

MONTGOMERY

MT

Happy Holidays!

Breeze



PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

TOWN CLERK News

Thank you to those of you who have returned your appointment slips. And just another reminder, you must have a current ETHICS course completion on file. The majority of people in town completed their last Ethics training in the Fall of 2021. You can call or email me if you are not sure when your last course was completed! THANK YOU!

To All Town of Montgomery Employees, Elected Officials, Appointees AND Volunteers

CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAW/ETHICS TRAINING

Anyone performing services for a city or town or holding a municipal position, whether paid or unpaid, including full- and part-time municipal employees, elected officials, volunteers, and consultants, is a municipal employee under the conflict-of-interest law. Each person must complete training every two years.

There is a new website for Ethics training required by everyone as indicated above. The courses need to be taken every two years. Please go to: <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com> to sign up for a log-in and to complete the training. If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact the Town Clerk's Office at clerk@montgomeryma.gov or by phone 413-642-6927.

There is no need to send a copy of your certificate of completion as I will be notified directly from the website that your training has been completed. Thank you all for your cooperation!

New Town Clerk Days/Hours. See page 2.

MFD plans 'Open House' Nov. 26th

Hopefully your shovels, snowblowers, and plows have all been serviced as the Farmer's Almanac is predicting a heavy, wet and snowy winter. Know your physical limitations when shoveling snow, medical emergencies happen when you overexert yourself. It is becoming more common to have difficulty locating house numbers/addresses when responding to emergencies. Please see the document from the State Fire Marshall regarding proper signage. Remember proper signage is a State Law.



Also from the State Fire Marshall is a safety document regarding candles. Candles are a leading cause of house fires.

Please be safe this Holiday Season.

As always, The Montgomery Fire Department appreciates your support.

We are always looking for volunteers for the Fire Department.

First and 3rd Tuesdays of each month are our training/meetings. If you have interest in becoming a member please call 862-4505 or stop in on a Tuesday evening at 7 pm.

Hilltown community ambulance update

Hello fellow Montgomery residents, I am Stephen Pitoniak, a twenty-year resident of Montgomery, who lives on Birch Bluff Rd., I am the Town of Montgomery's Hilltown Community Ambulance representative, my duties are to

inform the Montgomery Board of Selectman the status and security of our ambulance service, and to inform the residents of the terrific things these men and women do every day for our Hilltown communities.

As a volunteer also with the Montgomery Fire Dept., I see firsthand the extraordinary care, service, and professionalism HCAA exhibits when called out for a medical emergency in this town at all hours of the day and night, often at a paramedic level service. I am proud to represent this fine service, I feel this service is critical to our communities and simply cannot be replaced or substituted.

In the coming months HCAA

Please turn to page 4.

Santa comes to Montgomery



Check out Santa's scheduled arrival time in your area on page 3!

“A holiday is an opportunity to journey within.”

— Prabhas

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 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

TOWN CLERK - CHERYL MASCIADRELLI 413-642-6927
OFFICE HOURS - 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month - OR BY
APPOINTMENT Email: clerk@montgomeryma.gov

POLICE DEPT:
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE CHIEF -
PAULA CHAPMAN Home 862-4949
Office 862-3386, x5

RUSSELL-MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPT: 862-6209
(Call 911 for emergencies)

TREASURER/COLLECTOR - RENEE CARNEVALE
OFFICE HOURS: Tues and Thurs 8 am to 2 pm.
862-3386, x1 or direct line 642-8139

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER -
NATHAN SPERRY 413-221-0139.

SELECT BOARD:
DONALD WASHBURN 862-3301
MIKE MORRISSEY 682-3386, x1
JACOB CHAPMAN 862-4949
Meetings for the Select Board are held at 7:00 p.m. every other
Thursday.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

LIBRARY:
LIBRARIAN - PAULA LONG 862-3894
montgomerylibrary3894@gmail.com

HOURS:
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:

NEW: Office hours of the Board of Assessors will be held on the 2nd
Thursday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm of each month. Assessors Clerk will
hold hours from 11 am to 2 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
Meetings will be scheduled and posted when deemed necessary.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION -
PAIGE LALIBERTE, Chairman (413) 222-7493
The Conservation Commission meets on the first Monday of each
month.

COUNCIL ON AGING 862-3386, x6 or 642-8143
COA@Montgomeryma.gov

STATE SENATOR JOHN VELIS (413) 572-3920
Office address: 52 Court St., Westfield, 01085

STATE REP, 3RD HAMPDEN Nicholas A. Boldyga
454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077,
(413) 569-3137, Ext 103

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

December Calendar

Dec. 6 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 7 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall
Dec. 13 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 14 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall
Dec. 20 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 21 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall
Dec. 27 3:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Dec. 28 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall

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

Paula L. Chapman

MONTGOMERY'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
OFFICE HOURS 6:30 PM TO 7:45 PM FOR
FIREARMS LICENSES ONLY

The office is in the basement of the Town Hall.
December 14 December 28
Subject to change if necessary

From the desk of Paula Chapman

I just want to let you know – I have stumped the IT
department of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
I have been unable to process any licenses since
September 28th as the Commonwealth updated the
CJIS system. The Department didn't send it to me and
Chief Hennessey has been working with them to try
to get the updated program so I can get back to work.
I'll update the Town as soon as I am able to
process again.

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 Li-
brary, 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
Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig * Paula Long
* Julie Pike * Jane Thielen * Lori Conley

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

December 2023



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!!!!

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 16, 2023
(TIME SCHEDULE - TIMES ARE APPROX.)

SNOW DATE FOR SANTA RUN: SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2023

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!!!!**

Pointsettias keep the holiday spirit alive all year round

Keep the Christmas poinsettia alive all year round. Maintain moderate temperatures. Poinsettias are tropical, so keep them in a room that is between 65 and 70 degrees during the day and not below 60 at night. Avoid placing in either hot or cold drafty areas.

Provide ample indirect light. These plants love light. Place in a place that receives at least 6 hours of indirect light a day.

Water wisely. Soil should be kept moist but not water logged. Water when soil is dry to the touch, and make sure

GardenNews
by Chris Brown



plant drains. Take off foil pot cover and place plant in a saucer.

Ensure high humidity. Place pot on top of a tray with pebbles filled with water or by using a small humidifier.

Fertilize for future growth. After the blooming period, fertilize around the middle of spring, every 2 to 3 weeks. Stop feeding at the end of summer to prepare for the next blooming cycle.

Prune for fullness. In the spring, once plant stops blooming, cut back stems to about 4-6 inches in height.

Repot if needed. And begin the reblooming process.

SOUR CREAM COFFEE CAKE

Recipe for December 2023 Thank you Kathy Stomski for the latest recipe.

1 stick butter, room temperature
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup sugar
1 cup sour cream
2 cups flour

¼ tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda

Topping: ¼ cup sugar

1 tsp. cinnamon
½ cup chopped nuts (more if you like)

In a large bowl, cream butter, then add sugar and eggs, mixing well. Add sour cream and vanilla, stirring well. Mix all dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, soda, salt) in a separate bowl. Whisk them together so they are mixed well. 9or sift together. Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture. Beat with a mixer for 2 minutes. Pour ½ the batter, or a bit more, in a greased tube pan (can also use a bundt pan). Sprinkle ¾ of the topping over the batter. Add the remaining batter over the topping. Sprinkle the last of the topping over the top of the batter.

Bake 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Test with toothpick to see if fully cooked.

DECEMBER RECIPE

CEMETERY NEWS – NEW INFORMATION

The cemetery gates will be closed for the winter with the first snow.

Those wishing to purchase a cemetery plot or lot, or any questions concerning the cemetery, please contact one of the Cemetery Commission members – **Joanne Hebert at 862-4586, Cheryl Masciadrelli at the Town Clerk phone number 642-6927 or 413-977-3833, or Scott Darling at 862-3378, not the Town Office.**

The price per plot (grave) is \$200.00. Lots consisting of 4 plots are \$800.00. Each plot can be used for two (2) cremations after a burial, or four (4) cremations alone.

Sales are limited to legal residents or property owners in Montgomery.

Also, anyone planning a burial, either full or cremation, must notify one of the above members so the site may be correctly marked and recorded. Also, any monuments or groundstone placement needs to be marked for placement. An upright stone can only be between 2 graves, not on single graves.

The Rules and Regulations for the cemetery can be found on the new town website:

<https://montgomeryma.gov>, under "Documents" then "Cemeteries". If you do not have a computer, contact Cheryl Masciadrelli at her above numbers for a copy.

• Hilltown ambulance

Continued from Page 1

has obtained the services of the Pioneer Valley Planning Committee, this independent group is evaluating and assessing the best future scenarios for HCAA and will provide a clear transparent picture of our challenges operating in these trying times. This report will be shared with our town selectboards and residents as well for review.

I ask you for your support and will be approaching the selectboard and finance committees to discuss fair and reasonable increases to keep HCAA on the excellent path they are on.

Right now there are two principal ways to do that.

1. Annual subscription program. Please renew if you're already a subscriber and if you are not, please consider a subscription. As a subscriber your transport is paid for if Hilltown Community Ambulance needs to transport you. Just as importantly, you're making a contribution to support this life saving service in your town.
2. Attend your Annual Town Meeting and Support your town's Annual Assessment on this year's Warrant. It's vital that all member towns vote to fund this vital service to our neighbors Chester, Russell, Blandford, Huntington, & Worthington.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 862-4456.



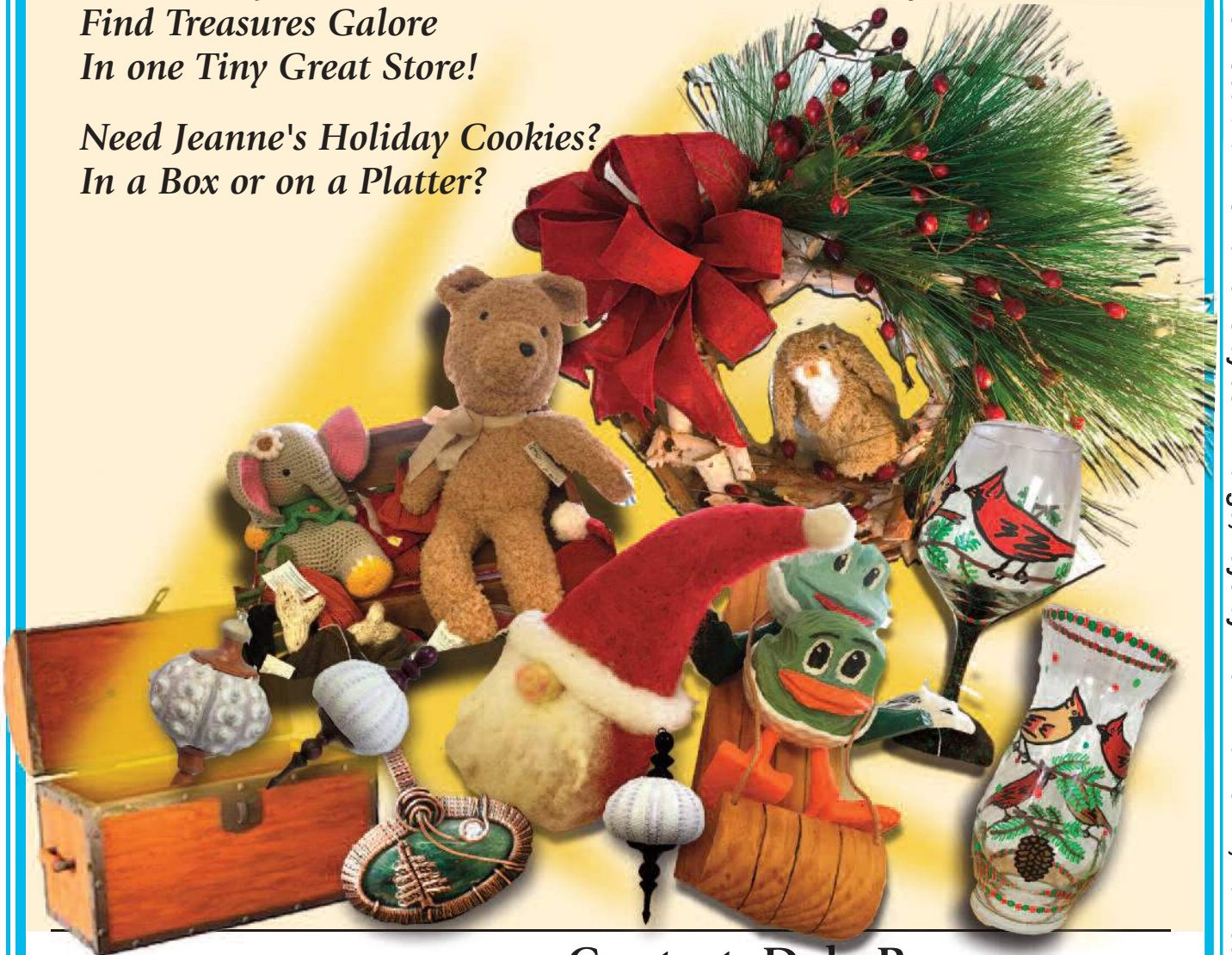
Gray Catbird

Pottery Studio & Gift Shop

*Come one, Come All ~
To the Gray Catbird Hall!
Find Treasures Galore
In one Tiny Great Store!*

*Call 875-5205 to Inquire ...
The Sweet Ease of that matter!*

*Need Jeanne's Holiday Cookies?
In a Box or on a Platter?*



**Contact: Dale Rogers,
413.875.5205**

or graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com
22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA

Gray Catbird
Pottery Studio & Gift Shop

 [etsy.com/shop/GrayCatbirdPottery](https://www.etsy.com/shop/GrayCatbirdPottery)

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

Credits: Sea urchin Ornaments by John Marge, Toys by Ellen D. & Ron M, Painted Glassware by Carolée W.

HAPPY HANUKKAH and MERRY CHRISTMAS

from your friends and neighbors of the Montgomery Historical Society!

‘Evening Out’ planned to start MHS new year

Your Montgomery Historical Society has scheduled an “evening out” on **Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Paisano’s Restaurant** in Southampton (136 College Highway).

It promises to be an enjoyable evening and is open to all, whether you are a part of the Historical Society or not! Please call Laurie (862-8095) to make your reservation(s) and join us that evening for some good old-fashioned fun and fellowship... We will be ordering from

Historical Happenings



the menu individually (separate checks), and the restaurant is aware that we may change the date if the weather is not cooperative.

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or any other winter holiday, we wish all of our fellow townspeople and neighbors from the surrounding area a good New Year and good health! Hopefully we will all stay well throughout the winter season.

The display case in the Grace Hall Memorial Library at Montgomery Centre, hosted by the Montgomery Historical Society, currently features an exhibit titled “Autumn Glow” displaying a collection of copper items – bowls, pitchers, bells, etc. – loaned by one of the Historical Society’s members. Why not visit the Library to borrow some good cold-weather reading or other media, and check out the display?

We will be changing the exhibit in early December to reflect a Holiday or Winter theme. If you have anything you would be willing to display that might be of interest to others in town, we encourage you to call Laurie at 862-8095 to get your items on the display schedule for December or any time in 2024!



Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

A FUN LOOK AT THE ORIGINS OF RUDOLPH AND HIS CREW

In 1823, the first edition of ‘A Visit from Saint Nicholas’ dubbed ‘The Night Before Christmas’ introduced Santa’s original eight reindeer - Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. In the poem, the final two reindeer names, Dunder and Blixem, which in Dutch/German mean “thunder and lightning.” The names were altered to Donner and Blitzen in Clement Clark Moore’s 1844 publication of the poem.

Rudolph was introduced in 1939, and the song “Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer” was released in 1949. Donner and Blitzen (German for ‘Thunder and Lightning’) have been used to refer to the two reindeer since then.

In modern times, this is now the most frequent referral to the original reindeer names and Rudolph was added to the initial 8 only over a century later.

It’s been claimed in recent years that all of the reindeer must be female because the males’ antlers fall off during the winter. Any reindeer with its antlers at Christ-

mas is almost certainly a girl.

Some fun trivia facts about reindeer:

Both the males and females grow antlers but males shed them in late fall while females will keep them ‘til springtime when the calves are born. Their noses are specially designed to warm the air before it gets to their lungs.

Reindeer hooves expand in summer when the ground is soft and shrink in winter when the ground is hard. Some subspecies have knees that make a clicking noise when they walk so the animals can stay together in a blizzard.

Some North American caribou migrate over 3,000 miles in a year – more than any other land mammal. Golden eagles are the leading predator of caribou calves in the late spring and fall.

In North America reindeer are called caribou. They have unusual vision and eyes. Reindeer can see ultra-violet light unlike most mammals and which is invisible to us. Their eyes will change from a golden color in the summer months to a deep blue in the winter.

Have a joyous, peaceful and blessed holiday season!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Maggie Bean-Ducharme
Curtis Bush, Jr.
Jean Bush

Philip Camp
Cade Fuller
Micheline Gaudette
Terry Hall
Marianne Swiatek

DECEMBER ANIVERSARIES

Kathy and Rich Couture
Sandie and Chris Mann

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Music in Montgomery

Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, Montgomery MA.

Same great music, New Location!

"Music in the soul can be heard by the universe."

- Lao Tzu

When: Every Thursday @ 3pm

Where: Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085

- Dec. 7 **Eva Capelli & Friends**
Dec. 14 **Ravenwood**
Dec. 21 **Larry Southard: Vocals and guitar, All the Good Old Songs!**
Dec. 28 **Ed Bentley & Friends! 'Men of a Certain Age' Country, Rock, Folk**

2024

- Jan 4 **Jerry & Kara Noble: Friendlier with Two**
Jan 11 **Barry Searle, Sara Miller, Pete Rzasas**
Jan 18 **Eva Capelli & Friends**
Jan 25 **Larry Southard**

- Feb 1 **Eva Capelli & Friends**
Feb 8 **Ravenwood**
Feb 15 **Ed Bentley & Friends**
Feb 22 **Larry Southard**
Feb 29 **Hilltown Hillbillies**

We encourage donations of baked goods. Money donations for refreshments will be split between two worthy local causes: Montgomery's Volunteer Firemen's Association and our Town Library. We have a tip can for thanking our fabulous musicians as well.

All are welcome!"

IT'S A FINE TIME!

Contact Dale for more info: 413.875.5205

Sponsored by the Montgomery Town Library, and Gray Catbird Pottery Studio.



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



This Christmas season it's my wish that we're all reminded of the goodness in humanity. It is my hope that we make every effort to go forward into the New Year with a renewed sense of respect and compassion for one another. Through the Christmas spirit we can rediscover the common ground we all share. Working together we can strengthen our communities and ensure that each and every person realizes their extraordinary potential.

*With Blessings of
Peace and Good Will*

Representative Boldyga & Family



Library holds wreath making holiday workshop



On Nov. 18 the Library held a Holiday Wreath-making Workshop. Each participant created their wreath with their own personal items.

Prevent Candle Fires Follow the Circle of Safety

Burn Candles Inside a One-Foot Circle of Safety

Use candles in the center of an area one-foot in every direction free of anything that can burn such as decorations, curtains that can blow around, and other items on a table or bureau. Use sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candle holders that will not tip over.

Before You Go Out, Blow It Out

Most candle fires start when they are left burning unattended. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid using candles in the bedroom or in places where people may fall asleep.

Use Candles Out of Reach of Children and Pets

Many candle fires are started when pets knock them over, or when children touch or play with them.

Teach Everyone in the Family the Rules of Safe Candle Use

Children, teenagers, grown-ups and older adults should know the rules of safe candle use.

Keep All Matches and Lighters Out of Reach of Children

Store in a high cabinet, preferably a locked one. You wouldn't leave a loaded gun lying around and a lighter can be just as dangerous in a child's hand.

Switch to Flameless Candles

To be safe, consider using flameless candles in your home. Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

Candles Contribute to Fire Deaths in the Home

Several people are killed, usually in their own homes, from candle fires each year. If medical oxygen is used in the home, do not use candles, matches or other open flames.



FireFactors

Office of the State Fire Marshal • www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3380

Condolences to...

...Darlene & John Buikus and Donna & Tony Montiero on the loss of Darlene's and Donna's uncle Frederick Wellspeak of Chester, who passed away October 27 in Pittsfield

...George Galipeau, Chris & Krystyna Galipeau, and Josh Galipeau, on the loss of their wife and mother Bertine Galipeau who passed away October 29 at home

...Laurel and Matt MacBrián and family on the loss of Laurel's grandfather, Thomas "Tommy" Lawson of Westfield on November 2

...Cheryl & Aaron Brown on the loss of Cheryl's uncle Robert Prouty, Jr., in Springfield on November 3... He was also great-uncle to Brandon Prouty who formerly volunteered with the Montgomery Fire Department.

...Joseph & Elaine Toporowski on the loss of Joe's sister Elaine Garcia at home in Westfield on November 11



1911-1912
Grace Hall Memorial Library
Montgomery, Massachusetts

December

Library News

facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

December 2023

I wander forth this chill December dawn: John Frost and all his elves are out, I see, As busy as the elfin world can be, Clothing a world asleep with fleecy lawn... ~Robert Buchanan

- **Yoga Classes:** Join us for yoga every Wednesday night at 6 pm. To reserve your spot, please contact Chris Brown at chris-bro40@yahoo.com.
- **Toys for Tots Donation Drive:** We are proud to announce that we are now an official “Toys for Tots” location of the Marine Corps Reserve. This holiday season, please consider bringing an unwrapped Christmas gift for a child in need.

• **Wee Small Hours Cabaret Concert:** Mark your calendars for the Wee Small Hours Cabaret Concert featuring vocalist Mary Jo Maichack and keyboardist Bob Shepherd. This enchanting musical evening will take place on Dec. 2. Don't miss this movable feast of songs from the Great American Songbook.



• **Cookie Exchange:** Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite type of cookies (about 3 to 4 dozen) and exchange them with us.



• **Music in Montgomery:** every Thursday at 3 pm

• **2023 Monthly Motif Reading Challenge:** For December, our theme is “” Let it Snow” .

• **eBooks and eAudiobooks:** you can access a vast collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks through Libby and Boston Public Library. Visit the library to pick up a flyer and learn how to download your eCard for convenient reading on your devices. Happy reading!

Posting on Facebook

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

Hours

Tues: 10– 5:30

Thurs: 11-8

Sat: 9:30-12:30

Ebooks on Libby

Contact

Mail

161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085

Phone

413-862-3894

email

montgomerylibrary3894@gmail.com

Website

wghl.masscat.org

facebook.com/gracehallmemorial

commonwealthcatalog.org

Don't forget to check out Wowbrary and Libby our online services.