April 2018
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MONTGOMERY MT. Breeze

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

4TH QUARTER 2018 REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS ARE DUE MAY 1ST.

Town looks to hold another memorable Memorial Day event

Details for MEMORIAL DAY event – May 28, 2018

This year's Town of Montgomery Memorial Day event will feature the Gateway Regional High School Marching Band for services & parade at NOON. There are approximately 65 musicians, 6 chaperones. I would like to feed them lunch as we have in the past.

Monetary donations will be taken in the library and police department office during open hours to purchase Big Y grinders (to avoid allergy issues). Donations of bottled water, sports drinks, chips and deserts will also be taken. The musicians have been thrilled with lunch.

Also brave student volunteers will be needed to read historical pieces. For years the readings have been – Flanders Field and the Gettysburg Address – if anyone has any suggestions for others – let me know – I'm very open to suggestions.

If you can help let me know – Paula Chapman at 862-4949

Thank you to all who helped last time – this town shows it greatness by honoring our vets because without those who served – we would not be free to celebrate!

Police Dept. NEWS – LTC, FID licenses

The new licensing system has been in place for over a year and is working with a few glitches. Many of our current paper licenses are not in the Commonwealth's computer system. That fact should not stop you purchasing with a valid license, but it can slow down renewal of an LTC or FID. Six weeks before you need to renew – please send me your name & address by e-mail to police@montgomeryma.gov. A picture of your current license from the file in the Town will be sent to the firearms bureau to be loaded into the computer system. A renewal will then be done from that license.

DO NOT bring a picture - one will be taken and uploaded when you bring the completed application during regular office hours.

If you have any questions, you can leave a message at my home phone number or come in during open office hours.

Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls. ~David Thomas

Paula Chapman and I would like to acknowledge all the wonderful and kind volunteers who helped out with the Fire victims Spaghetti Dinner . The Montgomery Fire Department*, Scott Ford and Jeanne Ares from the Montgomery Grill, Mindy Kingsley, Patti & Jerry Spencer, Becky Cortis of Huntington, Wendy Pariseau, Hannah Long, Sue, Jeff and Natalie Brown, Selectman Jacob Chapman, Patti and Rich Little, Joanne Hebert, The Pitoniak Brothers, Lucy Pitoniak !

"We would like to thank everyone who came to the spaghetti dinner and for all the help and support and prayers during our recent loss."

Phil and Cindy Camp

Annual Town Election

to be held on Monday May 7th from 12:00-7:00 PM. Please come and show your support for the local officials that spend many hours working hard to keep this town running smoothly. Some of these officials do these jobs with low salaries because they care about our town and all of you. Please come and vote!!!! If you need an absentee ballot please call me and I can have one sent to you. Judy Murphy, Town Clerk @ 413-862-4478

INSIDE
FREE SMOKE ALARMS P4

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
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF - CHRIS GALIPEAU 862-4599

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

April Calendar

Apr. 3 Recycling day
Apr. 4 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 5 **6:30 pm** – GRSD Planning Committee Meeting (GRSD – Middle School, Rm 112/114
Apr. 5 **7:00 pm** – Selectboard Meeting – Town Hall
Apr. 6 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Apr. 10 **10:00 am** – COA Coffee Hour – Town Hall
Apr. 11 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 12 **4:00 –7:00 pm** – Free Legal Advice – 413-782-1659
Apr. 13 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Apr. 14 **10:00 am** – COA Coffee Hour – Town Hall
Apr. 17 Recycling day
Apr. 18 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 19 **7:00 pm** – Selectboard Meeting – Town Hall
Apr. 20 **9:30 –11:00 am** – Osteoporosis Exercise – Town Hall
Apr. 21 **10:00 am** – Westfield River Wildwater Races
Apr. 21 **11:30 am** – Huntington Lions Club Senior Appreciation Luncheon
Apr. 25 **6:30 pm** – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 27 **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

MARCH 8th	**APRIL 5th**	**MAY 3rd**	**MAY 31st**
MARCH 22nd	**APRIL 19th**	**MAY 17th**	

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.

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

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

Happy Easter!

to all my...

To honor the Easter Bunny, the Grille will be serving eggs on Easter Sunday.

To honor Jesus and his rebirth we will be closing at noon on Easter Sunday.

To honor the chance Tiger Woods might win the Master's, we will have a guest waitress from Persys working April 8th, (but I am pulling for "Lefty".)

I have to say, I was inspired by the big turn out for the spaghetti supper for our local fire victims. Hope there won't be a need for those in a very long time.

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

FREE SMOKE ALARMS

The Montgomery Fire Department and the American Red Cross are teaming up to install free smoke alarms!

April 21

You Are Eligible If...

- Your home was built before 1975
- Your current smoke alarms are 10 years or older

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Call the Montgomery Fire Department to Schedule an Appointment:

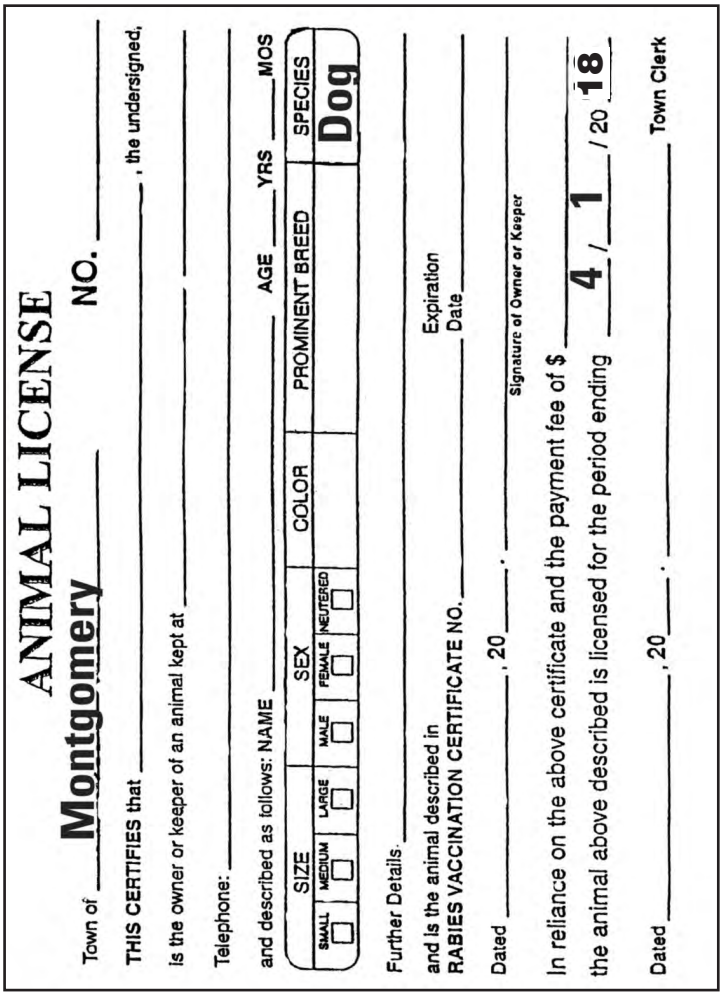
(413) 862-4505

Reminder: dog license(s) update

DOG LICENSES: A reminder to people who have paid for their 2017-2018 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 2018-2019 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 NO. _____

Town of Montgomery

THIS CERTIFIES that _____, the undersigned,

is the owner or keeper of an animal kept at _____

Telephone: _____

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

SIZE			SEX			COLOR	PROMINENT BREED	SPECIES
SMALL ☐	MEDIUM ☐	LARGE ☐	MALE ☐	FEMALE ☐	NEUTERED ☐			Dog

Further Details _____

and is the animal described in _____ Expiration Date _____

RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE NO. _____

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 / 20 18

Dated _____, 20____. _____ Town Clerk

Smoke alarms save lives; open burning season guidelines

Smoke Alarms: Smoke alarms save lives by warning you and your family to get out of your house if there is a fire or carbon monoxide levels are high. Did you change the batteries in your alarms? Even electrically hardwired alarms have batteries. Please change them now!

The Montgomery Fire Dept and the American Red Cross are teaming up to install free smoke alarms in your house. The free alarms are available to homes that need them. We will install up to three fire alarms and one carbon monoxide alarm if you need them in any house in Montgomery that was built before 1975 and, your current smoke/CO alarms are 10 years or older. These fire alarms will NOT bring your house up to MA state inspection code but will warn you if there is an issue and to call 911. We will be installing the alarms on April 21, 2018 between 9 am and 2 pm. This is a limited time offer so please reserve yours today. See the attached flyer or call the fire station with questions. You will need to reserve your alarms by April 16, 2017 by leaving a message on the MFD business phone. 862-4505

154 Main Road
Montgomery, MA

Office: (413) 862-4505
Fax: (413) 862-4505
wsservice@nutmegtrucks.com

Open Burning: Burning season may be ending earlier than May 1st as the winter weather seems to be leaving us. Conditions will dry quicker than normal as the snow pack leaves meaning the State will shut down open burning so please get your brush burned soon. Burning season is Jan 15 to May 1, between 10 am and 4 pm. A permit is required. **Permits can be attained by calling the Fire Dept business phone, #862-4505 and leaving a detailed message with name, date you are burning, complete address and best phone# to reach you.**

Open burning must be at least 75 feet from any building. Brush and forestry debris are all that is permitted to be burned. Grass, hay, leaves, stumps, or construction material is prohibited to be burned. An adult should always be present until fire is completely extinguished. Water supply must be on hand. Call 911 immediately if the fire appears to be getting out of hand. The permit can be rescinded at any time due to weather conditions. More Open Burning tips can be found online at the Fire Factors website, Office of the State Fire Marshal, www.mass.gov/dfs .

The Montgomery Fire Department thanks you for your support.

State Representative Peter V. Kocot Office Hours

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

Tuesday, April 10th Tuesday, May 8th Tuesday, June 12th

No matter what the weather says Spring is coming!

GardenNews by **Chris Brown**

April is the month to:

- Start warm season plants such as tomatoes, eggplants and peppers inside.
- Get your soil tested to determine soil fertility before adding fertilizer.
- Prune summer and fall flowering shrubs before flower buds develop.
- Avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs which have already developed flower buds.
- Prune roses that bloom on new growth when buds swell usually around forsythia bloom.
- Add lime to raise pH of sulfur to lower pH.
- Divide fall blooming perennials in the spring.
- Plant pansies 4 to 6 weeks before the average frost-free date.
- Pull weeds early to prevent a larger problem later.
- Consider planting lettuce in your flower beds to add texture or color to the landscape.
- Cool season crops such as lettuce, kale and broccoli can be sown outdoors.

Information taken from2018 UMass Garden Calendar

Please note: there will be a plant sale in May, so when you divide your perennials, set a pot or two aside for the Library Plant Sale. Notify Chris Brown at 862 4591 if you have plants available.

BRACIOLE FROM "EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND"

APRIL RECIPE

1 lb beef, sliced very thin (use beef rump, top/bottom round)
¼ lb. Parmesan cheese, grated
1 ½ C fresh or canned tomatoes
½ C breadcrumbs
¼ C minced fresh basil
¾ C tomato paste

Pound beef slices between wax paper with mallet or rolling pin. Sprinkle each pounded piece with bread crumbs, grated cheese and basil. Roll up the slices carefully and secure with toothpicks or use butchers twine to tie up rolls. Heat large skillet over medium heat. Add oil to coat the bottom. When hot, add braciole and brown on all sides, turning rolls carefully as to not disturb filling. Remove rolls to a larger pot or a deep skillet with a cover. Combine tomatoes and tomato paste until smooth. Pour over braciole. Place pan over medium heat and bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to low and let cook, turning the rolls occasionally, until the beef is tender when pierced with a knife (about 2 hours). If sauce becomes dry while cooking add water or red wine. To serve, place 1 or 2 rolls on plates and spoon over sauce. Serves 4

Thank You from MFD

The Montgomery Fire Department would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated money in memory of our Chief, Stephen P. Frye.

A portion of the donated money has been set aside to fund a perpetual scholarship in Chief Frye's name.
The scholarship will be awarded yearly to a graduating Montgomery High School Senior. Applications are available through the Gateway guidance office or can be requested by email to: pikespeaksanta@yahoo.com.

Non-Gateway students may request an application from the Montgomery Fire Department – (contact Dan Flechsig @ 862-8095 or email: pikespeaksanta@yahoo.com)
Deadline for submitting applications is May 1st.

Additional donations to the Scholarship Fund in Memory of Chief Frye can be sent to:

Montgomery Fire Department
attn.: Scholarship Fund
154 Main Road
Montgomery, Mass. 01085

Condolences

To Wayne & Chris Brown who lost Wayne's Mom Margie Brown in Charlottesville VA at the remarkable age of 106.

Free legal advice

The Massachusetts Bar Association is offering free legal advice to Western Mass residents by phone, April 12th from 4 to 7 PM. The phone number is 413 782-1659. If busy signal, keep calling.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Tim Baker
Betty Bodendorf
Scott Brzoska
Curtis Bush
Kathleen Cinelli
Erica Coon
Joseph Coon
Trevor Coon
Louise Fowles
Sandra Gil
Gabrielle Goralczyk
Jerry Goralczyk
Jason Harris, Jr.
John Little
Rick Little
Paul Mason
Mike Morrissey
Ed Ondrick
Louise Ondrick
Lyndon Ondrick
Daniel Paradis
Patty Spence
Joshua Tatro
Gene Washburn
Dennis Wassung
Aaron Wendt

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Patty & Rich Little

Reservations now being accepted for roast pork dinner

Historical Happenings

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who came out to support the **annual Penny Social** hosted by your Montgomery Historical Society – one of the fund-raisers held each year to benefit town projects and causes, as well as to support one or more college scholarships awarded to graduating Montgomery high school seniors. Your continued participation is much appreciated! And… another huge **THANK YOU** to Mr. Henry Lafleur, our "auctioneer" for the evening, who kept the bidding moving along nicely!

RESERVATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED for the annual **ROAST PORK DINNER** and program coming **SATURDAY, APRIL 21** (6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall). For the very reasonable cost of $10.00 (or $5.00 for children ages 10 and under), you will be served a home-made dinner of roast pork and gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables in season, home-made applesauce, beverages, and home-made dessert!

Please call either **Laurie at 862-8095 or Julie at 862-4539** by **Tuesday, April 17** to reserve your place – a delicious meal is a sure thing, and there'll be an interesting program to boot! (Note: Our guest speaker is not yet confirmed, so please watch for further information soon in the Country Journal or the Westfield News.

As always, **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Please join us at Town Hall on **the 21st of April** to enjoy dinner and the program to follow (usually starting about 7:30 p.m. after the meal has been cleared away.)

For your May calendar: You are cordially invited to attend the Historical Society's annual potluck supper and annual meeting on **Saturday, May 19**, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. We will follow the meal with a **"Show & Tell"** time when everyone is welcome to bring an item (usually from the past, but can be from any era) for all to see and guess the identity of (whether you know or not)! Or you may bring along something you'd simply like to share with others. The Society will provide the dessert (make-your-own ice cream sundaes). All are welcome!

Do you, or someone you know, have a collection or some items of historical interest that you might wish to exhibit at the Grace Hall Memorial Library in the Historical Society's display case? We're constantly looking for ideas on what to showcase for usually a six-week period. We'd like to hear from neighbors and friends in town who are willing to share their "treasures" with Library patrons. Please call Laurie at 862-8095 with any ideas you might have, and hopefully we can arrange for you to be our next "guest exhibitor"! Thanks!

The current exhibit in the display case is a collection of items loaned by one of our Historical Society members, related to Noah's Ark (the Bible story). It will remain there until about the end of April. The display has differing depictions of the ancient story in many different forms and media. Won't you stop in at the Library to check out the wonderful books and other lending materials available, and while there, take a gander at the display? Just think, your items could be shown there next! Thank you for your consideration!

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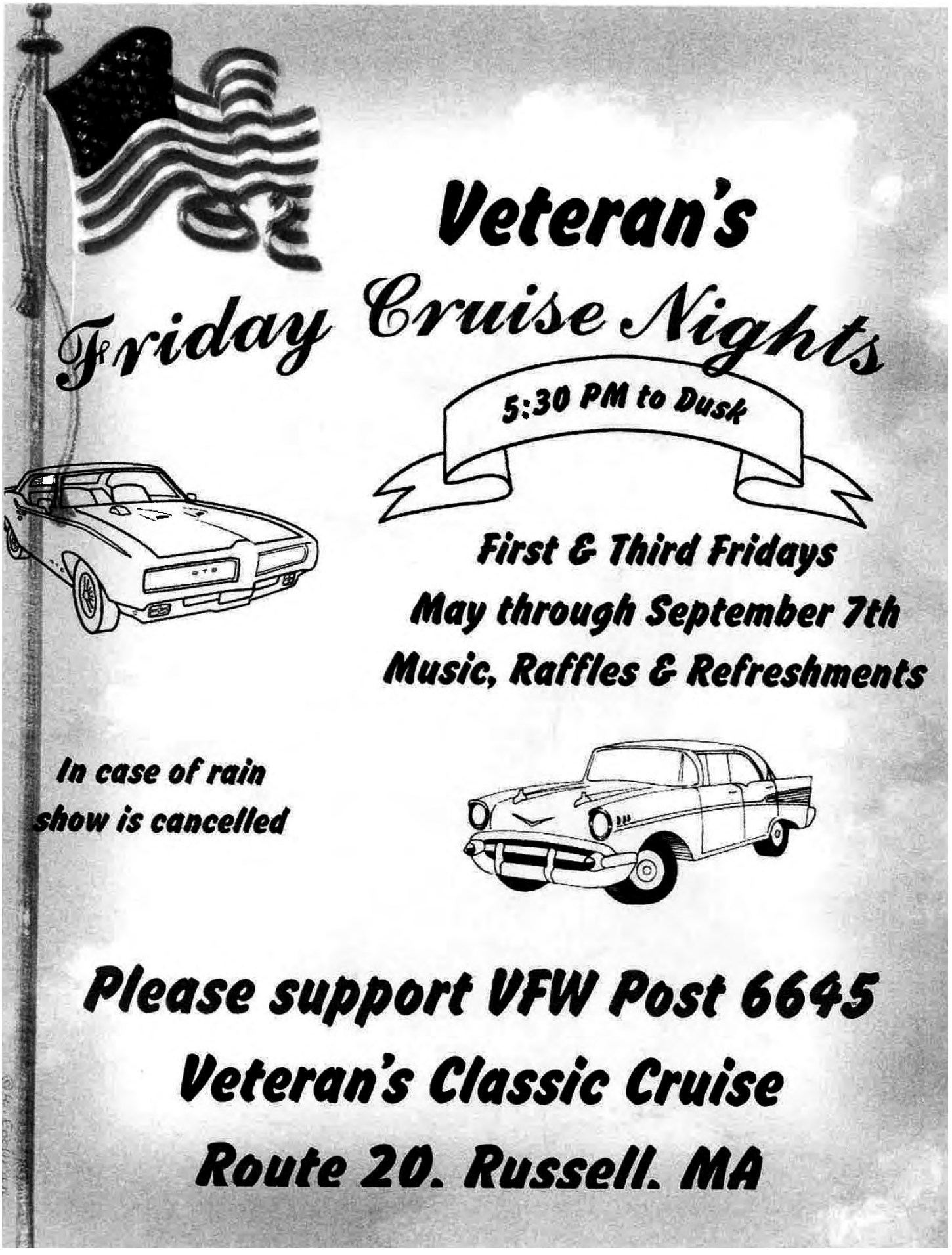

Veteran's
Friday Cruise Nights
5:30 PM to Dusk
First & Third Fridays
May through September 7th
Music, Raffles & Refreshments
In case of rain
show is cancelled
Please support VFW Post 6645
Veteran's Classic Cruise
Route 20. Russell. MA

Pancake Breakfast

April 8, 2018
7:00 am to 12 noon

To be held at the Littleville Fair Grounds Dining Hall

menu

- Pancakes,
- Scrambled Eggs,
- Sausage,
- Bacon,
- Coffee and OJ!

LITTLEVILLE FAIR · 15 KINNEBROOK ROAD · CHESTER, MA

MARCH Library News

facebook.com/gracehallmemorial

March 2018

I *frequently-regularly-often* trip while reaching for my high ideals. Then I giggle, or cry, and get back up. ~Erika Harris,

Birds of New England Swamp

By Photographer

Peter Christopher

March 29 at 6 PM

Wildlife photographer Peter Christoph presents a narrated slideshow, sharing both his award-winning images and his photographic secrets as he brings you inside a typical New England swamp. Peter provides an intimate look into the many varieties of birds that inhabit our swamps, including ospreys and herons, shorebirds, woodpeckers, and other cavity dwellers. Sloshing and crawling through the swamp so you don't have to, Peter captures the bird's many activities including building the nest, feeding their young, and catching their prey. You'll almost want to bring your own wading boots and bug spray for protection as you sit down to watch this captivating presentation.

1908 SOCIAL TEA PARTY

Rita Parisi of Waterfall Productions will be hostess for a 1908 Tea at Grace Hall Memorial Library on ***May 12th at 1 pm***. At the turn of the last century, the afternoon tea provided ladies a chance to socialize and discuss fashion, family and social concerns. In the character of Mrs. Gordon, a middleclass lady from 1908, Rita will entertain her audience with stories about life at the turn of the 20th century and a recent trip to Boston. Hates, teacups and audience participation are encouraged. Please preregister at the

Trustees Meeting
March 8 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
April 2018

Calendar

Tue –April 10 - Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

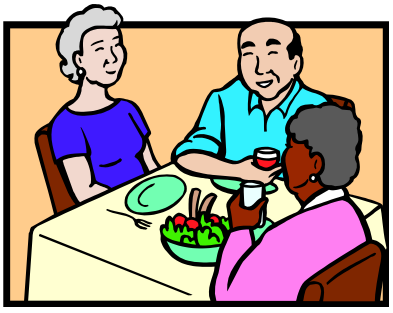
Tue – April 24 - Coffee Hour – 10 a.m.

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

Birthdays

Victor Levite	Louise Fowles
Anthony Hoynoski	Edward Chapman
John Little	Joyce Lutat
Gene Washburn	Mary Brady
George Haas	Duane Lord
Curtis Bush	Betty Bodendorf

The Huntington Lions Club
Annual Senior
Appreciation Luncheon



Place – VFW in Russell
Date – April 21, 2018
Time: 11:30 – 1:30

Please call 862-3257
Deadline is April 14th

Many thanks go out to all who attended the performance of "Ireland to America". We had a wonderful turnout of over forty people. We would also like to extend thanks to the Cultural Council for approving the grant funding enabling the COA to present this and other performances for the enjoyment of our seniors

World Immunization Week – April 24-30

Shingles Vaccine

Shingles is a painful localized skin rash caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. The chickenpox virus remains in the body's nerve cells after the chickenpox infection – and it can reappear years later. The Centers for Disease Control recommends this vaccine (Zostavax) for persons 60 or older to reduce the risk of shingles and its associated (and often lingering) pain.

Prevnar

Prevnar vaccine is used to prevent infection caused by pneumococcal bacteria. Prevnar will not treat an active infection that has already developed in the body.
Prevnar is for use in adults who are 50 and older. Becoming infected with pneumococcal disease is much more dangerous to your health than receiving Prevnar, however like any medicine it can cause side effects but the risk is extremely low. Like any vaccine Prevnar may not provide protection from disease in every person.

Zodiac Sign – Aries/Taurus Flower – Daisy or Sweet Pea Birthstone - Diamond

New Driver's License and ID Application Requirements

On March 26, 2018, to get or renew any driver's license, ID card, or learner's permit, individuals need documentation showing U.S. citizenship or lawful presence as required by federal and state law.

In addition, also on March 26, customers will have a choice between two types of credentials:

- A Standard Massachusetts driver's license or ID card, which is not valid for federal identification purposes.
- A REAL ID Massachusetts driver's license or ID card, which is valid for federal identification purposes.

Michele Ellicks, RMV Community Outreach Coordinator, will be at our coffee hour on July 24th to help explain the new requirements and answer questions. This will be open to all so please join us for more information on how, or if, this requirement will affect us as seniors.

Prescription Advantage Rate Schedule Guide for Members Eligible for Medicare - Effective April 1, 2018

Medicare provides 'Extra Help' to lower costs for beneficiaries with limited income and resources. Prescription Advantage requires all applicants who may qualify for Extra Help to apply for this benefit. You may qualify for Extra Help if your income is at or below the S1 income and your resources (other than your home) are no more than the current Medicare limits of $14,100 single, $28,150 married. Please note: these limits are subject to change.

Co-payment Assistance: Once co-payment assistance begins, you pay no more than the co-payments listed above for covered drugs. Prescription Advantage pays any additional amount. Prescription Advantage only pays for drugs covered by a drug plan.

Out-of-Pocket Spending Limit: When your total spending for deductibles (if any) and co-payments reaches the annual out-of-pocket spending limit, Prescription Advantage will cover 100% of all co-payments for the remainder of the plan year. Note: Benefits for new members begin on the effective date of Prescription Advantage coverage. Any costs incurred prior to the effective date cannot be applied towards the out-of-pocket spending limit.

You can now apply online at www.prescriptionadvantagema.org or Prescription Advantage Customer Service · 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636); Press 2.

Traffic Safety Reminder: "Move Over"

The "Move Over" law requires all driver's approaching a stationary emergency or maintenance vehicle with flashing lights to move to the next adjacent lane if it is safe to do so, and barring that, to reduce their speed.

This newsletter is partially funded by a grant of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Outreach Worker: Ginger Cruickshank 862-4932
Council 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

Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

American Robins: Signs of Spring?

Picture a beautiful spring day: the sun is out, a pleasant breeze flows over you, the trees are fluffy with colorful flowers, and birds are singing. That's the song of the American Robin, a bird that has become a symbol of spring for many people. Maybe you even visualized some as you thought about spring!

These birds must be so closely associated with spring because they return from their migration when spring begins, right? Well, not exactly. It turns out that many American Robins don't even migrate at all. Instead, they hide out in the trees in the United States and southern Canada, enduring the blizzards and ice storms of winter. They survive by eating berries and shivering to keep warm. It's a lack of food more than anything else that causes some robins to migrate further south for the winter. If they have enough food to survive, robins will sometimes stay up north despite the harsh winter weather.

Even though some robins may still be lurking in the trees in your neighborhood, you're much less likely to see them in the winter than in the spring. Since food is often sparse in the winter, the robins need to conserve energy by spending less time flying and hopping around in the cold. Some robins deceptively stick around for the winter; they are a sign of spring because we only start noticing them when the weather gets nice and they are in our yards seeking worms and other food as the weather warms.

Have the robins come out from their winter retreats or returned from their migration to your neighborhood? Take your kids out to listen to spring bird songs and see if you can identify the songs of robins and other birds.
Happy Spring!

Article from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Planning for the Future of Your Land: An Introduction to Estate Planning and Land Conservation

Thursday, April 26th at 6pm
VFW Hall, Huntington Rd, Russell
A light dinner will be served
Free and open to all

Creating a plan for the future of your land and figuring out your options can be an overwhelming process. Come to this workshop for an overview of essential estate planning tools that help you accomplish your goals, whether they are minimizing taxes, passing the land on to the next generation, or keeping it open and undeveloped in the future. You'll hear from a local estate planning attorney, land trust staff, and a UMass Extension professor, followed by your questions.

Please reserve your seat in advance.
Call Wendy Ferris (413) 625-9151 or email wferris@franklinlandtrust.org

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montgomeryma.gov