

MONTGOMERY
MT *Breeze*

March 2017
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PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF



Nearly a hundred folks packed the Town Hall to listen to Julie Anne Collier of WingMasters, during the WingMaster's Birds of Prey event put on by the Trustees of the Library. On hand to amaze the audience were two types of falcons, a red tailed hawk, and three types of owls. All of which are residents of New England. The hour plus talk was informative and entertaining. Turn to page 10 to see more and check the Library page inside for other interesting events coming soon.

Town Clerk News

Believe it or not the May election is approaching quickly. If you would like to run for any of the positions that will be on the ballot simply pick up a nomination paper from the Town Hall or call me to get one. You will need to have at least twenty signatures of registered voters and return to the Town Hall or myself by 5:00 on March 27th.

Positions on the ballot will be as follows. Moderator, Selectman, Tax Collector, Treasurer, School Committee Rep., Assessor, Library Trustee, Trustee of the AP Pettis Fund and Tree Warden.

If you have and interest pick up the paper at the Town Hall by the above date.

Judy Murphy, Town Clerk
413-862-4478

“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.”

Doug Larson

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:

MADELYN AUSTIN	862-4004
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mrrrr@verizon.net

LIBRARY:

LIBRARIAN - PAULA LONG	862-3894
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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

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montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

March Calendar

- Mar. 1 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Mar. 3 9:30–11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Mar. 7 Recycling day
Mar. 8 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Mar. 10 7:00 pm – Selectboard Meeting –Town Hall
Mar. 10 9:30–11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Mar. 12 11:00 am – Tea and Canvas Party – Town Library
Mar. 14 Noon – COA Coffee Hour with Diana Szynal, aide to Peter Kocot – Town Hall
Mar. 15 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Mar. 17 9:30–11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Mar. 21 Recycling day
Mar. 22 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Mar. 24 9:30–11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Mar. 24 7:00 pm – Selectboard Meeting –Town Hall
Mar. 28 Noon – COA Coffee Hour – Town Hall
Mar. 29 6:30 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Mar. 31 9:30–11:00 am – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall

Condolences

to Cindy and Phil Camp and extended family on the loss of Cindy's sister Penny Nicholas on Feb. 11 in Westfield.

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.

MARCH 2017

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



Come on down to the best restaurant in town and celebrate the 77th St. Paddy's Day with some home-made hash! One taste and you'll agree it's the best around!



**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**

She's still here! You can still see Irene providing great service at the Grille on Saturdays.

**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

Think Spring with these 3 Western Mass Garden Symposia

We can start Thinking Spring by attending the Garden Symposia that are offered by the Master Gardeners of Western MA. There are 3 coming up this Spring:

- **March 18, 2017** "Unlock Your Garden's Potential" at Frontier Regional High School in So. Deerfield, MA
 - **April 1, 2017** "Creating Healthy Gardens from the Ground Up!" at Holyoke High in Holyoke MA
 - **April 8, 2017** "Thinking Spring" at Lenox Memorial Middle & High School in Lenox, MA
- Go to the web site at www.wmmga.org to download all

GardenNews
by Chris Brown



three brochures. There are also copies available of the Holyoke Symposium at Grace Hall Memorial Library, Montgomery MA.

There are many topics of interest presented at all three symposia including.

Among the various classes are: Blueberries, Saving our Pollinators, Medicine in Your Garden, Growing Competition Sized Pumpkins, Cooking with Herbs, Gardening in a Drought, Growing Organic Lawns, Daylilies, Growing Garlic, From the Bottom up - Soil, Compost and Mulching plus many more topics to choose from in the 3 symposia.

HAM POTATO SWISS SCALLOP

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese	1/2 cup sliced green onions
1 Tbsp. dill weed	6 Tbsp/ margarine
2 Tbsp. flour	1 tsp. salt
2 cups milk	4 large potatoes, cooked & sliced
3 cups diced cooked ham	1 cup fine soft bread crumbs
paprika	

Mix cheese, green onions and dill weed. Set aside. Melt 2 Tbsp. margarine & blend in flour & salt. Gradually add milk - cook - stirring until smooth & thickened. Put 1/3 potatoes in a 2 1/2 qt. greased casserole. Add 1/2 ham. Top with 1/2 cheese mixture and 1/2 sauce. Repeat layers, ending with a layer of potatoes. Melt remaining margarine and mix with bread crumbs. Sprinkle on casserole. Bake 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes. Sprinkle with paprika. Makes 6 servings.

Recipe for March 2017 by Chris Brown (I am always looking for recipes to share at chrisbro40@yahoo.com)

MARCH RECIPE

Office hours for State Rep Peter Kocot Announced

On each date we will be there from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 14th

Tuesday, March 14th

Tuesday, April 11th

Tuesday, May 9th

Tuesday, June 13th

For further information please contact:
Diana M. Szynal

Office of State Representative Peter V. Kocot
First Hampshire District

Proudly Serving the Communities of
Northampton, Hatfield, Montgomery,
Southampton and Westhampton.

MCSW seeking applicants

Applications are now being accepted to fill vacancies on the newly established Hampden and Hampshire-Franklin Commissions on the Status of Women.

The commissions, which are each comprised of nine members from throughout the respective regions, exist to provide a positive and effective voice for women and girls. They are charged with conducting an ongoing study of matters concerning women in the region, reporting their findings annually to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, and recommending solutions.

Commissioners are drawn from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, age, sexual orientation, and socio-economic backgrounds. More information and links to applications are available here.

The MCSW welcomes all interested and qualified applicants. To be considered for the Hampden and Hampshire-Franklin inaugural commissions, please submit your application by Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Please contact Kelly Lynch at kelly.e.lynch@state.ma.us or 617-626-6522 with any questions.

Get the Breeze days before the start of the month with e-mail delivery!!! Sign up with your e-mail address at:

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

Reminder: dog license(s) update

DOG LICENSES: A reminder to people who have paid for their 2016-2017 dog licenses and have not picked them up yet please do so. I still have about twenty that are still in my office. The reason for them not being mailed to you is because there was no self addressed stamped envelope given at the time of registration. You can pick them up on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-4:00. The 2016-2017 dog licenses are in. Your current dog license(s) will expire at the end of March. The new 2017-2018 licenses are in and available for you to license your dog(s). The cost of the license is \$6.00 if neutered and \$10.00 if un-neutered. A kennel license is required for anyone having more than four dogs. The cost is \$25.00 for the license plus \$5.00 for each neutered and \$6.00 for each un-neutered dogs. If you prefer to do it by mail you can include a copy of this form, if you have more than one dog photocopy the form. I will need to have a copy of the current rabies certificate, along with a check made out to the Town on Montgomery. **MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE** or the license will not get mailed back to you. You may also call the Town Clerk to obtain a license in person. Forms are on the front table in the Town Hall and can be filled out there and dropped off. .



The Town by-laws require ALL dogs be licensed by July 1st of current year or you will be fined a late fee of \$25.00 per dog, along with the license fee. All dogs six months or older, even inside dogs MUST be licensed. Call 862-4478 for more info.

Judy Murphy, Town Clerk,
58 North Rd, Montgomery, MA 01085

ANIMAL LICENSE

Town of **Montgomery** NO. _____

THIS CERTIFIES that _____, the undersigned,
is the owner or keeper of an animal kept at _____
Telephone: _____

and described as follows: NAME _____ AGE _____ YRS _____ MOS _____
and described as follows: NAME _____ AGE _____ YRS _____ MOS _____

SIZE	COLOR	PROMINENT BREED	SPECIES
SMALL <input type="checkbox"/>			Dog
MEDIUM <input type="checkbox"/>			
LARGE <input type="checkbox"/>			
SEX	MALE <input type="checkbox"/>	FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	NEUTERED <input type="checkbox"/>

Further Details: _____
and is the animal described in RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE NO. _____
Expiration Date _____

Dated _____, 20____ Signature of Owner or Keeper _____

In reliance on the above certificate and the payment fee of \$ _____
the animal above described is licensed for the period ending **4 / 1 / 2017**
Dated _____, 20____ Town Clerk _____

Buying ? Selling? Park Square Realty Hilltown Office is here to assist you



Are you or anyone you know interested in buying or selling a Home, Condo, Land, or Mobile Home in the Western Mass area? If you do please stop in at the office on Tuesdays from 10 am - 3:00, Thursdays from 1 pm - 6:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 10 am - 3:00 pm. Or call the office number listed below for an appointment.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Agent on Duty: Judy Murphy
Office number: 413-552-7123
Email address:
judymurphy4478@gmail.com

If you get the recording, please leave a message and I will get back to you that same day. Make sure you leave your name, phone number, and best time to call.

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EVERY DAY IS A HAPPY DAY

Irene – HAIR Ltd.

is now at **174 Elm Street** in Westfield, MA.,
at **Rock Locks** located at the corner of Franklin & Elm Streets.

Thanks to all my clients that have joined me there.
Looking forward to seeing many of my other loyal clients.

Happy St Patrick's Day!

We cater to all ages. Still same low prices.

For more information please call 413-478-6253.

Penny Social date change, donations still needed

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The DATE for Montgomery Historical Society's annual Penny Social HAS BEEN CHANGED! Originally scheduled for Saturday, March 4, the NEW DATE IS SATURDAY, MARCH 11



(same time and place) with snow date MARCH 18. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our Penny Social attendees!

So to confirm that, the annual Penny Social will be held **Saturday, March 11** starting at 6:30 p.m. (snow date: March 18). Doors open at 5:45 p.m. so you can get a good seat, purchase and divide your penny tickets, get some refreshments and be ready when the fun begins at 6:30 p.m. Come join in some good old-fashioned fun and beat the "winter blues" or "blahs" or whatever you want to call them. The bidding isn't over till all the donated items are "auctioned" off, so come on down to join your neighbors and friends while helping make this Historical Society fundraiser a success and supporting the annual scholarship(s) for our future high school graduates (Montgomery residents).

The snack bar is open all evening and will have a variety of refreshments for sale, including hot and cold drinks.

There's still time for you to donate ... the success of this annual fund-raiser depends on your hosts having lots of items for you to bid on at the Social. If you could possibly donate any new or "gently-used" articles that would be appropriate for this event, we would be happy to have them - including food items or groupings such as baskets of breakfast items, spaghetti dinner packages, etc.; also bath, gardening or other items, artwork, home décor (including seasonal), etc. For the exclusive bidding by the children present (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 (in clean, like-new condition, please). Or, if you received a Christmas gift you don't know what to do with, please consider donating it for

the Social!

Pickup of your donation(s) can be arranged by calling Laurie (862-8095) or Julie (862-4539). Donations will also be gratefully accepted at the Town Hall on the day of the Penny Social, between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. while the committee is setting up the hall for the event. (Contact us for other options as well.)

We are in the process of visiting local businesses for donations to the Penny Social. Gift certificates from local restaurants and for gift items from numerous local merchants are being sought. 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)!

Hope you'll put the date(s) on your calendar and join the fun! Many folks find it's just the answer to the "winter doldrums" after the lo-o-o-ng nights and fluctuating temperatures! Plan on having a great time there, too! - **DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 6:30 P.M. (and the SNOW DATE, MARCH 18!!!**

The next event hosted by your Montgomery Historical Society is the annual Roast Pork Supper, scheduled for Saturday, April 22 - 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. It's priced just right for families (\$10 for adults; \$5.00 for kids age 10 & under) and also includes a guest speaker, to be announced in the April edition of the Mountain Breeze... Be sure to save the date!

The current exhibit in the Historical Society's display case at the Grace Hall Memorial Library is themed "Peace through Communication" and features Native American peace pipes as well as "talking feathers" and other items. This exhibit will remain until about mid-March, when it will be replaced by a collection of cobalt blue glassware loaned by one of our Historical Society members. Hope you'll stop in at the Library to borrow a book or other media and view the current display, and return again when the new exhibit has been installed!



If you, a family member, or friend has a collection or items of interest that you'd be willing to share with the public, please contact Laurie at 862-8095 so that we may set a date for your display. (Please note: your participation in exhibits at the library is welcome whether an Historical Society member or not!)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS: Jenn Albano Colleen Bean Steven Brzoska Peyton Bucko Alex Chapman	Jacob Avery Chapman	George Galipeau	Andrea Moses	Jane Thielen
	Joseph Croteau	Lynn Gebo	Charles Peckham	Rachel Ward
	Pauline Croteau	Bob Hyjek	Bennett Rogers	
	Bob Dowd	Linda Hyjek	Benjamin Senecal	
	Justin Fernengel	Charlie Kenyon	Jacob Stevens	
	Makayla Fernengel	Dwayne Long	Jason Stomski	
Wayne Fowles	Sandie Mann	Kathleen Stomski		MARCH ANNIVERSARIES Nonel



Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

The Barred Owl

The Barred Owl's hooting call, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" is a classic sound of old forests and treed swamps. But this attractive owl, with soulful brown eyes and brown-and-white-striped plumage, can also pass completely unnoticed as it flies noiselessly through the dense canopy or snoozes on a tree limb. Originally a bird of the east, during the twentieth century it spread through the Pacific Northwest and southward into California.

Barred Owls are large, stocky owls with rounded heads, no ear tufts, and medium length, rounded tails. Barred Owls are mottled brown and white overall, with dark brown, almost black, eyes. The underparts are mostly marked with vertical brown bars on a white background, while the upper breast is crossed with horizontal brown bars. The wings and tail are barred brown and white.

Barred Owls roost quietly in forest trees during the day, though they can occasionally be heard calling in daylight hours. At night they hunt small animals. Barred Owls eat many kinds of small animals, including squirrels, chipmunks, mice, voles, rabbits, birds (up to the size of grouse), amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates. They hunt by sitting and waiting on an elevated perch, while scanning all around for prey with their sharp eyes and ears. They may perch over water and drop down to catch fish, or even wade in shallow water in pursuit of fish and crayfish. Though they do most of their hunting right after sunset and during the night, sometimes they feed during the day. Barred Owls may temporarily store their prey in a nest, in the crook of a branch, or at the top of a snag. They swallow small prey whole and large prey in pieces, eating the head first and then the body.

Barred Owls live in large, mature forests made up of both deciduous trees and evergreens, often near water. They nest in tree cavities. In the Northwest, Barred Owls have moved into old-growth coniferous forest, where they compete with the threatened Spotted Owl. Barred Owls live year-round in mixed forests of large trees, often near water.

They tend to occur in large, unfragmented blocks of mature forest, possibly because old woodlands support a higher diversity of prey and are more likely to have large cavities suitable for nesting. Their preferred habitats range from swamps to streambanks to uplands, and may contain hemlock, maple, oak, hickory, beech, aspen, white spruce, quaking aspen, balsam poplar, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, or western larch.

They may add lichen, fresh green conifer sprigs, or feathers to a stick platform nest, and they may flatten or remove the top of an old squirrel nest. Cavities measure 10–13 inches wide and 14–21 inches deep (sometimes much deeper, with one cavity recorded as nearly 8 feet deep).

Barred Owls roost on branches and in tree cavities during the day and hunt by night. Territorial all year round, they chase away intruders while hooting loudly. They are even more aggressive during nesting season (particularly the females), sometimes striking intruders with their feet. Pairs probably mate for life, raising one brood each year. Their nests are preyed upon by other large owls and hawks, as well as by weasels and raccoons. When humans interfere with a nest, the parent may flee, perform a noisy distraction display with quivering wings, or even attack. Other birds recognize Barred Owls as predators; small songbirds, crows, and woodpeckers may band together to mob them. Their most dangerous predator is the Great Horned Owl, which eats eggs, young birds, and occasionally adults. Barred Owls are forest birds. They tend to occur in older forests and they need large, dead trees for nest sites; these requirements make them sensitive to expansion of logging. For this reason, the Barred Owl is often used as an indicator species for managing old forests.

Barred Owls don't migrate, and they don't even move around very much. Of 158 birds that were banded and then found later, none had moved farther than 6 miles away. The oldest recorded Barred Owl was at least 24 years, 1 month old. It was banded in Minnesota in 1986, and found dead, entangled in fishing gear, in the same state in 2010.

Information from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

What are the Ides of March? and "You too Brutus?"

You may remember the soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar to "Beware the ides of March," but the term didn't originate with William Shakespeare. The earliest Roman calendar, which consisted of ten months beginning with Martius (March), was believed to have been created by King Romulus around 753 B.C. At that time, dates were expressed in relation to the lunar phase of the month using three markers: Kalends (Kal), Nones (Non) and Ides (Id). The first phase of the moon, the new moon, was denoted by Kalends and signified the first day of the month; the first quarter moon fell on either the fifth or seventh day of the month and was referred to as Nones; the full moon fell on either the 13th or 15th day of the month and was referred to as Ides. The ides of March—March 15—initially marked the first full moon of a new year.

During the late Roman Republic, a new year's festival was held on the ides of March in which people would gather a mile outside of Rome on the Via Flaminia by the banks of the

Tiber River. Participants celebrated with food, wine and music and offered sacrifices to the Roman deity Anna Perenna for a happy and prosperous new year. Between 222 and 153 B.C., the ides of March also signaled the beginning of the new consular year, in which two annually-elected consuls took office as leaders of the republic.

In 46 B.C., after consulting with the Alexandrian astronomer Sosigenes, Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar by adding ten days to the 355-day year, instituting January 1 as the first day of the new year (beginning in 45 B.C.) and introducing a leap year every four years. Shortly thereafter, he was granted the title Dictator Perpetuus or "dictator for life." Concerned with Caesar's increasing power and monarchical leanings, a group of Roman senators stabbed the ruler to death 23 times on March 15, 44 B.C.—forever linking the ides of March with the assassination of Julius Caesar.

Thanks to the History.com website.

Announcing: The former Hair Ltd. is now

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413-552-9431

WingMasters Bird of Prey show entertains and informs



Julie Anne Collier of WingMasters speaks about her experiences with birds of prey at the February 18th Birds of Prey event at the Town Hall. The birds and her don't always see eye to eye. This Ring Bearing owl focuses on sounds.



The tiny Screech owl.

Photos by Lori Lyons.



The powerful Red Tailed hawk shows off its wing span.



The world's fastest animal.



The Town Hall fills up early as Julie Anne prepares the birds.



The Kestrel falcon is small in size only. This event is the only place you might see one.



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Gina M. Artruc, LMT

cell: 413.313.9085

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Library News



facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

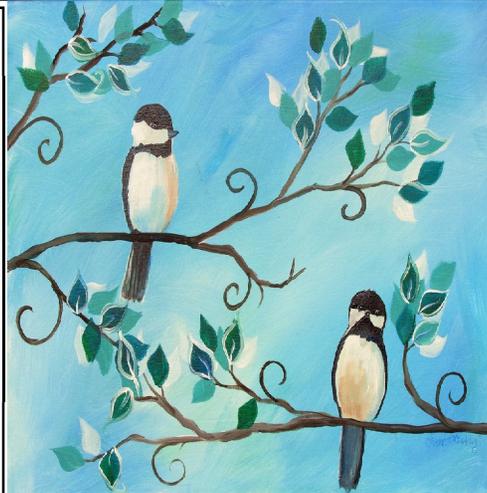
March 2016

Do you suppose it's true, that St. Patrick was a parselmouth, and his muggle friends never knew? ~Dave Beard

Tea & Canvas Party

March 12 at 11 AM

Reserve your seat for this fun painting class and tea party. Tickets are \$10 each and must be paid by March 9. We will be painting "Spring Chickadees" while snacking on scrumptious yummys. Contact the library for reservations and more info.



Trustees Meeting
March 10 at 6:30 PM

Museum Passes

Old Sturbridge Village
Springfield Quad
Norman Rockwell
Mystic Aquarium
Deerfield Historical Mu-

USS Constitution
DCR State Park Pass
Smith College
Mass MoCa

Hours

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

Phone

413-862-3894

email

Montgomerylibrary
@yahoo.com
website
wghl.masscat.org
facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

New Items

A Dangerous Place by Win-
spear
Find Her by Gardner
Witches by Schiff
Dark Money by Mayer
Bridge of Spies DVD

Plus many
More!



The Pied Potter Hamelin's Chickens at the Back Door

This wheel throwing program is all about the creatures and animals. Hamelin makes every thing from chickens, penguins, gnomes, cats to houses and Volkswagen Beetles! You name it and he can make it on the wheel during this demonstration. **March 19 at 3:30 FREE**

Adult Coloring Club on March 10 at 7 PM, This months coloring packets available now!

Two NEW Museum Passes!

The library now carries passes to MASS MoCa and Smith College Museum of Art. Mass MoCa admits 2 adults and 2 Children for free admission. The Museum is at 87 Marshall Street, North

Adams. You can see more about exhibits at massmoca.org

Smith College Museum of Art up to 8 people for free. As a teaching museum there are a lot of on hands programs and exhibits. These can be seen at smith.edu/artmuseum

NEW TOWN WEBSITE!

While still under construction you can access the Library's page for information, our catalog, CEC Ebook logins, plus much more! Go Here : montgomeryma.net

I MUSTACHE YOU A QUESTION?

Have you read a good book lately? Kids who visit the library during the month or March can enter the contest for a movie pass for each visit. Drawing on March 31.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Serving the Citizens of Montgomery
March 2017

Calendar

Tue – March 14 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Tue – March 28 Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

Osteoporosis Exercise Class

Town Hall – Friday 9:30 – 11am

March Birthdays

Wayne Fowles	Doris Binkley
Philip Shaw	George Galipeau
Charles Peckham	Pauline Croteau
Joyce Dupelle	Charlie Kenyon
Joseph Croteau	Helen Allyn

Diana Szyal, legislative aide to Peter Kocot, will attend our coffee hour on March 14th.

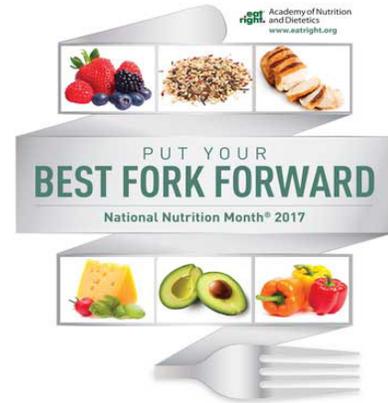
Davis Bates Celebrating the Season

The COA and the Library will be holding a tea social on Saturday, March 18th in the Town Hall at 11 am.

We will be celebrating the coming of spring, St. Patrick's Day, and the diverse heritage of the New England Region with singer and story teller Davis Bates. For more information please call 862-3257 or 862-3894. The performance is free of charge and open to all. Come join us for a fun filled afternoon.

This performance is funded, in part, by a grant from the Montgomery Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

March is National Nutrition Month



"Put Your Best Fork Forward" is the theme for NNM 2017 which serves as a reminder that each one of us holds the tool to make healthier food choices. Making small changes during National Nutrition Month® and over time, helps improve health now and into the future.

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

Shine Counselor – John Bergeron – 667-2203

Veteran's Agent – Daniel Flechsig – 862-8095

Outreach – Ginger Cruickshank – 862-4932

DID YOU KNOW

We have wheel chairs, walkers, commode, crutches, and canes that are available to our seniors. Please let us know if you are in need of any of these items, either long or short term. (862-3257)

Were you Born in 1952? A Guide to Enrolling in Medicare

1. When and how should I apply to Medicare?

- First, it's important to know when to sign up. You sign up for Medicare for the first time during your Initial Enrollment Period. The Initial Enrollment Period is the seven months surrounding your birth month (the three months before your birth month, your birth month, and the three months after your birth month). For example, if you were born in February 1952, you are eligible to enroll starting November 2016 (because November is three months before February) and can still enroll through the end of May 2017 (the three months after February).
- If you are already receiving Social Security benefits at age 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare and should be receiving a Medicare card in the mail approximately three months before you turn 65. If the card has not arrived 30 days prior to your birth month, call the Social Security Administration. If you are not already receiving Social Security benefits, you will need to sign up yourself.
- To sign up, you can go to www.medicare.gov and apply online. If the information that you give matches the records that Medicare has, there is no reason to have to produce a birth certificate or other forms of documentation. If you were born outside the US or there are discrepancies in the records, you may have to apply over the phone or in person and provide said documentation.

2. Which parts of Medicare should I sign up for?

- If you are still working at age 65 (or your spouse is still working), you may want to delay enrolling in some of the parts of Medicare until you retire. This is because Medicare is not free, and you might save some money by using just your employer insurance for the time being. Then when you retire, you can use your Special Enrollment Period to sign up for Medicare. However, you should consult your HR department or a Medicare expert before you decide to delay enrollment. You can learn more about this by reading "65 and Still Working? A Guide to Medicare." You can also take the Medicare Questionnaire for access to free, expert Medicare advice from a licensed professional.
- If you are not working and/or do not have any form of health insurance at age 65, you should definitely enroll in Medicare. You have two main options to choose from: Original Medicare (with Part D and Medigap potentially added on) and Medicare Advantage.
- Option one is Original Medicare (i.e. Medicare Part A plus Medicare Part B). Original Medicare covers basics like hospital services (Part A) and doctor's visits (Part B). It is called Original Medicare because it was the first type of Medicare program created by the federal government in 1965. You can add an optional Part D plan to your Original Medicare to get your prescription drugs covered, and you can also add a Medigap plan (aka supplemental coverage) to cover the cost gaps in Original Medicare. If you choose Original Medicare, it is strongly recommended that you add both Part D (to get prescription drug coverage) and Medigap (to help pay the costs of Original Medicare). Without these two additions, it can be very difficult to afford prescriptions and other medical expenses.
- Option two is the Medicare Advantage (MA) plan. MA is a privately managed alternative to Original Medicare (which is run by the federal government). An MA plan covers all of the services of Original Medicare, and usually includes Part D (drug coverage) as well. An MA plan may even offer additional services that Original Medicare does not cover—such as dental, hearing or vision coverage.

3. Where can I find trustworthy, expert advice?

- It's important to look before you leap when choosing your Medicare plan. Take time to read and discuss these options with a licensed Medicare benefits adviser. You can access their help for free by taking the Medicare Questionnaire or call your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for federally-funded Medicare counseling.

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