

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

TOWN CLERK News

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Monday, May 4, 2026
12:00pm - 7:00pm
Poll workers are always needed!

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, May 28, 2026
7:00pm

Please be sure and return your Census Street Listing Forms. You can drop them in the mailbox on the front door of the Town Hall. If you did not receive a form, you can obtain one on the website www.montgomeryma.gov under Departments, Town Clerk.

Dog Licenses are now available (see page 7). The license application is on the website as well. You are required to provide a copy of the current rabies certificate in order for the license to be issued. You have from April 1 - June 30 to obtain the license for 2026. A late fee of \$25 per dog is assessed after June 30th. Please be sure and include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the license mailed back to you.

The license is also available for pickup during office hours on Thursday evenings.

Thank you,
Cheryl Masciadrelli, Town Clerk
413-642-6927 • Clerk@montgomeryma.gov

MFD reminds residents open burning season closes May 1st

OPEN BURNING SEASON IS STILL OPEN...
AS OF THIS PRINTING

The Town of Montgomery allows open burning between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm January 15 to May 1. 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 the burn will occur on the answering service.

Burn area also must be at least 75' from any dwelling and a means of extinguishing the fire must be accessible.

The entire State of MA is still under drought conditions. The burn permit can be revoked at any time due to dry conditions and/or air quality so please get your cleanup done soon.

Open burning season will most likely close as soon as the ground dries.

Only brush and forestry debris is allowed to be burned. Spring time is the most common time of year we have unintended brush fires that can consume countless hours and many resources. Please call 911 if you have a fire get out of control as soon as you have concern so we can better manage the situation.

Thank You to Westfield

A big "THANK YOU" to the City of Westfield who has donated to the Montgomery Fire Dept a 2013 Ford F250 4x4 utility truck currently being refurbished (with MFD member donated labor) into a Wildland firefighting unit. We hope to have this unit in service within the next month or so

Check out our Facebook page for information regarding the MFD.

(Please turn to page 9.)



MONTGOMERY TOWN WIDE TAG SALE

MAY 30 & MAY 31
see page 6.

“Winter’s done, and April’s in the skies. Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!”

— Charles G. D. Roberts

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)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:
DAN FLECHSIG 862-8095

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:
PETER DEGREGORIO pdegregorio@grsd.org

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 x7
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

April Calendar

Apr. 1 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 2 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Apr. 8 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 9 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Apr. 14 10:00 am – 11am – Tai Chi - Town Hall
Apr. 15 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 16 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Apr. 20 10:00 am – CoA Coffee Hour - Backwoods BBQ
Apr. 22 6:00 pm – Yoga – Town Hall
Apr. 23 3:00 pm – Music in Montgomery – Town
Apr. 30 12:30 pm – 2 pm Cooking for One -
Community Room

May 25 Memorial Day Observance
May 30 -31 Town wide Tag Sale

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

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

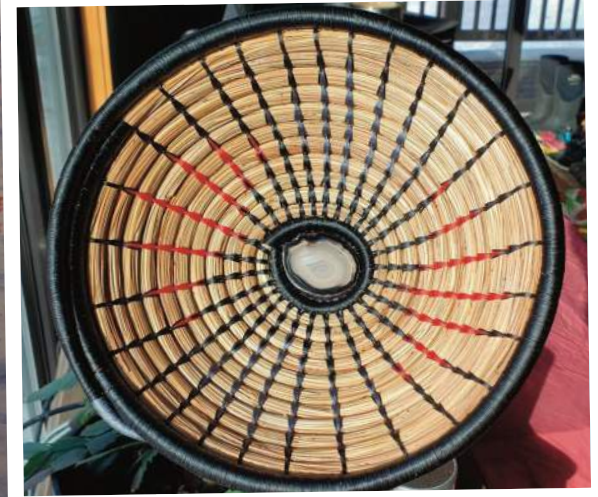
montgomerymtbreeze@gmail.com

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.



Wheel-throwing! Glass-fusing! Fun!

Making Pottery - hand-building and wheel-throwing! **Glass-fusing!** Watercolor **Painting!** **Basket-making!** **Herbalism!**
Lots of good things to do at the Gray Catbird Studio! So much to explore ~ come and join the Fun!

Starting April 1, **Watercolor with Dan Delisle** (Six Wednesdays for \$250),
5:30 - 7:30 pm,
May 30 **Glass-fusing with Denise**,
2:30 - 4:30 pm, \$65

Herbalism & Basket-making classes currently full. Stay tuned for more...

Pottery Classes: Ongoing (6 lessons for \$275):

Tues, 5:30 - 8 pm,
Wed 10:30 am - 1 pm, 4 - 6:30 pm.
Fri 10:30 am - 1 pm, 5 - 7:30 pm,
Sat 10:30 am - 1 pm.



Join our Wait List ~ contact info below.

TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES or WAIT LIST:

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



Gray Catbird
Pottery Studio



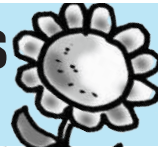
It's Spring! Look for queen bees , deer ticks and 50 degree temps

April is the month to:

- Encounters with adult deer ticks are high this time of year. Ticks don't die in the winter. They shelter under the snow and leaves and can bite on warm days
- Look for queen bumble bees on spring-blooming flowers.
- As day length increases, water and fertilize houseplants more often.
- Prune Roses
- Over crowded summer and fall blooming perennials should be divided now.
- Don't rake your garden beds until the temperature hit 50

GardenNews

by Chris Brown



for a few days. Pollinators are "hiding" under the garden debris.

- Wait until after apple and pear trees bloom to clear your garden beds.

Speaking of dividing perennials, the Library Friends will be selling plants and books as a **fund raiser** to support Montgomery Library programs, on **June 6th, 2026 at the Spring Book/Plant sale** at the Red School House on Pitcher St. Call or text Chris Brown at 413 364 1510 or email chrisbro40@yahoo.com to make a plant donation. Be mindful that army worms have been spotted in some of our gardens. Be careful with the transplants that you dig up to donate. More details will be in the next Mt. Breeze.

BAKED RICOTTA & ROASTED VEGETABLES

Again, thank you, Jeanne Aras. If you have a recipe to share, send it to Chris Brown at chrisbro40@yahoo.com

12 oz. cherry or grape tomatoes (halved if large)
1 medium red onion, cut 1/2" wedges, then cut crosswise
1 orange pepper, cut into 1 " pieces
1 tsp. fennel seeds, crushed
Kosher salt & pepper

2 Tbsp. capers roughly chopped
2 Tbsp. Olive oil, more for drizzling
5 cloves garlic, chopped
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar, divided
1 cup ricotta cheese/1 baguette

Heat oven to 425 degrees. In a 2 Qt shallow baking dish, combine all the veggies. Toss with capers, oil, garlic and fennel seeds plus one Tbsp. vinegar, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. pepper. Roast until veggies are golden brown, tender and are beginning to caramelize. Stir in the remaining vinegar. (40 to 45 minutes). Reduce oven temperature to 375. Nestle ricotta in the center of the veggies and bake until warm (10 minutes). Drizzle with additional oil, serve with the baguette.

APRIL RECIPES

MONTGOMERY TOWN WIDE TAG SALE MAY 30 & MAY 31

Hi Neighbors!

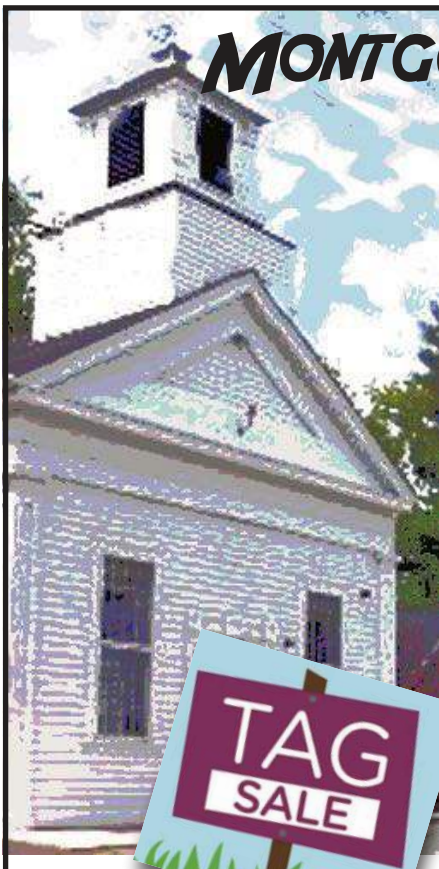
The Montgomery Town Wide Tag Sale will be held again this year on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday May 31. Here's more:

- **Email:** karanmiller@gmail.com by May 20th to participate. (please note spelling of email, KarAn)
- No fees to participate
- Tag Sale at your home –
* You choose one or both days * You choose the hours
- **Website** www.MontgomeryTagSale.com will be used again to list addresses and provide map to buyers.
- Promotional lawn signs will be placed at the end of participating streets and surrounding towns.
- The event will be advertised on various Facebook tag sale sites and the events page.
- Arrangements are being made to have a non-profit pick up any items you wish to donate after the tag sale.

More information to follow.

Looking forward to another great turnout. Call or email me with any questions. *Thank you!*

413-579-4896



Penny Social returns, seeking various donations

Happy Spring to all our Hilltown neighbors! Lots of robins have appeared, daffodils are almost ready to bloom, and the air is refreshing... (not counting the cold weather of the last weekend in March!) Welcome to Warmer Weather!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Children of all Ages – Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Last month, your Montgomery Historical Society announced plans for a return of the annual Penny Social like those presented prior to the COVID epidemic. Mark your calendars and join us at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 at the Town Hall for a fun-for-all-ages evening of bidding – and winning – some choice items donated for the Penny Social to benefit the **Historical Society's Scholarship Fund**.

At least one scholarship, but often additional ones, are awarded to a graduating Montgomery high school student pursuing further education, no matter what high school they attend. It is our hope that our townspeople will come out to support this event.

In last month's Mountain Breeze, we explained a bit about how a Penny Social is set up. It's easy to think of it this way: each "penny card" you purchase has 25 stubs (at 25 cents per card) to use toward the drawing(s) of items of interest to you. Also included on your "penny card" is a ticket that is entered in the drawing for door prizes awarded

Historical Happenings



during the evening. Items of greater value will be in a separate raffle for which you purchase additional tickets if desired. In addition, we will have a 50/50 raffle (separate ticket) which awards one-half of that raffle's intake to one lucky winner, with the remainder going to the Historical Society's Scholarship Fund. (Please refer to the March Historical Happenings for further information.)

To help insure the Penny Social's success, we are seeking donations of new or gently-used item(s) to be offered that evening. If your children have toys or games (in good condition) that they have outgrown, the children present will enjoy trying for such items in their own bidding. If you have a Christmas gift that you cannot use or do not want, we will gladly accept it for the Social.

You might consider donating the ingredients for a spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast, gardening items for the gardeners in town – pretty much anything that you can think of, we will be happy to have for this event.

Your donations can be brought to the Town Hall between 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 (the day of the Penny Social), or we can pick up your donations. Call Laurie (862-8095) or Julie (862-4539) and we will arrange to pick up your items prior to May 9.

Please give thoughtful consideration to aiding the success of this event, to benefit our graduating seniors' future. Your help and your donations are most appreciated!!!

REMINDER TO ALL GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

The A.P. Pettis Fund & Montgomery Historical Scholarships are available again this year. Applications must be received by May 1st. We use the "common application" available from Gateway guidance office or an application may be requested from menehunes_mom@yahoo.com.

The Grace Hall Memorial Library in Montgomery is home to a display case "curated" by your Montgomery Historical Society. Most recently, it has featured a collection of "Elephants on Parade," all sizes and types, loaned to us by Historical Society member Cindy (Dupelle) Church.

The new exhibit will be in place in the week of March 30, and will feature two different collections of Carnival glass. Originally known as "Iridill," production of these items began in 1908, inspired by such art glass as Steuben and Tiffany, but were not as well accepted so were highly discounted. They were eventually used as carnival prizes and became very profitable for the Fenton Art Glass Company producing them. Over 150 patterns were used, in many different colors. (More than 50 color variations have been classified, determined by the base color of the glass before application of iridizing mineral salts.)

When you visit the Town Hall/Library complex, be sure to visit the Library and view the latest exhibit while you are browsing the books and other media. Items in the display case are loans from people like you or from the Historical Society's collection.

If you or someone you know has collections or items of interest to the public, we would like to feature those in the display case. Please call Laurie at 862-8095 with any suggestions for future displays. Thank 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.





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



Music in Montgomery

*“Hello friend, I mean you
 You ain’t got to be shy or cool
 Grab yourself a chair, set yourself down
 Enjoy the music - It’s okay...
 Come on up, there’s room in the town hall
 For everyone.”*

– Adapted from ‘Room on the Porch’, by Taj Mahal



April 2 Barry Searle & Ravenwood
 April 9 Jerry & Kara Noble
 April 16 Ed Bentley & Friends
 April 23 Larry Southard
 April 30 Doug Pi & the Harmonics

May 7 Ed Bentley & Friends
 May 14 Kara & Jerry Noble
 May 21 Helen Arbour & Joe Nerney
 May 28 Larry Southard

June 4 Jerry & Kara Noble
 June 11 Barry Searle - We Three
 June 18 Ed Bentley & Friends
 June 25 Doug Pi & the Harmonics

“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.

Memorial Day event band update

When: Monday, May 25, 2026 at NOON
– Rain or Shine

Where: Town Center

Memorial Day, 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.

Come one – come all – this is an open invitation!! The fire trucks will be coming!! The more people who participate – the better.

Adults – I am looking for young adults to participate. It is completely VOLUNTARY, but I need courageous, young adults to do readings of “In Flanders Field”, “America’s Response” and the “Gettysburg Address”. I will also take any suggestions for other readings that are appropriate to the day.

We also have the band this year. I will collecting cash donations and/or grocery store gift cards to purchase Big Y grinders, individual bags of chips/pretzels and sports drinks and water. I will also not refuse any desert donations the day of the parade.

Please remember - it isn’t just a “Monday holiday” – almost everyone knows someone who served or is serving in our armed forces and that number seems to be growing by the week. Please take an hour out of your day to honor our service members & Veterans.

Any questions, I can be reached by calling 413-862-4949 or emailing me at paulachapman1962@gmail.com.

*Thank you.
Paula Chapman*



Outside the bird feeder with Lori Gero

SHOULD WE SET OUT PET FUR/DRYER LINT FOR NESTING BIRDS?

Researchers examined the fur lining in 103 nests of Eurasian Blue Tits and Great Tits collected in 2020. The species were chosen because, like our own chickadees and titmice, they virtually always line their nests with fur. Scientists found that in every single nest, the fur was contaminated with at least 2 pesticides—in some, as many as 11—each one in common veterinary use to protect livestock and pets. But are these pesticides actually dangerous for birds? The researchers discovered that the more of these pesticides present in the fur incorporated into a nest, the fewer eggs produced and the higher the chick mortal-

ity. Only provide hair from dogs that are clean and not treated with flea/tick preventatives as residue can be fatal to chicks. Likewise for dryer lint - It poses significant dangers as it turns into a heavy soggy mess in the rain that can kill chicks via hypothermia or cause nests to crumble. It also contains toxic detergent chemicals and can cause breathing issues due to fine dust that is breathed in.

So when it comes to setting out fur from treated pets or dryer lint for your local nesting birds, please, just say no.

Happy Spring everyone!



TOWN OF MONTGOMERY

LICENSE # _____

DOG LICENSE APPLICATION 2026

EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/2027

OWNER NAME/ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ OWNERS SIGNATURE: _____

DOG INFORMATION

NAME: _____ BREED: _____ SEX: _____ SPAYED/NEUTERED (y/n): _____ AGE: _____

COLOR: _____ OTHER DETAILS: _____

RABIES CERTIFICATE #: _____ DATE OF VACCINATION: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____ VET: _____

In reliance on the above certificate for payment fee of _____, the animal described above is licensed for the period of April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027.

Dated: _____, Town Clerk.

FEES: \$6.00 SPAYED/NEUTERED
\$10.00 NOT SPAYED/NEUTERED

KENNEL FEES AND DOG BY-LAWS ARE AVAILABLE
ON OUR WEBSITE www.montgomeryma.gov

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Tim Baker
Erica Coon
Joseph Coon
Trevor Coon
Kelsey Frye
Michael Gaudette
Gabrielle Goralczyk
Jerry Goralczyk
Jason Harris, Jr.
River Heeter
Mason Little
Rick Little
Mike Morrissey

Ed Ondrick
Louise Ondrick
Lyndon Ondrick
Gene Washburn
Dennis Wassung

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES Patty & Rich Little

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



Contact: coa@montgomeryma.gov or (413)862-3386 ext 7

Here's how neighbors are helping neighbors

Spring Cooking Class

In Christine Brown and Jeanne Aras on Thursday, April 30th from 12:30 PM to 2 PM, as they demonstrate how to plan and cook a healthy meal for one person or two. They will be sharing their love of cooking and their extensive professional and personal experiences in nutrition and cooking with you. A tasting of the meal and recipes will be shared. Class size is limited to 10 people. To register call 862-3386 ext 7.

Brown Bag Program

The Food Bank of Western Mass "Brown Bag for Elders" program provides a FREE bag of groceries to eligible seniors once a month at local senior centers, including Russell, Chester, and Westfield. The food items are specifically selected to meet the dietary needs of seniors for staying healthy and active. The Brown Bag program is for people over the age of 55 who meet certain income eligibility. Call (413)247-9733 ext 3005 to receive an application in the mail or go to foodbankwma.org.

Other Nutrition Programs

Did you know Highland Valley Elder Services has a nutrition program focused on elders? The goal of their Nutrition Program is to make sure that every person over

60 receives at least one nutritionally balanced meal each day. Their menu is created by a registered dietician focusing on national nutrition standards for older adults.

The Nutrition Program includes a home delivered meals program and meals available at local dining centers.

"It's fun to get together and have something good to eat at least once a day. That's what human life is all about - enjoying things."

- Julia Childs

The Home Delivered Meals Program: For those who qualify a hot, healthy meal can be delivered to your home. This program includes a daily check-in from a driver who has your well being in mind. Call (413) 562-0249, Home Delivered Meals coordinator to find out more.

The Local Dining Centers: At these community centers you can choose to have a hot noon meal and enjoy lunch with others or take a meal to go! For more information contact the Community Dining

Site coordinators at (413) 862-6217 in Russell or (413) 562-6435 for Westfield Grab & Go.

Tai Chi - meditation / medication in motion

Join Lenny Burlingame as he introduces us to the practice of Tai Chi, an ancient time-tested exercise program for health, mental awareness, and meditation.

The class takes place on Wednesday, April 15th from 10am - 11pm in Town Hall.

The class is open to all residents at no charge. The many benefits of Tai Chi include

reducing blood pressure, boosting brain health, and preventing falls in older adults. Lenny Burlingame has been studying, training, and teaching the arts of Tai Chi Chuan for over 40 years and is the founder of Whip City Tai Chi. (Visit whipcitytaichi.com)



Spring Cleaning Help

Well, winter is behind us and now it's time for all our spring cleaning! But, help is on it's way! We have three Gateway National Honor Student volunteers who can help with yard work, garden prep, organizing and cleaning out area, and other tasks. A BIG thank you to Lily Peloquin for helping



Join us at Backwoods Breakfast & BBQ on Monday, April 20th at 10:00 AM for our monthly Coffee Hour. It's good for you!

(Please turn to page 9.)

to shovel snow during the February snowstorm. Contact Debbie Koundry (203)558-2372.

NOTE: Seniors who had sand delivered for winter safety please hold on to the sand buckets provided for winter 2026-2027! More info to come.

Community Health Fair
Friday, April 17th
9:00 AM - 1 PM
Southwick Town Hall Auditorium
454 College Highway, Southwick, MA

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



No fooling, first of April no joke

April Fool's Day has a long history of elaborate hoaxes, ranging from media-driven spoofs to creative corporate marketing. Some of the most famous April Fool's pranks have fooled millions of people and gone down in history.

Here are some of the most famous April Fool's pranks:

The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest (1957): The BBC's news show Panorama aired a three-minute segment showing Swiss farmers harvesting spaghetti from trees. Following an unseasonably warm winter, the broadcast claimed the spaghetti weevil had been eradicated. Viewers called in, asking how to grow their own trees, leading the BBC to reply, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best".

Taco Liberty Bell (1996): Taco Bell took out full-page advertisements in major US newspapers announcing they had purchased the Liberty Bell to help reduce the national debt, renaming it the "Taco Liberty Bell." The hoax caused outrage until it was revealed, resulting in millions of dollars in free publicity.

Big Ben Goes Digital (1980): The BBC announced that London's iconic Big Ben was getting a facelift to become digital, with the clock hands up for sale. The announcement outraged many, leading to apologies from the BBC.

The Left-Handed Whopper (1998): Burger King published a full-page ad in USA Today announcing a new "Left-Handed Whopper" designed specifically for left-handed Americans, with all condiments rotated 180 degrees. Thousands of customers tried to order it.

Volcanic Eruption Hoax (1974): Local logger Oliver "Porky" Bickar placed 70 old tires in the crater of Mount Edgumbe, a dormant volcano in Alaska, and set them on fire on April

• Open burning (Continued from page 1)

We also have a junior Firefighter training program. Applicants must be 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!!
 The Montgomery Fire Department*

1st. Thick black smoke caused locals to believe the volcano was erupting.

Sidd Finch (1985): Sports Illustrated published an article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a baseball 168 mph, having learned this skill in a Tibetan monastery. Many readers believed the story, which ran on April 1st.

Colour TV Hack (1962): Sweden's only television network at the time, Sveriges Television, had a "technical expert" show viewers how to turn their black-and-white screens into color by stretching a nylon stocking over the screen. Thousands of viewers fell for the trick.

Google Nose (2013): Google introduced a fictional feature called "Google Nose," which purported to allow users to search for smells through their computer or mobile device.

Flying Penguins (2008): The BBC produced a video as part of a trailer for a nature series that seemed to show a newly discovered colony of flying penguins on King George Island near Antarctica.

Washing of the Lions (1698): This is one of the oldest recorded tricks, where people were invited to the Tower of London to watch the annual "washing of the lions" ceremony. No such event existed.

Corporate April Fool's Pranks in Recent Years

Duolingo (2025): Announced a five-year cruise in partnership with Carnival Cruise Line where passengers would learn 40 languages, with the mascot "Toss" people off the ship if they missed a day of practice.

ElevenLabs (2025): Promised an AI "Text-to-Bark" feature that would translate human speech into realistic dog barks.

McDonald's (2023): "Unveiled" the McNugget Boot, a pair of Ugg-style boots featuring the texture of McDonald's batter.

KFC (2025): Partnered with Hismile to release a "fried chicken-flavored" toothpaste. Unlike most pranks, this was actually sold as a limited-edition product.

Gathered from Wikipedia

RE-ELECT

Renee Carnevale

Collector/Treasurer

Proven. Trusted. Dedicated to our Community

Dear Neighbors,

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Collector-Treasurer. Over the past term, I have worked hard to ensure our town's finances are managed with accuracy, transparency, and integrity.

I believe in keeping our community financially strong while providing the highest level of service to every resident.



My family - Patrick, Dakota, & Phoenix

I respectfully ask for your vote on Monday May 4th, 2026

Vote- Renee Carnevale for Collector-Treasurer



My name is

Phoenix Whitaker

I was born and raised in Montgomery.

I've been honored to be selected to play in this year's **48th Annual Shriners Classic Football Game**, featuring the Massachusetts North and South High School All-Stars.

As part of my commitment to this incredible event, I am raising funds to support Shriners Hospitals. Please help me to raise money for the Shriners Hospitals and their transportation fund. Transporting children and their families to the hospitals to get the much needed and life saving care.



Or copy this link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/fundraising/phoenix-whitaker>

Please help me raise money for the New England Shriners Hospitals and their Transportation Fund!

Please Note: This fundraising platform charges the Shriners 0% fundraising fees to use it! You can also change the added fee they charge you to any amount, including \$0.00

You may enter any amount to donate, anything helps....

Your donations are tax deductible.



email me if any questions - phoenixw27@icloud.com

LINK -

<http://www.zeffy.com/en-US/fundraising/phoenix-whitaker>



Library NEWS

facebook.com/
gracehallmemorial

April 2026

Question: How would you like to die?
Walter Cronkite: In my sleep after celebrating the outbreak of permanent world peace.

BOOK & PLANT Sale NEW date of June 6

Stop by to our annual spring sale of Books & plants at the Little Red School house. We will be taking book donations at the library till May 25 and Plant donations the morning of the sale. If the date of the sale changes it will be posted outside the library and on our Facebook page.

Cookbook Book Club Will meet on **April 23 at 6:30 pm** for Easter Side dishes. Bring your favorite Easter Side dish to share and find new recipes to try. Come meet fellow cooks and explore.



Common Seed Program

This years "common Seed" is a Hopi Black Dye Sunflower. Sunflowers are a native , domestic crops with a deep history and versatility. In addition to its traditional uses as a natural dye and food source, the plants supports pollinators and thrives in a range of garden settings. Planting instructions and seeds are at the library.



Pastel Work shop with Greg Maichack Van Gogh Iris



A Hands-on Pastel Workshop For Adults & older teens This pastel painting workshop design for both sheer beginners to advance participants will be on **April 4 at 11 am.** Please sign up in the library.

Japanese art of Kinusaiga on May 16 at 10 am. Kinusaiga is a contemporary Japanese art form that combines traditional textile methods and modern materials. Please sign up in the library.



NEW MUSEUM PASSES

Zoo at Forest Park

Magic Wings

Springfield Museums

MASS MoCA

Hours

Tues: 10- 5:30

Thurs: 11-8

Sat: 9:30-12:30

Ebooks on Libby

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