February 2017
Printed 1/26/17 Circulation 385

MONTGOMERY MT. Breeze

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

3rd Quarter Real Estate tax bills are due February 1st

Montgomery Fire Department News

Brush burning season is open from **January 15, 2017 – May 1, 2017**. Your Montgomery Fire Department is recommending that if you have any brush piles you want to get rid of, you should burn them as soon possible - last year we were under a drought and this year is not looking any better! The State Fire Marshall may shut down the brush burning season early if we do not get the snow pack or rainfall needed to keep the woods wet. **If you do want to burn brush, you MUST call the fire department – 862-4505.** You will need to leave your name, phone number, address and the two days you would like to burn. Even if you have called in to let us know you are going to burn, PLEASE be conscious of the weather conditions and do not burn if it is windy out or very dry. You must call in to get a permit every time you want to burn brush. Thank you.

HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS/ FIRST RESPONDERS

We desperately need people who are home during day light hours. You must be at least 16 years old. We will train you for free and provide all needed equipment. We also need people who are home nights and weekends. Our department is getting smaller despite our growing town. If no one is available from our fire department, fire calls or medical calls will have longer response times as another town will have to show up. This could mean the difference between a small event and a catastrophe!

YOU ARE NEEDED: (For more information, please call Chief Steve Frye at 862-4505 (Fire Department), or visit the Fire Station, 154 Main Road, on the 1st or 3rd Tuesday evenings between 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.)

Have you seen this peculiar tree? Do you know where it resides? Many times in passing I've often wonder what the other trees around it think about it's presence.

> "Tears come from the heart and not from the brain."
>
> **Leonardo da Vinci**

Important numbers

FIRE EMERGENCY	911
AMBULANCE	911
STATE POLICE	911
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	862-4037
GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL	685-1102
GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL	685-1202
GMS ATTENDANCE	685-1201
LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY	685-1301
TOWN HALL OFFICE	862-3386
FIRE DEPT	862-4505
FIRE CHIEF - STEVE FRYE	862-3670
TOWN CLERK - JUDY MURPHY	862-4478
POLICE DEPT	862-4545
POLICE CHIEF - JIM STEVENS	862-3642
TAX COLLECTOR - JANE THIELEN	862-3386
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - PHIL CAMP	862-4976

SELECT BOARD:

DAN JACQUES	862-9001
WAYNE MORSE	862-4023
RANDY AUSTIN	862-4004

Meetings for the Select Board are held at 7:00 p.m. every other Friday.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

ANNE-MARIE BUIKUS 862-3257
buikus@verizon.net

MADELYN AUSTIN 862-4004
mrrrr@verizon.net

LIBRARY:

LIBRARIAN - PAULA LONG 862-3894
montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com

HOURS: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Thursday 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. * Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:

Meetings of the Board of Assessors are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Please call 862-3386 for an appointment. Assessors' Clerk hours 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month from Noon – 4 PM

State Senator Don Humason:
64 Noble St., Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 568-1366
Donald.Humason@masenate.gov

State Representative Peter V. Kocot:
Rep.PeterKocot@hou.state.ma.us
(413) 582-6111

MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Editor: T.Lak 413-237-2818
Helen Allyn * Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig * Beulah Kidrick * Paula Long * Julie Pike * Jane Thielen *
montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

February Calendar

Feb. 1 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 3 **9:30–11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Feb. 7 Recycling day
Feb. 8 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 10 **7:00 pm** – Selectboard Meeting –Town Hall
Feb. 10 **9:30–11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Feb. 11 **10:00 am** – Greg Maichack pastel Workshop – Town Library
Feb. 14 **Noon** – COA Coffee Hour – Town Hall
Feb. 15 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 17 **9:30–11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Feb. 18 **1:00 pm** – WingMasters Live bird show – Town Library
Feb. 20 **6:30 pm** – StarLab portable planetarium – Town Library
Feb. 21 **1:00 pm** – Jungle Encounters Live cat show – Town Library
Feb. 21 Recycling day
Feb. 22 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 24 **9:30–11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Feb. 24 **7:00 pm** – Selectboard Meeting –Town Hall
Feb. 28 **Noon** – COA Coffee Hour – Town Hall

Condolences

to Paul Koutruba and family on the loss of his mother Shirley Koutruba of Ludlow on January 13.

MOUNTAIN BREEZE AD POLICY

Montgomery resident ads: $3.50 for ¼ page, $7.00 for ½ page, $10.50 for ¾ page and $14.00 for a full page.

Non-resident ads: $5.00 for ¼ page, $10.00 for ½ page, $15.00 for ¾ page and $20.00 for a full page.

Political ads: $15.00 for ½ page and $30.00 for a full page. (Political ads must include the name of the payer.)

Ads: email (preferably pdf file) to **montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com**, put in the MB box at the Library, or mail to: **Montgomery Mountain Breeze, c/o Grace Hall Memorial Library, 161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085-9525**. Include your name and phone number. Payment must be received by deadline date (usually on the 16th of the month) or ad will not be run. No cash, please; make check payable to Montgomery Mountain Breeze and put in the MB box at the Library, or mail to above address.

The Grille is *the place* to meet your neighbors!

Ok folks, no funny pics this month just some cold hard facts.

Being the Best Restaurant in town is hard to live up to, but I will keep on trying.

Giving you good food at a good price with good service.

Remember we are open earlier during the week; 5:30 weekday mornings, serving up a hot breakfast sandwich on a English muffin or a sweet bread muffin OR even a swanky croissant. Only $3 American dollars.

Add a cup of hot Joe for only one more American buck.

Homemade soups daily.

And if you are trying to stick to a New Year's resolution to eat lighter, I can help you out with that. If you don't see it on the menu, just ask and if I have it, I'll whip it up for you.

Montgomery Grille
NEW HOURS:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
5:30 am to 2:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday:
6:00 am to 2:30 pm
Lunch starts 11:00 am

Montgomery Grille
AT THE MONTGOMERY MARKETPLACE

46 Main Rd, Montgomery, MA
862-(FOOD) 3663
NEW HOURS: 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Start the new year right with these planting tips

GardenNews
by Chris Brown

February is the month to consider Winter Sowing of Seeds. I have tried this for the past several years. Winter sowing is an easy germination method that starts many seedlings for just pennies. Now is the time to sow seeds into recyclable containers; milk jugs, 2 lt. soda bottles, plastic salad containers,…anything that can hold soil. And you place the planted containers outside in a place that will be safe for the winter.

I put the containers on my patio, up against the foundation. Snow does not hurt the process.
Plant seeds that winter hardy, such as plants that volunteer in your own garden, like alyssium, marigolds, ageratum; any seeds that require pre-chilling before planting; seedlings that can withstand frost; wildflowers and vegetable seeds such as broccoli, cabbage, leeks, spinach, onions, Swiss chard and the like. It will not work with tender crops such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplants.

It is easy to do. Make sure the container is clean. Place some slits in the bottom of the container for drainage. Fill container with soil to about ½ in. from the top. Water it well and let the soil drain. Sow your seeds and cover with soil to the correct depth recommended on the seed packet. Put the lid on (in the case of the milk jug , cut them in half around the middle almost all the way around. Then tape the cut edges of the container together and remove the cap for air transpiration). Make sure all the containers have drainage slits on the bottom and air transpiration slits on the top. Be sure to LABEL the containers with a permanent marking pen. As the seeds emerge, check the container for moisture. Always replace the lids tightly after checking for moisture.

Not all the seeds will germinate, but a good % of them will – it is an interesting way to start seeds for next summers' garden.

COLUMBIAN BEEF & SWEET POTATO STEW

FEBRUARY RECIPE

This is a crock pot recipe that tastes better the next day…..

1 lb. boneless chuck
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
½ tsp. olive or veg. oil
8 dried apricots cut in halfs
1 dried bay leaf
1 stick cinnamon
1 lg. onion, cut into 1/8th's
2 whole cloves
chopped fresh parsley
3 cups 1 in. pieces, peeled, sweet potatoes
1 28 oz. can Italian pear-shaped tomatoes undrained
2 tsp. finely chopped garlic

Remove excess fat from beef. Cut beef into 1 in. pieces. Sprinkle beef with salt & pepper. Heat oil in 10 in. skillet over med. high heat. Cook beef in oil about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally until brown. Mix beef and remaining ingredients except apricots & parsley in 4 to 5 qt. crock pot. Cover and cook on low heat about 8 hours or until beef is tender. Stir in apricots. Cover and cook on low heat setting about 15 minutes or until apricots are softened. Discard cloves, bay leaf and cinnamon stick. Sprinkle stew with parsley.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:
Jeanne Aras
Jennifer Arvanitis
Henry Bisbee IV
Chris Brown
Ryan Bucko
Fran Bush
Roger Chapman
Adam Cruickshank
Pat Darling
Sonia Ellis
Dan Flechsig, Sr.
Nathan Galipeau
Tom Gil
Bill Hughes
Charles Kenyon
Geraldine Larrabee
Donny Masciadrelli
Nicholas Moses
Gennie Schenna
Michael Shelnut
Geoffrey Sobotka, Jr.
Nancy Spencer
Dale Stanisewski
Paige Stomski
Pete Wilcox
Tim Wolcott

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES
Cheryl & Donny Masciadrelli
Julie & Bob Pike
Karen & Dennis Wassung

CALL OUT FOR E-MAIL ADDRESSES!

How's your MT Breeze arriving? We do our best to get you the MT Breeze in a timely fashion, but conditions here in the Hilltowns may delay delivery. Get the Breeze days before the start of the month with e-mail delivery!!! No need to head for the mailbox when the same issue will arrive on your digital device. Get the feature articles and Calendar events ahead of the crowd. Sign up with your e-mail address at:

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

Republic Services of Springfield
845 Burnett Road Chicopee, MA 01020
413-557-6700
www.republicservices.com/site/chicopee-ma

RESIDENTIAL CALENDAR
Montgomery

= Holidays
= Trash - Subscription
= Recycle - Town Contract (B Week)

2017

January '17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

February '17

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26	27	28				

March '17

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April '17

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30						

May '17

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28	29	30	31			

June '17

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July '17

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30	31					

August '17

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September '17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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October '17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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29	30	31				

November '17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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26	27	28	29	30		

December '17

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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1990 MJC 2015

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Montgomery, MA 01085
413-846-3009

Irene's Moving On!

An opportunity has presented itself to me and it seems like now is a good time for me to take advantage of this situation. I'd like to welcome and invite all my wonderful clients and friends to visit me at the **New SALON/SPA** where I will be working.
The **New SALON/SPA** is located in Westfield,
and offers PLENTY OF FREE EASY PARKING.

I'd like to THANK all my wonderful CLIENTS, that are now my FRIENDS
for your support all these years.
Hope to hear from you! Again, many Thanks.
Irene
Give me a call if you would like more information. **413-478-6253**

Historical Society invites all to become new members

Historical Happenings

, *Bernie's Dining Depot in Chicopee was the location for Montgomery Historical Society's post-holiday dinner on January 4th. Those attending enjoyed the fine food and fellowship experienced during the evening. To end the outing on a beautiful note, the snow started to swirl about the time we were heading home – a quiet blessing on a lovely evening. We are sorry if you were unable to attend!*

COMING NEXT: your Historical Society will host its **ANNUAL PENNY SOCIAL on Saturday, March 4 at the Town Hall.** Are you tired of winter yet? Here's a "fun" event that's great for the whole family – even the *young ones* will be eligible to bid on their own "kids' items" during the evening!

The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. but you are encouraged to be there when the **doors open at 5:45** so you can buy your penny tickets and get them ready, look over the items available, and choose a snack before the fun begins! (P**lease note:** if the weather is uncooperative, we'll hold the Penny Social on the **following Saturday, March 11 – same time, same place.**) As always, refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

By way of explanation – for anyone not familiar with a "penny social," *here's how it works: buy as many cards as you want for 25 cents each (25 tickets per card = a penny per ticket), and separate the cards (perforated) into individual penny tickets. (Each card also includes a* ***door prize ticket*** *for special drawings announced throughout the evening.) When you want to "bid" on an item, put as many tickets as you wish into the "pot" that's passed, and a ticket is drawn for the winner of that item. This goes on until all the items have been awarded. (In addition, we sell* ***raffle tickets*** *for a variety of gift certificates and special items donated by individuals and businesses, which are purchased and drawn separately.)*

We also need your help… The success of this annual fund-raiser depends on the committee coming up with lots of items to award in the bidding process. Would you possibly be willing to donate any new or **"gently-used" articles** that would be appropriate for this event? (This can include artwork, knick-knacks, food items/groupings like baskets of breakfast items, spaghetti dinners; also bath, gardening or other items.) For the separate bidding for the children (because they love to select their own "prizes"), we also ask you to consider donating kids' items, which might include toys, games, or stuffed animals – **please, only if clean and like new**). Maybe you received a Christmas gift you don't know what to do with, or have tired of some home decor? Please consider donating such things for the Social!

Pickup of any donation(s) can be arranged by calling **Laurie (862-8095) or Julie (862-4539)**. Donations will also be gratefully accepted at the Town Hall **between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.** on the day of the Penny Social, while the committee is setting up the hall for the event. (Donation times available by appointment, as well – please call us!)

Committee members will visit area businesses for donations to the Penny Social. Gift certificates from local restaurants and for gift items from numerous local merchants will be solicited. **Special note to Montgomery and other local residents:** we'd also love to promote your local business and "get your name out there," so please consider donating a gift certificate from your own business (or in the name of your business)!

Be sure to put these date(s) on your calendar and join the fun! Many of our regular attendees find it's just the answer to the "winter blahs" after the l-o-o-o-n-g nights and cold days… You can count on having a good time there! As always, events and activities planned by your Montgomery Historical Society are open to all – your participation is welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 4 AT 6:30 P.M. and the SNOW DATE, MARCH 11 at 6:30 p.m.!!!

By the time the **February Mountain Breeze** is in your hands, a new exhibit will be installed in the display case ("curated" by your Montgomery Historical Society) at the Grace Hall Memorial Library. In thoughtful consideration of the recent disagreements and protests in our Nation, we thought our fellow townspeople and library patrons would find our newest theme to be appropriate: **"Peace through Communication."** It will contain Native American peace pipes as well as "talking feathers" and other items. Perhaps we all could learn a lesson from our indigenous people about the respectful way to communicate and the desire for peace in our world. Please be sure to stop in at the Library to borrow a book or other media, and while there, view the new exhibit on display.

We have had only one volunteer step up to offer to display their collection or treasure in the future at the Library. Please be sure to call **Laurie (862-8095)** to share your ideas for use of the display case. Think about it – "one person's trash is another person's treasure" so perhaps you have a hidden gem (or collection of them) that would interest many other people. Let's hear from you on this!

Please note: we welcome your contribution to the exhibits at the library, whether a member of the Historical Society or not!

In January last year, the "travels" of a family Bible belonging to the Chapmans, early settlers of Montgomery, were shared with Mountain Breeze readers. We'd like to remind you that this Bible is on permanent display in the Library in an archival-safe display case constructed with much care by local craftsman Henry Lafleur. The old Family Bible has traditionally been considered a treasure for genealogists researching family history, and this Bible is no exception. Hope you've had the opportunity to view it, and if not, do stop in! (If you have genealogy questions or have met a stumbling block in your own family research, please talk with one of the Historical Society members to see if we can help you out. Both Laurie Flechsig and Patty Little are well-versed in genealogical research!)

Library News

February

facebook.com/ gracehallmemorial

February 2017

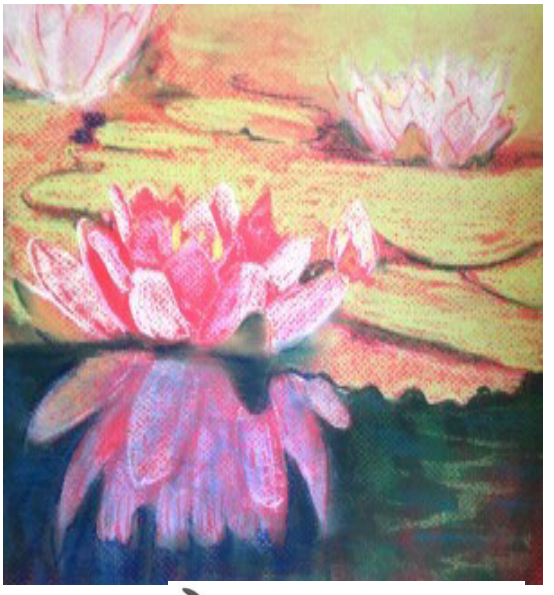
I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon. ~Author Unknown

Greg Maichack

Pastel workshop $45 Million dollar flower

Feb. 11 at 10 AM

Sign up today for this hands on workshop at the library. Greg has been to the library many times and always creates a friendly atmosphere where novices and artist alike enjoy learning from a classical artist.



Winter Break Actives

Feb. 18 a t 1 pm WingMasters return with a new LIVE bird show Ancient Civilizations and Birds. See Falcons, Owls and more!

Feb. 20 at 6:30 PM StarLab of Springfield Museums returns with their portable planetarium to talk about the winter sky. 2 shows limited seats, please preregister by Feb. 18.

Feb. 21 at 1 PM NEW Jungle Encounters: Prey or Predator? Meet and learn about LIVE small wild cats! See how wild cats, like Bobcats, Savanah Cats and Bengal cats survive in nature. ** This show is not available for children under 6 years old**

Trustees Meeting Jan. 5 at 6:30 PM

Museum Passes

Old Sturbridge Village

Springfield Quad

Norman Rockwell

Mystic Aquarium

Deerfield Historical Mu-

USS Constitution

DCR State Park Pass

MassMoCa

Hours
Tues: 10– 5:30
Thurs: 4-8
Sat: 9:30-12:30

Contact
Mail
161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085

Phone
413-862-3894

email
Montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com
Website
montgomeryma.gov
wghl.masscat.org
facebook.com/gracehallmemorial

What HOT BOOKS are you looking forward to this Winter?

COUNCIL ON AGING

Serving the Citizens of Montgomery
February 2017

Calendar

Tue – Feb 14 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Tue – Feb 28 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Osteoporosis Exercise Class
Town Hall – Friday – 9:30 – 11am

February Birthdays

Genevieve Schenna
Frances Bush
Geraldine Larrabee
Patricia Darling
Judith Keniston

Davis Bates
Celebrating the Season
Saturday, March 18 at 11:00 am

The COA and the Grace Hall Memorial Library will celebrate the coming spring, St. Patrick's Day, and the diverse heritage of the New England Region by presenting a performance by singer and storyteller Davis Bates. Entitled Celebrating the Season: Songs and Stories for Everyone, the program will involve the audience in a variety of cultural traditions.

The performance will be part of a tea social that will take place in the Town Hall on Saturday, March 18th, starting at 11 am. For more information please call 862-3257 or 862-3894. This performance funded, in part, by a grant from the Montgomery Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Meals On Wheels – Highland Valley Elder Services – Donation requested 800-322-0551 or 413-586-2000

Elder Abuse - 800-922-2275 or 413-586-2000

Hilltown Social Services – 667-2203

Shine Counselor – John Bergeron - 667-2203

Veteran's Agent – Daniel Flechsig – 862-8095

Outreach – Ginger Cruickshank – 862-4932

Senior "Circuit Breaker" Tax Credit

Senior citizens in Massachusetts may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on their state income taxes for the real estate taxes paid on the Massachusetts residential property they own or rent and which they occupy as their principal residence. The maximum credit allowed is $1,070 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2016.

Eligible taxpayers who own their property may clam a credit equal to the amount by which their property tax payments in the current tax year exceeds 10% of their "total income" for the same current tax year.

For renters, the law assumes that 25% of their rent goes towards property tax. Accordingly, renters may claim a credit in the amount by which 25% of their annual rental payment is more than 10% of their total income.

For the purpose of the tax credit, a taxpayer's "total income" includes taxable income as well as exempt income such as social security, treasury bills and public pensions

Who is eligible for the credit?

To be eligible for the credit for the 2016 tax year, a taxpayer must be 65 years of age or older before January 1, 2017 (for joint filers, it is sufficient if one taxpayer is 65 years or age or older), must own or rent residential property in Massachusetts and occupy the property as his or her principal residence. The taxpayer's total income cannot exceed $57,000 for a single filer who is not the head of a household, $71,000 for a head of household, or $86,000 for taxpayers filing jointly. No credit is allowed for a married taxpayer unless a joint return is filed. Moreover, the assessed valuation of the real estate cannot exceed $720,000.

How does a taxpayer claim the credit?

Taxpayers who are eligible for the tax credit in the 2016 tax year can claim the credit by submitting a completed Schedule CB, Circuit Breaker Credit, with their 2016 state income tax return.

What if the taxpayer is not required to file a state income tax return?

An eligible taxpayer who does not normally file a state income tax return may obtain a refund by filing a return with Schedule CB, Circuit Breaker Credit.

MEMA – Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

WINTER HEATING SAFETY

The recent extremely cold temperatures have demonstrated the potential dangers associated with utilizing 'alternative' methods to heat your home, particularly if you lose your primary heating source due to a power outage or to lack of fuel. Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. Many of these home fires are caused by the improper use of space heaters, as well as fireplaces and wood stoves. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) advises the following heating and carbon monoxide tips to help stay safe this winter season:

Portable Heaters

- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet away from the heater.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets. Never plug a portable heater into an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn heaters off when going to bed or leaving the room.

Fireplaces

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in the fireplace.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least three feet from the home.

Wood Stoves

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Make sure the wood stove is three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in the wood stove.
- Put the fire out before going to sleep or leaving the home.

Carbon Monoxide

- When using heaters that require fuel, install a carbon monoxide detector.

This newsletter is partially funded by a grant of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Outreach Worker: Ginger Cruickshank 862-4932
Board Members are: Anne-Marie Buikus 862-3257, Jane Thielen 862-4482, Sandy Haas 862-3829
Jeanne Aras 862-4497, Jean Bush 862-3645, Geraldine Larrabee 862-3884
Email: COA-Montgomeryma@hotmail.com