version in the “Jewish Frontier,” May 1985 issue)

Remembrance Susan Kuder

The owner's meeting of the Brookbend Condominium on July 25 began with memories and appreciations of Susan Kuder, a resident of Watertown and Monterey, who died peacefully three days earlier at the age of 77—much sooner than expected—at Seasons Hospice in Milton. She had long served as a welcoming presence at the condominium, as well as its meticulous bookkeeper, institutional memory, peacekeeper, and all-around voice of reason.

Susan and her partner of some thirty years, Channing Mendelsohn, were among the first people to buy into Brookbend, on January 1, 1997, after it was converted to condominiums. Before that, the large white structure just east of the Monterey Library had once been a tavern and later a village inn. Susan and Channing loved its peaceful surroundings, local cultural offerings, the charms of Monterey, and being outdoors. One of her final acts before going into the hospital in spring was to contribute to the planting of a hemlock grove on the west side of the building.

As we learned during her final illness, Susan was also cherished in Watertown, where she bestowed her personal and administrative gifts (for twenty-five years she worked as controller and legal administrator for a law firm in Natick) even more widely.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, on March 15, 1943, Susan grew up in Media, PA. She leaves behind her partner of more than thirty years, Channing Mendelsohn, of Watertown, as well as her sister, Judith Hand, of Syracuse, NY, and brother, Theodore Kuder, of Media, PA, along with members of her extended family.

Susan earned a BA in Foreign Languages at Pennsylvania State University, an MS in Linguistics at the University of Michigan, and an MBA in Accounting at Babson College. She taught French and Spanish at Randolph High School for more than a decade.

In the early 1970s, she taught English and Linguistics at Université de Lomé, Togo, West Africa in the Peace Corps. After returning she served as president of the Boston area Returned Peace Corps



Susan and Channing in the Berkshires.

Volunteers. For many years she was on the parish committee of Watertown's Unitarian Universalist Church and chaired its social action committee. As her more formal obituary (available on legacy.com) states, "she was a quiet, yet relentless organizer for good ... who inspired many others to follow in her footsteps" and "a key figure in organizing countless initiatives to support the rights of all oppressed people, the celebration of diversity, and the fair and equal treatment of all."

In her private life, she also made time for extensive travel, reading, and bridge. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to First Parish Watertown, Unitarian Universalist, 35 Church St., Watertown, MA 02472. A zoom Memorial Service through First Parish Watertown was held on August 15.

—Judith Hand and Janet Jensen



Remembrance Dick Tryon



RobHoogs

Richard Delmor Tryon, aged ninety-six, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at his home on "Lowland Farm" on August 21, 2020. He was born in Great Barrington, MA, on February 22, 1924, the son of Delmor Jones Tryon and Frances Theodora (Collins) Tryon, and lived his entire life in Monterey.

Dick graduated from Searles High School in 1942. He then enlisted in the US Navy in World War II and served from 1942-1946, serving on LSTs and LCTs in the Mediterranean and Pacific theaters. After his honorable discharge from the Navy, he attended the Stockbridge School of Agriculture in Amherst, MA, graduating in 1948.

He and his wife, Barbara Jane Jost, were married October 9, 1948 and together they ran their family's dairy farm for the next forty years, restored a 1786 colonial farm house, and raised five children. From 1948 to 1961, he pasteurized his own milk, selling the milk from a cooler at the village milk house and on a rural delivery milk route around Monterey. He delivered milk to numerous summer camps until the early 1970s. He sold the dairy herd in 1986, and after that time, he and his son Roger Tryon concentrated on harvesting hay for horses and making maple syrup. Dick loved stewarding his fields and was still driving tractors in the hay field two months before he died.

Dick was very involved in town politics and regional farm agencies. He was

a founding member of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District in 1955, and served on the first school committee from 1955 to 1961. He served for three terms on the Monterey Board of Selectmen and Board of Health, on the Monterey Conservation Commission, and in the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department.

He was a very active member of the Berkshire County Farm Bureau, and served the Massachusetts's Farm Bureau as its vice president and one term as its president. For many years, Dick and Barbara attended the National Farm Bureau conventions held around the country. Dick also served on the Executive Board of Farm Family Insurance and attended several of their national conventions.

He served for many years on the Board of Directors of Gould Farm. He was also a founder and daily member of the Monterey Coffee Club for forty years. He was a life-long member of the Monterey Congregational Church. He was also a great storyteller, who always had a twinkle in his eye, and his knowledge of local history will be sorely missed.

In his "retirement," when he was not on a tractor in the fields, he was riding his four-wheeler around the farm. He was an avid reader of the *Wall Street Journal* and books about the Civil War, and was a loyal patron of the Monterey Library. In his forties, he took up downhill skiing, going to Butternut Basin for a couple of hours each winter day between the daily farm chores. He and Barbara traveled extensively throughout the world, including well-remembered trips to Kenya, New Zealand, Switzerland, Hawaii, and the Panama Canal, as well as throughout the United States.

Dick was awarded the "*Boston Post Cane*" for the eldest citizen of Monterey at his birthday party in February 2020.

Richard is survived by his five children, Cynthia T. (Robert) Hoogs of Monterey, Linda Pilloud of Switzerland, Richard D. (Susan) Tryon, Jr. of North Andover, MA, Roger C. (Katherine) Tryon of Monterey, and Elizabeth T. (Grant) Sorlie of Kalispell, MT. Also surviving are nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his wife, Barbara, who passed away July 25, 2019, and his sister, Martha L. Race, who passed away August 21, 2018.

A small memorial service with local friends and family to celebrate Richard's life was held on the lawns at Lowland Farm on New Marlborough Road on August 26, led by Rev. Elizabeth Goodman, pastor of the Monterey Congregational Church. A private burial service for the family will be held at Corashire Cemetery in Monterey. Contributions in Richard's memory may be made directly to the Monterey United Church of Christ or to the Monterey Library.

—Cindy Tryon Hoogs



Barbara and Dick Tryon upon their engagement.

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New England Osprey

Looking out along the shoreline of Little Bay in Fairhaven, at least several miles in both directions, my wife Jan and I spend late afternoons watching the air acrobatics of a number of Ospreys' as they plunge down from nearly one hundred feet with a splash, going well below the surface of the water, and then come up clutching a flapping fish. The Osprey is not called a fish hawk for nothing, as diving for fish is the main means of spectacular predation, not only for its own survival, but also to feed and raise a small family of its mate and up to four offspring on a seafood diet. Apparently this feeding ground of Little Bay is so shallow, only a few feet at low tide, that from the air, a circling Osprey can clearly see through to the bottom, and easily pinpoint a number of fish just below the surface, such as carp, suckers, alewives, menhaden, and even sunfish.

As all evidence points to the fact that Osprey mainly take species of fish that are of little value to mankind, this picturesque and spectacular predator deserves to be perpetually protected. My drawing is of an Osprey's nesting platform erected to provide safe and secure nest sites for their reproductive success, and which bird-watchers find so entertaining to observe.

In our observations (we live in the vicinity of at least four nesting sites), every pair of nesting parents is very affectionate for their young in the nest, always within call, ready to defend their offspring. At the nearest platform to us, when the male is out fishing, his mate is collecting grassy fill for the comfortable roosting of their offspring at night. When the young are fledged, after nearly two months in the nest after hatching, and are able to fly well,



they begin fishing for themselves. They must master the intricate balance problem of flight and fishing. At first they have very little success. We have seen young birds plunge into the water several times in succession without securing a fish, but they do not appear to be discouraged from trying again.

When an Osprey sees a desirable target near the surface, it usually hovers and circles just for a moment and then closes its wings to shoot downward towards its prey. The force of the bird's plunge is so great it must strike the surface head first to avoid injury. Instantaneously a protective film comes down over its eyes and ears while maintaining the direction of its target. Rising to the surface with the weight of a fish in its talons is facilitated by having hollow bones that help it rise up and momentarily rest on the surface,

before flying off. They always turn their catch headfirst in the direction of flight for aerodynamic efficiency. Upon catching a fish, the successful angler usually stops to rest on a convenient perch, often disembowels and fillets it for further consumption back at the nest, often sharing it with the rest of the family.

When the frosts of autumn chill the coastal currents, many species of fish begin to move southward. Before they follow, Ospreys daily repair their nests with strong, freshly broken sticks to prepare them for the storms of winter. In mid-September, the families seem to break up as parents stop any feeding of the young, encouraging them to strike off in migration on their own. The young leave first, then the females, with the males being the last to leave. In the spring this pattern is reversed with the males arriving up to two weeks before the females to begin preparing their nests. Once the young become independent, the next year both parents will forcefully discourage them from coming to their home nest again.

North American Osprey were once familiar sights to New Englanders along the coastlines, and now for us living here, the sight of their survival is a bird-watcher's afternoon entertainment that coincidentally happens during the arrival of happy hour!

—George Emmons

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Fiber Connect News

Wondering about Monterey's progress in reaching MBI's prerequisite 51% minimum "take rate" for Fiber Connect service? The take rate has reached 38% thanks to your responding to the select board's request, the appeals published in August's *Monterey News* and posted on Monterey Community Google group, and to your neighbors' suggestions. Thank you for sending in your \$50 deposits—a requirement for validating the take-rate percentage associated with the subsidy grant. We join with the select board and your neighbors on the Broadband Ad Hoc group in hoping the momentum started in August will continue this fall. Details on sending in your deposit will be found at the bottom of this article.

You have also been asking us, after seeing Fiber Connect's crew at work in Monterey, when you will get service. Our crew is working on fiber distribution and installs in those areas of Monterey where Fiber Connect has committed its own funds for construction and utility pole licensing has occurred. Neighborhoods under MBI's subsidized build will see Fiber Connect crew activity when Fiber Connect has a signed agreement with MBI and the Town of Monterey, and Fiber Connect has reached a minimum town-wide 51% subscriber rate and make-ready is completed. Fiber Connect is currently negotiating

the final details of the MBI agreement. Reaching the 51% take rate is within the hands of Monterey residents to achieve. The completion of the make-ready work will be in the hands of the utilities who own the poles. If you would like to know the status of the network at your house location, email sales@bfcma.com.

Site Visits

You have also questioned us about premises site visits and how they relate to when you will get service. We conduct site visits to assess premise install requirements after an owner has registered for service. Site visits are not always required. If they are, we will contact the premise owner to arrange a day and time. If a site visit is outdoors only, we will likely not need to schedule an appointment. A site visit can occur at any time after a premise owner has registered. A site visit does not affect the scheduling of an install.

September 10 Zoom Meeting

Finally, you've asked questions regarding our overall construction progress, our services and policies, how to improve your Wi-Fi, and extending our footprint. To answer these questions for the benefit of all subscribers, registrants, and those still weighing signing up, Fiber Connect will host a Q&A via Zoom on Thursday, September 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Zoom access information will be emailed to those

who receive Fiber Connect's newsletter. Fiber Connect will also post the Zoom session on the Monterey Community Google group well in advance of the 10th. Those interested in attending can also email sales@bfcma.com for Zoom access.

IT Services Resumed

Our IT technicians have resumed scheduling on-site technical assistance visits. Fiber Connect's Covid-19 policies will apply, namely a signed waiver from the premise owner, the wearing of face masks and social distancing. You can read Fiber Connect's Covid-19 policies at bfcma.com under FAQ>Fiber Connect Policies. To schedule a technician, email support@bfcma.com. You do not have to be a Fiber Connect subscriber to make an appointment.

Job Opportunity

Fiber Connect is hiring line/ground crew for immediate year-round indoor and outdoor work. A crew member is responsible for installation, troubleshooting, and repair of internet and phone service for residential and commercial subscribers. A crew member is also tasked with investigating subscriber service issues and instituting appropriate solutions. Experience in telecommunications, electrical engineering, or other related fields is preferred but not required. Fiber Connect will train suitable applicants. If you or someone you know may be interested in applying, they can email a resume plus letter of interest to Adam@bfcma.com.

Registration & Deposits

To make your deposit to help Monterey reach the minimum 51% subscriber rate, please send a check made out to Fiber Connect LLC for \$50.00 to Fiber Connect, PO Box 764, Monterey, MA 01245. Remember to include your phone number on the check. Thank you.



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Watching the Wrens Fledge

It was a thrilling, trilling morning.

As we ate breakfast on a recent Friday morning, four baby wrens fledged before our very eyes, just outside the dining room window.

Exciting as it was, it was not unexpected. We had listened to the nestlings' insistent pleas for food for over a week. For several days we had seen the open beaks and gaping yaws thrusting toward.

Just that morning, we had noticed their heads poking out to take in the world. We could even see, through a little slit at the roofline, the youngsters hopping around inside, perhaps testing their wings in close quarters.

Day by day, they had become increasingly vocal. We watched as the mom dutifully delivered insect after insect, then streaked off in search of more. Finally, one of the youngsters popped out on the little ledge, and fairly promptly fell into the brush. The others followed but made it more successfully to the fence railing and beyond.

The first fledgling didn't have far to fall. Out of several possible options available, the mother wren had settled into the large blue "condo," as we referred to it, which was perched on a fairly low fence pole quite close to our cottage.

It must have seemed like a safe neighborhood at first, but that didn't last. Soon after the chicks hatched, Bradley spent

a couple of afternoons working just feet away, noisily constructing a little deck, installing an outdoor tub and connecting plumbing. A couple of days later gale force winds and torrential rains buffeted the wren house. The day after that, following the screeching of a chainsaw, a nearby tree was felled, which must have felt like an earthquake to the tiny creatures (house wrens weigh about as much as two nickels).

Wrens, as it happens, are quite tolerant of humans, often relying on our species for small enclosures in which to nest, including drainpipes, crevices in buildings, and even shoes. However, they can be fierce in defending their territory. We were often scolded when coming too near. Once, after I tried for a glimpse of the action inside, one of the parents flew out of the hole directly at my face. But once they were settled in, the little family was in no position to relocate.

Through it all, the chirps grew louder and more insistent. As the nestlings matured, they crowded near the hole, beaks open wide, necks stretched upward, ready to receive live offerings. Their urgent cries kept the mom working feverishly, darting in with insects dangling from her beak and then back out to hunt for more. As far as I could tell, it had become a single parent household—at least I never saw the two adults together after the eggs hatched. It marked a change since the courtship period, when the males are quite dedicated.



Males construct several possible nests and lead a prospective mate from one to another, hoping she'll find one to her liking. They perform melodious songs, often described as bubbling or effervescent. (*"How/ out of its throat/smaller than a finger/ can there fall the waters/ of its song?"* wondered Pablo Neruda in his "Ode to Bird Watching.") Once the eggs are incubating, however males may move on and try to establish another family.

When feeding their young, birds rely primarily on insects, even when seeds are available. A single brood can require some seven thousand live insects, with juicy and nutritious caterpillars being a favorite. That was one of the many interesting tidbits delivered by John Root, an enthusiastic lecturer on many aspects of the natural world, at a talk I had heard the previous night on attracting beneficial pollinators. (Originally scheduled for the Community Center, it was presented via Zoom.)

I calculated that if the breeding period covers a period of twenty days (twelve to fourteen days in the nest, and then additional feedings for the youngsters for a week or so after they fledge), the parents must have had to bring home something like 350 insects a day. A website associated with the University of Wisconsin corroborated that, noting that many ornithologist observations confirm that house wrens feed older nestlings about twenty-five to thirty times per hour, an astonishing feat, it seems. But so much about the natural world astonishes.

Fortunately, our cottage lies on the edge of a mixed hardwood forest, predominantly oaks, which are the single richest host for caterpillars and other insects. An oak tree can support as many as 550 different species of butterflies and moths alone, according to research by entomolo-

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gist Doug Tallamy. Without a good supply of insects, bird populations, which have declined by about 30% in the last fifty years, are likely to plummet further.

The increasing fragmentation of rural landscapes into housing plots and subdivisions, along with the prevalence of manicured lawns, contributes to the decline in sustenance for birds and the insects on which they rely. Climate change, chemicals, and outdoor cats are other anthropogenic threats to birds. But individuals—as well as towns and other community entities—can help to boost bird diversity and abundance. A study of suburban properties in southeast Pennsylvania, as described on the Audubon website, found that the numbers of several species of migratory songbirds was eight times higher in yards with native plants compared to those with more typical nursery-variety ornamentals. I recalled a presentation a couple of years ago at the Monterey Community Center, in which Julie Kern described the transformation, through native plantings, of an old horse pasture filled with invasives into an oasis for not only birds and bees, but for frogs, turtles, and numerous small mammals.

Even very small parcels of land can, when landscaped primarily with native plants, provide food, habitat, and refuge for a wide range of species. Simply mowing lawns less often, foregoing chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and accepting clover, wildflowers, and even dandelions into a more diverse lawn mix can be a big help.

With a new property to landscape, and a lot of hungry birds around, I wanted to do a little more. So this spring I invested in “biodiversity in a box,” a CSA (community supported agriculture) offering from Helia Native Plants (helianativenursery.com/). Its owner, Bridghe McCracken, a passionate and persuasive local evangelist for using native plants to create more resilient ecosystems, explains that establishing a border of flowering native plants around our yard would give the moths and butterflies, once they emerged from their cocoons in the forest, plenty of nectar to sup on. With that sustenance, they could go about their work of pollinating the many flowers, fruits, and vegetables that rely on their services, then on to mating and continuing the finely calibrated cycle of life that has



evolved over millennia. The CSA included a four by eight-foot hemlock raised planter, into which I placed sixty-four plug-sized pollinator-feeding native perennials that were available on a weekly basis. In the photo above you can see some are now flowering: lobelia, anise hissoop, black-eyed Susans, bee balm, and coneflowers. Others—flag iris, ironweed, ginger, swamp milkweed—have yet to bloom.

There is a growing movement to create pollinator corridors to connect public

spaces, neighborhoods, and forests in support of our regional ecosystems. In 2016, Great Barrington became the first municipality in New England to pass a pollinator-friendly resolution, and its agricultural commission followed it up, in 2018, with a pollinator action plan. Several other nearby towns, including Egremont, Williamstown, and North Adams, as well as some in the Pioneer Valley, have followed suit. Friends of the Earth has distributed the plan to more than two hundred regional cities and towns.

After John Root’s talk, I heard from another woman who attended, asking if I wanted to work with her on promoting native plants in Monterey. I do, of course. If anyone else is interested, kindly contact me at Janetjensen@verizon.net, and we’ll see what we can do.

—Janet Jensen



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Letters

51% for Monterey

The issue of high-speed broadband has finally taken a turn in our town's favor, but now the key is getting at least 51% of the households in town to support the project.

As you may have read over the summer, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), with the agreement of the Massachusetts Technology Collaboration, has agreed to financially support Fiber Connect's (FC) network construction for those areas in town that are not feasible for FC, as a private company, to profitably wire. In the past, this has been described as the "last 30%," but with this new agreement some of those areas now might be built-out sooner when it makes engineering sense.

The key that opens the MBI vault is a minimum 51% support from all households, regardless of whether you live here full time or just part of the time. We cannot reach this goal without strong participation by second-home owners. Previously folks have signed up with Fiber Connect as potentially interested in service when it becomes available. As of this writing, there are as many households that are merely registered as are now receiving the service. Fiber Connect's policy is that you do not need to make a deposit to register. However, MBI will only count those households that either have service agreements or which have registered and made a minimum \$50 deposit on future service.

The Welfare of Monterey

The welfare of the town, the welfare of the people in town, of all of us, has been supported by contributions in so many ways over the years.

The **Monterey News** is now in its fifty-first year due to voluntary donations over all these years.

We have a **community center** now, funded largely by private individuals.

We have a brand-spanking-**new library**, in large part because of donations that funded the planning and then the furnishing.

The **church meetinghouse** recently accomplished a major maintenance project through donations.

The **fire company** relies on donations for much of its operating budget that is not supplied by town funds.

The **Bidwell House** welcomes visitors year-round because of donations.

The **Friends of Lake Garfield**, and the **Lake Buel Association** work to preserve the health of the lakes. All of these add to the welfare of the town, and none of this support is premised on "getting something."

These donations support the welfare of the town generally, and different folks provide this support to what they see as valuable to the town.

The \$50 may, at some point, become refundable, just as the \$49 deposit folks made to WiredWest is refundable. (If you haven't applied for your WW refund, go to WiredWest.net/campaign/refunds. When you get it, just send it along to Fiber Connect. It is our best and only bet for Monterey.)

Without hitting this 51% target, the list below shows what **will not** be available to large areas of the town in the coming years, creating a clear divide between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in our town (imagine what this would be like if we were talking electrical service):

- Efficient access to online portals for commercial and consumer uses, as well as for public functions such as the census, renewal of licenses, and accessing state and federal information;
- Tele-medical interventions as well as regular contact with medical support services,
- Education of children of all ages at home and in schools, including facilities for the teachers to instruct;
- Operation of small businesses and home-based business, and development of new small businesses and home-based employment on a local and regional basis;
- Bi-directional operation of local government: boards, citizen concerns, and the business of our town;
- Remote participation in cultural and artistic efforts, and supporting theatre, music, film, and literary performances;
- Citizens remotely attending their AA, NA, or support group meetings.

You could just make your deposit (donation) and then just forget about it. While your \$50 deposit might not "get" you anything right now, you might come to wish you had high speed broadband available in the future (see the list above). This is what each of us can do to help make that a reality. Also worth mentioning, high speed broadband is an essential utility when it comes to buying or selling homes.

To register and make a deposit, see the end of the Fiber Connect article on page 19.

\$50 is a modest "donation" to support the welfare of the town. Hitting this 51% goal will give Fiber Connect the confidence, and ultimately the financing, to build a network covering the entire town. This agreement with MBI parallels one with Egremont (already well past the 51% goal), which will help to make the company financially robust and growing.

— Stephen Moore



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Voice over Internet

Last month we discussed a major benefit of Internet service as it relates to content that normally is provided over television or classic cable. If one is to research “cord cutting,” we find that millennials and others are driving the shift from classic cable/over-the-air(OTA) content delivery to content acquisition through Internet providers such as YouTube TV, Hulu, Locast, etc., in addition to Netflix and Amazon Prime.

This article focuses on the second cord cutting benefit, replacing classic plain old telephone service (POTS) with Internet-based voice over IP (VOIP). In essence, voice traffic is translated into digital bits and bytes and sent from source to destination via the Internet Service Provider (ISP). This brief article is by no means a technical discussion as there are many nuances and differences between audio streams in real time versus streaming video television or video.

It is very easy, simple, and transparent to us as users to switch our phone service from Verizon to Internet-based services. You get to keep your phone number and you get many, if not all, of the same services that you receive from Verizon with the same reliability and quality at reduced costs. There is no additional costs for long distance services. All domestic numbers regardless of connection (landlines, cell phone, other internet voice numbers) are included in the base service rate. International calls are metered.

Fiber Connect does offer voice services including voice messaging at a competitive cost. A benefit is that you get an email from Fiber Connect telling you of a voice message wherever you may be and you can download that message for immediate or deferred listening.

An Internet search for residential VOIP services results in a list of several additional providers at a variety of costs and perhaps a variety of additional services.

If you have a relatively current mobile phone, you may notice a service called WiFi calling. In essence, this allows you to make/receive calls using the Internet as the carrier. In this case, you are not using your mobile minutes...another savings!

If you have WiFi calling enabled, you are already making use of Internet based voice services.

Its really pretty simple.

Given the state of the project in Monterey, I suggest that any questions be sent directly to Fiber Connect or select board member Don Coburn. They are the two entities that can move the project forward. There are no other local resources actively involved in this project.

Good luck with your transition to Internet services and the resulting savings!

—Cliff Weiss

Editor's Note: For more detailed information about Fiber Connect's services including phone service, go to bfema.org, then using the drop-down menu icon in the upper right-hand corner, go to "Pricing."

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Wildlife

July and August

In July, Ellen Coburn sent photographs (facing page) of lepidopteran visitors to her bee balm. These flowers at her place come in various shades of red and lavender. There was also a bumblebee, in the pale lavender thistle blossom. From Don Coburn we have a bear family near the Coburn house. (*Editor's note: Don's photo was from too far away for clear printable photo.*)

Elizabeth Maschmeyer has for years tended a small flower garden right on Route 23 at its intersection with Curtis Road, under the Gould Farm signs. There have been milkweeds growing among the flowers there and she took a photograph of a monarch caterpillar on a big milkweed leaf.

A few days later, someone amazingly tore out these milkweeds and tossed them over on the road shoulder. Elizabeth rescued the uprooted plants and took them to a friend's garden, hoping the caterpillars can thrive there.

In early August, Priscilla Brown was visited by a bear at her house on Elephant Rock Road, and then she saw a bear three days later on Sylvan Road. She also reports that Nancy Johnson of Elephant Rock Road had a bear come into her house, by opening a screen door. The dog chased this bear back out of the house, and up Hupi Road.

Michael and Maureen Banner sent a photograph (below) of a small toad, 3/4 inch tall. We used to see hundreds of toads like this across Route 23 from here, on a "discontinued" dirt road we came to call "Teeny Tiny Toad Road."



Robin Dorian was walking to the Post Office in mid-August and saw two bobcats along the way. The adult, maybe the



mother, was on Limerick Road, and then as Robin was headed back from the post office, she saw a youngster in the middle of Tyringham Road. She took photographs of both bobcats (above).

Bonsai Cox watched a bobcat hunting and took photographs. A couple of days later, Elizabeth Maschmeyer saw one cross New Marlborough Road, near its intersection with Wellman Road.



Up on Chestnut Hill Road, Julie Johnston enjoys a regular Wild Kingdom. She has been visited by a family of four bears: mama and three charming cubs, one of which sports a big white chevron patch on its chest. Julie also has been watching a bobcat, which stalks across the yard, slowly and with much tension, hoping for a squirrel. This has happened on two different days, and both times when the hunt failed, the squirrel chattered like mad from safety, very noisy.

Kyle Pierce called with an account of a mother raccoon with three babies, coming to the bird feeder for seeds. Then she went out on a branch for the hummingbird feeder. She held this in both hands, drank from it, and then poured it on the ground for the youngsters.

We have had a bear here, too, last seen up the road a bit by our neighbor Sharon Rosenberg. In the couple of days



before this, a bear had held a corn party in our garden, and the blackberries in our upper pasture are carefully monitored and selected every morning before I get up there. Whoever does this leaves a broad trail through the ferns and blackberry canes, as if someone had dragged a heavy toboggan through there. Or a bear.

This morning I heard and saw the Rufous-sided Towhee again, for the first time since spring. And Sharon Rosenberg had three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at the feeder, "sometimes all at once . . . a male, a female, and a juvenile male." They, and our towhee, may be getting ready to move farther south, soon.



Also preparing for colder, shorter days, are the Luna Moths on Chestnut Hill. Julie Johnston took some photographs of one of their caterpillars (above), in orange-green color mode, fattened up and ready for diapause. This is a dormant period when the critter is inside a silk cocoon, in a sort of arrested pupal development. When winter is over, the days lengthening and warming, the pupa gets the signal and opens up the cocoon with special spurs, to emerge as one of those amazing pale green Luna Moths, with "sleepy eyespots" on the wings.

Thank you, everyone. Keep those Wild Notes coming!

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



Ellen Coburn's August Gallery

Above left and right, and below right: Moths on lavender and red bee balm. (Bee balm is a much favored plant for pollinators.)

Below left: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on lavender bee balm.



Below: Bumblebee on a purple thistle



Below: Grasshopper



Above: Mike and Maureen Banner discovered this frog sitting on top of a pair of garden shears.



Above: Delight Dodyk found this brown bat in her porch. She was able to catch it in a butterfly net, which she set outside on a stump. Eventually the bat flew off. Brown bat populations all over the country have fallen up to 90% in some areas due to "white nose" disease, which is a fungus that interferes with hibernation over the winter. Where we used to see clouds of brown bats, we should rejoice to see a few.



Above: Julie Johnston found this "prickly pig" looking for breakfast near the Roadside, probably just interested in take-out service!



Select Board Corner

The select board did not prepare any information to inform the town for this month.

MontereyMA.gov

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

— Don Coburn, Chair
Steve Weisz and John Weingold
Monterey Select Board
(don@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(weinjohnsb@gmail.com)

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

Unsolved Mysteries of the Road

- How do highway officials determine where to place “Deer Crossing” markers?
- When everyone is exceeding the speed limit, how do police officers decide who to stop?
- When roadside signs read “Men Working,” why are men rarely at work?
- Is there a gasoline price in all of the United States that does not end in 9?
- Why won’t you see the celebrities or corporate sponsors at work along those stretches of road they’ve adopted?
- Why is it virtually impossible to drive at 15 mph in a school zone?
- Why, when you’re late, do you invariably “make” all the lights?
- How is it that car squeaks and noises grow strangely silent once you arrive at the garage?
- Why are “backseat drivers” just as likely to be found in the front seat?
- Why, when you’re waiting for a parking spot, does that driver often take forever to even begin to pull out?
- Why is it you’ve never spotted rocks in a “falling rock” zone?
- Why do folks who don’t ordinarily pick their noses in public do so rather frequently in their cars?
- Why do many people, when driving cars, appear to perhaps be more interesting than they may be in person?
- Why does having your car washed seem to result in rain soon thereafter?
- Why when you glance over at another driver traveling along the road does he immediately sense you’re looking at him and stare back?

—Richard Skolnik

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

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

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

Bidwell House Museum Their First Virtual Party!

We had a great time at our first virtual summer party, which premiered on YouTube on August 22. It was an hour of stirring music from beloved local musicians, fascinating information about the recent preservation work at the house, and magnificent drone footage of the house and gardens. The museum wants to thank everyone who watched, who donated, who bid on our auction items, and who worked on this event. We were thrilled to see so many of our friends supporting history education, especially in these uncertain times, and we sincerely hope that more and more people will come to enjoy the local treasure that is the Bidwell House Museum.

Special thanks to the party committee: Diane Austin, Linnea Grealish, Rob Hoogs, Jane Johnson, and Kathryn Roberts. Thank you to the musicians who provided our viewers with outstanding music filmed in different locations around the house: Joe Baker and Bonner McAllaster, Paula Bradley, Eric Martin, and Oakes & Smith. We also need to thank all of the generous friends and artists who donated to our silent auction: Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Elaine Hoffman, Richard Greene, Judy Kamm, Kate Knapp, Russ Potak, and Michael Wilcox. Finally, thank you to Monterey filmmaker Steve Gilbert for donating his prodigious talent to filming all of the wonderful footage that was used that night.

Guided Hikes

Coming up in September and early October the Bidwell House Museum has two guided hikes planned. First on Saturday, September 26, Richard Greene will once again lead his walk along the Royal Hemlock Trail, "In the Steps of the Early Settlers." This guided walk on the Bidwell grounds, as well as on the BNRC's Hudson-Howard property, traces the route of the early settlers of Township No. 1 from their homes to the first meeting house on a hill near the museum. Dr. Greene will lead the group on the old roadways, past foundations of long-ago homesteads, and explore flora and fauna along the way. This walk will meet in front of the Museum.

The following weekend, on Saturday, October 3, join Rob Hoogs for "A Walk Through History on the Bidwell Grounds." This historical hike will take you along two old colonial roads on the Bidwell House property and BNRC's Hudson-Howard Preserve. You will investigate four cellar holes, a charcoal hearth, and beautiful old stone walls, ending on a hillside overlooking Stedman Pond with filtered views into the Tyringham Valley.

Each of these hikes begin at 10 a.m., and will take about three hours. You can expect to encounter some rough woods, roads, and trails. Wear good hiking shoes and a mask, bring water, and a snack if you like. Both walks are limited to twelve participants and all attendees must pre-register on the museum's website, bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Don't forget that the museum grounds are open daily, from dawn until dusk, free of charge. We have a number of self-guided tours of the property, with maps and brochures at the parking kiosk and on the museum porch. If it has been a while since you visited the museum or you have out-of-town guests who are new to the area, send them over for a walk on the trails. We hope to see you soon!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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.

Calendar

Thursday, September 10:

Fiber Connect Q&A via Zoom, 1 to 2:30 p.m. See page 19.

Route 23 Village Culvert online information session, 5 p.m. See page 2.

Monday, September 14: Lake Garfield Working Group, 7 p.m. See page 4.

Sunday, September 20: *Tea with the First Ladies*, 1 p.m., MCC. See page 9.

Saturday, September 26:

Royal Hemlock Trail Hike, Bidwell House, 10 a.m. See page 23.

Monterey Munchies, 11 a.m., MCC. See page 9.

Saturday, October 3: A Walk Through History on the Bidwell Grounds, 10 a.m. See page 23.

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*Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pgs. 16, 19; Chris Carnese, p. 9;
George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 13.*

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