

# 3RD QUARTER REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 1ST

February 2021

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MONTGOMERY  
**MT**

  
**Breeze**

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

## TOWN CLERK NEWS

### Nomination papers available for upcoming May Town Election

It's that time of year again for taking out nomination papers for the upcoming town election in May. Positions on the ballot are as follows; Moderator for 1 year, Selectman for 3 years, Assessor for 3 years, Trustee of the AP Pettis Fund for 3 years, Constable for 3 Years, Library Trustee for 3 years, Tree Warden for 1 year, and School

Committee Rep for 3 years. If you would like to run for any of these positions please let me know. I will have nomination papers in the front hall if you would like to pick one up. **Either knock on the door to receive one or call me at 413-862-3386 X3.** You have to have 20 registered voter signatures. **The last day to pick one up is Friday March 12th and they must be returned by 5:00 pm on Friday March 16th.**

To make the drop off convenient there is a drop off box on the front door. Please put it in an envelope and write, Town Clerk on it. **Any questions please feel free to contact me Judy Murphy, 413-862-3386 ext 3.**

The town census will be mailed out soon so if you could take a minute and make any changes needed to it and send it back in the return envelope.

Thank you,  
Judy Murphy, Town Clerk,  
413-862-3386 ext. 3

“Without Valentine’s Day, February would be... well, January.”

Jim Gaffigan

### The George Washburn crew and their B-24 “Corky”

I recently had the opportunity to converse with former Montgomery resident, George Washburn. I discovered he had flown B-24 bombers during WWII. I researched his history on the internet and found out he flew twelve missions in Corky, flying with the crew of Elmer Kohler.

His first flight as first pilot was in Corky, which is probably the reason he considered it his favorite plane. It is interesting to note that he was the youngest member of the crew when he moved over to the left seat.

George flew in many unnamed planes, but also in Flak Magnet, T S Tessie/Beck’s Bad Boys, Lady Geraldine and Lili Marlene. D-Day had taken place six weeks prior to his arrival to Shipdham, so most of his early

Please turn to page 5.



The B24 plane Corky underwent major repairs at Woodbridge, Suffolk from damage on the mission to Gelsenkirchen, Germany. She was lost 28 June 1945 in a mission to Dortmund. Corky had arrived in Shipdham in early June 1944. She flew 66 missions with many crews.

# 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  
Listen to the following extensions of each office.  
townhall@montgomeryma.gov  
Administrative Secretary Hours, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FIRE DEPT: 862-4505  
FIRE CHIEF - CHRIS GALIPEAU 862-4599

TOWN CLERK - JUDY MURPHY 862-3386 ext 3  
or direct line 642-6927  
Office hours are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from Noon - 4:00. Or you may call for an appointment.

POLICE DEPT:  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE CHIEF -  
PAULA CHAPMAN Home 862-4949  
Office 862-3386 ext 5

TAX COLLECTOR - JANE THIELEN 862-3386 ext 1  
or direct line 642-8139

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER -  
PHIL CAMP 862-4976

SELECT BOARD:  
DONALD WASHBURN 862-3301  
MIKE MORRISSEY 862-3386  
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:  
Office Hours of the Board of Assessor's are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from noon to 4:00 pm; and 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Meetings will be scheduled and posted when deemed necessary.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION -  
PAIGE LALIBERTE, Chairman 413-287-2167  
The Conservation Commission meets on the first Monday of each month.

COUNCIL ON AGING 862-3386 ext 6 or 642-8143;  
COA@Montgomeryma.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE LINDSAY SABADOSA:  
info@lindsaysabadosa.com (413) 539-8599

# February Calendar

All coffee hours, yoga and Osteoporosis exercise classes have been cancelled until further notice.

Feb. 2 Recycling day

Feb. 16 Recycling day

Scheduled events and times are fluid at this time and subject to change.

## Paula L. Chapman

Administrative Chief of Police  
for the Town of Montgomery

**OFFICE HOURS: 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm**

The office is in the basement of the Town Hall. Face mask required as per Governor Baker's Order. Thank you

February 4

February 18

March 4

March 18

April 1

April 15

April 29

May 13

May 27

June 10

June 24

## NOTICE REVIEW: Winter street plowing alert

So far there hasn't been much snow, but just in case: Below is a section list of town roads that will NOT be plowed for the winter months.

The roads are as follows:

- 1) Fuller Road middle section from 11 to 56
- 2) Herrick Road from 71 to Carrington Road
- 3) Russell Road--all of the graveled (dirt) section
- 4) Upper Pomeroy Road from 93 to Herrick Road
- 5) Pitcher Street from 227 to the end

### 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](mailto: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.

### MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Editor: T.Lak 413-237-2818

Helen Allyn \* Chris Brown \* Laurie Flechsig \* Paula Long  
\* Julie Pike \* Jane Thielen \* Lori Conley

[montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com](mailto:montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com)

It will be the best place to meet your neighbors again!

## Have a seat Pilgrim... or order out!

I have never looked forward to February as much as this year. It will be one year since this virus hit. Only this February it looks as though we might know how to fight it. So even though it might be the shortest, coldest month of the year, I can't wait.

The Duke welcomes you, while me and the Jennie's will be here serving up some delicious hot vittles and homemade soups for here or to go.

Check out the new addition to the Marketplace: The Gray Catbird Gift Shop. It's Dale's pottery place. It's conveniently located across the hall in our old dining room. Viva La February!

God Bless,  
**Scott**



Welcome  
Order to  
← the left  
Seating to  
the right →  
There is no Table  
Service.



**Montgomery  
Grille**

AT THE MONTGOMERY MARKETPLACE  
46 Main Rd, Montgomery, MA

montgomerygrillema.com  
email address: grilleofmontgomery@gmail.com  
**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

# Be careful when using wood ash as plant fertilizer

February is the time to:

- Pansies and violas can be started from seed this month.
- Mid Feb. is the time to prune fruit trees, blueberry bushes and grapes.
- Use soilless mix for germinating seeds indoors.
- Sow onions, leeks and celery for transplanting in the spring.

## Why haven't my lilacs bloomed?

Blooming, depends on the age of the plant. Is the plant newly planted or an older plant? If a newly planted lilac, it may be too young to bloom. If an older plant, it may need pruning. Pruning should be only done in the spring when shrub is done blooming. (this is also true for forsythias and other spring blooming plants. Lilacs prefer full sun and will also benefit from the addition of lime.

## Is adding coffee grounds to the soil of my garden beds a good idea?

Coffee grounds are a natural fertilizer, sometimes called a

## GardenNews

by Chris Brown



form of organic matter (OM) and provide low levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (2-0, 3-0, 3). You can use coffee grounds both as a one-inch mulch and in compost over a long period of time without harming flowers, if you add either lime or

wood ashes to the soil to counteract the acidic nature of the coffee grounds.

## Using Wood Ash as a Fertilizer

Wood ash is an excellent source of lime [2] and potassium [3] for your garden. Not only that, using ashes in the garden also provides many of the trace elements that plants need to thrive.

But wood ash fertilizer is best used either lightly scattered, or by first being composted along with the rest of your compost. This is because wood ash will produce lye and salts if it gets wet. In small quantities, the lye and salt will not cause problems, but in larger amounts, the lye and salt may burn your plants. Composting fireplace ashes allows the lye and salt to be leached away.

## HOT FUDGE SPOON CAKE

Thank you again Jeanne Aras for this recipe.

- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup+ 3 Tbsp baking cocoa. Divided 3 T, ¼ C
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1 ¾ cup hot water

- 1 ¾ cups brown sugar, packed. Divided 1 C, ¾ C.
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ cup milk
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- \*Optional - vanilla ice cream

Cook in a Slow Cooker. In a medium bowl, combine 1 cup brown sugar, 3 Tbsp. cocoa, baking powder, and salt. Whisk in milk, butter and vanilla. Spread evenly in a slow cooker.

Mix together remaining ¾ cup brown sugar and ¼ cup cocoa. Sprinkle evenly over top of batter. Pour in hot water. DO NOT STIR. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours or until a toothpick inserted one inch, comes out clean. Stir warm with ice cream.

FEBRUARY RECIPE



## Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

### VALENTINE'S DAY IS FOR THE BIRDS

There was a popular notion in England and France during the Middle Ages that birds started to look for their mates on February 14. The reason is not clear but might be related to the fact that the warbling of the first songbirds after a long winter started sometime in mid-February. Hence

St. Valentine's day's association with birds, especially love-birds and doves. People observed this day by writing love letters and sending small gifts to their beloved.

Some believed that the kind of bird a young lady might see on Valentine's day would determine the type of man she would marry. (If a young girl saw a hen and a cockerel together on St Valentine's Day then she will marry soon.)

1. **Blackbird:** A man of the cloth (Priest)
2. **Bluebird:** A man with a sense of humour
3. **Crossbill:** A man of argument
4. **Dove:** A kind mind
5. **Goldfinch:** A wealthy man
6. **Robin:** A man of the sea

7. **Sparrow:** A man of the country
8. **Woodpecker:** No man!!
9. **Yellow Hammer:** A wealthy man
10. **Yellow Wagtail:** A wealthy man

### Other fun facts:

**Doves** - The most famous bird of love is the dove. Doves have been associated with love and marriage for thousands of years. They are extremely loyal to each other and their young.

**Canada Geese** - Canada Geese are extremely loyal and if one of a pair is injured, the other will stay with the injured bird and guard it until it's better. Both care for their young.

**American Bald Eagle** - Eagle pairs mate for life and build a large nest together high in a safe location. There they tend to and raise the few chicks they hatch each year.

So, although Valentine's Day is a day that's been blown out of proportions by companies, let us return to the simplicity of the holiday and show our appreciation for those we love, including our backyard friends.

*Happy birding and stay safe and healthy!*

# Discover the Perfect Gifts for your Loved Ones!

~ Every creative gift handmade especially for you by fine local artisans ~



**AgathaO (Pleun Bouricius):** Nature Photography - cards, books, and prints

**Annette Rubino:** Hand-stitched, beaded felt pins and charming cards

**Dale Rogers:** Oil paintings and nature-inspired pottery

**Jeanne Kiendzior:** Birdbaths that will entrance your birds!

**Kayla Ramsden:** Whimsical ceramic creatures and pottery

**Kit Mann:** Wooden candleholders and games

**Olivia Diamond:** Lace Love Shawls, books - poetry and novels

**Pegg Dragon:** Flamed copper jewelry and small sculptures

**Ron Messier:** Woodcarvings and Woodburning Designs

**Sandy Mann:** Gnomes! Yes, Gnomes!!


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MONTGOMERY GRILLE


## 413-875-5205

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY - 9AM TO 3PM,  
OR BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT.



Gray Catbird  
GIFT SHOP

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 [facebook.com/GrayCatbirdPottery](https://facebook.com/GrayCatbirdPottery)

46 MAIN ROAD, SUITE #2, MONTGOMERY, MA 01085 • [GRAYCATBIRDPOTTERY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GRAYCATBIRDPOTTERY@GMAIL.COM)

# MHS notes the passing of former society president

Warm winter greetings to all our fellow townspeople and friends from other communities! Alas, we once again have no news to share with you of upcoming events... We are sad that the planning cannot yet begin for another opportunity to gather with all of you, but 'tis "better safe than sorry," we think you'd agree.

We would like to note as an organization the passing December 13, 2020, of our friend and former president, Muriel Boisseau of Westfield. Muriel was an active participant as well as the leader of the Historical Society for several years. She and her late husband Dick hosted many adventures (field trips) for the group to enjoy, spearheaded many projects (especially lifting and adding a foundation to

## Historical Happenings



the old Town House/historical building, and its subsequent rehabilitation), and to say her presence as well as Dick's are missed would be an

understatement. We wish her family peace and comfort as they cherish the memories of a life well-lived.

We hope to be able to plan a full calendar of activities for the benefit and enjoyment of all of the Mountain Breeze readership as soon as this "historical pandemic" goes away. Our wish for you in the coming months is to stay safe and be healthy! Socially distancing, wearing masks, and sanitizing our hands frequently seems to be the "norm" and the best advice for now!

*In light of the ongoing restrictions in place for use of public spaces including libraries and Town Halls, we have temporarily suspended use of the display case at our Montgomery library curated by your Montgomery Historical Society. We will return to filling the case with collections, historical items and ephemera once our state returns to "normal" after the current coronavirus pandemic eases.*

## The Dark Origins Of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate romance and love and kissy-face fealty. But the origins of this festival of candy and cupids are actually dark, bloody — and a bit muddled.

Though no one has pinpointed the exact origin of the holiday, one good place to start is ancient Rome, where men hit on women by, well, hitting them.

### Those Wild And Crazy Romans

From Feb. 13 to 15, the Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. The men sacrificed a goat and a dog, then whipped women with the hides of the animals they had just slain.

The Roman romantics "were drunk. They were naked," says Noel Lenski, a historian at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Young women would actually line up for the men to hit them, Lenski says. They believed this would make them fertile.

The brutal fete included a matchmaking lottery, in which young men drew the names of women from a jar. The couple would then be, um, coupled up for the duration of the festival — or longer, if the match was right.

The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our modern day of love. Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named Valentine — on Feb. 14 of different years in the 3rd century A.D. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day.

Later, Pope Gelasius I muddled things in the 5th century by combining St. Valentine's Day with Lupercalia to expel the pagan rituals. But the festival was more of a theatrical interpretation of what it had once been. Lenski adds, "It was a little more of a drunken revel, but the Christians put clothes back on it. That didn't stop it from being a day of fertility and love."



A drawing depicts the death of St. Valentine — one of them, anyway. The Romans executed two men by that name on Feb. 14 of different years in the 3rd century A.D.

Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Around the same time, the Normans celebrated Galatin's Day. Galatin meant "lover of women." That was likely confused with St. Valentine's Day at some point, in part because they sound alike.

As the years went on, the holiday grew sweeter. Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized it in their work, and it gained popularity throughout Britain and the rest of Europe. Handmade paper cards became the tokens-du-jour in the Middle Ages.

Eventually, the tradition made its way to the New World. The industrial revolution ushered in factory-made cards in the 19th century. And in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Mo., began mass producing valentines. February has not been the same since.

Today, the holiday is big business: According to market research firm IBIS World, Valentine's Day sales reached \$17.6 billion last year; this year's sales are expected to total \$18.6 billion.

But that commercialization has spoiled the day for many. Helen Fisher, a sociologist at Rutgers University, says we have only ourselves to blame.

"This isn't a command performance," she says. "If people didn't want to buy Hallmark cards, they would not be bought, and Hallmark would go out of business."

And so the celebration of Valentine's Day goes on, in varied ways. Many will break the bank buying jewelry and flowers for their beloveds. Others will celebrate in a SAD (that's Single Awareness Day) way, dining alone and binging on self-gifted chocolates. A few may even be spending this day the same way the early Romans did. But let's not go there.

<https://www.npr.org/2011/02/14/133693152/the-dark-origins-of-valentines-day>

# • The George Washburn crew Continued from Page 1.

missions were into France, one into Holland, later bombing at the heart of the enemy...Germany.

Every mission is unforgettable to a flyer, but with George, his most memorable was to Gelsenkirchen, Germany, the heart of the Ruhr Valley. In an unnamed plane, the Washburn crew was flying #3 position on left wing of lead. The aircraft was hit on the bomb run, and it went into a steep bank and headed down.

Having lost aileron control, they engaged autopilot, bringing the plane under control several thousand feet below the formation. They salvoed the bombs and headed home alone landing in Woodbridge.

One aileron jammed in an up position, and could not be controlled manually, so on autopilot, George flew to the end of the runway, plus or minus 10 feet and landed. The left tire was gone; they ran off the runway and were buried in the mud.

On inspection of the A/C, Herman Eckstein, Co-Pilot, found a 3" piece of flak that had missed his foot by inches.

Many thanks to George and his service to our country.



**Back L-R Herman Eckstein (Co-Pilot), George Washburn (Pilot), Thomas Keenan (Bombardier), Fred Crites (Waist Gunner),  
Front L-R Vanig Abrahamian (Engineer, Top Turret Gunner), Donald McLean (Waist Gunner), Joseph Grothaus (Nose Gunner), Charles Staples (Tail Gunner), Walter Fitzmaurice (Radio Operator).**

And here's to his recent 99th birthday!

If you know of any other interesting stories about Montgomery residents, I'd love to hear about them and showcase them in the MT. Breeze.

*Article courtesy of the Journal of the 44th Bomb Group Veterans Association, copyright "8 Ball Tails", 2012.*

View the current and back issues of the Montgomery MT Breeze at the Town of Montgomery website:  
**montgomeryma.gov**



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Jeanne Aras  
Jennifer Arvanitis  
Henry Bisbee IV  
Chris Brown  
Ryan Bucko  
Fran Bush  
Roger Chapman  
Jacqueline DuCharme

Dan Flechsig, Sr.  
Nathan Galipeau  
Bill Hughes  
Geraldine Larrabee  
Christopher Laurie  
Donny Masciadrelli  
Nicholas Moses  
Michael Shelnut  
Nancy Spencer  
Dale Stanisewski

Paige Stomski  
Pete Wilcox  
Tim Wolcott

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Cheryl & Donny Masciadrelli  
Karen & Dennis Wassung

## Condolences to...

Seth and Chelsie Gemme and family on the loss of Seth's mother, Betsy Gemme, who passed away on January 4, 2021.



# Library News

facebook.com/  
gracehallmemorial

**February 2021**

Government is an unnecessary evil. Human beings, when accustomed to taking responsibility for their own behavior, can cooperate on a basis of mutual trust and helpfulness. ~Fred Woodworth, *The Match!*, No. 79

## Wowbrary has come to the Library

Sign up at [wowbrary.org](http://wowbrary.org) for our weekly newsletter.

## Appointment & Curbside Service

**Tuesdays 10 to 5:30 pm, Thursdays 11 to 8 pm,  
Saturdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.**

### Kid's Winter Event

### Aesop's Fables

### Miniature 3D Puppet

### Theatre

Craft & Zoom Program!  
with Mary Jo Maichack, Professional Singer & Storyteller, as Seen on PBS and National Storytelling Network

Pick up your kit at the library to make this cute theatre.

(Colors and design will vary from that shown.)

You'll make your own puppet theatre to play with over and over.

Super fun!

**When: Monday, Feb. 15 at 2 pm**

**Where: Zoom via Grace Hall Memorial Library**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83738253825?pwd=MGppMnBzK3lwQWlmLzdRYUZWekZKQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 3825 3825



### Posting on Facebook

We will post updating news to our Facebook page, such as when new items come in or change in hours.

### Returning Library Items

Please return all library items to the drop box only! Not items can be returned directly into the library. If possible please have items in a plastic bag. Drop box is to the right of the Children's room

### Hours

Tues: 10- 5:30

Thurs: 11-8

Sat: 9:30-12:30

### Contact

#### Mail

161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085

#### Phone

413-862-3894

#### email

[Montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:Montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com)

#### Website

[wghl.masscat.org](http://wghl.masscat.org)

[facebook.com/gracehallmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/gracehallmemorial)

[commonwealthcatalog.org](http://commonwealthcatalog.org)

**No book Donation accepted at this time**

# COUNCIL ON AGING

Serving the Citizens of Montgomery

February 2021

## Calendar

**No Events Scheduled**

### February Birthdays

William Hughes	Judy Crean
Robert Talbot	Frances Bush
Geraldine Larrabee	

### **Senior “Circuit Breaker” Tax Credit**

As a senior citizen, you may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on your personal state income tax return. The Circuit Breaker tax credit is based on the actual real estate taxes paid on the Massachusetts residential property you own or rent and occupy as your principal residence.

The maximum credit amount for 2020 is \$1,150. If the credit you are owed exceeds the amount of the total tax payable for the year, you will be refunded the additional amount of the credit without interest.

- You must be a Massachusetts resident or part-year resident.
- You must be 65 or older by January 1, 2021.
- You must file a Massachusetts personal income tax return.
- You must own or rent residential property in Massachusetts and occupy it as your primary residence.
- For the tax year, your total Massachusetts income does not exceed:
  - \$61,000 for a single individual who is not the head of a household.
  - \$76,000 for a head of household
  - \$92,000 for married couples, filing a joint return.
- If you are a homeowner, your Massachusetts property tax payments, together with half of your water and sewer expense, must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year.
- If you are a renter, 25% of your annual Massachusetts rent must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year.

Zodiac Sign – Aquarius/Pisces

Flower – Violet/Primrose

Birthstone – Amethyst

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Timeline: Phase Overview**

#### Phase 2 (February-March 2021)

Listed in order of priority:

- **Individuals with 2+ comorbidities** (high risk for COVID-19 complications) **individuals age 75+** and residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable senior housing
- **Other workers**, including early education, K-12, grocery, restaurant, and café workers; convenience store workers; etc.
- **Adults 65+**
- **Individuals with one co-morbid condition**

#### Phase 2 vaccination settings:

- Individuals will get vaccinated either by their employer, primary care physician, pharmacy, or public clinic.
- Treating clinicians/health systems, health insurers (including MassHealth), and patient advocacy groups will reach out to individuals with co-morbidities to encourage them to receive COVID-19 vaccination. Individuals in the various worker groups will likely be reached via their employers and unions.
- The Department of Public Health does not maintain a central sign-up or scheduling system for the vaccine.

#### Questions?

Please submit any questions or concerns to:

[COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov)

You can access this information thru **Mass.gov**. The list will be updated Tuesdays and Thursdays by 5pm in response to questions submitted.

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

**Hilltown Social Services** – 667-2203

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

**Veteran’s Agent** – Daniel Flechsig – 862-8095

## 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  
Board Members: Anne-Marie Buikus 862-3257, Jane Thielen 862-4482, Sandy Haas 862-3829  
Jean Bush 862-3645, Geraldine Larrabee 862-3884, Darlene Brewster 862-3347  
Email: COA@montgomeryma.gov