MONTEREY NEWS

February 2024 Est. 1970
Vol. LIIII · Number 2

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station

Winterfest is here again! Friends, kids crafts, food, and hopefully snow. See page 10.

The best defense we have against rising costs is to reduce our waste.
Transfer Station Costs Escalate page 3

Isn't "love's will being done" whenever you happily make a meal for yourself or someone else? When you step out of an argument about to run amok?
After Janus, into the Year page 22

Upsizing the culvert will cost the town $600,000. It's now up to the town and its residents to decide—is the cost worth it?
Route 23 Culvert page 4

The internet is so much a part of today's society that it is easy to forget not all houses in Monterey are able to hook up to fiber.
Digital Equity Program page 5

There is no shortage of Montereyans desiring to help others. Our first task though is to identify who in Monterey needs assistance and then how to connect them with volunteers and services.
Council on Aging Planning page 8

Our theme for this month is "Serving Up the South." I reckon if the creeks don't rise, I'll be fixin' to attend supper club over yonder in the church basement Monday.
Supper Club page 13

Call of the Forest explores biochemicals in the different ecosystems, both land and sea, and the role of trees in the production of our medicines both in ancient and modern times.
Call of the Forest page 15

The quarterly billing system is based on two tax bills, the *preliminary* tax rate bill and an *actual* tax rate bill.
Property Tax Billings page 2

We would like to be part of a conversation with people who may be interested in exploring possibilities for acquiring and operating the Monterey Meeting House.
Historical Society News page 16

There has always been two parts to our church. The building is not the most important part. The church is really about the congregation.
On the Sale of the Church page 6

"Some lowlife stole my art work. I just like to give people something nice to see."
Blue Skies—Yellow Sunflowers page 14

Your input will help guide the planning process and determine the future of recreation and open space in town.
Open Space & Recreation Survey page 7

"My favorite part of Monterey is the people. I just love talking to everybody. I wish I could remember everybody's names. I remember everyone's face."
Monterey Welcomes... page 20

Special Town Meeting
Date To Be Set for Early March

The select board is heading towards calling another special town meeting. They had hoped to avoid doing this thinking they might find a way to fund some needs through the end of the fiscal year with out holding an STM.

Likely smaller topics include paying the school committee representative for last year's efforts; a late bill from the composting vendor; and a few thousand dollars to fund the community center, largely stemming from an increased bid for mowing.

There is a need for added money for the transfer station, currently estimated at around $40,000 due to an error in calculating the budget for this current year, higher hauling costs with the switch to a different hauler, and the inexplicable destruction of the compactor by Casella (see on page 3). Another large cost item is for substantially upgrading the town's information technology (IT) system. The cost of this is being determined through bidding at this point.

The board is anticipating Saturday, March 2, at 1:30 p.m. for holding the meeting though this has not been voted on.

—Stephen Moore

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For Single Family Properties

	Average assessed value on tax bill	Tax rate per thousand	Tax Bill
FY 2022	$577,123	$7.28	$4,201
FY 2023	$655,954	$6.09	$3,995
FY 2024	$697,420	$6.13	$4,275

In My View
Property Tax Billings

The most recent 3rd and 4th quarter tax bills have generated many questions.

Assessed Values and Tax Rates

Let me start with the assessed value and property tax rates of single-family homes over the last several years.

You can see above that the tax rate increase per $1,000 of assessed value between FY 2024 and FY 2023 was small. Only a .65% increase per $1,000. However, all properties saw a drastic increase in their property's assessed value. (FY means "fiscal year" and Monterey's fiscal year goes from July 1 to June 30.)

The state does require each community, be it a town or city, to have a complete reevaluation (audit) of every property within that community, every five years. This is accomplished by using the previous two years "arm's length sales" as the basis in which the process is checked and adjusted to meet the ratios required by the Department of Revenue.

It took Don Clawson, principal assessor, his assistant Linda Hamill, the three board of assessor members, an outside firm, and state officials from January 2, 2023, to October 30, 2023, to complete the work.

Free Cash

Why did the tax rate in FY 2023 drop so much when comparing it to the previous fiscal year? While preparing the FY 2023 budget in the spring of 2022 the select board voted to take $475,000 of free cash and apply it to the operating budget. The town approved this decision in the annual May town meeting of 2022.

Free cash is money that results from the calculation, as of July 1, of a community's remaining, unrestricted funds from its operations of the previous fiscal year, based on the balance sheet as of June 30. In simpler terms, money that was in the operating budget and not spent and revenue that exceeded what was budgeted (for example building permits) goes into an account called "Free Cash." "Free Cash" cannot be spent without approval from the voters. Typically, the dollars from "Free Cash" are spent on large ticket items (trucks) and unforeseen needs (repairs from storms). Also in 2022 there was an exceptionally large amount of "Free Cash" in the account because of an accounting error.

Because there was an increase in the FY 2024 operating budget and available "Free Cash" was applied to large capital expenditures and onetime expenses, versus the operating budget, the tax rate had to go up. To meet all expenses the tax rate had to go from $6.09 per $1,000 of assessed value to $6.13 per $1,000 of assessed value (.65%). Monterey still has the lowest tax rate in Berkshire County, other than Alford, in south county.

Quarterly Tax Bills Explained

I spoke with Mari Makuc, Monterey tax collector. She explained that the quarterly billing system is based on two tax bills, the *preliminary* tax rate bill and an *actual* tax rate bill, each of which is broken into two quarters.

The annual property tax rate is not set until late fall/early winter.

The first two quarter property bills of the fiscal year (due August 1 and November 1) are *preliminary* amounts based on the previous year tax rate. When the new tax rate is set, the *actual* tax for the year is calculated and the actual bills are issued and due February 1 and May 1.

Illustration

If the previous year's total tax amount was $4,000, then the August (Q1) and November (Q2) bills for the current year will each be $1,000 (25% of the previous year total). If, after the tax rate is set, the actual tax for the full fiscal year is $5,000 then the February (Q3) and May (Q4) bills are calculated as follows:

- Actual annual tax $5,000
- Less taxes billed/paid Q1 & Q2 -$2,000
- Balance due $3,000
- Split over Q3 & Q4 = $1,500 per quarter.

Taxpayers may think because the quarterly payment increased by $500 that the total tax increased by $2,000 but, in fact, the total annual tax bill increased by only $1,000.

Tax comparisons should be made by comparing the total fiscal year's taxes, not by comparing quarter-to-quarter payment amounts.

— Frank Abbott, member
Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View *provides individual board members an opportunity 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 board.*

In My View

Transfer Station Costs Escalate

It's been a difficult year for the town's transfer station, and that's why we expect there is going to be a request for money for the transfer station of the special town meeting warrant in early March. We have an excellent facility and a solid staff, but a variety of factors have driven costs up. Several Massachusetts landfills are scheduled to close in the next five years, and many nearby states are moving to close their landfills to out-of-state waste. Transport costs are already rising, and the next few years are likely to see large increases in our disposal costs; indeed, we are already seeing those increases.

Casella Waste Management, which has been moving toward a monopoly in waste hauling in our region, bought our long-time waste hauler, Valley. While they honored the existing contract with Valley for that year, they suffered from significant staffing problems which resulted in problematic service—the results of which were often evident to those who use the transfer station and a source of great frustration for town staff. Because the contract allowed for yearly price changes, at the end of the year they offered us a contract with significant cost increases. We put the contract back out for bid, and weighed the pros and cons of the two bids we received. As Casella provided no assurances that their service performance was likely to improve, and included contingencies for unspecified pass-through charges, as well as fuel surcharges, we elected to go with Roger Trucking, although the cost of the contract was higher. Sadly, there was an error in the calculations regarding the comparison of the contracts of about $10,000. Yet even with that error, the way Casella treated us at the close of contract was indicative of what we could have expected from them had we chosen their services, especially in light of what transpired next.

We offered to buy the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) compactor which we had been renting from Valley/Casella for many years. Quite surprisingly, Casella not only refused to sell us the compactor—they came to the transfer station and destroyed it! In what I can only label a ridiculously bad business decision, rather than selling it to us they chopped the compactor into pieces in front of a number of witnesses and then hauled off the remains (happily, I don't believe they charged us a tipping fee for it). No rational person could have predicted this sort of behavior from business people. As we understand it, Casella already had several compactors in their yard, and had no use for the additional machine. I will leave you to draw your own conclusions as to their motivations.

It took us several months to obtain a new compactor, and during that time, the director of operations used the paper compactor (which we own) for MSW for sound operational reasons. However, costs increased further as we have to pay for each waste haul, be it paper or MSW, and without a compactor for the paper we had approximately $11,000 worth of additional hauling charges. We are working towards purchasing the second compactor to alleviate the rental charges.

Reducing our Waste

The best defense we have against rising costs is to reduce our waste. Monterey's municipal solid waste production has stayed fairly constant over the last four years at approximately 252 tons per year. To provide some perspective, US residents produce about 1,800 lbs/person/year of MSW, the second highest in the world. (For a comparison to thirty-six other countries for total waste per capita, recycling, incineration, landfills, and open dumps, go to Sensoneo.com, and search "Global Waste Index"). That's close to a ton per person. Let's see if we can reduce how much waste we make, for our budget and for our environment.

— Susan Cooper, member
Monterey Select Board

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Stephen Moore

Our sixty-plus-year-old culvert

Main Road/Route 23 Culvert: The Costs

The numbers are in. GZA, the engineering company aiding the town with the design plans for the Route 23 culvert replacement next to town hall, has presented the town with a cost estimate to replace the ten-foot span with a twenty-five-foot span. This upsized structure will accommodate future flood scenarios as predicted by climate change data, ensuring that the town hall, the road, and many of the surrounding properties do not flood. The original estimate made during the conceptual design phase three years ago predicted the replacement would cost $2.4 million. Since then, inflation has saddled us with a significant rise in both materials and labor cost. The more accurate estimate of the project construction is around $3.6 million. You can see the breakdown of costs (summarized for clarity) at the right.

As you can see, the costs are broken out by site and construction preparation, demolition of the existing culvert and wingwalls, construction of the new structure, and restoration of the site including stream and bank plantings.

Description	Cost
General Site Preparation including: equipment set up, sediment and erosion controls, and water control, stream channel and slope protection	$900,000
Traffic Control, Temporary Bridge, and Project Signage	$502,000
Demolition of existing culvert and river walls	$75,000
Installation of New 25'x12' Pre-Cast Concrete Box Culvert and reconstruction of upstream and downstream training walls	$1,035,000
Water line relocation and restoration	$253,000
Construction of Walkway & Railing	$100,000
Roadway Pavement and Restoration	$74,000
Site Restoration - (bank plantings and slope restoration)	$50,000
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL	$2,989,000
20% Contingency	$597,800.0
GRAND TOTAL	$3,586,800.0

New project designs include an ADA compliant walkway between town hall and the post office (connected by a new crosswalk at the post office across Route 23). The walkway serves the added benefit of providing insulation for the drinking water pipe which will be buried in the walkway, ensuring that the pipes won't freeze and water pressure is maintained while also providing maintenance access. The cost of the walkway is $100,000. While there may be some savings from eliminating this option—it should be noted that some costs would be added back in order to address proper insulation of the water line.

It became apparent through conversations with the select board and highway department that there was no good detour around the site, especially for larger trucks that frequently pass through Route 23. Therefore, the costs above include provisions for the road to remain open during the entirety of construction. This would be accomplished through the installation of a temporary one-lane bridge adjacent to the construction site. The temporary bridge costs $402,000 to the project—but the town will then own the temporary bridge after construction is completed for use in other projects.

A 20% contingency allowance of the estimated total was added to get the grand total of $3,586,800 (rounded up to $3.6 million). This is standard during construction projects in case anything unanticipated arises including further inflation.

What comes next?

Now that the town has the full cost estimate, they have been exploring grant options. At the select board meeting in January, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Courteny Morehouse presented four grant options: Federal options through FEMA Hazard Mitigation, US Department of Transportation RAISE grants, as well as state options through Department of Ecological Restoration Municipal Culvert Replacement Grant and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) under executive office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Of these the most feasible is the Massachusett's MVP grant. It should be noted that the MVP grant had a maximum

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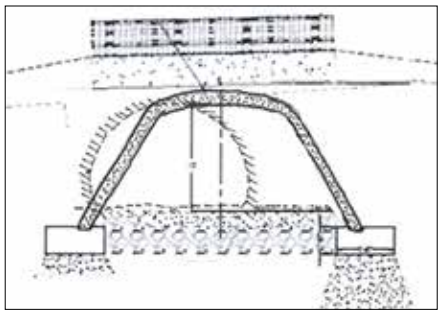

An overlay comparison between the existing circular culvert and the proposed culvert. The increased capacity is clearly seen. The walkway is at the top.

award of $3 million for a single town last year and MVP requires a non-state match of 10% for Monterey. In other words, if awarded, MVP could cover $3 million of construction costs and the Town would be responsible for the remaining $586,800, as well as grant administration and public engagement costs. At the select board meeting in January, the select board considered options to come up with this match including in-kind support and a town loan.

It might be easier to think of the costs of climate change in the abstract. Something that happens "over there" to "those people." We may know in theory that climate change will cost us but how? Here in Monterey, you have one example to look at exactly what that cost is. The modeling and precipitation trends predict that this culvert is likely to flood in a 100-year storm in the future. Upsizing the culvert will mitigate climate change flooding for the cost of $600,000 in match funding. It's now up to the town and its residents to decide—is the cost worth it?

—Courtney Morehouse
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Getting the Monterey News

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Monterey Library
Digital Equity Program

The Monterey Library, along with the Town, with help from Dennis Lynch who wrote the grant, is officially part of the Municipal Digital Equity Program. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is spearheading this program in Berkshire County.

What does that mean? The internet is so much a part of today's society that it is easy to forget not all houses in Monterey are able to hook up to fiber. We tend to forget not everyone can afford that service. Not everyone can afford the devices to connect. And for sure many of us feel left behind as the technology and its uses advance more rapidly than we can keep up with. This aspect of the digital divide gets wider as the internet develops exponentially and more of society depends on it. Think of all the things we do that can only be done on the internet now.

In 1995 the library had one of the first internet connections in town, and it was available to anyone who walked in the door. We have continued to provide access over the years. We upgraded our connectivity as we could, provided desktop access, WiFi 24/7 (I'll never forget some of the people who came in and asked what we meant by providing WiFi access, and no, it was not about cleaners), iPads, and hotspots for those who need temporary internet connection.

The federal and state governments are teaming together (#InternetForAll, or go to internetforall.gov/) to help those who need assistance to bridge that gap in various ways. The library won't be able to string fiber, but the mission statement of the library places it in position to provide the means to connect as well as a place to assist those technologically challenged (I think that is most of us) with assistance utilizing that technology. In general terms, we hope with this grant to provide devices, classes, and expert assistance for those who need it.

There are two ways you can help in this process. First there is a survey set up by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. It can be accessed by the link on the Monterey Library website's home page, or search online for "MA Statewide Digital Equity Survey." They are still accepting responses. All survey information is collected only by zip code and town, so it is an anonymous survey. It is important to have some responses from Monterey residents to help in determining the needs of Monterey and assist in the distribution of the Federal funding. Please take five minutes and let them know we need assistance.

The second way is participating in a focus group. You can get a $30 gift card and lunch by attending a focus group run by Berkshire Regional Planning that will also try to figure out how best to help with this. They are looking for anyone and everyone. Sign up by emailing digital@berkshireplanning.org (subject Text Focus Group), or call (413) 442-1521 ext.16.

—Mark Makuc
Library director

Notice of Passing

An esteemed member of our Monterey community, Hy Rosen, died peacefully on Sunday, January 21. A full obituary will follow in the March issue.

—Myrna Rosen

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Thoughts on the Sale of the Church

It was a very sad day when the twelve remaining voting members of the Monterey United Church of Christ realized it would be necessary to sell our house of worship which has stood on the corner of Main and Tyringham Roads for nearly 175 years. Sally and I have been part of a worshiping congregation all of our lives no matter where we lived. The Monterey UCC, where we have worshiped for the past twenty-five years, has and continues to be an important part of our life.

There have always been two parts to our church. The building is not the most important part. The church is really about the congregation. In our worship we support each other and try to find a path to live a life that follows the example of Jesus Christ. It is the seeking of this path that unites us as a loving congregation. That being said, the world has changed and moved away from this model. There are still many opportunities for social activity in Monterey. Many of those activities used to be initiated by the church and they are still important to the vitality of the town, even though they are now initiated by others.

Last month the church leaders signed a letter to the *Monterey News* telling the town what our intention was regarding the building. I think it is important to point out that those four leaders, who devote countless hours, who believe in our purpose, and worship here regularly do not live in Monterey. We have a very mobile society now that will travel all over to find the worship they need and identify with. Thus, many church buildings are closing. Many of these buildings have found a new use.

Our small congregation simply no longer can provide the stewardship that the old building requires. We have done a lot to keep the building going from replacing radiators and boilers to painting and replacing carpeting and on and on. The issue is much less about money and more about needing people. Could our church find a new purpose and find new ownership? That is our hope.

—Steve Pullen

Maureen Banner

From Veterans Dayin November 2015. Many familiar faces, with Pastor Liz Goodman, Steve Pullen, and George Emmons in the front row.

Letters

Selling the Church

I was saddened to hear that the Monterey United Church of Christ has decided to sell its building. I know that this was a very difficult decision for the congregation. I feel very fortunate to have been able to hear Pastor Liz Goodman's sermons, to have attended concerts in the sanctuary, and to have spent numerous hours in the church basement, enjoying community dinners and coffee with the coffee club. It is difficult to imagine the town without its church and congregation.

The Monterey United Church of Christ and its warm, welcoming congregation and pastor will be missed by us all.

—Colleen Johnson

Be Involved with the Future of the Meeting House

The Monterey Historical Society is sponsoring an open meeting to bring people together Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m. at the Monterey Library multipurpose room to discuss the future of the meeting house. See page 16.

just before nightfall
the cold sky illuminates
the snow in blue light.
—Laura S. Denman

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House Number Signs
Put In Your Order!

From the Monterey Police Department:

Thanks to all the residents who have ordered reflective house number signs. Our count is over 130 and still rising! We have not yet ordered the signs due to the time it takes to create a revolving account to collect the monies. Those of you who attended the town meeting may remember the first order of business was to vote on creating a revolving account for this purpose. Thank you to all those who voted unanimously to create the account and had your voices heard.

The next step was to bring the request for a revolving account to the state. We have been informed we should know by the end of February. Once we have state approval, we will email everyone who pre-ordered directions for payment.

Anyone who has not pre-ordered a house number sign and wishes to do so, please email your name, address, and phone

Jen Brown

number to jbrown.montereypd@gmail.com. We will continue to take orders indefinitely to help keep our community safe.

Thank you,

In Pride and Service,

—Officer Jennifer Brown
Monterey Police Department

Why Your House Has Its Number

For those who do not understand the numbering system, for the most part they reflect a distance from a set point, which permits emergency responders to know how far down a road they need to travel to find your well-signed driveway, making for a much quicker and more accurate response. In emergencies where minutes really matter, this is important.

For example, the town hall is at 435 Main Road, indicating it is 4.35 miles from the town line with Great Barrington. Other set points might be the distance down a secondary road from Main Road, or a principal intersection (the village intersection begins the numbering up the Tyringham Road).

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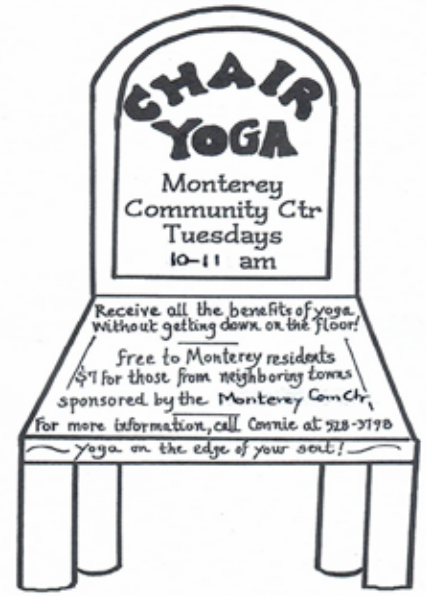

Open Space and Recreation Survey

Have You Filled Out Yours?

Dear All,

The Monterey Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRP), with help and direction of Seth Jenkins from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, has crafted a survey for community input.

The Town of Monterey is developing an update to the 2004 OSRP and needs your help! An OSRP is a strategic plan that will guide our priorities for our community for open space and recreation. Your input will help guide the planning process and determine the future of recreation and open space in town. The plan will also make Monterey eligible for state reimbursement grant programs for the improvement of recreation areas within town and the protection of open spaces.

The survey is available online on the home page of the town's website (montereyma.gov), or at surveymonkey.com/r/MontereyOSRP. Paper copies are available at the library and at town hall, or you can scan the QR code below to access the survey.

The OSRP survey is open to ALL residents, eighteen and older. Whether you are full- or part-time, a homeowner or a renter, we want to hear from all members of your household. Responses will be confidential, and should only take about ten minutes.

To date, we have received 102 responses which is great but still only about 10% of our residents. We want everyone with a stake in Monterey to have a voice in this process.

We hope you will take the time to help us plan for Monterey's future!

The survey is open and active until February 28, 2024.

With gratitude,

—The OSRP Committee
Susan Cooper, Gerry Clarin, Dennis Lynch, Mark Andrews, Rob Hoogs, Margy Abbott

Scan the QR code to take the survey

Parkinson Support Group

For more than two years, the South County Parkinson Support Group has been meeting at the Monterey Public Library on the first Thursday afternoons of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m. The group's January 4 meeting included a presentation about sources of information and assistance.

This included Samantha Rosemary Owen, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association: Roberta Weiss, facilitator of a breakout group for people who have Parkinson's; Richard Pargament, the group's leader, Robert Cutick, facilitator of a breakout group for care partners; and Kathryn Roberts, Outreach Coordinator for Monterey's Council on Aging. The South County Parkinson Support Group is an initiative of the Monterey Council on Aging (COA). Call Richard Pargament or the Monterey COA office for additional information.

—Kathryn Roberts

(l. to r.) Rosemary Owen from Boston APDA, Roberta Weiss, Richard Pargament, Bob Cutick, and Kathryn Roberts. *—Photo by Rosemary McAllister*

Council on Aging

Planning Ideas

On January 15, the Monterey Council on Aging hosted a well attended lunch for residents interested in shaping the council's agenda. The enthusiasm was infectious, the ideas many and varied, and we have a lot of work to do.

The suggestions fell into two major categories. Significantly, the first reflected a strong desire to help those in our community who are facing challenges. We talked about helping with delivery of meals in times of need, shopping, and offering rides. There was a suggestion that the CoA offer a course on how to access the internet and use email to help address isolation. Developing a model for aging in place also generated a lot of discussion, along with recommendations to compile a resource list for home care and for services, such as gardening, cleaning, and shoveling.

There is no shortage of Montereyans desiring to help others. Our first task though is to identify who in Monterey needs assistance and then how to connect them with volunteers and services.

The second category of ideas addressed council activities. There was interest in bringing back documentary films and Exercise with Annie. We also had suggestions to plan a walking group and perhaps a writing course. Also of interest was adding lunch to Game Day and perhaps including charades and similar games. One new idea—find a comedian! Many were interested in going as a group to local performances, for example at Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow, The Triplex, and the Mahaiwe, and then sometimes meeting later to talk about particularly interesting performances.

Finally, we had lots of suggestions for more field trips and for virtual and actual visits to museums. Stay tuned for emails soliciting your assistance and participation as we begin to address all the wonderful ideas that were shared.

—Lin Saberski, chair
Monterey Council on Aging

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Catching up with the Council on Aging

This month's lunch is entirely new for us: we are going to the Claire Teague Senior Center in Great Barrington. It's an opportunity to take advantage of a fantastic resource that some of us are already quite familiar with—but would likely be new for some. They have all kinds of interesting classes and presentations, and this is a chance to learn firsthand what the center is all about. For those interested, we can stay a bit to observe their beginning tap class at 1 p.m.—which some of our neighbors regularly enjoy. Details are below, and signing up ahead of time is necessary to let the center know how many we will be.

I also want to share that we had an excellent planning meeting in January, which is summarized in a separate article in this month's *Monterey News*. (See page 8.)

And remember: Van transportation in Monterey is now available for everyone, with expanded hours and new towns added. The phone number to book a ride is (413) 591-3826.

To reach me to reserve for events, with questions about scheduled events, or suggestions for new ones, please call (413) 528-1443, extension 112, or email me at coaoutreach@montereyma.gov. Phone messages are picked up once daily Monday through Friday.

— Kathryn Roberts
Council Outreach Coordinator/
Administrative Assistant

Coming Events

Monday, February 5: Monthly council board meeting at town hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The agenda is posted on the town hall website. All are welcome.

Wednesday, February 14: Movie night at the Monterey Library at 7 p.m. Our February movie falls on Valentine's Day and what could be more fitting than the cult classic, *The Princess Bride*. If you saw this film years ago you remember it was beautifully filmed on location, mainly in England but also in Ireland. This movie is a great story of true love but also adventure and humor. What a wonderful way to spend Valentine's Day for FREE and enjoy special Valentine's Day snacks courtesy of the council. Get there a few minutes early for socializing and Valentine's Day goodies.

Friday, February 23: Monthly lunch at the Claire Teague Senior Center at 11:30 a.m., 917 South Main Street, Great Barrington. Cost is $3. Call Kathryn at the number above to save your seat at the table.

Saturday, February 24: Monterey Native Plants Working Group and the council present the film *Call of the Forest—The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees*, at the Monterey Library at 11 a.m. The film features Dr. Beresford-Kroeger, a world-renowned botanist and medical biochemist who documents the power of trees to benefit humankind and the survival of our planet as we live in it. Light refreshments will be served. (See page 15.)

Wednesday, February 28: Game Time! at the community center, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your favorite games or play one that's new to you. Fun for all ages and a great way to spend an afternoon with friends or make new ones. The council will serve light refreshments.

Ongoing Services

Parkinson's Support Group: This month's meeting is on Thursday, February 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Library. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. Call Kathryn at the number above if you'd like more information.

Transportation: For trips to Great Barrington, Sheffield, Egremont, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield (Pittsfield is for medical only, Monday and Wednesday), call (413) 591-3826. Hours are Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Priority is given to seniors and people with disabilities.

Foot Nurse: Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. The council covers $10 of her fee.

Free Safety Vests: Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic when walking, running, or biking are available in town hall.

—Lin Saberski, chair
Council on Aging

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Monterey Community Center Calendar

Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly activities:
Mondays:

Hablemos! 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., first three Mondays each month; 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Monday. *Intermedio y superior*—to practice Spanish and meet new friends.

Simple meditation, all are welcome, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

February 26: Cookbook club, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fourth Monday of the month. Register by emailing WendyGJ@gmail.com.

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.
Bridge and pitch, 1 to 4 p.m.
Ping pong, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Tai chi, with David Crowe, at 10 a.m. $8 per class or $30 for the month.

February 21: Monterey Quilters, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Please send an email if you are interested to Lindarneilson@gmail.com

February 28: Council on aging's "Game Time!" 2 to 4:30 p.m. Board games with coffee, tea, and snacks. Fourth Wednesday of the month.

February 28: Transformational breathwork, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Suggested fee $30.

Thursdays:

February 1: Darn yarners at 1 p.m. First Thursday of the month.

February 15: Wellness check, 2 to 3 p.m. Third Thursday of the month. With Tritown Health nurses. Flu vaccines and checkups including blood pressure, pulse, and blood oxygen levels. No charge for Monterey residents. Please RSVP to Jill at (413) 717-7209. Minimum of five people required.

February 15 and 29: Chorus with Oren Rosenthal, 4:15 p.m.

February 29: Grief support, 2 to 3 p.m. Losing a loved one is difficult. Talking with others who have had similar experiences can help ease this burden. Join us to listen and share with others who are also on this journey. Co-sponsored with the council on aging.

3rd Annual Winterfest

Sunday, February 18

Save the date for the 3rd annual Winterfest at the Monterey Community Center. This year it will take place on Sunday, February 18, from 1 to 3 p.m., with a rain/snow date of Monday, February 19.

It's time to get out of your house, see some of your friends and eat some great food. As usual, there will be music by DJ Drew to set the tone for the event. If we are lucky and have snow, please bring your sleds and fly down the hill at the back of the property. Even if it doesn't snow, there will be a bonfire, craft activities, and the chance to chat with some people you probably haven't seen since last fall. And did I mention the food? You can help yourself to hot dogs, chili, crepes, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, and cider. If you're still hungry, you can roast some marshmallows and make some s'mores. So beat back those winter doldrums and join us at the MCC on February 18 to celebrate winter in Monterey.

—Laurie Shaw, chair, Monterey Community Center Board

Fridays:

Super gentle yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. Please register by emailing jamesboneparth76@gmail.com

Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays:

Coffee club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m.

Sundays:

Al Anon family group meeting, 9 a.m.

Music jam sessions with Mark Andrews. February 11 and 25, 6 to 8 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, instruments and singers. If you are interested, please contact Mark Andrews at mccjamgroup@gmail.com.

February 18: Winterfest! 1 to 3 p.m., with a rain/snow date set for Monday, February 19.

Special Events

Sunday, February 4: Introduction to the Native American Flute, 1 p.m.

Jeff Zimmerman and Virgil Stucker will share their love of the flute, speak about its history dating back 40,000 years to caves in Slovenia, and offer to teach others to play. The mind can learn the basics in about twenty minutes; the instrument then awakens the heart of the player, who soon realizes why Natives called it the "medicine stick." No prior musical knowledge is required. Come one, come all… others who already play are also welcome.

Vision: We "see" a Monterey Flute Circle that might regularly play music together. Jeff and Virgil are familiar with flutes from HighSpirits.com and they hope to get a group discount on flute purchases.

Save the Date!

Friday, March 22: MCC's Coffeehouse, with Eric Martin and "A Tour of the Irish Fiddle," 7-9 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

You can find more information on events at our website, ccmonterey.org, or by calling (413) 528-3600, or emailing montereycommunitycenter@gmail.com.

—RJ Supa, MCC director,
and Nancy Kleban

Undelivered January Papers

While it is not for me to apologize for the fact that as of today (January 28) the January *Monterey News* has not yet been received in the Monterey post office, I do very much regret it.

When the paper is printed at Kwik-Print in Great Barrington, they also apply the mailing addresses and then bundle the papers by zipcode to take to the Great Barrington post office. While the January paper was a little late to print, on January 5, the mailing was bundled up and delivered to the post office that same day.

Our paper is sent out as bulk mail. It is sent to a distribution center, and unlike first class, has no set time frame for delivery. The paper has been delivered to mailboxes outside the 01245 Monterey post office zipcode area, so we know they made it to the distribution center.

If anyone has not yet seen it, and would like a copy, I will leave as many copies as I can in the lower part of the box outside the town hall, and if there's room, leave some inside the library. I will also email a pdf to anyone who requests it.

— Stephen Moore, editor
MontereyNews9@gmail.com

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Monterey News
New Editorial Team

Still time to engage!

In the January issue of the *Monterey News*, the board solicited letters of inquiry from those who might be interested in working on the paper as part of a team. We are excited by the skill sets of those who have already contacted us. If you missed that notice and are interested, this would be the time to send a note to the *Monterey News* at MontereyNews9@gmail.com. We continue to accept inquiries and applications until February 20th.

— The *Monterey News* Board of Directors

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January Contributions

Jim Cohen & Amy Silberstein
Lela Reynolds
Wendy Germain
Laura Dubester
Russ Breedon & Katharine Walker
Bob Cutick & Lin Saberski
Julia Gittleman & Tom Mendelsohn
Peter & Roberta Weiss
Greg & Chris Fahlund
Ellen Pearson
Jack Buckman & Linda Gillam
Robert & Janice Adams
Loyal & Marci Perry
Robert Semaya
Carol Landess
Ann Canning

Thank you again for your continued support. It is difficult to imagine Monterey without the *Monterey News*. If you would like to contribute, mail your check to *Monterey News*, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.

Monterey Native Plants Working Group

Don't miss!
Call of the Forest
The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees
Library, Feb. 24, 11 am
Pollinators01245@gmail.com

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Knox Gallery
February 2024

Our winter show, *GLOW*, brought out light, reflection, sparkles, and innovative materials in the participating artists' work and was enthusiastically received by the community. We thank all the artists who participated—and all the helpers!

Once that exhibition ended we were fortunate to receive our freshly painted Knox Gallery, just in time for the new exhibition, *Shany Porras: Abstract Harmony:Dissonance*, which opens on February 2, 2024, with a reception that afternoon from 4:30 to 6. The exhibit will be on view through March 9.

Porras and her family relocated from Caracas, Venezuela, to Houston, Texas where she earned a BFA in painting and printmaking at Rice University. In her twenties, she relocated to Boston (via SanFrancisco). In Boston she met her now-husband, whose family is from Pittsfield, and once he introduced her to the Berkshires she was hooked. As she puts it, "the silver lining to all this moving is that my family and I settled in Stockbridge in 2021." She adds, "And similarly to many other folks, we realized during the Covid lockdown, that our family was happier in our small cottage in Stockbridge than we were in Boston."

Before studying and pursuing visual arts Porras had studied classical music on flute and piano. She wanted to pursue both, and found a way to combine the two art forms. She considers herself to be "a visual music artist, a creative translator" who translates music into abstract painting. The artist emphasizes that she goes beyond exploration by "diving into the music mindfully." She studies scores, isolates key phrases, runs, and themes. She begins with sketches and as she paints the chords become unique colors, textures, styles, and patterns.

The artist is excited to participate in our Monterey art community with her exhibit at the Knox Gallery. Join us to see how her process is realized. Following Shany Porras' exhibit, *James McNamara and Barbara Wolke: S/he, Split Images, Drawings and Photographs*, opens March 15.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). We encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

Above: No title, © Shany Porras
Below: Beginning a work on natural birch plywood with masked lines.

Cynthia Makuc

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References | Sliding Scale

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Monday Supper Club

"Cheese is Proof That God Loves Us" was the theme for supper club last month, and it was mouthful after mouthful of velvety goodness. Dad jokes were kept to a minimum despite our cheesy theme, and the mongers aced the spread at our "dig in" station. We had two kinds of quiche (a wonderful easing into a non-brupper supper)—one with mushrooms and smoked Gruyère, the other *triple cheese* (!!) and artichoke (which also pleased the gluten-free folk). There were grain-free meatballs in marinara, cozy in their broiled blanket of provolone and romano, Caesar salad, cheesy corn casserole—this one has a name teeming with joke potential. There were perfectly crispy and golden brown cheesy-melty bean burritos (two thumbs up to Wendy Jensen for the magic that made those delectable wraps), and then the desserts…mini-cheesecakes, chocolate bourbon pecan bars, and an "I want to eat this as part of my last meal" Basque cheesecake—Margy Abbott, you nailed this one.

Oh—can't forget the *schinken nudeln mit kase*, or ham and cheese noodles. Our turophic dinner would not have been complete without good ol' mac n' cheese, or at least a version of it—the pull from a traditional American version was the perfect touch.

Hanna Jensen

Speaking of American and the addition and influence of worldly cuisines, we come to the time to announce the theme for February. Although Mardi Gras was tempting, Fat Tuesday didn't seem the most appropriate. Expanding on New Orleans, the idea of "Cajun or Creole" started to form, and to make our menu options a tad less specific, our theme for this month is "Serving Up the South." I reckon if the creeks don't rise, I'll be fixin' to attend supper club over yonder in the church basement on Monday, February 12, at 6 p.m. If y'all plan on attending, please RSVP to supperclubmonterey@gmail.com, or someone I know might just have herself a hissy fit.

—Hanna Jensen

Daytime Book Group

The daytime book group meets at the Monterey Library on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. New members are always welcome!

On February14 we will be meeting to discuss *The Memoirs of Stockholm*, by Nathaniel Ian Miller.

On March 13 we will be discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Kimmerer.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

—Beth Hoffman

Monterey Cookbook Club

The monthly Monterey Cookbook Club met on Monday, January 22, at the Community Center. Nine of us met for lunch with our chosen recipes from Smitten Kitchen's, *Every Day*, by Deb Perelman. We had a delicious lunch which included a caramelized cabbage risotto, pizza beans, broccoli and tofu stir-fry, stuffed summer squash, apple crumble, and gooey oat bars. The conversation was lively and informative and the meal was enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 26, at 11:45 a.m., at the community center. The featured cookbook will be decided upon soon. Copies will then be available at the library—just go in and ask for the cookbook club's book. Mark the recipe you have chosen with your name on a post it, available at the library desk. Please email wendygj@gmail.com to let us know so we can set a place at the table for you and/or if you'd like to be added to the email list for notifications.

—Wendy Jensen

Maureen Banner

Blue Skies over Ukrainian Sunflowers

On January 1, I received an email from Bruce Wilkens, along with the photo (right): "Some lowlife stole my art work. I just like to give people something nice to see."

I replied to him to commiserate about having something stolen, and asked him more about the piece. He wrote:

When I first hung the "sun" on our house number post it was painted just "sun yellow." After the start of the war in Ukraine, I changed to blue over yellow. These are the colors of the Ukrainian flag and represent blue skies over fields of sunflowers. I also liked to envision blue skies over a Kansas wheat field.

The Kansas farmer has a strong affinity with the Ukrainian farmers. Yes, they are a major competitor in the world export market. But the history of Kansas wheat production goes back 150 years when German Mennonites from Ukraine settled in Kansas and brought clay vessels containing Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat seeds. Before that time the only wheat in Kansas was Spring Wheat. Due to the normally hot dry winds of Kansas, the spring wheat matured too late and performed poorly. And once matured was at risk of being entirely consumed by hordes of grasshoppers. The winter wheat is planted in the fall and is, for the most part, harvested before the summer winds. Over the years of cross-breeding for better wheat, a large majority of present-day varieties carry some genetic material from the original Turkey Red brought from Ukraine. This year's harvest on our farm will have 120 acres of Organic Turkey Red. Full Circle.

Bruce followed this up with a link for the history of Turkey Red wheat.

The German Mennonites moved into the Ukraine in the 1700s but kept their German language. In the early 1870s the czar insisted that they assimilate with the Ukrainians, and speak only Russian. In addition, Russia instituted mandatory military service which the Mennonites, who are pacifists, refused to serve.

Bernard Warkentin, a German Mennonite from Ukraine, came to the Kansas area looking to find an area with soil and climate similar to his homeland. He brought with him a clay pot containing Turkey Red wheat seeds which were much better suited for Kansas than the predominant summer wheats that were being planted and which had developed along the eastern seaboard states. Eventually ten of the eighteen thousand German Mennonites who emigrated from Ukraine came to settle in Kansas.

The success of the wheat crops encouraged the building of railroads for transporting the grain, and the rest of the wheat industry thrived. Kansas is now responsible for 20% of the wheat crop in the entire US.

— Bruce Wilkens and Stephen Moore

The metal work was cut with a plasma cutter back on the Kansas farm. My wife Jonny makes the design work on all the many projects we have made. I never sold my work, it was always donated. Many were for a Historic State Park close to our farm.

Pollinator Garden– Alive, Alive-O

The pollinator garden filled with native plants at the Monterey Town Beach is currently in its vital winter stage.

Despite their "dead" appearance, the stalks give winter shelter to pollinators in the early stage of their life cycles. The living seeds in the dead-looking seed heads are dispersed by wind, water, and all number of birds and animals to ensure the growth of new plants elsewhere. The root systems of the plants continue to grow over the winter and store the nutrients needed for new growth above ground in the spring. The dead leaves left lying on the soil decompose over the winter, providing natural fertilizer for the dormant plants.

We will cut back the dead stalks in the spring, at a specific point in the rising temperatures. We are looking forward to another summer of beautiful native flowers which play such a crucial role in our ecosystem.

— Elizabeth (Libby) Wolf
Monterey Native Plant Working Group

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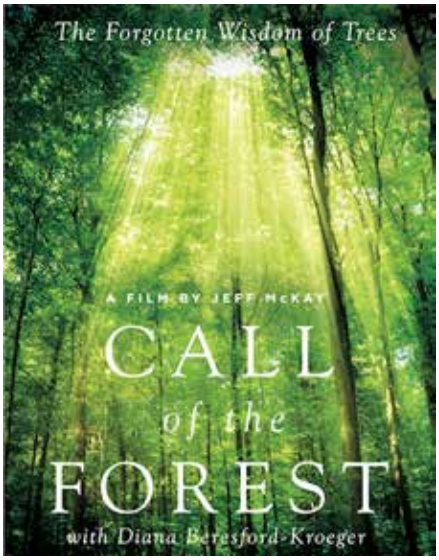


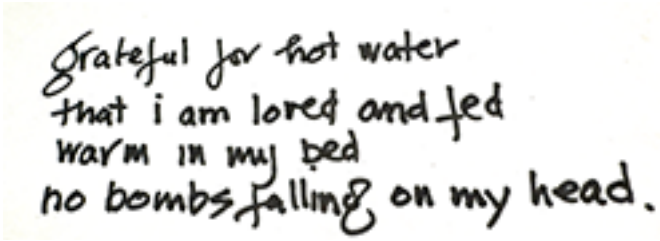
Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees

This film by Diana Beresford-Kroeger will be shown on Saturday, February 24, at 11 a.m., in the Monterey Library.

The showing is sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group, together with the Monterey Council on Aging.

Diana Beresford-Kroeger is a giant in the forest. *Call of the Forest* documents her work as a botanist and medical biochemist in the field of conservation of boreal forests. The boreal forests with their evergreen tree species, along with birches and aspen, grow in a circle around the top of the globe. It is a stunningly beautiful exploration of the nature of trees therein, along with their role in producing medicinal aerosols in the air to be inhaled by "forest bathers." The film explores biochemicals in the different ecosystems, both land and sea, and the role of trees in the production of our medicines both in ancient and modern times.

We are taken to the forests of Canada, miniature city forests in Tokyo, and along the very northern coast of Japan where the eradication of the forest there had a disastrous effect on the coastal fish populations. Beresford-Kroger explores the relationship between the coastal redwood forests of California and the Pacific Ocean's kelp forests with its fish and mammal populations.



—Michele Miller

The film documents her work in the conservation of native tree species on her property in Ontario and around the world, working with a variety of conservation scientists, biomedical chemists, and many more specialists in related fields. She also reaches out to a wide variety of volunteer populations involved in the growing of native trees and their specific issues and benefits to the local ecological location. This she declares to be the cheapest and best defense against rapid, devastating climate change.

However...if you are finding this interesting, don't stop here! Read Diana Beresford-Kroeger's biography, *To Speak For The Trees—My Life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to A Healing Vision of the Forest*. Beautifully written, it is utterly compelling.

Beresford-Kroeger was born to an English aristocrat, her father, and Irish aristocrat, her mother. Both parents died by the time she was twelve. Under the threat of being sent to one of the infamous "laundries," specifically Sunday's Well, she then lived with an uncle in Belgrave Place, Cork. These laundries were still operating in the 1950s and even 60s and thus this threat terrified her for many a year. However, in each summer she was sent to her mother's family in a remote country village still living the rural life of Celtic traditions. As an orphan she was adopted by both her relations and all the villagers, who then educated her in all of the cultural traditions and most specifically their ancient knowledge of trees and their highly specific medicinal use. They also played an important role in healing the trauma she had experienced.

Beresford-Kroeger excelled in school, went on to undergraduate university in Ireland, majoring in both botany and medical biochemistry. She then moved to Canada to do a doctorate in this field. Upon graduating, she went to an interview for a job in this field, only to be told "Go home and have a family."

She and her husband then decided to buy land and do their own conservation work in support of mitigating rapid climate change. This she is still doing today, with enormous success and praise from conservationists world wide.

—Elizabeth (Libby) Wolf

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Historical Society News

Annual Meeting

On January 18, the Monterey Historical Society held its annual meeting. Visitors enjoyed an open house in the historical room (lower level of the 1931 library building), perusing the society's collection of Monterey artifacts and memorabilia. The history room is available for viewing, research, etc. Contact Rob Hoogs to make an appointment.

The group then viewed the 2015 oral history interview of George Emmons by Mary Kate Jordan. This was filmed by Wendy Germain for the Monterey Library, sponsored by Housatonic Heritage Oral History Center. You can view the video at: tinyurl.com/MonteryOralHistoryEmmons2015. This is one of several oral history videos that have been archived, and more are in the process of being made available. Let us know if you'd like to share your recollections about Monterey.

Following the video, the society members held their annual meeting. Paula McNay was elected to another term on the board of directors. The board outlined a number of goals for 2024, including purchase of a new computer and updated software to continue cataloguing the collection, including new acquisitions. Let Rob know if you are interested in helping with this. You never know what interesting items you might run across.

We discussed ideas for historical and research programs that people might like. Let us know if you'd like to participate.

Are you interested in finding your roots in Monterey? Maybe we can help. We're considering arranging some sessions with a volunteer genealogist to help people learn how to search for their ancestors. Let Rob know if you'd like to participate.

Or do you have some artifacts from Monterey that you'd like to share? Or an old historic house with stories to tell?

We're working with the Bidwell House Museum and Housatonic Heritage to commemorate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War—Col. Knox's "Caravan of Cannons" that were hauled through Monterey in January 1776; Gen. Burgoyne's army captured at the Battle of Saratoga, some of whom were marched through Monterey in October 1777; and the many soldiers from Monterey who fought in the war.

We welcome everyone to participate in our programs. Our monthly talks and events are usually free, although we hope you will become a member to support the historical society. It's easy—membership forms are available at the historical display in the Monterey Library.

Monterey Historical Society

1976 reenactment of the Knox cannon train — Monterey Historical Society

Meeting House

As you read in the January 2024 *Monterey News*, the Monterey United Church of Christ is planning to offer the meeting house building in the village for sale, hopefully to a group that would keep it open to the public for programs like the food pantry, supper club, and other groups, and for events such as concerts. The Monterey Historical Society feels this building is a keystone to the village, architecturally, historically, and culturally. We would like to be part of a conversation with people who may be interested in exploring possibilities for acquiring and operating the Monterey Meeting House. We are inviting all interested parties to an open meeting on Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m. at the Monterey Library multipurpose room.

Monterey Historical Society

Monterey Congregational Church, circa 1920s post card collection.

Thank you for your interest in Monterey's history.

—Rob Hoogs, President
MontereyMA.historical.society
@gmail.com

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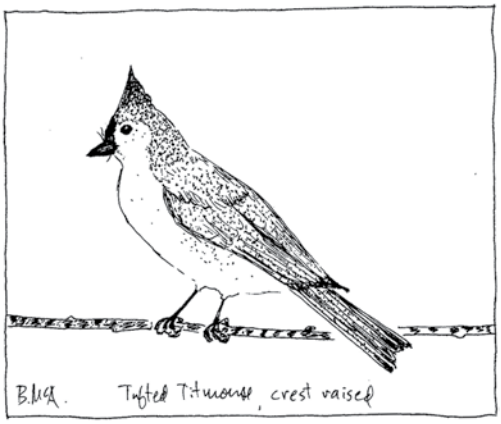
Tufted Titmouse
Joy of the Winter



We sit in the kitchen and watch the birds on the feeder. What do we know of their experience of life? Not much, maybe, but we can take the time for a close look at this time of year as they pop in and pick up seeds. No matter how chilly or dreary the day, the small birds of the feeder come by, full of life. Because they are used to the setting here, they are bold. On our side of the window, we can move around, talk freely, take a few photos, and they don't seem to mind. We like to think they see us as amicable neighbors, or at least familiar faces.

One of the bird pals we see is the titmouse, or tufted titmouse. This is a small grey bird with a crest, and some might think it is a baby blue jay, another familiar crested bird. Edward Howe Forbush, state ornithologist for Massachusetts way back in the day, called the titmouse a "small gray chickadee with crown adorned with a pointed crest." There is a taxonomic family of birds called "tits." In England, where I studied biology for a year, there are several species which look very much like our chickadees. The British like to call a tit a tit: great tit, coal tit, blue tit, marsh tit, willow tit. Here, we have only one member of this family with the common name "tit," and this is our tufted titmouse. The tuft is its crest, and it is moveable and expressive.

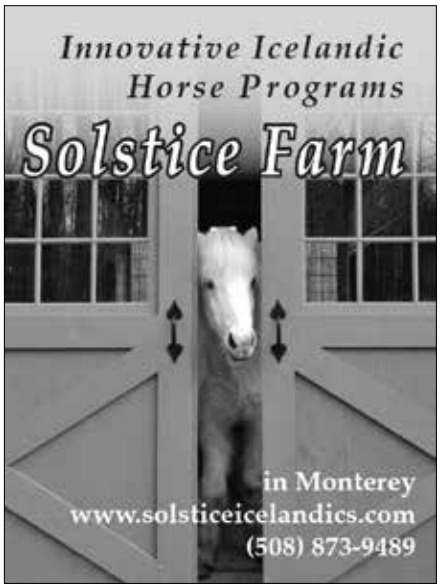
Titmice, like blue jays and chickadees, stay here through all the seasons. Their most common call, which sounds like "peter, peter, peter," is given all year round, but we can hear it especially in late winter and early spring, starting in March. This is when the winter flocks, which are family groups, break up for mating. The nest site is always a cavity in a tree and is lined with soft nesting material. They collect moss, leaves, grass, bark, and feathers, and particularly like to use hair. They will yank out tufts of fur from dogs and from squirrels' tails. This account, from Olive Thorne Miller, writing in *Birds of America* in 1917, shows that no species is safe from the nest-building titmouse.

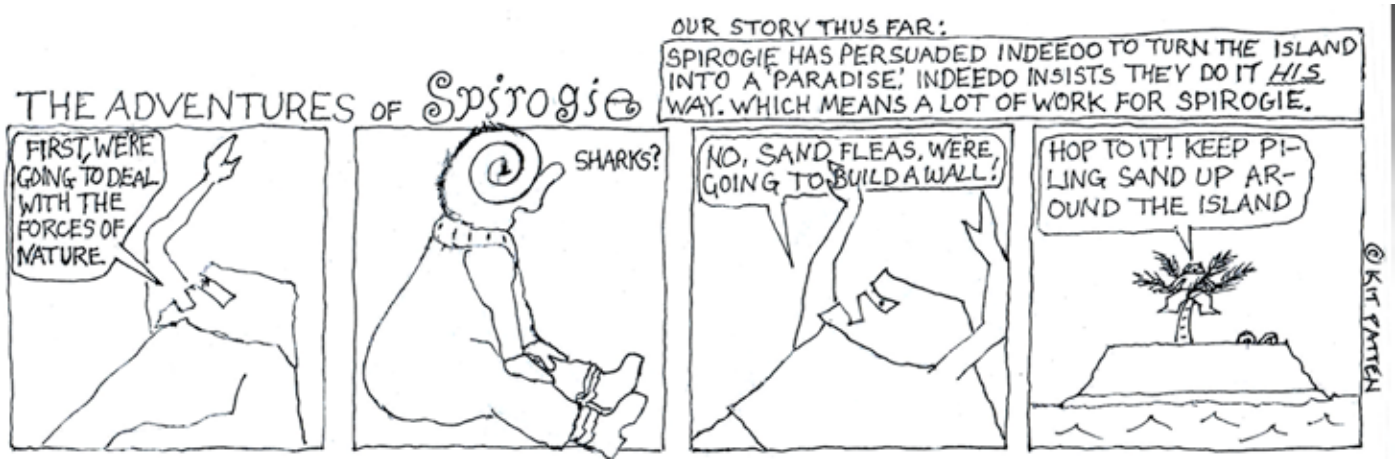
"Another of these birds, in Ohio, looking about for something nice and soft to line her nest, pitched upon a gentleman's hair. Unfortunately, he had need of the hair himself; but the saucy little Titmouse didn't mind that. She alighted on his head, seized a beakful, and then bracing herself on her stout little legs, she jerked out the lock, and flew away with it. So well did she like it that she came back for more. The gentleman was a bird-lover and was pleased to give some of his hair to such a brave little creature."

I like to think we still have such brave titmice and such kindly gentlemen in 2024. We do have many more titmice in Massachusetts now than in 1917. With the growing up of old fields over the last century we have more woodland habitat. Also, the titmice, once considered rare in this state, have extended their range northward, maybe in response to winter bird-feeding.

When they come to the feeder, titmice especially like to find sunflower seeds. They are somewhat aggressive there, raising their crests and standing up to other small birds and sometimes to squirrels. With their buffy sides, white cheeks, and black foreheads just over the bill, the titmice epitomize the understated beauty of New England woods in winter. You must pay a little more attention at this time of year, but you have the time to do it and you'll be well rewarded if you do.

—Bonner McAllester





Remembrance
Marie Bidwell Leuchs

Gertrude Marie Bidwell Leuchs, 97, a longtime resident of Monterey, died in League City, Texas on January 16, 2024.

"What I like about this photo is how she's looking at him and he her. It's a moment of candid happiness for her." *—Her daughter Ellen Leuchs*

Marie was born July 6, 1926, in Hartford, CT, to Charles Alanson Bidwell and Gertrude Catherine (Hamilton) Bidwell. She grew up in Great Barrington, where her father was manager and vice president of Southern Berkshire Power and Electric Company, later Massachusetts Electric Company. Marie had all her Catholic sacraments at St. Peter's Church in Great Barrington.

She graduated from the Bryant School and Barrington School for Girls. At age seventeen, she joined the accelerated five-year World War II wartime program with the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing and Hood College. This was followed by postgraduate work at Johns Hopkins University.

Marie was employed as a head nurse and assistant nursing arts instructor at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, later an evening supervisor of nursing at the surgical and obstetrical units of NYC Department of Hospitals/Bellevue, and lastly at Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge.

Marie briefly met the noted stained glass artist and craftsman Frederick L. Leuchs as a teenager on Lake Garfield in Monterey. They were reintroduced when they were twenty-six, and after a brief courtship, they married in 1953 at St. Peter's Church and had five daughters. They lived in New York City for thirteen years while summering in Monterey. In 1966, they moved full-time to the Berkshires. The Monterey house that Fred had built before their marriage became their year-round home. The Stockbridge studio of Marie's late uncle, sculptor Augustus Lukeman, became Fred's studio. Marie and Fred retired to St. Petersburg, FL. in 1994, returning to Monterey for summers. Fred predeceased her in 1999 and is buried in the Bidwell Family lot in Stockbridge Cemetery.

Marie's avocation was as a genealogist like her mother. She loved exploring the choices, struggles, and ambitions of her ancestors, and where those took them. She researched and collected ancestral documents and heirlooms throughout New England and England. Her Bidwell genealogy has been traced back to 1044, when her ancestor served under William the Conqueror. She was a descendant of King Edward I, II, and III and King Henry I, II, and III of England. Her ancestor, Susanna White, later Winslow, who was a passenger on the Mayflower, gave birth to the first Mayflower child born in America. She is a direct descendant of John Bidwell (her sixth-great-grandfather), a founder of Hartford, CT, and the Rev. Adonijah Bidwell, Tyringham/Monterey's first minister and namesake of the Bidwell House Museum. She was the last local descendant born with the Bidwell surname. She and her mother bequeathed ancestral archival documents, as well as oral histories, to

Yale University, the Berkshire Athenaeum, and the Bidwell House Museum, among others.

In Marie's later years, with the help of her daughters, she donated Fred's stained glass papers and studio contents to the Corning Museum of Glass Rakow Research Library. She also donated Augustus Lukeman's portfolios and papers to the Smithsonian Archives and several of his maquettes to noted institutions including the New York Historical Society.

Marie was a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Massachusetts and New York, and the New York State Daughters of the Colonial Wars. She was a member of the First Resistance Chapter, NSDAR (formerly the Ausatonoug Chapter NSDAR in the Berkshires), and the New Netherlands Chapter NSDAR in New York. She served as Senior Society President of the Light Horse Harry Lee Society NSCAR of New York City, and the Sarah Deming Society NSCAR in the Berkshires, her daughters' Children of the American Revolution Societies, for many terms. She was active with the Bidwell Family Association, attending many reunions. She was a member of the Bidwell House Museum and its Garden Angels.

After retirement Marie was a member of the Snell Shores Circle of St. Petersburg (Florida), the Snell Isle Garden Club, and the Snell Isle Property Owners Association, and she was also a parishioner of St. Raphael Catholic Church on Snell Isle.

While she appreciated her years of professional service, Marie was above all dedicated to her family. She was deeply proud of her five daughters: Paula Moats McNay (Joseph) of Chestnut Hill, MA; Catherine Bohrman of Palo Alto, CA; Adele Odegaard (Trond) of New Smyrna Beach, FL; Mary Anne Leuchs-de la Rosa (Tomás) of Baytown, TX; and Ellen Leuchs (Diane Curtis) of Sunderland, MA. She truly adored her ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She also leaves her devoted godson and nephew, Mark Makuc, and her goddaughter and niece, Ann Tucker Kousch.

In addition to her husband, Marie was predeceased by her granddaughter, Christiane Marie Leuchs de la Rosa, and her son-in-law of forty-seven years, David Bohrman.

Liturgy of Christian Burial was held on Friday, January 26, 2024, at St. Peter's Church, in Great Barrington, MA. Burial followed at the Stockbridge Cemetery in Stockbridge.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Marie's memory to Bidwell House Museum (Monterey), Stockbridge Library Museum (Stockbridge), Monterey Library (Monterey), Monterey Fire Department (Monterey), or Shrine of Divine Mercy (Stockbridge). To send remembrances to her family, please visit finnertyandstevens.com funeral home website.

Bidwell House Museum
Get Outside in February

As I write this article in January, I see snow outside the museum windows and the temperature is barely out of the teens. Next week, rain and 40° is in forecast. Whether Monterey is weirdly warm or deep in snow when you read this, I hope everyone is finding ways to enjoy the winter season.

One of the best ways to deal with the dreary weather and long nights is to get outside. The museum trails are open year round and at this time of year you can use snowshoes, cross-country skis, or sturdy boots to explore the property. There is so much to see during this season, including evidence of all the animals that make their home here. Access to the property is always free and open daily. If the road is too muddy for cars, we will post a note on social media, but otherwise we invite you to get outside and take a walk at the Bidwell House.

During these quiet months, the staff are working hard to plan a fun 2024 season. We are also working on a few things for the spring months, though nothing was confirmed before this issue had to go to press. We are hoping to share a couple of Zoom presentations in late February and March and we are also planning a program in late April on how to get into doing reenacting. For those of you who attended our eighteenth-century reenactment event last June, you saw how committed the participants were. It may look like an intimidating hobby to start, but we have three reenactment veterans who will talk about their experiences over Zoom. More details will follow in the April issue. In the meantime, check out our website, BidwellHouseMuseum.org, for the latest information about events or to read our blog, "Bidwell Lore."

Finally, the summer season will be here before we know it and we are looking for volunteers! There are so many ways you can help, depending on your interest. If you love history and meeting new people, then you might be perfect as a house tour docent. If you love being active in the outdoors, then helping in our gardens or cleaning up our trails might be a good fit for you. And if you love history, people, and the outdoors then helping out at one of our many summer programs may be the perfect place to volunteer. If you are interested in learning more, email the museum at bidwellhouse@gmail.com, or call (413) 528-6888.

Until next month!

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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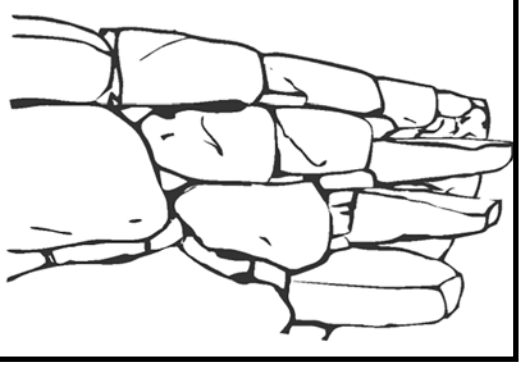

Monterey Welcomes...
Officer Jen Brown

Officer Jen Brown is a Monterey staple. In addition to keeping residents safe during her weekly, Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to midnight shifts, Jen shows up around town… a lot.

"I thought I wanted to be a firefighter but I really wanted to be a police officer."

Why?

"I don't know…well, I do know: because I wanted to do the job differently. This was before they called it community policing. I had that idea of community policing. I wanted to be a part of a community. I wanted to talk to people. I wanted to help people and I knew I could do it differently. I knew it wasn't all just about the image of the tough cop descending on people."

When I comment on how rare that feels, she pushes back, "Whether it's rare or not, that's what makes sense for me, for that to happen."

Because she's so insistent on community, you'll see Jen all over Monterey, both in and out of uniform: at the monthly supper club, in the church basement, or partaking in a game of ping-pong at the community center. We met during a performance of *Lunar Eclipse* at Shakespeare & Company (for which she dressed as a civilian). A week later she showed up at the community center for the talkback, this time in uniform.

As I was writing this article at the library, Officer Brown showed up to check on the historical society meeting and, well, to just say hello.

"My favorite part of Monterey is the people. I just love talking to everybody.

Officer Jen Brown checking in with Rosemary McAllister in the library. —R. J. Supa

I wish I could remember everybody's names. I remember everyone's face."

Jen has been an officer since training at the Police Academy in Agawam, MA in 1997.

However, in March of 2020 (right before Covid shut down the world) she took a leave of absence from the Sheffield Police Department to be the director of China Peak Mountain Resort in Huntington Lake, California.

Within months, the now infamous Creek Fire began and her living quarters were gone.

"The Creek Fire came through the ski area so I lost my home … I stayed homeless there for two months. I got the ski area back up-and-running. I would drive up the mountain to the fire everyday to take care of the ski area. We had California Fire set up in the parking lot. We had the electric company building new poles in our parking lot and flying them out with helicopters. It was very intense. But it was all about the emergency management system which I was trained in as a police officer."

She eventually returned to the police force in Sheffield—where she worked with then Sgt. Brian Fahey—and in December of 2022, followed him to Monterey where he is our chief of police.

In Monterey, Jen is responsible for the house numbering system, which she insisted upon because of the difficulty of trying to find people's houses on a call when they don't have a number in front of their house. "That's why I started that whole house number thing. I just got two more tonight. We're up to one hundred thirty-six." (She's referencing the small reflective signs that can be placed at the end of the driveway so 911 calls can be found more easily. They're available by calling town hall. See page 7.)

In addition to being full-time in Monterey, she is a certified Level III ski instructor at Jiminy Peak in Hancock, MA, teaching on the weekends and some mornings before her shift starts.

She pulled out a picture of herself (right, at top), a photograph of a photograph now stored on her phone: Jen, in uniform, on her first day on the job with her daughter, "when she was four years

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old." While looking for the picture she beams about her new grandson, sharing another photo from her phone "two weeks ago today… that's my first grandson. Isn't he so cute?"

Family is deeply important to Jen. In addition to her daughter, who is an account manager at Wheeler & Taylor, she has two sons, each equally accomplished. Her oldest son, living in Brooklyn, is a composer and musical director of a youth orchestra while her middle son is an attorney on the West Coast.

"They're wonderful. My children are wonderful. And I love them so much. And I love my little grandson now."

Jen also boasts about her parents and their hard-working ethos.

"My mother worked until she was eighty-five and my father worked until he couldn't get out of bed." Her mother, Janet Walerstein, was the Executive Director of the Daycare Council of Suffolk County. "I really credit her with a lot of my kids' success as well because we were all really close."

When she's not working in Monterey or at Jiminy Peak, she is tending to her homestead. "I kind of have a small farm. I grow all of my own food. I freeze it. I'm pretty much off the grid: I have solar and I have an outdoor wood boiler for heat and hot water. I do all my own firewood. I have a couple of horses."

Her horses are her time off. "I love to get on my horse and ride. That really helps me to refocus."

She—along with her daughter—created the trails in French Park in Egremont, on those horses, whacking weeds and tying ropes around trees to create perimeters. "It took years," she said, of getting various community stakeholders involved to finalize the project.

She again credits her mother with her interest of being of service and in community.

"That's how I grew up. With my mother as an early childhood educator; [seeing] Pete Seeger and all that folk music and including children and writing children's songs and Shel Silverstein and all that… artistic stuff for kids."

—R. J. Supa

"Monterey Welcomes…" was initiated late last year by Linda Soul Sena as a way for friends and neighbors to introduce folks who are new to Monterey. If you would like to write a "Monterey Welcomes…," please contact the editor.

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Pie Crust Classes

Don't Bite Your Tongue...

You'll want to be able to eat. There are new bakers in town: they're keen, not so mean, they're pie crust rolling machines. Last month, Pie Crust 101: It's Not "Just" Pie Crust, taught the ins and outs of pie crust—literally. The butter must be kept cold, so the refrigerator door got a lot of action with all the chilling time. Bakers went home with bellies full of fresh apple pie, raw pie crust to experiment with, and a whole new (short) book of knowledge.

Pie Crust 2.0 was the second step on the staircase of shortcrust. The bakers learned several techniques for taking their pie crust to the next level, proving pie crust isn't just for pie. The buttery, cheesy, herbaceous aroma filled the church basement with a sense of home that was much needed on the arctic day—with the wind chill, it was -12° earlier that morning.

If you are interested in baking classes, please email supperclubmonterey@gmail.com. And remember: "Baking is therapy," said Paul Hollywood.

—Hanna Jensen

Above: Wendy Germain, RJ Supa, Myra Rodriguez, Hanna Jensen, Roberta Weiss
Below: Wendy G. and Myra R. working their crusts.

Monterey Softball
Open Call

All softball players
Join a 50+ year tradition of
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Ages 10 to 80.
Summer Sunday mornings
Greene Park, Monterey
Batting practice at 10
Games begin at 10:30

Here's a Thought...
After Janus, into the Year

You probably know the month just past was named for the Roman mythology figure Janus. His presence was felt to be a special gift: to help protect those in transition from danger and hazard. But sometimes, we the people have to do our best to take care of that ourselves. Last month a woman and two children drowned while attempting to cross the Rio Grande from Mexico. I've read varying reports of the tragedy.

In a press release, Congressional Representative Henry Cuellar (D, Texas) describes it this way:

"Border Patrol learned on Friday, January 12, 2024, at approximately 9 p.m. that a group of six migrants were in distress as they attempted to cross the Rio Grande River. Border Patrol attempted to contact the Texas Military Department, the Texas National Guard, and DPS Command Post by telephone to relay the information, but were unsuccessful. Border Patrol agents then made physical contact with the Texas Military Department and the Texas National Guard at the Shelby Park Entrance Gate and verbally relayed the information. However, Texas Military Department soldiers stated they would not grant access to the migrants—even in the event of an emergency—and that they would send a soldier to investigate the situation. Earlier today, Saturday, January 13, 2024, the three migrant bodies were recovered by Mexican authorities.

This image is from a wall quilt I created more than fifteen years ago as part of processing my awareness of a drowning that took place in the far northwest.

"Border Patrol personnel were forced out of Shelby Park earlier this week by the Texas National Guard under order of Governor Abbott. In this situation, the Texas Military Department and the Texas National Guard did not grant access to Border Patrol agents to save the migrants.

"This is a tragedy, and the State bears responsibility."

Refused access to the park, which Governor Abbott had closed the previous Wednesday, members of the Border Patrol were unable to complete their legal duty to locate, aid, and arrest the woman and children in danger. Arrest may result in return to the country of origin, or potential political asylum, but the time of rescue's not the moment for that assessment.

The word from the Texas governor? As the *New York Post* reported on January 13, "When asked about the incident, a spokesperson for Gov. Greg Abbott said, "Texas is holding the line at our southern border with miles of additional razor wire and anti-climb barriers to deter and repel the record-high levels of illegal immigration invited by President Biden's reckless open border policies."

In April 2022, Texas Governor Abbott first began his habit of bussing migrants to more northerly cities without notifying the destination authorities to expect their arrival and without adequate food, clothing, or plans for shelter. Now we're aware of another result of his fixed dedication to his inflexible immigration policy.

On *BorderReport.com*, Sandra Sanchez stated,

"A vigil, for which organizers had received a city permit, had been planned on Saturday afternoon at Shelby Park. The Eagle Pass Border Vigil Coalition put up seven hundred wooden crosses to commemorate migrants who died in 2023 trying to cross the border from Mexico. The Texas Military Department said the local community can enter and access the park."

I have sympathy for the challenges to current populations and the government officials of border states, border cities, border countries worldwide, when the flood of people in need outstrips the capacity to respond. And, no, not everyone crossing any border has only benevolent intentions in mind. In the best of times (spoiler alert: I'm old enough to remember when these options worked in this country and hope to see them in action again), ways to mitigate the horrors faced by those involved include dialogue, reasoned discourse, give-and-take, and mutual cooperation. In the worst of times, well, that's not considered a way through.

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Meanwhile we also have access to an additional option. For me, it's the repetition of this contemporary translation of a two-thousand-year-old prayer, a heartfelt affirmation of the grace and responsibilities of our human unity:

Infinite and eternal Love, Source, and Sustainer of all that is, holy is your name. Love's kingdom is come. Love's will is done on Earth as it is even beyond time and space. Love gives us this day our daily bread. Love forgives us our debts and transgressions as we forgive debts and transgressions ourselves. Love leads us not into temptation. Love delivers us from evil, for Love is the authority, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

It raises rational questions, of course. "Love's kingdom is come"? Seriously? Well, yes, unless it's only recognized when it's 100% in place. "Love's will is done on Earth..."? Well, yes, again unless it, too, is only recognized when it's the only game in town.

Isn't "love's will being done" whenever you happily make a meal for yourself or someone else? When you step out of an argument about to run amok? When you step aside in the checkout line at Big Y so the woman with the tense face and two hungry whining kids behind you can check out ahead of you?

Well, yes. The moment is paradise, and Love is the authority. Embrace it. Cherish it. Pass it along. Do it again. Amen.

—Mary Kate Jordan

American Kestrel Falcons

The kestrel falcons are beautiful little hawks less than a foot long, larger than a robin but smaller than a crow, with black stripes under their eyes and down the side of their face to reduce glare from the sun, while hunting high in the sky. They are distinguished by their streamlined, thin-tapered wings known for their amazing maneuverability when in flight. They have plumes of feathers on their legs and have a small projection on their beaks that is developed into a tooth to kill their prey similar to peregrine falcons with an explosive swoop from above.

And as their population has declined by as much as 50% since the mid-1900s. A primary driver of population decline is clearing woodlands and the removal of dead trees in which other birds create cavities in their search for grubs. As their population has declined they have shifted into the margins of urban areas, sitting along power lines to stalk and then drop down upon small mammals, birds, or insects below. Conservation organizations like the American Kestrel Partners of New England are developing modern methods of tracking technology for recent movements during the migration and climate changes. More northern populations migrate further south than populations to the south, in what is referred to as a "leap frog" migration pattern.

They are cavity nesters who take over holes created by others. They prefer nests as much as twenty-five feet from the ground, though will also nest in boxes that are lower. They generally don't line their nests, and have clutches typically with four to five young, as illustrated.

Since spring is the season of fledglings learning how to fly, it is wise to keep your cats indoors. All the young birds will benefit. This leaves the fledgling kestrels to find and feed on rodents, dragonflies, tomato horn worms in your vegetable garden or garter snakes in your flower garden.

— George B. Emmons

January Wildlife Report

Spring is here! Leslie Roth saw her familiar spotted salamander, up and out on the leaves on the last day of December. She took a photograph (below).

And early in January, Michael and Maureen Banner had a Carolina wren visiting and took a photograph (above). We on the *Monterey News* board have had some recent meetings at Rob and Cindy Hoogs' house. At one meeting we were happily distracted by two Carolina wrens right out the window. These birds then vanished for the next two weeks, and came again on the morning of our next meeting there. Maybe they want to join the board, as long as we feature birdseed for our snacks.

We also have a report from Rob Hoogs early in the month of a barred owl at the Bidwell House, by the parking lot, and a photograph (bottom left). In the smaller birds department, Ed Salsitz, on Beartown Mountain Road, is supporting a variety of smaller birds at his feeder: chickadees, juncos, nuthatches, hairy and downy woodpeckers, titmice, bluejays, a male cardinal, red-bellied woodpecker, and a male red-winged blackbird. He has not seen any of these for many years.

Hanna Jensen discovered some very pretty and puzzling prints in the snow (right above). They could have been right out of the latest show in the Knox Gallery. But what story do they tell? One bird flouncing around in the snow? Three different birds in some mysterious interaction, friendly, or not? Like all good art, this is open to interpretation, though it seems a shame to call it "Untitled."

Still in birdland, we have a late-breaking cable just under the wire from Steve Moore that a family of bluebirds are "crowded on their natal nestbox right now!" We can picture this, no photo needed.

Moving along the taxonomic ladder to mammals, here on Hupi Road we have just seen our first chipmunk, up from hibernation. Can the bears be far behind? Stay tuned. And out in the snowy world of the dog relatives, Bonsai Cox has seen a "figure eight" pattern of tracks and taken some photographs of what must be the tracks of a grey fox, checking on things (below). She has enjoyed the fox visitors before, so we'll also include one of her photographs from a warmer day (right bottom).

Down on River Road, Steve Snyder came upon a bridge across the river. It was a fallen tree and had seen good use by one or more bobcats. This was downstream of the Swimming Hole, and Steve sent in a photograph of careful tracks in the snow (below). Cats rarely make a false step or lose their balance, in any situation.

Dennis Lynch discovered tracks in the snow, approaching his downspout from the house roof gutters, and then moving away. I think these were made by a rabbit or maybe even a snowshoe hare, depending upon how big they are. Doing what? Maybe getting a drink, one melty day.

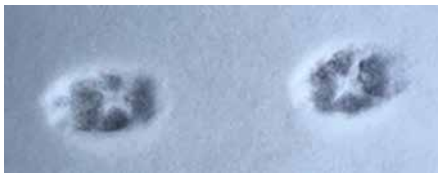
Dennis Lynch saw these rabbit tracks going to and from his gutter downspout.

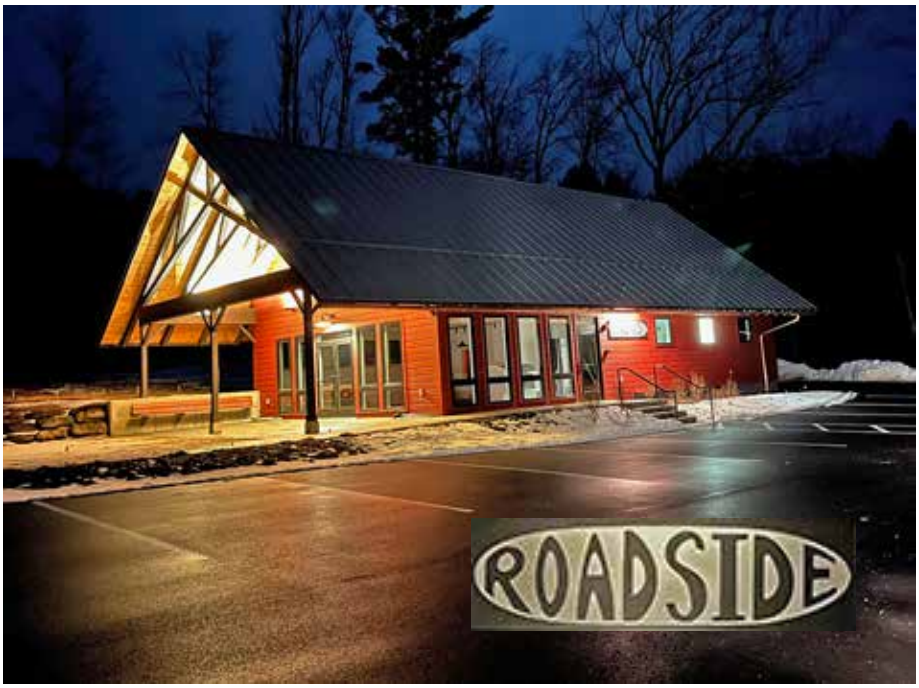
Down on Lake Garfield the ice is black and white, wild and dramatic, a perfect backdrop for a bald eagle just taking off. Marc Holzer sent in this high contrast photograph (below) one morning in the last week of January. We had winter, at last.

These are the tales told by our neighbors, in the wild. Many thanks to all who have sent in their photographs and observations.

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

Below is a closeup of the grey fox tracks taken by Bonsai Cox in her yard.





Roadside Cafe

More Than Just Pancakes

Join the Otis Preservation Trust on Zoom for a discussion about the reopening of the Roadside Store and Cafe on Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m. Gould Farm executive director, Lisanne Finston, will discuss the reopening of the Roadside Store and Cafe—an important community hub in Monterey.

Since 1978, the Roadside Store and Cafe has been a culinary and communal delight for decades. And since closing during the pandemic, it has been a much-missed gathering place for locals and Berkshire visitors alike. Now that the former one-hundred-year-old structure has been razed and a beautiful new building is almost complete, we are inching closer to opening our doors!

Hosted by the Otis Preservation Trust, register for the virtual event here: optin.today/pages/notice-otis.

—Stephanie McMahon

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Town Seal by Edith Wilson

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit articles to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone informed about town news and projects.

MontereyMA.gov

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

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Frank Abbott
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@gmail.com)
(frank@montereyma.gov)

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For all meetings of town public bodies, go to the calendar on the home page. For agendas (with meeting location) and minutes, go to the individual board or commission tab.

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- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.

- Police dispatch service number:

(413) 236-0925.

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

528-3211

The Town Needs Election Workers

Hello citizens of Monterey,

In 2024 federal, state, and local elections will occur (four in total). The town clerk's office is in need of election workers—specifically people to count votes after the polls have closed. By law, all ballots cast in an election must be counted without interruption immediately after the polls have closed. For federal and state elections polls are required to be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and ballot counting cannot begin before the polls have closed.

Because we have no automated vote tabulator in Monterey all ballots must be sorted and counted by hand.

Massachusetts law requires an election worker to be registered to vote in the state, but not specifically in the community where he or she is an election worker. If you're interested in learning more, please contact me in the town clerk's office at:

Phone: (413) 528-1443, ext. 113

Email: clerk@montereyma.gov

In person: (office hours/days can be found at www.montereyma.gov under the "Town Clerk" tab)

Thank You,

—Christopher Andrews
Monterey Town Clerk

Sweet Library Love Thoughts

- You're the cutest card in the catalog
- ISBN thinking about you!
- I'm checking you out!
- You're a page turner
- Let's renew our love
- Dewey belong together?

—

Lin Saberski sent me the above photo, "Finally snow!"

Calendar

Council on aging events on page 8.
Community center events on page 10

Monday, February 12: Monday supper club, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 13.

Wednesday, February 14: Daytime book club, discussing *The Memoirs of Stockholm*. See page 13.

Thursday, February 15:
Discussion on reopening the Roadside Store and Cafe, on Zoom. Registration required. 7 p.m. See page 25.

Meeting to discuss the future of the meeting house. Sponsored by the historical society. Monterey Library, 7 p.m. See page 16.

Sunday, February 18: 3rd Annual Winterfest, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Saturday, February 24: Native plants group showing *Call of the Forest*, 11 a.m. See page 15.

Monday, February 26: Cookbook club, 11:45 a.m. See page 13.

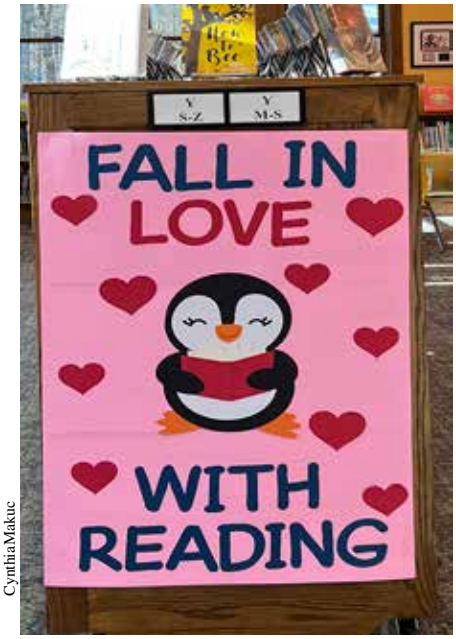
Editor's Note: As both the community center and the council on aging have increasingly offered more programs and activities, it has become unwieldy to offer a full listing of both of these organizations, along with the independently organized events, on one calendar listing in addition to their individual pages. We are hoping that sometime, perhaps before summertime, we will have a calendar editor who will help shape an inclusive calendar.

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) 329-7912 or email.

Lin Saberski

A genuine "snowball" hydrangea!



Cynthia Makuc

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
Town Administrator:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org
Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org
Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency)**:** 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
Post Office: 528-4670
SBRSD (Schools): (413) 229-8778
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 1:30–5 p.m.
Thursday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 4–8 p.m.
Friday..... 4–8 p.m.
Saturday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
..... & 7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795
MontereyMassLibrary.org

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 13; George Emmons, p. 23;
Bonner McAllester, p. 17; Kit Patten, p. 17.