

**EXCISE TAX BILLS ARE BEING MAILED FEB 1ST , NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH DEMAND LETTERS OR PAST BILLS THAT WERE SENT.**

February 2024  
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Circulation 375

MONTGOMERY  
**MT** *Breeze*



**PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF**

## Think Spring! Memorial Day preparations announced

**When:** Monday, May 27, 2024 at NOON – Rain or Shine  
**Where:** Town Center

Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was formerly called, is the day we pay tribute to the men and women who have served or are serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard.

**Everyone is invited!!** Bring your parents, children, neighbors and friends and come to the observance and parade. You can decorate your bike, horse, car or wagon with red, white and blue and walk or ride in the parade to the cemetery. The fire trucks will be there and so will the **GATEWAY BAND**. The more people who participate – the better.



Since the Band is coming – I will be collecting cash donations and/or grocery store gift cards to feed the students. To avoid allergy issues – I get Big Y grinders. I also take donations of water, sports drinks and individual bags of chips/pretzels. As in the past, dessert donations can be brought to the Town Hall as well.

The band members start very early on Memorial Day in Huntington so by the time they get to us they are hungry.

As usual I am looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to do readings of In Flanders Field, America's Response and the Gettysburg Address. I will also welcome any other readings that are relevant to the day. Parents – please ask your children to participate – otherwise I will call the Middle School and they "find" students for me to check out.

Remember - it isn't just a "Monday holiday" – almost everyone knows someone who served or is serving in our armed forces. Please take an hour out of your day to honor our Veterans.

Any questions, I can be reached by calling 413-862-4949. Thank you.

— Paula Chapman

**COLLECTOR/ TREASURER OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEK OF FEB 19TH – 23RD.**

## REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS

You will not receive a real estate tax bills for February. The tax rate was unable to be set in time so both the 3rd and 4th Quarters tax bills will be due in May. Any questions feel free to contact me 413-642-8139. Thank you.

Renee Carnevale  
Town of Montgomery  
Treasurer/Collector  
Rcarnevalmontgomeryma.gov  
413-642-8139

## Montgomery Planning Board seeks new members

Planning Board News! The Montgomery Planning Board is currently short two members, making it difficult for us to have a quorum, especially when there is a conflict of interest. Please consider contributing to our town! We meet once a month, normally the third Monday of the month (if a holiday, then Tuesday). The meetings consist mostly of Building Permit and driveway applications and rarely last more than an hour.

The work is interesting and satisfying and even fun. Familiarity with Town by laws helps, but not essential.

**Contacts:**

Phil Camp 413-862-4976  
Mike LaFleur 413-862-4959  
Christina Pierce 413-717-8099

**“To love is to recognize yourself in another.”**

— Eckhart Tolle

# 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 - ORBY  
APPOINTMENT Email: clerk@montgomeryma.gov

POLICE DEPT:  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT -  
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:  
PHIL CAMP, Chairman 862-4976  
DONALD WASHBURN 862-3301  
MIKE MORRISSEY 862 3368 x1  
JACOB CHAPMAN 862-4949  
Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (Tue., if on a holiday)

## 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

# February Calendar

Feb. 1 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall

Feb. 7 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall

Feb. 8 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall

Feb. 14 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall

Feb. 15 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall

Feb. 21 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall

Feb. 22 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery– Town Hall

Feb. 28 3:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall

Feb. 29 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.

February 8	February 22
March 7	March 21
April 4	April 18
May 2	May 16

Subject to change if necessary

## 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

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

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

February 2024

22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA  
(next door to B&D's Variety).

Wednesday: 10 am - 2 pm, 3 pm - 7 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 1 pm  
Friday: 10 am - 2 pm, 3 pm - 7 pm  
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday: 2 - 6 pm

More than snow or freezing rain, Love  
is in the air... You will find that very special  
gift and perfect card to give your love at the  
Gray Catbird Gift Shop.



happy together



Contact: Dale Rogers,  
413.875.5205

or [graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com](mailto:graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com)

22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA

Gray Catbird  
Pottery Studio & Gift Shop

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

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

# Hey it's February, time to start your outdoor plantings

- February is the month to: -
- Buy new onion and spinach seeds each year. Seed viability decreases rapidly.
  - Freeze parsley seeds before sowing
  - Provide 12 - 16 hours of light for seedlings
  - Start seeds in clean pots and sterile germination mix to avoid damping off
  - At the ends of the month, start leeks, onions and shallots from seed
  - Also, start begonia seeds at the end of the month
  - Proper fruit tree pruning promotes good air circulation and strong limbs

## GardenNews

by Chris Brown



- Prune grapevines and blueberry bushes at the end of the month

Also please consider attending one of the three garden workshops/symposia that will be available in this area: **March 23 in Westfield, April 6th in the Berkshires and April 13th in South Deerfield.** Go to [WMMGA.ORG](http://WMMGA.ORG) for more information and registration forms.

Also, house plants are still available for "sale", for a donation to the Library Friends. Still available are: Walking Iris, night blooming cereus, aloe, birds' nest sansevieria and a citrus. All plants are small.

Call Chris Brown at 413 364 1510 or email [chrisbro40@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisbro40@yahoo.com).

## UNSTUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS

Thank you, Kathy Stomski, for the latest Mt. Breeze recipe.

½ to 2 lbs ground beef	1 lg. onion chopped	1 sm. Head cabbage, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced	1 cup cooked rice	parsley
salt & pepper	1 sm. Head cabbage, chopped	Butter
G. Washington mix packet	tomato sauce, canned, optional	
Tomato soup - 3-4 cans	½ package Lipton onion or beefy onion mix	

In a lg. skillet, cook onion in butter till translucent. Add gd. beef, garlic, G. Washington seasoning packet and parsley. Drain and discard grease. Add in gravy mix: 3-4 cans tomato soup, (may need more - have some on hand), 2 cups water, ½ package of Lipton soup/gravy mix - either onion or beefy onion. Salt & pepper to taste. Mix all together in skillet. You may need to add more water, depending on consistency. You can also add more canned tomato sauce if you like.

After gravy mixture is done, add in cabbage and meat mixture. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer until cabbage is tender, at least 30 minutes. It tastes better if cooked a day ahead.

FEBRUARY 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.

## Chief Steven Frye Memorial Scholarship requirements

**Open To:** Graduating 2024 Montgomery HS Students

**Eligibility requirements:** Must be a resident of Montgomery (non-Gateway students may request an application from Montgomery Fire Department) (Contact Dan Flechsig - 862-8095 or email [83.mfd.association@gmail.com](mailto:83.mfd.association@gmail.com))

**Criteria:** Community Service, Academic Accomplishment, and Financial Need

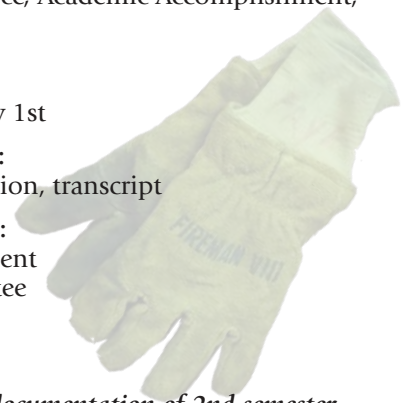
**Award amount:** \$250.00

**Application deadline:** May 1st

**Application requirements:** Gateway common application, transcript

**Completed application to:** Montgomery Fire Department  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
154 Main Road  
Montgomery, MA 01085

*\*You must provide official documentation of 2nd semester enrollment in educational institution.*



# Historical Society gearing up for new events

We're wishing all of our friends and neighbors a "curiosity-satisfying" Groundhog's Day... It will be interesting to see what Punxsutawney Phil tells us about the forecast for the remainder of winter! Also, Happy Valentine's Day! Hopefully we can celebrate the day by being in touch with those we love...

In early January, the Montgomery Historical Society celebrated the New Year with members and friends at Paisano's Restaurant in Southampton. It was an evening of good food,

## Historical Happenings



good friends and good fun. We were disappointed that not more of our fellow townspeople joined us for the evening!

We will begin the planning process for activities in the spring, so will be in touch with everyone via the Mountain Breeze with information as soon as it is available.

Hope everyone has a safe winter and will be ready to join in some historical or cultural activities when we are once again able to offer them to you!

*The display case hosted by the Historical Society at the Grace Hall Memorial Library, Montgomery Center, is currently exhibiting winter-themed collectibles loaned by one of the Historical Society members. The items are "Snowbabies" and "Snow Buddies" – both popular items in the past. Hope you'll take the time to stop in the Library to pick out some winter reading material, DVD's or other media, and while you're there, look over the display that's sure to make you smile!*

*Once again, your assistance in providing exhibit material for the display case is being requested. If you have anything you would be willing to display that might be of interest to your friends and neighbors, we urge you to call Laurie at 862-8095 to get your name and items on the display schedule for February (or any other time in the year)!*



## Outside the bird feeder with Lori Conley

### VALENTINE'S LOVEBIRDS

It's nearly Saint Valentine's Day. Celebration of the day devoted to sweethearts goes back to Roman times.

Cupid, a Roman god of love, today appears on greeting cards amid satin hearts and chocolates. But Cupid is not the only winged being linked to February 14th. Medieval Europeans believed that many birds mated on this day, underscoring the link of Valentine's Day's to affection and courtship.

They pictured cozy pairs of doves as the epitome of love and devotion, thus the term "lovey-dovey."

Doves were the classic lovebirds, and favorites, too, of Cupid's comely mother, Venus. The lovebirds – there are nine species – are diminutive parrots native to Africa. The colorful lovebirds are aptly, if anthropomorphically, named for their snuggling behavior. They nestle close to one another, and gently preen each other's head and neck with their red bills.

Mutual preening helps keep the feathers clean precisely in those places where the mate cannot preen itself. But it's also crucial in the lovebirds' courtship, fostering enduring bonds between the pair.

Happy February!



## TOWN CLERK News

### PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Tuesday, March 5, 2024. 7 am - 8 pm

Annual Street Listing/Census form will be mailed later this month. Please be sure and complete the form and return as soon as possible. And as a reminder, you cannot register to vote or change your party by indicating on the Census form. Please visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> to register to vote, check your voter status or to update your information.

**NOMINATION PAPERS are due by MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024** at 5:00 pm and will be available mid-January by appointment or during regular business hours on 1st & 3rd Thursdays from 9am – 2pm. Please call or email me to schedule a time for pick-up. If you are not sure if you are up for re-election, you can check the town report or check with your board or committee members. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to all the Town Clerk's Office or email me. 413-642-6927 or [clerk@montgomeryma.gov](mailto:clerk@montgomeryma.gov)

*Thank you!*

Cheryl Masciadrelli  
Montgomery Town Clerk

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Aras  
Jennifer Arvanitis  
Henry Bisbee IV  
Chris Brown  
Fran Bush  
Roger Chapman

### Jacqueline DuCharme

Dan Flechsig, Sr.  
Nathan Galipeau  
Bill Hughes  
Geraldine Larrabee  
Donny Masciadrelli  
Nicholas Moses

### Michael Shelnut

Nancy Spencer  
Dale Stanisewski  
Paige Stomski  
Pete Wilcox  
Tim Wolcott

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Cheryl & Donny Masciadrelli  
Karen & Dennis Wassung

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

# Music in Montgomery

Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, Montgomery MA.

The Musicians love the Audience; the Music Lovers love the Music; we all love each other. We really like cookies, but we love Helen Allen.... and her homemade cookies! Thank you, Helen.-

*"All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."*

- Helen Keller

**When:** Every Thursday @ 3pm

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

February 1	Eva Capelli & Friends
February 8	Ravenwood
February 15	Ed Bentley & Friends
February 22	Larry Southard
February 29	Hilltown Hallbillies
<hr/>	
March 7	Eva Capelli & Friends
March 14	Ed Bentley & Friends
March 21	Barry Searle, Sarah Miller, & Pete Rzas
March 28	Larry Southard
<hr/>	
April 4	Ravenwood
April 11	Jerry & Kara Noble
April 18	Ed Bentley & Friends
April 25	Larry Southard

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.

**IT'S A FINE TIME!**

**Contact Dale for more info: 413.875.5205**

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

**"All  
are  
welcome!"**





# LIBRARY NEWS

facebook.com/  
gracehallmemorial

**February 2024**

Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart. ~Author unknown

- **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](mailto:chris-bro40@yahoo.com).
- **Music in Montgomery:** every Thursday at 3 pm
- CookBook Book Club Feb. 15 at 6:30pm . This month bring your favorite Soup. The Library will have cookbooks on display specializing in soups till then.
- **2024Monthly Motif Reading Challenge:** For February is “ Back to the 50’s”

• WingMaster Birds of Prey will be here on **February 24 at 1 pm**. Come learn about New England Birds of Prey and meet LIVE Raptors, Eagles and Owls here in the library. Presented by Julie Ann Collier



JIM PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY. COPYRIGHT 2021. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

• **March 23 at 1 pm.** Meet local Huntington-based author Steven Cormier and learn about the history and mystery surrounding the life and death of Parley B. Hutchins. Parley B. Hutchins lived and worked in Huntington, MA in the mid to late 1800s on property that Cormier currently resides at. Hutchins's untimely death led to a murder investigation that was never resolved. The book "Life and Times of Parley B. Hutchins" not only focuses on Parley Hutchins but also on the history and growth of the area and the eventual creation of Huntington, Massachusetts in 1855

• **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!

Sign up at [wowbrary.org](http://wowbrary.org) for our weekly newsletter see new items in the Library.

## 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](mailto:montgomerylibrary3894@gmail.com)

##### Website

[wghl.masscat.org](http://wghl.masscat.org)  
[facebook.com/gracehallmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/gracehallmemorial)

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

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



est. 1945  
Grace Hall Memorial Library  
Montgomery, Illinois 61801



# Montgomery Library News KIDS Pages

facebook.com/  
gracehallmemorial

**February 2024**

When is the best outfit for **February 2nd**? A tu-tu

**Ed the Wizard Balloon Twisting on Feb. 22 at 6pm.** Learn how to create Balloon animals



## Kid Reading Challenge 2024

From Jan. 1 to  
March 31 for kids  
ages 3 to 12

Read 26 books!  
For each book you  
check out of the  
library and read  
will enter you to  
win one of 4 prizes

### AMAZING AUTHORS A to Z Reading Challenge

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you read 26 books with authors from A to Z? After reading, record the author's name next to the first letter of the author's last name.

<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>O</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Q</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>U</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>EXtra Author</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Z</b>

© Stephanie Trapp

Win one of these  
prizes by entering  
in the A to Z Read-  
ing Challenge

Ages 3-5: Pet Vet  
play set

Ages 5 to 10 : Tur-  
bo Pop STEM  
Challenge

Ages 10 to 12: So-  
lar BOT.14 robot  
kit or a Mech 5  
Robot kit