December 2017
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MONTGOMERY MT Breeze

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Check it out!

View the current and back issues of the Montgomery MT Breeze at the Town of Montgomery website:

montgomeryma.gov

School Committee member needed

Montgomery is currently represented by only one school committee member, and a second person is needed to complete a term that is set to expire in 2019. This is an ideal time to become involved in the process, as the six District towns are engaged in facilitated discussions with the school administration and committee to develop long term strategies for the District's future.

The School Committee is the equivalent of a board of directors of a corporation, which in this case is a school system. The school committee has oversight of and responsibility for the school system, sets the direction in which the system must go, and establishes criteria to determine if its goals and policies are being met. Please contact Jane Thielen or Dan Jacques for further information.

"While I relish our warm months, winter forms our character and brings out our best."

Tom Allen

Please check page 2 for updates to your Important numbers list.

NOTICE!

Selectboard meetings have moved from Fridays to Thursdays. Effective November 30th, Selectboard meetings will be held every other Thursday at the Town Hall. All meeting dates are posted in the Upcoming Events calendar at montgomeryma.gov.

Meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. If you have business before the Board, however, you must notify the Administrative Secretary (Jane Thielen) or Selectboard Chair (Dan Jacques) no later than the Tuesday prior to the meeting date in order to be placed on the agenda. This is a requirement of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law, which requires that agenda be posted no later than 48 hours prior to a scheduled meeting.

Santa visits Montgomery, see schedule inside.

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
townhall@montgomeryma.gov	
Administrative Secretary Hours, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
FIRE DEPT	862-4505
FIRE CHIEF - STEVE FRYE	862-3670
TOWN CLERK - JUDY MURPHY	862-4478
POLICE DEPT	
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE CHIEF - PAULA CHAPMAN	862-4949
TAX COLLECTOR - JANE THIELEN	862-3386
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - PHIL CAMP	862-4976

SELECT BOARD:

DAN JACQUES	862-9001
WAYNE MORSE	862-4023
JACOB CHAPMAN	862-4949

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

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 p.m.

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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Helen Allyn * Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig * Beulah Kidrick * Paula Long * Julie Pike * Jane Thielen *
montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

December Calendar

Dec. 1 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Dec. 6 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 6 **9:30 am** – Gateway Brunch & Concert – Gateway Regional
Dec. 7 **6:30 PM** – GRSD Planning Committee (GRSD – Middle School, Rm 112/114
Dec. 8 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Dec. 12 Recycling day
Dec. 12 **10:00 am** – COA Coffee Hour – Town Hall
Dec. 13 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 13 **7:00 PM** – GRSD School Committee (GRSD – Middle School, Rm 112/114
Dec. 14 **7:00 PM** – Selectboard Meeting – Town Hall
Dec. 15 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Dec. 20 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 22 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Dec. 22 **Noon** – Christmas Brunch – Town Hall
Dec. 27 Recycling day
Dec. 27 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 28 **7:00 PM** – Selectboard Meeting – Town Hall
Dec. 29 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall

Paula L. Chapman

Administrative Chief of Police for the Town of Montgomery

OFFICE HOURS 6:30 PM TO 7:45 PM

DECEMBER 14TH **DECEMBER 28TH**

State Representative Peter V. Kocot

will hold office hours at the Montgomery Town Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the following dates:

Tuesday, December 12th

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.

...and To All a Good Breakfast!

In the grand tradition of giving...

the Grille is hosting a FREE hilltown Christmas Charity Breakfast from 7:00 am to 10:00 am on Christmas morning!

The ALL YOU CAN EAT! limited menu includes scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, coffee and o.j.
While breakfast is free, we will be taking donations for local food pantries and supplies for Amy's January trip to Nicaragua to help build a new kindergarten class room and teach English.

ALSO: We will be collecting food for the Food Pantry and clothes for the "Dress for Success" program.

We look forward to having Christmas Breakfast with our good neighbors!

Montgomery Grille
AT THE MONTGOMERY MARKETPLACE

46 Main Rd, Montgomery, MA
862-(FOOD) 3663
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
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Winter treatment for poinsettias and cyclamens

GardenNews by Chris Brown

The garden has been "put to bed." So now is the time to enjoy our inside plants. If you purchase a poinsettia or a cyclamen or better yet, receive a plant as a gift, the rule of thumb is to keep the plant cool and evenly watered. Over watering kills more plants than under watering. The blooms will last into late winter or even longer with the proper care.

Poinsettias require at least 6 hours of indirect sunlight per day. They prefer daytime temperatures between 65 – 70 degrees. Poinsettia are sensitive to cold, so do not expose plants to temperatures below 50 degrees. Do not place the plants near cold drafts or excessive heat, which may cause the plant to drop leaves. In the summer, you can plant your poinsettia into the garden to further extend its life and hopefully have it bloom again next year.

Cyclamen prefer bright indirect light like from an east window. Cyclamen need cool temperatures to remain in bloom as long as possible. Ideal daytime temperatures are 60 to 65 degrees with night temperatures around 50 degrees.

Happy Holidays to all the gardeners….it is a beautiful time of the year

PUMPKIN, CARMEL & PECAN CHEESECAKE

DECEMBER RECIPE

½ cup chopped pecans, divided
¼ cup butter/margarine, melted
1 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 ½ cups ginger snaps, finely crushed (about 40)
4 pkgs. (8 oz. ea.) cream cheese, softened
1 can pumpkin
1 tsp. vanilla
4 eggs
25 Kraft Carmels
¼ cup milk
whipped cream

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Finely chop ¼ cup pecans. Place in med. bowl. Add crushed ginger snaps crumbs and butter. Mix well. Press onto bottom of 13" by 9" pan.

Beat cream cheese & sugar in a large bowl until blended. Add pumpkin, spices and vanilla. Mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed after each, just until blended. Pour over crust. Bake 45 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool completely. Refrigerate 4 hours.

Microwave Carmels with milk, until candies are melted, stirring every 30 seconds. Spoon over servings of cheesecake. Sprinkle with remaining nuts. Serve with whipped cream.

The Wyben Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, December 2, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wyben Union Church
678 Montgomery Road • Westfield, MA

Shopping for a unique gift is fun and easy with a wide array of artisan crafts that include jewelry, woodcrafts, tinware, pocketbooks, quilts, cutting boards, and more.

And you won't go away hungry when you visit our baked goods table and the ever-popular corn chowder luncheon. Church Proceeds to Benefit the Salvation Army - Westfield Chapter.

Join us in supporting a worthy cause. Thank you!!

Irene, formerly of (HAIR Ltd) welcomes everyone to visit her at

ROYAL NAILS & SPA

617 E Main St., Westfield, MA • 413-478-6253 • 415-642-8002

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

To all my loyal Friends, you have traveled so much for me. You have all made my move so Happy. I wish all of you the very best for the New Year. Looking forward to having another fun year with all of you.

Many Thanks & God Bless

Irene

Holiday Blessings to my co-workers at the Grille!

For more information call:
413-642-8002
413-478-6253

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Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!
from your Montgomery Historical Society

Post holiday night out to celebrate the turning of the year

Historical Happenings

As the old year wanes and our activities near their cold-weather hiatus, we wish to say THANK YOU, Neighbors and Friends from Montgomery, the Hilltowns, Westfield and beyond, for all the support you have provided for the Historical Society's fund-raising efforts throughout the year and for the many times you've participated in our "field trips" and other events. Your presence is always welcome and appreciated!

Before hunkering down for the winter, we're planning to celebrate the New Year with a post-holiday night out – on Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. We'll be dining at Paisano's Restaurant & Pizzeria at 136 College Highway, Southampton, ordering from the menu. All are invited to join us for this evening of fun, food, and fellowship as we celebrate the "turning of the year"! Call Laurie at 862-8095 by Saturday, December 30, please, to indicate your plans as we must provide a head count to the restaurant at that time.

For any who would like to carpool from Montgomery, please also call Laurie so we can accommodate your request(s). Also, should we happen to have snow or ice that evening, we will postpone this outing to Thursday, January 4 (same time, same place).

As always, events and activities are organized by your Historical Society to provide our neighbors and friends with an opportunity to gather for a night (or day) of entertainment typically with some historical connection.

The camaraderie is important, as well. Hope you will join us for this celebration of the old year and the new! The Steering Committee for the Historical Society will be meeting in mid-January to plan events and activities for the coming year. If you have any suggestions for our programming, please call Laurie at the number at left and share your ideas!

The Montgomery Historical Society's display case located at the Grace Hall Memorial Library at the town center has recently featured a collection of copper items for the fall season, and as of December 1, will be exhibiting a portion of the "snow village" of one of our Historical Society members. Items were collected over a number of years and represent some of the "favorites" of this person's collection. We hope you'll visit the library during the colder months to stock up on reading material and other media, and while there, check out the display case and its contents. We have another exhibit planned for mid-January, but after that, we have openings for other persons' collections. If you have (or someone you know has) a collection or conglomeration of items you'd like your fellow townspeople and others to see, please call Laurie (862-8095) to talk about when we can include your items in our display case. Your participation will ensure the displays remain fresh and interesting! Thanks!

Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

HOW TO MAKE BIRD SEED ORNAMENTS

Birdseed ornaments are a fun, easy project and make great decorations, perfect for an outside holiday tree or just hanging in any season. Birds will happily munch on the ornaments, and the make great gifts for teachers, neighbors or co-workers.

The trick with these is using unflavored gelatin to hold everything together.

Ingredients:
2 1/2 cups birdseed
2 pkgs unflavored gelatin
2 tablespoons corn syrup
1 cup water
Cookie cutters (ideally the should be about an inch thick)

Add 1/2 cup water to a large bowl. Pour 2 pkgs unflavored gelatin on top of the water. Add 1/2 cup boiling water to the gelatin mixture and stir until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Add the corn syrup and stir until completely combined. Add the birdseed and mix well.

Place the bowl in the fridge for about 10 minutes until the liquid firms up enough that it won't leak out from under the cookie cutters. Set your cookie cutters onto a parchment paper lined baking sheet and fill them with spoonfuls of the bird seed mixture. Fill the cookie cutters to the top and press down firmly to fill in all the gaps. Press a straw into the shapes at the top to make a hole for hanging.

Hang them in a way that they are close to other branches so that the birds have somewhere to perch while they are eating.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

SANTA CLAUS

IS COMING TO TOWN!!!!

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 16, 2017

(TIME SCHEDULE - TIMES ARE APPROX.)

SNOW DATE FOR SANTA RUN: SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2017

THE MONTGOMERY FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION WILL ONCE AGAIN BRING SANTA TO THESE LOCATIONS AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

11:00 a.m. Main Rd. at Fuller Rd.
11:05 a.m. Main Rd. at Old Main Rd.
11:10 a.m. Professional Center - 46 Main Road
11:25 a.m. Main Rd. at North Rd.
11:35 a.m. Pitcher St. at Pitcher St. Cemetery
11:40 a.m Pitcher St. at Mountain House Rd.
11:45 a.m. Pitcher St. at the end
12:00 p.m. Pine Ridge Rd. at Birch Bluff Rd.
12:15 p.m. Russell Rd. at Old House Rd.
12:35 p.m. Russell Rd. at Tekoa Rd.
12:40 p.m. Russell Rd. at Pomeroy Rd.
12:45 p.m. At the FIRE STATION
1:00 p.m. Main Rd. at New State Rd.
1:10 p.m. Avery Rd. at Sunset Rd.
1:25 p.m. New State Rd. at Jourdan Rd.
1:40 p.m. Carrington Rd. at Main Rd.
2:00 p.m. Carrington Rd. at Thomas Rd.
2:30 p.m. Carrington Rd. at Russell Rd.
2:40 p.m. Back at the FIRE STATION

SANTA WILL ARRIVE IN MONTGOMERY'S RESCUE TRUCK AND HAND OUT TREATS TO THE KIDS!!!!

Pike's Peak Christmas Tree Farm

1689 Russell Road, Montgomery is officially open for the season as of **Saturday, December 2**, continuing every weekend through **Sunday, December 17**. (Please call if you need a special time.) Hours are **9:00 a.m. through dusk** – remember, there are no lights out in the fields!

Many sizes available – small through tall, primarily Fraser Fir and Colorado blue spruce, and the cost is the same for any tree – **$30.00 for any size** – choose and ***cut your own***. We also have fresh, **hand-made evergreen wreaths** on a grapevine base, plus **door swags and kissing balls!**

Be sure to stop in the cabin to warm up with free hot cider or hot chocolate.

Please call us with any questions. 862-4539 or 862-8095.

Santa Claus will pay his annual visit to the Christmas Tree Farm on Sunday, December 10 (from 9 a.m. until dusk) for all the children to see and share their Christmas wishes. Come chat with him if you are able! Also, on Saturday, December 16th, Santa will be visiting all the children around town on the fire rescue truck. His schedule can be found elsewhere in the Mountain Breeze – he'll be happy to see you near your home!

The very best of Christmas wishes from all of us at Pike's Peak Christmas Tree Farm!

Looking for Christmas Gifts?

The 2018 Taste Coupon Book – $25.00 ea

AMVETS Post 96, Russell, MA

Proceeds will be used to make a donation to the Holyoke Soldiers Home Recreation Fund

Included inside are coupons for local & "chain" restaurants in:
Agawam, Chicopee, Easthampton, Hadley, Holyoke, Ludlow, Northampton, Southhampton, Southwick, Springfield, West Springfield, Westfield & many other towns in Western Mass – including our "own" Montgomery Grill. Also some places in Enfield and Suffield, CT.

Restaurants Include: Burger King, McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, TGI Fridays, Sonic, Opa-Opa, Hu Ke Lau, Munich House, Glendale Grill, Red Robin, Arby's, Dominio's Pizza, Uno Chicago Grill, and MANY more.

Also included are coupons for:
Amelia Park, Old Sturbridge Village, Springfield Symphony, Eric Carle Museum, Fenway Golf, Volleyball Hall of Fame, Taylor Rental, Berkshire East, & many others

If interested, call Dan Flechsig 862-8095

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Maggie Bean-Ducharme
Curtis Bush, Jr.
Jean Bush
Philip Camp
Cade Fuller
Terry Hall
Janice Houston
Hannah Long
Jessica Mason
Barrent Pease
Mary Senatore
Marianne Swiatek

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kathy and Rich Couture
Sandie and Chris Mann

Happy Holidays to All!

from the MT Breeze staff.

"Why pay more for less, our customers deserve the very best"

Menard LLC Garage Doors

"Hello, I'm Doug Menard a long time Montgomery resident and owner, operator of Menard Garage Doors. I am reaching out to my neighbors and surrounding towns to offer my services of garage door sales, installation and repairs."

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Library News

facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

December 2017

Chill December brings the sleet, Blazing fire, and Christmas treat. ~Sara Coleridge (1802–1852), "The Garden Year"

New Items in the Library

Story of Arthur Truluv by E. Berg

Artemis by A. Weir

DVD Cars 3

DVD Atomic Blonde

Library at the End of the world by F. Hayes -McCoy

I know a secret by T. Gerritsen

Nat.Geo. Kids Books,

Typhoon Fury by C. Cussler

The Driver by H. Hanson

Big needle knitting

Big Book of Knitting

Plus many new Kid's titles, young adult series and DVD's!

Volunteers Needed for Holiday party. Interest in having fun and bringing good cheer? Let us know at the library.

Library Cookie Exchange Dec. 14 at 7 pm. Bring 4 doz. Of your favorite cookies and an empty container to fill. Everyone welcome!

Winter Events at the Library

December 9 Holiday party 3-5

January 6 Greg Maichack Pastel workshop

February Vacation Week with Ed the Wizard and Jay Makita

March 29 Birds of New England Swamp , Photographer Peter Christopher

May 12 "1908 tea Party" with Rita

Trustees Meeting Dec. 7 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

commonwealthcatalog.org

COUNCIL ON AGING

Serving the Citizens of Montgomery
December 2017

Calendar

Tue – Dec 12 Coffee Hour – 10 am

Fri – Dec 22 Christmas Brunch – noon

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

December Birthdays

Jean Bush
Irene Barron
Lorna Washburn

Join us on Friday, December 22nd for our annual Christmas Brunch at the Town Hall.

Call 862-3257 by Monday, December 18th if you can attend.

The Medicare open enrollment period will close on December 7th.

If you have questions on your plan now is the time to act.

John Bergeron, SHINE representative, can be reached at 667-2203 if you would like to make an appointment. He is extremely busy but always manages to find time to help our seniors.

The Annual Senior Citizen
Gateway Regional School District
Brunch and Concert

The annual Holiday Brunch and Concert will take place at Gateway Regional on **Wednesday, December 6th. Snow Date is December 7th.** Please join us for a special holiday celebration with Gateway student musicians.

Doors open at 9:15 a.m.
Brunch is from 9:30-10:30
Concert is from 10:30-12

This is free of charge to Gateway Hilltown residents, aged 55 and older. Parking will be available in front of the Middle/High School complex.

Please call 862-3257 as soon as possible if you plan on attending. They would like a count of people by **November 29th**, but as always, will accommodate late arrivals.

Elder Abuse – (800) 922-2275
(Elder Abuse refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult 60 or older)

Meals on Wheels – Highland Valley Elder Services – Donation requested (800) 322-0551 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

Zodiac Sign – Sagittarius/Capricorn Flower – Holly/Narcissus Birthstone – Turquoise/Zircon/Tanzanite

PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER
MEMA Offers Tips to Help Keep Massachusetts Families Safe

A winter storm in New England can range from a moderate snowfall over a few hours to a chilling Nor'easter, bringing blizzard conditions with blinding win-driven snow that lasts several days. People can become stranded in their automobiles or trapped at home, without utilities or other services. The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on a community or the entire region for days, weeks or even months. Storm effects, in New England include large snow accumulation, "extremely cold temperatures, heavy, wet snow or icing on trees and power lines, roof collapses, coastal flooding and beach erosion.

Winter storms are also deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the actual storm. The major causes are automobile or other transportation accidents, exhaustion and heart attacks caused by overexertion, "freezing to death" and asphyxiation from improper heating sources. House fires occur more frequently in the winter due to lack of proper safety precautions when using alternate heating sources, like unattended fires and space heaters.

Over the next couple of months we will share important winter safety information. Areas to be covered will include the proper steps to take to prepare your family and home for the winter season, automobile and driving safety, protecting your pets, and responding to power outages.

WINTER EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable radio or NOAA Weather Radio with extra batteries
- Charged cell phone
- First-aid kit
- Essential prescription medicines
- Non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Water (one gallon per person/per day)
- Extra blankets and sleeping bags
- Fire extinguisher

FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Develop a "Family Emergency Communication Plan' in case family members are separated from one another during a winter storm and have a plan for getting back together.

- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact". After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance than across town. Also, calling outside the area will probably be easier than calling into a disaster area.
- Make sure everyone knows the name, address and telephone number of the contact person.
- Sometimes an emergency could impact your neighborhood or small section of town. Decide on an alternate meeting area for family members.

This newsletter is partially funded by a grant of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Outreach Worker: Ginger Cruickshank 862-4932
Board Members: 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
E-mail: COA-Montgomeryma@hotmail.com