MONTGOMERY MT. Breeze

September 2026
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PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN BREEZE STAFF

TOWN CLERK News

The State Primary will be held at the **Town Hall on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 7:00am - 8:00pm.**

In-person early voting will be on **Saturday, August 22, 2026, from 9:00-11:00am and 3:00-5:00pm, and on Thursday, August 27, 2026, from 4:30-6:30pm.** Please check the website to verify these dates and times as they are subject to change.

Postcards from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be mailed in mid-July to apply for Vote-By-Mail Ballots. Please return the postcards as soon as possible.

It is very important that you **check your voter registration status.** https://www.sec.state.ma.us/voterregistrationsearch/ Any resident who did not return their 2026 Street Listing/Census Form has been moved to the Inactive Voter list. Anyone who did not return the Street List/Census Form, will be receiving notification from the Montgomery Town Clerk Office with a card that needs to be completed and returned to be moved back to the Active Voter List. If you receive a card and have any questions, please let me know. The cards from the Town Clerk's Office will be sent out by mid-July.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

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

Bulk Drop Off scheduled for Oct. 3rd

Bulk Drop-Off Is scheduled for Sat. Oct. 3 from 8 am to 1 pm, behind the Town House.

There will be 2 roll-offs available for the disposal of household items. One is for metals and the second is for other household items.

It is open to Montgomery Residents only and each household is allowed to bring up to 3 medium sized items.

The following CANNOT be placed in the roll-offs:

- Tires of any kind
- Mattresses/box springs
- Computers/Monitors or TV sets
- Items containing Freon (refrigerators, freezers, A/C, dehumidifiers)
- No yard waste
- No hazardous waste
- No asbestos materials
- No batteries

Please Note: "White Goods", such as metal washing machines, dryers, etc are permitted.

This is a volunteer project, so you may have to help unload your items. Any questions, you can **call either Chris Brown 413 364 1510 or Karen Bouquillon 413 563 5433.**

Administrative News

A reminder that if you apply for or renew your FID or LTC on line you MUST come and see me with $100 to process the same. I found three residents that started doing their renewals but haven't been to see me and one resident who applied for the first time. Without naming names – the first timer started the paperwork in March – and three others did renewals – one in June one in July and one in August.

CJIS just did an update and I am not sure if I can access your telephone numbers – so please come see me. My next office hours are September 10 at 6:30 in the basement of the Town Hall.

Paula Chapman – 413-862-4949

"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here. With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer."

— Helen Hunt Jackson

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
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 Tuesday of the month

SELECT BOARD:
DAVID MILLER 454-1978
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

September Calendar

Sept. 2 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Sept. 3 3:00 pm - Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Sept. 9 9:00 am - 10 am - Tai Chi – Town Hall
Sept. 9 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Sept. 10 3:00 pm - Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Sept. 12 12:300 am - MHS Field Trip - Famous Poet tour
Sept. 16 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Sept. 17 3:00 pm - Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Sept. 21 10:00 am - CoA Coffee Hour – Backwoods BBQ
Aug. 22 9:00 am - 10 am - Tai Chi – Town Hall
Sept. 23 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Sept. 24 3:00 pm - Music in Montgomery – Town Hall
Sept. 30 6:00 pm - Yoga – Town Hall
Oct. 3 8:00 am - 1 pm – Book and Bake sale

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

Paula L. Chapman

MONTGOMERY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS
6:30 pm TO 8:00 pm FOR FIREARMS LICENSES ONLY.
Subject to change if necessary

September 10	September 24
October 8	October 22
November 5	November 19
December 3	December 17
January 7	January 21

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 (digital file) to **i2mtlak@gmail.com**, or mail to: Laurie Flechsig, 1699 Russell Road, Montgomery, MA 01085-9633. 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

Pottery and Art Lessons Offered:

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

GRAY CATBIRD POTTERY STUDIO

Upcoming Creative Workshops

Four Saturday afternoons to connect, play, and create

Glass Fusion Workshop

with Denise Beaulieu

Sat, September 12 | 2:30-4:30 p.m. | $65

Ages 10-100 | Maximum 15 | All supplies included

Build a brilliant little tapestry of rainbow-colored glass to brighten a window or illuminate a darkened hall.

Fairy Gardens

with Chris Southworth

Sat, September 19 | 2:30-4:30 p.m. | $45

Ages 10-100 | Maximum 8 | All supplies included

Create a whimsical fairy garden on a natural wood slice or ceramic plate. Connect, play, and create!

Dahlia Bouquet

with Mary Cantler and Lydia King, owners of The Gardens at Old House Road

Sat, October 3 | 2:30-4:30 p.m. | $60

Adults | Maximum 6 | All supplies included

Learn key flower-arranging strategies, then create a beautiful, bountiful bouquet of magnificent dahlias.

Glass Fusion Workshop

with Denise Beaulieu

Sat, October 24 | 2:30-4:30 p.m. | $65

Ages 10-100 | Maximum 15 | All supplies included

Build a brilliant little tapestry of rainbow-colored glass to brighten a window or illuminate a darkened hall.

Advance registration and payment required

Email graycatbirdpottery@gmail.com (preferred) | Text 413-875-5205

GRAY CATBIRD STUDIO

22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA 01050

Gray Catbird Pottery & Art Studio

22 East Main Street, Huntington, MA

September tips on winter squash, ragweed

September is the month to:

- Goldenrod is blooming now, a native pollinator plant.
- It does NOT cause allergies. Ragweed causes autumn allergies.;
- Winter squash is ripe when a fingernail does not penetrate the skin;
- Now is a good time to divide hosta; at the end of Sept. begin planting spring flowering bulbs.
- Wait until Nov. to plant tulips;

The above information taken from the UMass garden Calendar.

Plant sale of House Plants at the Library to benefit Library Friends Fund is ongoing.

SEPTEMBER RECIPES

PUMPKIN LASAGNA SERVES 8

Thank you Jeanne Aras for this latest recipe.

1 cup pumpkin puree (canned can be used)
1 medium onion, chopped
1 lb Italian Sausage (casings removed, can use spicy)
1- 28 oz. can tomato sauce
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
Salt & pepper
1 lg. egg
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 lg. zucchini, very thinly sliced
1 ½ Tbsp. olive oil
4-6 cloves garlic, chopped small
½ cup red wine
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
½ tsp. dried oregano
1 16 oz. box lasagna noodles
2 ½ cups ricotta cheese
½ cup shredded romano cheese

Heat oil in a medium pot, medium heat. Saute onions until soft, add garlic, cook for 1-2 minutes. Add sausage breaking it up with a spoon. Cook until brown. Pour in wine and cook until it reduces by half. Stir in tomato sauce, herbs and bring to a simmer over medium –low heat. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes more. Stirring occasionally.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook lasagna noodles (don't have to use whole box) as directed on the box. Drain when done and toss with ½ Tbsp. olive oil. Add one egg to the pumpkin puree in a bowl. Salt & pepper to taste. In a separate bowl mix ricotta and 1 cup mozzarella and the Romano.

Build your lasagna. In a 9 x 13" pan, start with the sauce, then noodles, spread ½ of the pumpkin filling, then ½ of the zucchini over the noodles . Top with ½ cheese mixture. Repeat the layers. Finishing with the noodles and sauce. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup mozzarella. Bake uncovered 35 to 40 minutes or until bubbly. Let cool 15 minutes before slicing.

WANTED: Road Supervisor

The Montgomery Highway Department is currently hiring for a Road Superintendent Position. The position is responsible for planning, directing, and supervising the activities and operation of the towns' highway department and will perform a broad range of manual work and operate motorized equipment in support of construction, maintenance, and repair operations for the Department. Candidate must have experience in management and operation and have all required licenses (see the full job description for required skills/experience/training). Existing CDL and hoisting licenses are preferred. Must pass a MADOT physical. Must also provide a current copy of your driving record from the Registry of Motor Vehicles to be considered for this position. The pay rate is $29.00 to $35.00 per hour (pay comparable to experience). The town offers paid health and dental insurance, vacation time, a retirement plan and 13 paid holidays. Please email townhall@montgomeryma.gov to receive a current job description and employment application. This position will remain open until filled. The town of Montgomery is an equal opportunity employer.

Not Getting Your Mt Breeze on time?

Full color issues of the Montgomery MT Breeze are always available Online at: https://montgomeryma.gov/document-category/mountain-breeze/

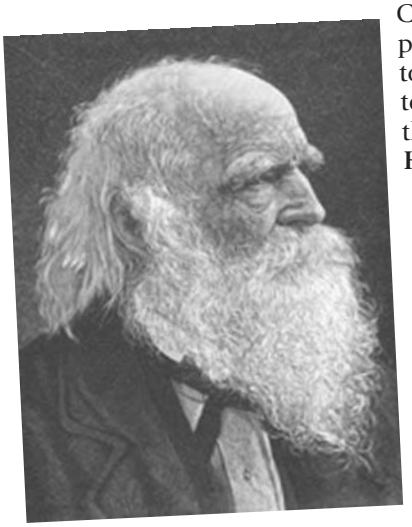
Field trip planned for guided house tour of famous poet

Historical Happenings

Over the summer, your Montgomery Historical Society hosted a program on the role that Western Mass. played during the American Revolution (late June) as well as two Open House events at the Historical Building/Town House (which originally served as the Montgomery Town Hall). Some of the visitors to the Open Houses came just to chat, while others were interested in knowing more about our little town. The planned hike to the site of the former Moore Mountain House was postponed due the wet conditions and in consideration of the overabundance of ticks in the tall grass through which we would be walking for a portion of the hike. Plans are being made to reschedule the walk for late October or early November.

COMING NEXT: We have a unique opportunity to tour the home and grounds of the late poet William Cullen Bryant in Cummington. The final guided house tours of the season are on Saturday, September 12, so we will need anyone interested in this "field trip" to call a.s.a.p. so that we can reserve our tickets by Friday, September 4.

The information provided by the Bryant Homestead invites us to "Step into the world of 19th century poet, journalist, and conservationist William Cullen Bryant at his beloved family homestead in Cummington, MA." (FYI, he was the editor and publisher of the New York Evening Post for many years.) The tour provides a look inside Bryant's preserved country estate, where he spent his early years and later returned for inspiration and retreat. One can explore period rooms with original furnishings, Bryant family artifacts, and sweeping views of the Westfield River Valley that inspired Bryant's poetry and environmental values.



History enthusiasts, literature lovers, or those who appreciate natural beauty and stories of the past will enjoy this tour. Bryant's meditative verse influenced the 19th century land conservation movement. The homestead includes pastures, fields, woodlands, and the Rivulet Trail along a trickling stream immortalized by Byant's 1823 poem of the same name.

Pre-registration is required for the guided tours because space is limited. Please call Julie at 862-4539 to reserve your spot. We will pre-register all who call by 5:00 p.m. on September 4. Free, self-guided tours of the first floor of the home are not available that date, so the trip will be cancelled if we cannot get tickets for the guided tour(s). (There were still tickets available as of the Aug. 24 Mountain Breeze deadline, so call a.s.a.p. and keep your fingers crossed!)

Any person(s) attending should meet at the Town House (Historical building) at the Town Center at 11:00 a.m. to caravan (or carpool if anyone doesn't want to drive) to Cummington. The guided tours are at 12:30 and 1:45 p.m. (each one hour long), and we will book whichever tour still has tickets remaining. Bring a lunch or snack to eat on the grounds when we are not occupied with the tour. **Call Julie (862-4539) with any questions… Hope you'll join us!**

The exhibit of Hummel collectibles in the display case at the Montgomery Library will be replaced at the end of August with a private collection of Depression Glass loaned by a friend of the Montgomery Historical Society. Be sure to check it out after September 1st, and look for more information in the October issue of the Mountain Breeze. Thank you for your interest in the displays! .

Employment opportunity

The Montgomery Highway Department is currently hiring for an Operator/Laborer Position. The position works under the supervision of the Highway Superintendent, an operator/ laborer will perform a broad range of manual work and operate motorized equipment in support of construction, maintenance, and repair operations for the Department. Candidate must have or obtain all required licenses within (1) one year of start date (see the full job description for required skills/experience/training). Existing CDL and hoisting licenses preferred. Must pass a MADOT physical. Must also provide a current copy of your driving record from the Registry of Motor Vehicles to be considered for this position. The pay rate is $26.00 - $28.00 per hour, (pay comparable to experience). Paid health and dental insurance, vacation time, a retirement plan and 13 paid holidays. Please email townhall@montgomeryma.gov to receive a current job description and employment application. This position will remain open until filled. The town of Montgomery is an equal opportunity employer.

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

Music in Montgomery

Sept. 3	Jerry & Kara Noble
Sept. 10	Barry - We Three (Barry Searle, Pete Rzasa, & Sarah Miller)
Sept. 17	Bob Cipolli
Sept. 24	Rob Adams & Dennis Avery
Oct. 1	Barry Searle, Sarah Miller & Ravenwood
Oct. 8	Ed Bentley & Friends
Oct. 15	Kara & Jerry
Oct. 22	Doug Pi and the Harmonics
Oct. 29	Bob Cipolli
Nov. 5	R & D: Rob Adams and Dennis Avery
Nov. 12	Jerry & Kara Noble
Nov. 19	Bob Cipolli
Dec. 3	Barry Searle - We Three (with Sarah Miller & Pete Rzasa)
Dec. 10	Kara & Jerry Noble
Dec. 17.	Ed Bentley & Friends

Special thanks to our anonymous donors who have provided supplemental funds for the musicians, July through September. Sponsored by the Gray Catbird Pottery Studio and the Montgomery Town Library.

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 COA

neighbors helping neighbors

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

Here's how neighbors are helping neighbors

Good Morning Neighbors!

The Montgomery Council on Aging members hope everyone in our town has had a wonderful relaxing summer with abundant gardens, enjoyable trips and plenty of sunshine!

We are gearing up for fall and are excited to share some upcoming fun events and helpful services for our community.

As our senior population grows, so do the needs and services that support their independence and well being. Consider becoming a member of the Montgomery Council on Aging, or just occasionally volunteering. You will inspire a spirit of community across the generations of our town, help find creative ways to engage older adults, and redefine aging. So join us in our mission to be neighbors helping neighbors. **To volunteer or join as a COA member please call 862-3386 ext 7.**

Stay Strong and Centered

Tai Chi for seniors is one of the safest practices to stay steady, mobile, and confident.
The focus is on slow weight shifting, controlled stepping, posture, and calm breathing. This combination is exactly what many older adults need to:

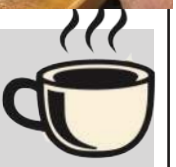
- Improve balance
- Reduce fall risk
- Improve flexibility, strength, and posture
- Enhance cardiovascular health
- Provide positive effects on mental health
- Reduce stress, anxiety, and depression

Tai Chi classes will be held on Wednesday, September 9th and 23rd from 9am - 10am at Town Hall

Let's Catch Up

Want to chat about your fabulous summer outings, vacations, and events from this summer? Join us at Backwoods Breakfast and BBQ Coffee Hour on **Monday, September 21st.** Remember Coffee Hour is every third Monday of the month from 10am - 11am. As always thank you to Backwoods Breakfast and BBQ for welcoming us to meet, for providing free coffee, and a local spot to get together.

Join us on September 21st for more fun filled Coffee Hours.



It's Fall Cleanup Time

Do you need a little help with some light fall cleanup chores? Cleaning out a garden bed? Raking leaves? Wood stacking? Or other fall cleaning tasks? National Honor Society seniors from Gateway Regional High School are here to help our senior community. For more information please **call 862-3386 ext 7** and leave your contact information. A member of the Montgomery Council on Aging will get back to you with answers.

What's in Our Closet? 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 call 862-3386 ext 7 and leave your contact information.**

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

Outside the bird feeder with Lori Gero

DOES A WOOLLY BEAR CATERPILLAR PREDICT WINTER WEATHER?

Legend claims a woolly bear caterpillar can predict the severity of winter — but is it true? Here's what to know about the fuzzy caterpillar.

Legend claims the size of a woolly bear's black and brown stripes can predict a harsh winter. Some even break it down by the length of each black stripe.

- The longer the caterpillar's black stripes, the colder the winter
- When the caterpillar's brown fuzz takes up most of its body, there's a mild winter ahead
- If the longer black stripe is by the head, the first half of winter will be colder
- If the longer black stripe is by the caterpillar's lower half, the second half of winter will be colder

If you're raising your eyebrows, your skepticism is warranted. As is the case with many such claims, woolly bear caterpillars don't really predict the harshness of an upcoming snowy season.

The differences in coloring result from differing molts. So, while observers might notice discrepancies from one woolly bear to another or different stripes on the caterpillar's bodies, this has to do with the caterpillar's life cycle and the resources available to it. Milder conditions with abundant food usually causes caterpillars to have wider brown bands.

Woolly bears overwinter under leaf piles, logs, wood piles, and in other cozy places. Their ability to survive cold is incredible: according to the National Weather Service, they can survive temperatures approaching -90 degrees Fahrenheit, and they've even survived overwintering frozen in an ice cube.

In spring, the woolly bear spins a cocoon and transforms into the Isabella Tiger Moth.

Happy Fall everyone!
From Birds and Blooms magazine.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sheri Bucko
Tanner Bush
Jeff Cinelli
Matt Frye
Donna Hughes
Rich Little
Fern Monat
Montgomery Moses
Lynn Moulton
Chet Ogulewicz
Anna-Grace Patenaude
Gerry Spencer, Jr.
Matt Stevens

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kathy & Jeff Cinelli
Tyler & Emily Heeter
Andrea & Nick Moses
Marlene & Dale Stanisewski
Carol & Jim Stevens

Condolences to...

Dorothy ("Dottie") Gore and family on the loss of her brother Richard Mileskie who passed away on July 11

Ed Jr. and Louise Ondrick and family on the loss of Ed's mother Carol Ann (Topor) Ondrick who passed on July 14.

En-Rich Healing

Open in Montgomery

Hello! En-Rich Healing is opening at Montgomery Market Place, offering Reiki for humans and their beloved domestic animals for relaxation, pain management, and support healing processes.

In-Person - Humans and smaller animals
60 min or 90 min

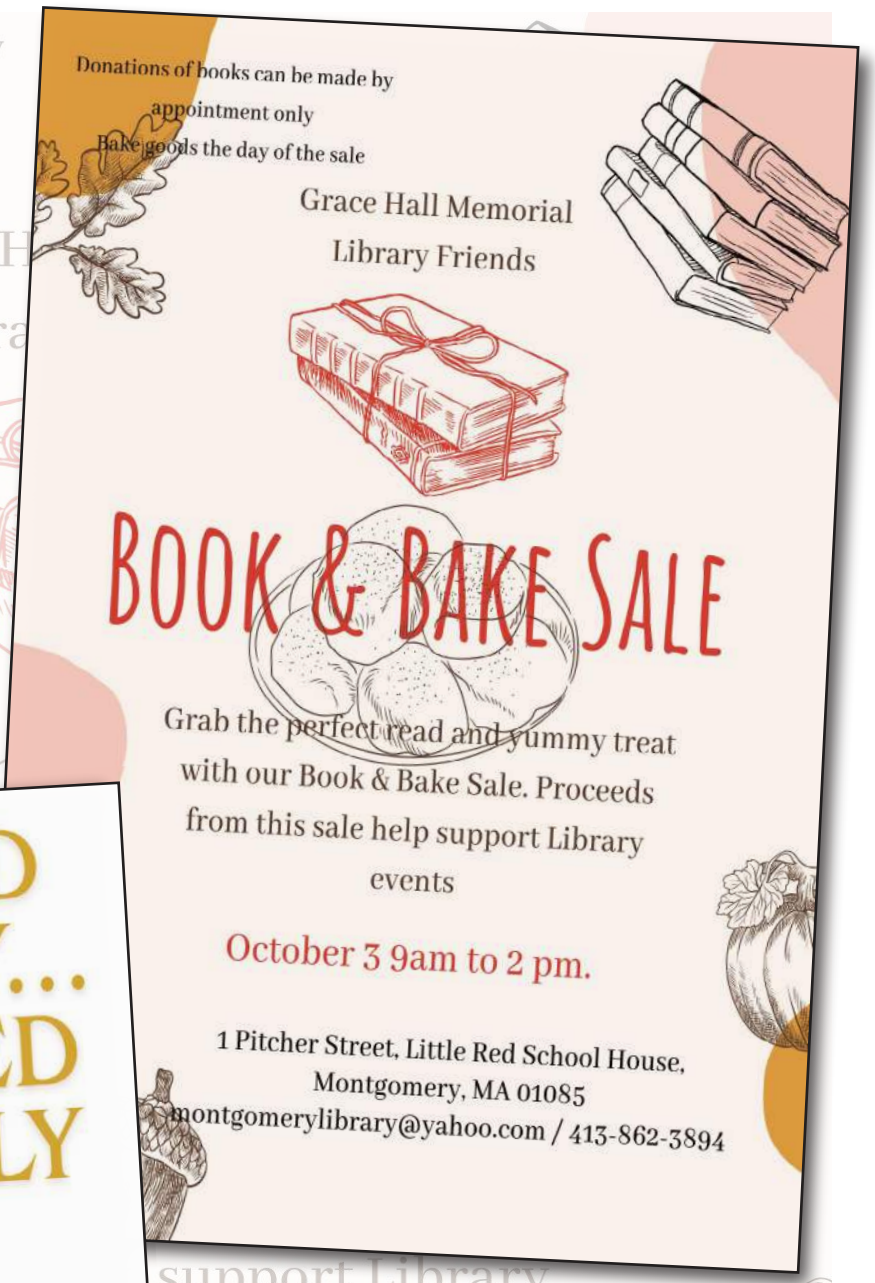
Online - Humans and animals
Video call or Zoom, 30 min or 60 min
Stay home and comfortable

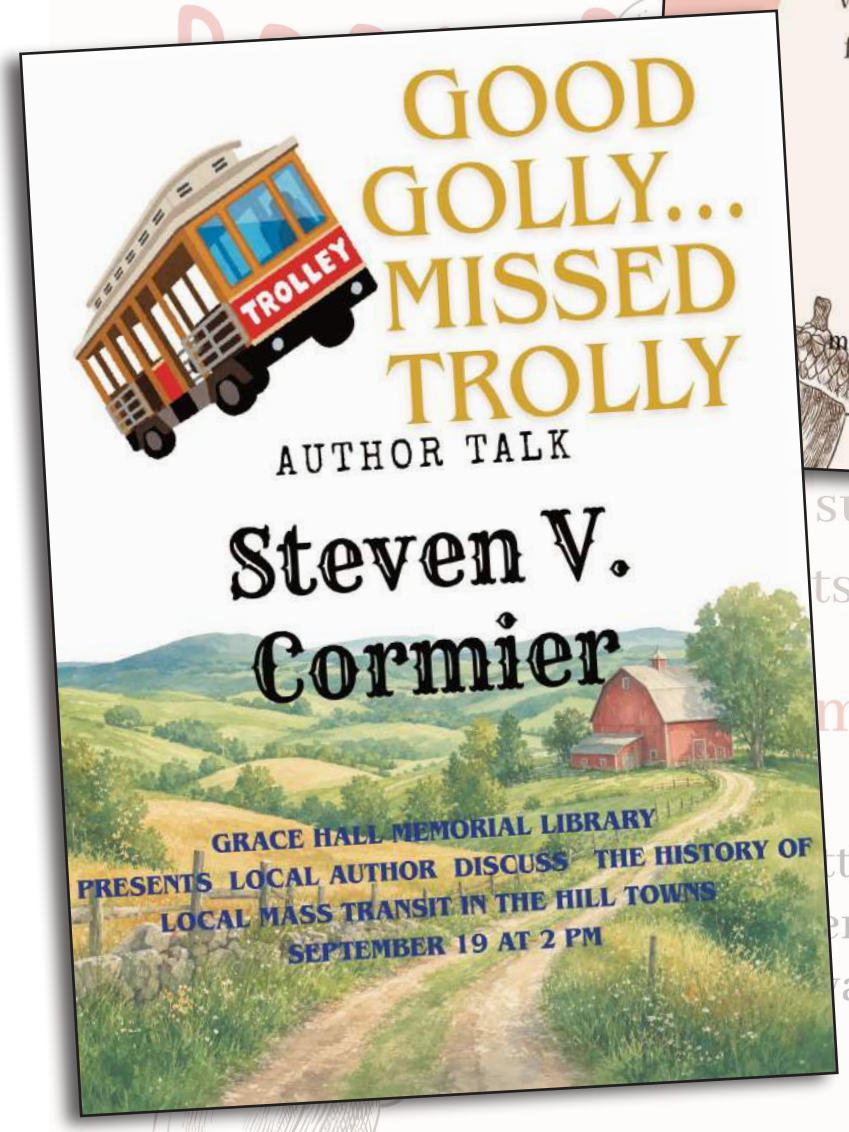
House Calls - Domestic animals and owners
Meet at home, farm, or barn
30 min or 60 min
20 mile radius from Montgomery with travel fees

Pricing
30 min - $40
60 min - $65
90 min - $85
Travel fee up to $20 (R/T)

En-Rich Healing Montgomery Market Place #7
617-721-6275 junko.reiki@gmail.com

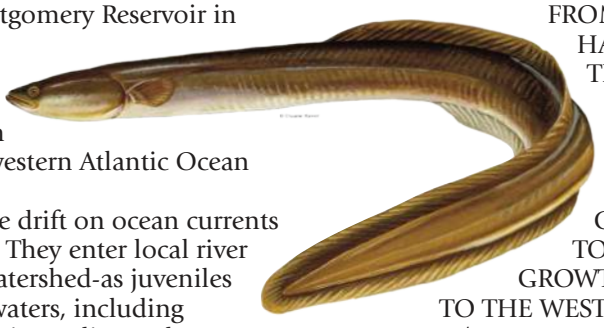
Don't miss these coming events!





Eel Migration to Montgomery Reservoir

Where do the eels in the Montgomery Reservoir in Montgomery Massachusetts come from



The American eels in the Montgomery Reservoir come from the Sargasso Sea, a region in the western Atlantic Ocean south of Bermuda.

After hatching there, the larvae drift on ocean currents toward the North American coast. They enter local river systems-like the Westfield River watershed-as juveniles and migrate upstream into fresh waters, including Montgomery's streams and reservoirs, to live and mature for up to 20 years.

Sargasso eels refer primarily to the American eel (Anguilla rostrata) and European eel (Anguilla anguilla), both of which share a fascinating and notoriously mysterious lifecycle. They are catadromous, meaning they live in fresh and estuarine waters but travel thousands of miles to spawn.

The Incredible Lifecycle

1. **Spawning:** Adult eels travel up to 10, 000 km across the Atlantic Ocean, gather at great depths (1500 feet or more) in the Sargasso Sea, spawn once, and die.

2. **Larval Drift:** The eggs hatch into ribbon-like larvae (leptocephali) that drift on ocean currents like the Gulf Stream.

3. **Glass Eels:** As they approach the coasts of North America and Europe, they transform into transparent "glass eels".

4. **Maturation:** They grow into pigmented "elvers" and then "yellow eels," spending 5 to 20 years foraging and maturing in rivers and lakes.

5. **Return:** Once mature, they transform into "silver eeis," stop eating, and begin the epic journey back to the Sargasso Sea. 9 Facebook Texas Parks and Wildlife +6

The Sargasso Sea

The Sargasso Sea is an egg-shaped expanse of water bounded entirely by four massive ocean currents rather than landmasses. Known for its thick floating mats of golden sargassum seaweed, it provides a slow-swirling sanctuary for eel reproduction and is then only place on Earth where these species breed. € Smithsonian Magazine

Conservation Status

Both species of Sargasso-spawning eels are critically endangered, facing severe population declines in recent decades. Threats to their survival include: ® Nature
• Climate Change: Alterations to ocean currents affecting larval drift.
• Obstacles: Dams and weirs blocking upstream river migration.

George Galipeau gave a wonderful presentation to our COA coffee hour on the eel that come up from Bermuda to our Montgomery Reservoir! The article in June about Montgomery history sparked his research.

FROM THE RESERVOIR IN TOWN THAT HAS EELS IN THE WATER. THEY TRAVEL THE FIRST STAGE FROM THE SARGASSO SEA BY LARVAE STAGE, THEY ARE THE SIZE OF VERY SMALL LEAF LOOKING THEN MAKE IT TO THE CT RIVER WHERE THEY CHANGE FROM OCEAN EELS AND TO FRESH WATER EELS, STARTS THEIR GROWTH CYCLE AND THEN THE RIVER UP TO THE WESTFIELD RIVER DISCHARGE IN AGAWAM/ SPFLD, AND THEN AT THE DISCHARGE FROM THE RES THEY CONTINUE UP TO THE RES. THE SARGASSO SEA IS LOCATED SOUTH OF BERMUDA AND THE OCEAN CURRENTS PUSH THEM UP TO THE NORTHEAST COASTLINE TO REACH A RIVER DISCHARGE

TOTAL TRAVEL TIME FROM THE SARGASSSO SEA TO THE RES IS ESTIMATED AS BEING 3 YEARS. WHEN THEY REACH THE CT RIVER THE MALES RETURN TO THE BREEDING AREA BY BERMUDA. THE FEMALES STAY UP TO 20 YEARS AND SOME DECIDE TO RETURN TO THE BREEDING AREA TO MATE AGAIN AND THEN THEY DIE, THE CYCLE STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN. AFTER THE MATING THE FEMALES DIE.

WHEN THEY MAKE IT HERE, THEY ARE NOCTURNAL AND IN THE DAY

TIME THEY STAY IN THE MUD OF THE RES. THEY MATURE IN THE RES AND CAN GROW UP TO 3 FEET. IF SOME AREAS WHERE THE WATER LEVEL IS LOW OR NO FLOW, THEY CAN CLIMB THE BANK AND WIGGLE ON THE DAMP SURFACE OF THE STREAM. I SAW MANY YEARS BACK, WHEN MY WIFE AND I WOULD MAKE MANY TRIPS TO THE RES JUST TO ENJOY THE AREA. WE WOULD PICK UP TRASH AND BOTTLES AND CANS FROM INCONSIDERATE PEOPLE BY NOT TAKING THEIR TRASH BACK. OUR DOGS WOULD JUMP INTO THE RES TO FETCH STICKS WE WOULD THROW.

I SAW ONE TIME, A CANOE WITH TWO MEN FISHING (ILLEGAL) AND CAUGHT ONE IT FELL OFF THE HOOK AND LANDED INTO THE CANOE, ONE OF THE MEN WAS SCREAMING AND YELLING IT WAS VERY LARGE. IT DIDNT TAKE LONG TO THROW IT BACK INTO THE RES.

UNBELIEVEABLE

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST;

THE RES IS APPROXIMATELY 51 ACRES AND 184 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER

ONE OTHER RES ABUTS THE TOWN OF MONTGOMERY AND IT IS THE TIGFE CARMODY, SOUTHAMPTON, AND ACCESSIBLE BY GOING DOWN

THE TRAIL AT THE END OF NORTH ROAD. THIS RES HAS 353 ACRES AND TOTAL OF 4,825 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER.

WHEN THEY REACH THE OUTLET OF THE CT. RIVER, THEY CHANGE TO GLASS EELS AND ARE NOW FRESH WATER EELS. THEY SHOW 2 EYES AND

A SPINE, BUT STILL ABLE TO BE TO BE CLASSIFIED AS GLASS ELLS.

WHEN THEY RETURN TO THE SARGOSSA SEA THEY ARE NOW SALTWATER EELS.

PHASES

fitness for women

A WORKOUT FOR ALL WOMEN AT EVERY AGE & PHASE

LOCATED IN THE MONTGOMERY MARKETPLACE
46 MAIN ROAD, UNIT 19

CURRENT SCHEDULE:

MONDAY 5:30PM - STRONG AS A MOTHER
TUESDAY 5:30PM - PHASES SIGNATURE CLASS
THURSDAY 6AM - PHASES SIGNATURE CLASS
FRIDAY 12PM - PHASES SIGNATURE CLASS
SUNDAY 5PM - SLOW FLOW YOGA

BOOK YOUR MAT:

PHASESFITNESSFORWOMEN.COM

September Library News

facebook.com/gracehallmemorial

September 2026

Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things. ~Robert Brault,

Cookbook Book Club, Will Meet on Sept. 17 @ 6:30pm

It's all about the Charcuterie Board! We'll provided the beverage.

Yoga is on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. Please contact Chris Brown at chrisbro40@yahoo.com to sign up.

BOOK & BAKE Sale , Oct. 3 @ 9-2pm

Hundreds of new books! Come help support the library. Funds from these sales sponsor events that the library can put on all year. We will be taking book donations by appointment only. Please call the library to schedule, 413-862-3894. Please no water or mildew damaged items, Readers Digest Condensed, Encyclopedias or text books. Bake goods can be delivered on the morning of the sale at the Litte Red School House.

Good Golly… Missed Trolly author talk with Steven V. Cormier on Set. 19 at 2pm.

Steven will discuss t he history of local mass transit in the Hill Towns.

Did you get some Lemonade? We would like to thank some of our young patrons who initiated to give back to the community with support to the library for children's programs and expanding the middle school age book selection. These items have been purchased and will be on the shelves soon. Hunter & Madelyn McCue, Emilia Wegrzyniak, Jaiden & Calliope Brown , Evelyn Green, Spc. Tyler Hebert, Jessica & Thomas McCue and Briana Brown hosted a Lemonade & bake sale on Aug. 8. They raised $490 for the library. See them again at the book sale!

Did you know we have… at the library? Passes to Springfield Museums, Mass MoCA, Zoo at Forest Park, DCR parking pass, and a limited punch card to Magic Wings! Plus more!

Coming in Oct., Galaxy on the Go for Seniors Oct. 17 @ 1pm,

Rita Parisi, Gothic Tales by Candlelight Oct. 24 at 2pm

NEW MUSEUM PASSES

Zoo at Forest Park

Magic Wings

Springfield Museums

MASS MoCA

Berkshire Museum

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.