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Monteville Mirror

Reflecting residential community life nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains
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The Old Mill Gets a Makeover

Photos by Greg Edmundson, story by Kathryn Klein



As two of Monteville's founders, Howard Hick and Van Whitman, watched the 1967 World Series, a Salem cigarette ad came on the TV featuring the Mabry Mill on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Inspiration struck: This would make an ideal "clubhouse" for the novel mobile home development they, along with co-founder Rey Retzlaff, were planning. After receiving approval for Monteville in 1968 and getting the Mabry Mill plans from the state of Virginia and acquiring 90 tons of fieldstone; after coping with a crane crippled by hefting rafters each reinforced with 1,000 lbs. of metal; after having to re-engineer the water wheel, which broke because the main shaft was not originally big enough to support the 14-foot diameter; after decades of prudent maintenance including the recent paint job captured in these photos ... Monteville residents still get to enjoy our wonderful community center!

Monteville Players — Murder and Mayhem

Photos by Erin & Greg Edmundson, Niki Nakada and Jackie Meadows



Technical crew dressed up!



Director Peter Bland



Both performances were well attended

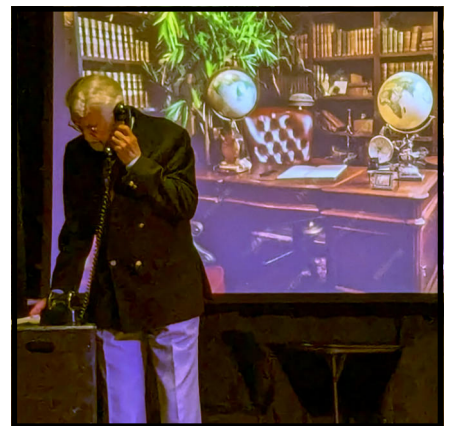


Popcorn and soft drinks were appreciated



The cast takes a bow and acknowledges the crew

June 13th and 14th, 2026



The check in team welcomes the audience



After striking the set, the cast was exhausted!

Gardening in July

Story and photos by Marian Brown

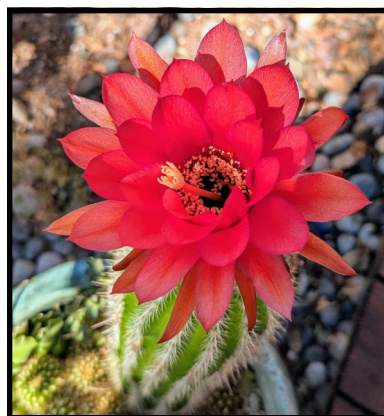
It's the quiet time of the year in many ways when thinking about what to do in your garden. What I do (and sometimes to the point that I'm exhausted but happy) is prune back the plants that have stopped producing flowers. This is the best thing to do to ensure the health of your plants and, importantly, to have the plant rebloom. I have had a wonderfully full array of flowers so far this year. From daylilies to penstemon, cactus to daisies, and much more, it's been amazing! I believe when we get sun and then rain, back and forth, in the early part of the year it stimulates the growth of the plants. How could it not? It's the perfect combination for our gardens.



Daylily and Daisies

What also helps is tending the plants by trimming where needed, mulching (which isn't something I do, but many gardeners are firm believers) and fertilizing. Fertilizing is so important during the growing season and many of us have our own routines which suit us just fine. Others, though, are not sure what to use, how much to use, etc. What I recommend, when asked, comes from personal experience and a lot of reading. I focus on the health of the plant while also considering the health of the soil and water systems where our additives end up. From the Master Gardeners of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties newsletter, they offer free classes discussing this, and many other, subjects. In fact, in August they are offering a class titled, "Improving Your Soil" at the UCSC Arboretum. The first sentence describes the class, "Healthy soil is the foundation of an earth-friendly garden!" Caring for the environment your garden exists in is just as important as caring for the plants we all cherish.

What I use to fertilize, and have for many years, is Maxsea All Purpose 16-16-16 water soluble feed. The reason I use this is because this fertilizer is a blend of seaweed along with other complementary plant foods. This product is sustainably harvested and is formulated to deliver natural nutrients without toxic runoff. The balanced formula is

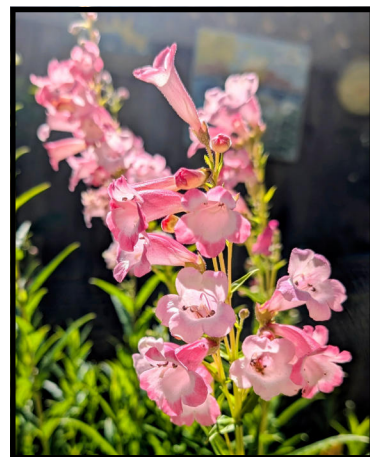


Cactus flower

beneficial insects and birds that enjoy our gardens. There are options to the blue fertilizer our mothers used to use. At this time of year fertilizing once a month is important for the health of many of our plants including the vegetables.

There are signs that a plant is struggling which includes yellowing leaves, leaf curling, and an abundance of insects munching away at the tender shoots. Spraying the bugs with a blast of water, as I've mentioned before, gets rid of invasive bugs and Nitrogen can help with the yellowing. Leaf curl could mean other measures need to be addressed such as fungus, viral infection or dehydration. If your plant is drooping, and the leaves are curling or dropping off, it may not be a fungus or a thirsty plant especially if it gets hot suddenly. Plants droop or drop leaves as a survival mechanism when they get too hot. Doing this creates a smaller leaf surface where water evaporates from and minimizes the stress on the plant. Check the soil to make sure it's thirsty before watering. When the days cool down, the plant will revive and you'll get to enjoy happy plants again.

As I mentioned, the Master Gardeners offer free classes held at the UCSC Arboretum over the next few months. On July 26 they're offering a class to help people pick out the right plants for their garden considering such things as how much sun you get, how you'd like to water, and if you'd like to focus on native or drought resistant plants. To find out more about this class, and others, check out the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden website, www.arboretum@ucsc.edu.



Pink Penstemon

Have a safe 4th of July (250 years old), enjoy the wonderful BBQ, music and community we are all so fortunate to have here in Montevelle. As always if you have any questions, please reach out. I'm in the book! Take Care.

Montevelle's Living Jewels

By Kathryn Klein

If you visit Montevelle's north lake, it's hard to miss the big, colorful fish that often surface when you walk by, hoping for handouts. But please don't feed them, as it disrupts our delicate pond ecosystem, degrades the water quality, and attracts unwanted predators. Instead, let them rely on their plentiful natural food sources like algae, insects, and vegetation.



With typical lifespans of 25 to 50 years (although there are reports of exceptional koi living more than 200 years), adult koi (*Cyprinus rubrofuscus*) like ours can grow up to four feet in length. Tony Steen, our Park Services Manager, says that several of our koi measure more than three feet long.

In Japan, these large, ornamental versions of the common carp are known as nishikigoi, which translates to "brocaded carp" or "living jewels," highly prized for their vibrant beauty and rich cultural heritage. Native throughout Eurasia, archeological evidence suggests that Neolithic farmers in China had domesticated carp as a food source more than 8,000 years ago. But it was the Japanese who, in the early 19th century, began meticulously breeding generations of carp to create the sought-after koi bloodlines characterized by different colors and patterns carrying auspicious meanings, such as gold for wealth, red for success, and white-and-red for career advancement. Today, the art of breeding and classifying koi has grown into a highly specialized practice with over a hundred recognized varieties.

Koi have a rich history in California. They were first brought from Japan to Southern California in the early 1900s and later cemented their legacy across the state as prized symbols of serenity and perseverance. In our region, the Japanese Friendship Garden in San Jose, which opened in 1965 in Kelley Park, features intertwined ponds



Tony and Michael Holzmueller transfer new koi

originally stocked with koi gifted from San Jose's sister city of Okayama, Japan in 1966.

A part-time worker at Montevelle, named Al Holzmueller, first introduced koi here more than 20 years ago. Al and his wife had raised their family in Happy Valley, and when their kids grew up and left had converted their swimming pool into a koi pond. After his passing, Al's adult children, Michael Holzmueller and Debbie Justice (a local landscape designer known for her work at Shadowbrook) were looking for good homes for their father's beloved fish. Knowing how much he had enjoyed the Montevelle community, they donated an additional 25 fish to join their older relatives that were still thriving here.

Koi are beautiful to look at and relaxing to watch. They remind you to slow down, take in the scenery, and appreciate the natural beauty we are fortunate enough to enjoy here in Montevelle.

COMING EVENTS

Sat, July 4, 10:30 am, Bridge
Pet Parade

Sat, July 4, 11:30 am, Lodge
BBQ

Thurs, July 9, 6:00 pm, Mill
Board Meeting

Sat, July 18, 4 pm South Pool
Pool Party

Rescuing a Baby California Grey Fox

By Jody Cramer

On June 2nd, I discovered a baby grey fox in my yard. It was very thin. While I was looking at it trying to figure out what to do, Norma Soletto (#179) appeared with a dish of water and some kibble for the fox. She had observed it several times in the preceding few days. Soon Steve Pitzer (#177) came along with his “have a heart” trap to try to catch the young animal. Since the fox had been seen about our neighborhood for several days, we assumed it was without its mother. I went into the house to call Native Animal Rescue for help, and when I came back out, Steve had picked up the fox and gotten it into a container. The transportation volunteer from Native Animal Rescue arrived about 1½ hours later. He had a large dog crate in the back of his van, and a pair of industrial gloves. He gently removed the baby fox from the temporary container and put it into the dog crate for the trip back to the rescue/rehab facility in Santa Cruz.

Grey foxes are the most common fox in California. They are a member of the dog family, and the only dog that can climb a tree. They live in woodlands, and babies are born in April, so our baby was probably only about six weeks old. Foxes are omnivores and eat fruits, rabbits, rodents, squirrels and insects. They are nocturnal, very shy, and seldom seen. I asked the transport man from Native Animal Rescue if he had picked up many other foxes, and he told me he had been a volunteer for 10 years and our baby was his first one!

Book Club Seeks New Members

As a result of falling membership, Monteville’s original Book Club is seeking new members.

The group was originally formed under the auspices of the Women’s Group and its members were all women. However, there is at present one man in the group and he would be more than pleased to have others join him.

We meet monthly in the afternoons on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the homes of members. Typically we choose books from the Book Kits made available by Santa Cruz Public Library, so there is no need to purchase any books.

So if you enjoy reading books and would welcome the idea of discussing them in a congenial environment please contact Sandy Sill #40, (831) 461-1013



If you observe a young animal that seems to be in trouble, please call Native Animal Rescue (831) 462-0726 or the California Department of Wildlife. Either one can give advice and assistance.

Please Don’t Park on Garden Beds



There have been multiple instances where people have parked on top of the garden beds in front of the lower Mill entrance. Plantings, and even the light fixtures are being crushed. It is okay to park there, as we need the parking spaces, but please stay on the asphalt.

Firewise Update

By Gail Evans

As most of you know, Monteville was recognized as a Firewise USA community in May. You should have all received a copy of our recognition certificate and plot map which you may share with your insurance broker in order to receive a discount on your fire insurance. ***Some Monteville homeowners have already received a prorated rebate on their fire insurance from California Fair Plan.*** If you did not receive these documents, please contact Steve in the Monteville office and he will provide you with them.

Now that we are officially recognized, there are things we are required to do each year in order to maintain that recognition. These include:

- an annual review to report the number of hours spent on wildfire risk reduction (for us, that is a minimum 220 hours/year which includes staff time);
- an estimate of cubic yards of vegetation removal; and
- a list of education events related to wildlife risk reduction.

In the near future, you will receive information on how you can report the above information to the Firewise committee.

We also will begin work on meeting the goals that were set in our action plan for 2027-29. In the first year we will focus on what is known as Zone 1, which is the area 0-5 feet from your home. Examples of those goals include encouraging homeowners to:

- inspect exterior siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks and warping, and subsequently fix any issues;
- remove any flammable materials such as wood mulch from direct contact with wood lattice under decks;
- cut down dead or diseased trees and remove overgrown vegetation from their yards;
- fill their green bins and track the amount for Firewise records;
- replace wood mulch with gravel/rock in Zone 1 (0-5 feet);
- remove stands of rosemary and juniper in Zone 1; and
- install reflective numbers on their homes (there will be more information on this in the near future).

We thank all of you for your participation in helping to make Monteville as fire safe as possible!

July Birthdays

1	Loren Wilson	18	Gavin Melford
7	Dean Welder	18	Steve Pitzer #177
9	Barbara Burke	20	Jeanette Roth
11	Jeanne Mulhern	22	Tom Fagundes
11	John Newman	24	Patricia Hilton
11	Lynn Igoe	26	Rick Hamill
11	Heidi Gerrard	27	Shelley Smith
13	Mike Renwick	28	Jane Melford
15	Robert Neal	28	Dick Swan
15	Linda Lunell	30	Linda Kerner
15	Susan Sandretti	30	Linda Johnson
16	Linnae Davenport		

Monteville Players Play Reading Group

Do you enjoy live theater? Do you like being part of a group of like-minded people who enjoy reading plays?

If so, why not join the Play Reading Group on Saturday mornings, to read a wide ranging selection of plays. No prior experience of acting is necessary, just bring your voice and a sense of humor. We can provide the rest.

If you're interested, we'd love to see you at our first meeting: **10 am – noon in the Mill on Saturday, July 18th.**



MEMORIALS

Ramona Galassi, #82
Karen Bonnie, #184
Gemma Bauer, former resident #9

Monteville Mirror

Artist's Page



Linda Johnson painted this watercolor of an abandoned cabin from a photo. The same subject was featured in the Mirror in October 2021. Check it out at monteville.org