

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Administrative News

Sorry that I didn't post office hours for January – I was under the weather. All submitted applications have been processed. I am waiting for the Commonwealth to mail them to me and will let you know as soon as they arrive.

If you have moved into town – you MUST complete a change of address form. By law it should be completed within 30 days of the move. You can get the form at mass.gov/firearms. Please complete the form before you come to renew or your address will be incorrect in the CJIS system. You can also use this form for a name change. Also, if you are renewing your LTC or FID card and it hasn't expired – you can actually complete the form online at

<https://mircsportal.chs.state.ma.us/mircsportal/login.xhtml> – this address is listed on the postcard you should have received from DJCIS. You will need to bring or drop off the license number assigned, along with the \$100 fee and I will process from there.

Please remember this is NOT my full-time job. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at my home number 862-4949 – I don't always remember to listen to messages left on the Town Hall number. My normal office hours are on Thursday nights, usually twice a month, but if you are a 2nd shifter – call and I will make arrangements to meet at another time on Saturday or Sunday.

Paula Chapman



THANK YOU!! Curtis (Stumpy) Bush

It was the icing on the cake for Stumpy Bush. After 35 years of dedicated service to the Town, he has retired from the Highway Superintendent position. Thank you for your 35 years of dedicated service and commitment to our town! We wish you a long, healthy and happy retirement. We will miss you!

Applications now being taken for the Fire Chief Stephen P. Frye Memorial Scholarship

Open To: Graduating Montgomery High School 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)
Criteria: Community Service, Academic Accomplishment, 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, Mass. 01085

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



“In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other.”

– Linda Ellerbee

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; firechief@montgomeryma.gov

TOWN CLERK - CHERYL MASCIADRELLI 413-642-6927
OFFICE HOURS - BY 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.

PLANNING BOARD:
PHIL CAMP, Chairman 862-4976
Held on 3rd Monday of the month

SELECT BOARD:
MIKE MORRISSEY, Chairman 862 3386 x1
DONALD WASHBURN 862-3301
JACOB CHAPMAN 862-4949
Meetings are held every other Thursday at 7pm

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 and can be reached at 413-862-3386 ext 2 or assessor@montgomeryma.gov.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - conservation@montgomeryma.gov
L.J. GAMELLI, Chairman,
MICHAEL CHELMINSKI
DEBRA WRIGHT,
Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, when needed.

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

STATE SENATOR JOHN VELIS (413) 572-3920
Office address: 94 North Elm St., Suite 301-P, 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. 4 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 5 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Feb. 11 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 12 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 18 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 19 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Feb. 25 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Feb. 26 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town

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

Paula L. Chapman

MONTGOMERY'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The office is in the basement of the Town Hall.
Hours will be posted in the Town Hall.

Subject to change if necessary

February 12	February 26
March 12	March 26
April 9	April 23
May 7	May 21
June 4	June 18

WANTED: Carrier for the MT Breeze

Carrier needed for Main road - from the fire station to the Huntington line, a total of 18 houses. If a new carrier doesn't come forward this month, residents there can get a paper online, at the rack at the Town Hall or in the Library. Please contact Laurie Flechsig at 862-8095 if interested in delivering this route. Thanks for your consideration! Tom Lak, editor

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.

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 **send checks directly to Laurie Flechsig, 1699 Russell Rd, Montgomery, 01085.**

MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

Editor: T.Lak 413-237-2818;

i2mtlak@gmail.com

Chris Brown * Laurie Flechsig * Paula Long
* Julie Pike * Lori Conley

montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

February 2026

Gray Catbird Pottery & Art Studio

22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA

Pottery and Art Lessons Offered:

Whether a beginner or experienced, explore your own creative potential.

2026 Upcoming Workshops:

- Feb 19 & 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26, Thursdays 5:30 - 7:30pm . Watercolor Painting with Dan Delisle, 6 classes for \$250
- Mar 7, Watercolor & Cardmaking with-Sandie Mann, \$45
- Mar 15 - May 9 (5 classes) Community-Herbalism, Thomas Garran, \$269
- Mar 21, Glass-fusing with Denise Beaulieu, \$65
- Mar 28 & Apr 4, Basketry I with Linda Briggs, \$100 (full)
- Apr 25 & May 2, Basketry I with Linda Briggs, \$100 (2 seats left)

Learn to take your use of herbs to the next level

Community Herbalism Class Series - a 5-part practical roadmap to building your own home apothecary.

March 14: Common Medicinal Weeds (Sunday, 2:30 - 4:30)

March 28: Common Medicinal Natives (Sunday, 2:30 - 4:30)

April 11: Medicine Making: External (Salves, Poultices, etc.) - Saturday 2:30 - 4:30

April 25: Medicine Making: Internal (Tinctures, Teas, etc.) - Saturday, 2:30 - 4:30

May 9: Growing Your Own Medicine Garden - Saturday, 2:30 - 4:30

Registration Details: \$269 for the full 5-class series. PLUS, A small additional fee (TBD) applies specifically for the medicine-making session.

CONTACT &/or SIGN UP FOR CLASSES:

Dale Rogers
graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com,
413.875.5205
Gray Catbird Studio
22 East Main St., Huntington, MA 01050



Gray Catbird
Pottery Studio

To sign up or for more information,
Contact: Dale Rogers:
graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com



Stay sharp, prune and water when needed

February is the month to:

- Contrary to popular belief, voles do not tunnel in the lawn, but moles do.
- Clean and sharpen pruning tools
- Water houseplants only when they need it and not according to the calendar.

GardenNews

by Chris Brown



- Use room temperature water to water houseplants.
- At the end of the month, prune grapevines and blueberry bushes.
- Also, at the end of the month, start onions from seed indoors; buy new onion seed every year.

The above information taken from the UMass garden calendar.

HONEY GLAZED SALMON

Recipe Feb 2026 Thank you, again, Jeanne Aras

1 ½ lbs Salmon filet

¼ cup rice vinegar

1 tsp. honey

1 shallot, thinly sliced

Cilantro for garnish

kosher salt & pepper

½ cup honey lime teriyaki sauce, divided

½ tsp. fresh, peeled ginger, grated

2 English cucumbers, thinly sliced

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Place Salmon on foil lined sheet pan. Season with salt & pepper. Spoon 3 Tbsp. teriyaki sauce on top of salmon and roast for 10 minutes. Spoon remaining teriyaki sauce over top and roast 8 minutes more. Increase heat to broil. Baste salmon with sauce in the pan. Then broil until sticky and opaque (2-4 minutes), Meanwhile in a bowl, whisk vinegar, honey, ¼ tsp salt & ¼ tsp. pepper. Stir in ginger, then shallots and let sit for 5 minutes. Add cukes and let sit, tossing occasionally, 10 minutes. Transfer salmon to a platter and with a slotted spoon, spoon cucumber mixture over top of salmon and sprinkle with cilantro. Serves 4.

FEBRUARY RECIPES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Aras
Jennifer Arvanitis
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

Is your birthday included in our monthly listings? If you would like to share that information, please forward your details to montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com



Outside the bird feeder with Lori Gero

FOR SOME OF OUR OWLS, WINTER IS A TIME FOR AMORE!

Owls Are Nesting! That's right – in January and February, often the coldest, snowiest, iciest months of the year, Great-horned Owls, Barred Owls and Eastern

Screech Owls are establishing territories, finding mates, and choosing a place to nest and raise their young. If you live in or near a tree-dense or forested area you may catch a glimpse of one or more of these majestic creatures as they roost in a tree cavity or on a branch during the day or hear mated pairs calling to each other at night. Listen to Owls calling to each other – they are very vocal during mating season.



Screech Owls generally nest in tree cavities, but they never excavate the hole themselves. Instead, they use holes created by woodpeckers, squirrels or created by rotted wood. They will also readily use man-made nest boxes/houses.

Barred Owls like to nest in naturally occurring tree cavities and will sometimes use platform nests created and previously used by hawks, crows, ravens, and herons. Great-horned Owls will also use nests vacated by other large birds and they will sometimes nest in tree cavities.

Owls are usually monogamous and will often reuse the same nest for several years, especially if their broods were successful and food is plentiful.

From Wild Birds Unlimited

MHS plans Spring event; deadline for Pettis Fund scholarship

Here's hoping all our Montgomery neighbors and friends have successfully dug out from our recent VERY snowy weekend. Up to 24" of new snow is "nothing to sneeze at" and certainly presented some challenges.

Montgomery Historical Society members and friends celebrated the New Year with a dinner on **January 7 at The Tavern on the Green in Westfield.**

Historical Happenings



REMINDER TO ALL GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: If you have not already applied, the deadline for the A. P. PETTIS FUND scholarship and the Montgomery Historical Society Scholarship is fast approaching. Please see the guidance office at Gateway Regional High School, or call Laurie at 862-8095 for an application form if you do not attend Gateway.

The food was delightful, and all enjoyed the fun and fellowship. We invite you to join us next January – we'll have an even better time with you present!

Historical Society planners are working on details for a program coming up in the spring... Stay tuned!

Happy Valentine's Day to all from your local Historical Society!

The current exhibit in the display case at the Grace Hall Memorial Library at Montgomery's center is "Silly Santas," but will be changed at the end of January. Please stay tuned for details of the newest exhibit in the March issue of the Mountain Breeze. Your Montgomery Historical Society hosts revolving exhibits in the display case for your enjoyment. When visiting the Town Library for books and other media, you are invited to view the items on display at the same time. Exhibits consist of items from the society's collection of historical and archival materials, or are loans from Montgomery neighbors and friends like you. If you or someone you know has items or collections of interest to the public, please call Laurie at 862-8095 to get on the calendar for future displays. Your participation will be welcomed!

Burning season now open, space heater tips

OPEN BURNING SEASON STARTS Jan 15

The Town of Montgomery allows open burning between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm January 15 to May 1. Only brush and forestry debris is allowed to be burned. Permits must be obtained by calling 413-862-4505 at least 48 hours prior to when the debris will be burned.

Leave address, contact name and phone# and date at least 48 hours before the burn will occur on the answering service.

The burn permit can be revoked at any time due to dry conditions and or air quality so please get your cleanup done soon.

Burn area also must be at least 75' from any dwelling and a means of extinguishing the fire must be accessible. See the attached info from MA District Fire Service regarding open burning.



Safe Use of Space Heaters

As cold weather has settled in, please use your space heaters with caution.

You'll find some guidelines here:

Space heater (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/space-heater-safety>) fires are rare but often deadly. If you must use a space heater, follow these safe practices:

- Do not use space heaters as your #1 heating source.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- Use only heavy-duty extension cords.
- Always turn off space heaters when going to bed or leaving home.

- It is illegal to use portable kerosene heaters in Massachusetts homes

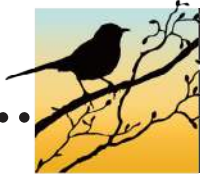
Check out our MFD Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567982171220>

Volunteers

If you want to join our Volunteer Department please contact us. Trainings are 1st and 3rd Tuesdays nights at 7pm or leave a message on our voicemail. We also have a junior Firefighter training program. Applicants must 16 years of age with parental consent. We have several members on our team that started as juniors and several have even gone on to career departments and ambulance services as their full time career.

*Thank you for your support!!
Montgomery Fire Department*





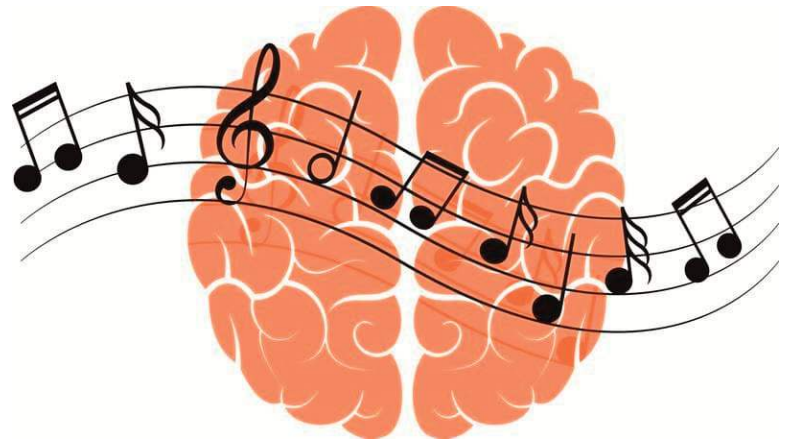
When: Every Thursday @ 3pm
 Where: Montgomery Town Hall,
 161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085



Music in Montgomery

"With the right music, you either forget everything or you remember everything."

- Anonymous



Feb. 5 Jerry & Kara Noble
 Feb. 12 Barry Searle - We Three
 Feb. 19 Ed Bentley & Friends
 Feb. 26 Larry Southard

Mar. 5 Kara & Jerry Noble
 Mar. 12 Helen Arbour, Ursula Elmes, & Joe Nerney
 Mar. 19 Caleb Harris & The Rolling Scones
 Mar. 26 Bob Cipolli - more Montgomery Talent!

Apr. 2 Barry Searle & Ravenwood
 Apr. 9 Jerry & Kara Noble
 Apr. 16 Doug Pi & Harmonics
 Apr. 23 Larry Southard
 Apr. 30 Eva Cappelli & Friends

"All are welcome!"
 Music in Montgomery is sponsored by Gray Catbird Pottery Studio, Montgomery Town Library, and the Montgomery Council on Aging.

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.



MONTGOMERY

neighbors helping neighbors

CoA

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at the Montgomery Council on Aging!

Join in the fun

Join Montgomery Council on Aging current members Jeanne Aras, Chris Brown, Dale Rogers, and Ellen Shaw and Jean Wall as we welcome Debbie Koundry as our new director, and Peter Wilcox as our newest volunteer member.

The CoA meets every second Monday of each month in the Town Hall Community Room. If you would like to be a part of this dynamic group of Montgomery "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" call or email Debbie Koundry at (203) 558-2372 or dkoundry@gmail.com.

Need a little help?

High School seniors members of the Gateway High School National Honor Society are here to help our elder community by volunteering to assist with chores such as snow shoveling, refilling winter sand buckets,

moving trash receptacles from your garage and back.

These volunteer teens can help with cleaning, organizing, unloading groceries and even some spring cleaning and yard work. **If you need a little help contact Debbie Koundry at (203) 558-2372.**



"Kindness is like snow - it beautifies everything it covers."

- Kahil Gibran

Durable Medical Equipment

Our CoA has a limited supply of gently-used durable medical equipment such as walkers, canes, disposable undergarments, shower chairs, etc. If you or a loved one has a need for medical equipment or if you would like to donate some items, **please contact Chris Brown at chrisbro40@yahoo.com or call (413) 364-1510.**



We also have a few hearing aids available through an in-kind donation from Gene Bush. **If you have an interest please contact Debbie Koundry at (203) 558-2372.**

Stay active in this weather (brrrr!)

It can be a challenge to be active when it's freezing outside! But, there are neighboring town Council on

Aging programs and facilities that we can participate in with many fun and interesting activities. Some might require a small fee or donation. Here are a few options for keeping on your toes.

Blandford CoA - in Blandford Town Hall
Balance, Strength and Flexibility
Class every Monday at 11:30am.

Huntington CoA - in Stanton Hall:

Chair Yoga every Wednesday at 10am.

Line Dancing every Thursday at 10am.

Russell CoA - in Russell Town Hall

Low Impact Cardio Workout every Tuesday at 1pm.

Chair Yoga every Thursday at 1Pm



Sip a little and talk a lot

The cold January weather did not keep people away from enjoying our monthly Coffee Hour at Backwoods Breakfast and BBQ.

Don't let a little snow keep you from attending our February Coffee Hour on Monday, February 16th at 10AM at Backwoods!

Coffee is free courtesy of the good folks at Backwoods. Their full menu is also available for you to purchase a delicious breakfast.



Phone Numbers for Senior Services

Montgomery Fire Department 862-4505 (Call 911 for emergencies)

Elder Abuse (24/7) 800-922-2275

MASenior Legal Helpline 800-342-5297

Hilltown Community Ambulance Assoc. 413-667-3277

(Call 911 for emergencies)

Highland Valley Elder Services 800-322-0551



est. 1848
Grace Hall Memorial Library
Montgomery, Massachusetts



LIBRARY NEWS

facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

February 2026

I love, till my heart is red as February and purple as March. ~Emily Dickinson

Yoga Classes: Join us for yoga every Wednesday night at 6 pm. To reserve your spot, please contact Chris Brown at chrisbro40@yahoo.com.
Music in Montgomery: every Thursday at 3 pm

Cookbook Book Club Will Meet on February 19 at 6:30 pm for Celebrating Rachel Ray. Bring your favorite Rachel Ray dish to share and find new recipes to try. Come meet fellow cooks and explore.



Make your own book marks station at the library. Stop in anytime and create a unique creation with our supplies of botanical and pop cultural stickers and wasabi tape. Or water colors.

Blind Date with a book will run through March 31. Help Yourself to one of our Blind Date with a Books. All are Rated 3.5 of higher on Goodreads. All we ask is to fill out the "Book Review" Bookmark and return it for us to post.



Winter Vacation in the Library!

During the week of Feb. 16 to 21 come celebrate Fairies & Dragons! On Tuesday Feb. 17 Fairies & Dragon crafts at 1 pm. On Thursday Feb. 19 Snowflakes and Stickers craft at 1 pm. Legos available both days for open play.

Coming in March: New England Ghost with Jonah Knight March 21 and High Tea with Cook Book Club March 19.

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

montgomery.cwmars.org

commonwealthcatalog.org

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