

● Roxbury Newsy ●

Your community newsletter

April – June 2018 Vol. 3 No. 2

Chances are you are not reading this newsletter on April 1st, no joke! Why the delay you may ask? We had community members continually submitting content over the last week which means two things for you – you have a big issue in front of you and it showed up late. We think you will find the delay worth the wait.

From the Town Clerk's Office

2018 DOG LICENSES

It is time to license your dog (s). The deadline is April 1st but is extended to April 3rd since April 1st is a Sunday and our office is closed on Mondays. The cost is \$9.00 for a neutered dog and \$13.00 for an un-neutered dog. After April 3rd the cost will be \$11.00 for a neutered dog and \$17.00 for an un-neutered dog.

It is the law of the State of Vermont to license dogs annually. Owners of unlicensed dogs can be fined up to \$500 and/or the dog(s) could be impounded and destroyed.

It is the law of the State of Vermont that all dogs are vaccinated every three years. The first vaccination is only good for one year.

TAXES

The next property tax installment is due on May 11, 2018. The office will be open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Town accepts postmarked envelopes.

SUMMER HOURS

Summer hours will begin the May 4th. The Town Office will close at noon on Fridays (except for the day property taxes are due). Summer hours will end the last Friday of September.

2018 TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting was on March 6 at the Roxbury Town Hall (Village School). Fifty-two voters attended the annual meeting. One hundred and forty-eight voters voted for Town Officials and the Montpelier Roxbury School District articles. All articles voted on the floor passed and all articles for the Montpelier Roxbury School District passed in both towns.

CENTRAL VERMONT INTERNET

At Town Meeting, the voters approved the Town of Roxbury to join into a communications union district to be known as Central Vermont Internet, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch 82.

2018-2019 PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES

At Town Meeting, the voters approved the dates the property taxes will be due. The dates are the second Friday of August 2018 (10th), the second Friday of November 2018

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(9th), the second Friday of February 2019 (8th) and the second Friday of May 2019 (10th).

NEW WEBSITE - Reminder - new website address is www.roxburyvt.org

NEW VITAL RECORDS LAW

There are new laws on Vital Records that will start on July 1, 2018 that is intended to bring Vermont in line with national best practices to enhance the safety and security of vital records, provide greater protection against identity theft, and reduce the potential for misuse of these legal documents. It should streamline the process for greater efficiency and reduce administrative burden. An applicant for certified copies of birth and death certificates must have a family or legal connection to the person named on the certificate. Applications will need to be fully completed and a valid form of identification presented to the Town Clerk before a certified birth or death certificate is issued. The applications will be entered into the statewide vital records system. Town Clerks will be trained on the new system before July 1st.

2018 STATE ELECTIONS

The Primary Election is on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. The General Election is on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. The Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. for these to elections. Voting will be at the Roxbury Town Office.

CELL TOWN UPDATE

According to the Vermont Public Service Department, the company responsible for the cell towers in Roxbury is experiencing financial difficulties. The technical issues causing the outage in Roxbury are unrelated

to those financial struggles but the repair of the Roxbury facility is affected by the company's inability to build and maintain the network. A company representative has informed the Public Service Department the company will soon go out of business. It is anticipated that the network will soon shut-down. The Public Service Department is exploring its options.

GREEN- UP DAY

Green-Up Day is May 5th. Roxbury should be having the annual gathering. Please consider participating in Green-Up Day and keep Roxbury as clean as we can. Bring the trash that you picked up off the ground to the Town Garage. Green-Up bags will be available at the Town Office or contact Claire Chomentowski. There will be a tire collection at the Town Garage. Cost for tires will be \$2.50 each. If you have any questions, you can call the Town Office at 485-7860.

Earthwise Transfer Station in Waitsfield is also collecting tires on Green-Up Day.

There will also be a household hazardous waste collection for oil and latex base paints, primary batteries (AAA, D, 9V, etc) at no charge May 12th at Earthwise Transfer Station in Waitfield. Compact fluorescent bulbs at no charge, and up to ten 8 foot fluorescent lamp bulbs at no charge. Pesticides will be collected at no charge. More info will be out in April.

Do you have upcoming newsletters submissions, suggestions, or corrections to the mailing list? Please contact the RFL at librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org or 802-485-6860.

Roxbury School Boards

We thank both the Roxbury and Montpelier communities for the positive support of the district's budget and bond which were approved on Town Meeting day. The Montpelier Roxbury School Board is working hard on getting the district ready for its first day of operation on 7/1/2018. Creation of the district's policies is dominating the board's work load right now and many small procedural obligations for the creation of the district are filling in the rest of our board time. We always encourage public input and questions about the district, whether you attend the meetings or contact us via email or phone (Ryan: 485.4278 ryanzajac@mpsvt.org, Lisa: 485.4249 lisafrost@mpsvt.org). Please remember, even if you can't make a scheduled meeting in person, our meetings are broadcast on ORCA media and you can access the live streaming of the meeting or archived recordings of each meeting on ORCA's website (www.orcamedia.net).

All agendas and minutes for meetings are posted here: <https://www.wssu.org/Page/1062>.

Roxbury Fire Dept. and Auxiliary

Spring Yard Cleanup? Remember Your Permit for Outdoor Burning!

The peak outdoor fire season in Vermont is mid- to late spring. Most of these wildland fires are the result of escaped fires from open burning by homeowners. In preparation for outdoor burning, it is important to contact your town fire warden or deputy warden for a Permit to Kindle Fire. This permit is required if there is no snow cover; some towns require the permit in all seasons. Roxbury's warden is Tim

Martin (485-6555) and deputy is Don Randall (485-8341 or cell 272-3330).

Other safety tips include:

- clear flammable material around the area
- stay at the fire site
- have a water source and rake/shovel close by
- burn only natural vegetative material
- call 911 immediately if the fire gets out of control.

More information is available from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation at <http://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/fires/monitoring>

Roxbury Church

Roxbury Church's Soup-a-thon and Pie-pourri

Twice a year, In April and then again in October, the Roxbury Church miraculously morphs into a (self-proclaimed) multi-starred restaurant.

We serve a stupendous assortment of (all you can eat) homemade soups, plus a paroxysmal plethora of non-partisan pies.

Here's a heads' up on the soups you can expect to find on our upcoming menu: Carrot Ginger, Fish Chowder, Red Curry, Butternut Squash and Leek, Beef Barley, Turkey Yam Chili, Sausage Minestrone with Orzo, Garlic Potato, Thai-style Chicken, Split Pea with Ham and Bacon, Russian Cabbage, Corn Chowder, Beef Stew. There will be vegetarian and vegan options as well.

As for the pies, there will be too many to name, or even to predict at this writing. But if you don't find your favorite among the pies we offer, let us know and we'll be sure to include it on our fall menu, PLUS we'll give you a free pass at that time for suggesting it.

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So please save the date: Saturday, April 14th, between 5 and 7 p.m. The cost is still only \$8 a person, and children 10 and under, elders 100 and over eat free!

Roxbury Village School

Dear RVS Families: March 23, 2018

As the school year quickly comes to an end, the Montpelier/Roxbury merger looms on the horizon. With much speculation and anticipation for July 1st to arrive, I wanted to fully share the information that I presently have at my fingertips. There is still a great deal of work to be completed and important logistical decisions to be made, but I think this will answer a majority of your questions.

Montpelier/RVS Merger Updates!

- All budget items passed for the NEW 2018-2019 school year
- Since January, 2018 RVS teachers have been spending their Professional Development days with Montpelier to connect professionally and academically
- The merger is official on July 1, 2018
- RVS will become a PreK-4 school
 - PreK classroom teacher
 - K classroom teacher
 - 1-2 combined classroom teacher
 - 3-4 combined classroom teacher

Questions?

1. Is there school choice for students?
 - Residents of Roxbury in grades K-4 will attend RVS, the Board has no policy or provision regarding school choice between the elementary school buildings
 - Current Roxbury residents in 7th grade are NOT grandfathered in so they will need to attend Main Street Middle

School beginning fall 2018 for their 8th grade year

- Students currently in 8th grade are grandfathered in and can choose a high school, however they are encouraged to attend Montpelier High School.
- Students currently in grades 9-11 are also grandfathered in the school currently enrolled, however they too can switch to Montpelier High School.

2. What are the transition plans for FUTURE, grade 5-7 students?

- RVS is sharing family contact information with Main Street Middle School (MSMS)
- A visit to MSMS is scheduled in the Spring (more information to follow)

3. What about bussing?

- Bussing will be provided for the morning and afternoon runs at RVS
- Two busses will perform a route in the morning, arriving at RVS at approximately 7:20am
- The two busses will depart RVS at 7:25 AM, one going to the high school and one going to the middle school
- One bus will depart RVS in the afternoon
- One bus with grade 5-12 students will depart Montpelier and drop students at RVS where families will need to pick up their loved ones (The exact drop off time is TBD)

4. Will there still be an after-school program?

- The after-school program, known as Bridges, will continue
- Late bussing is still being discussed

5. Will there still be private after school, pre-school care from 11:00-5:00pm?

- Yes, this will continue in the PreK classroom

I hope this answers many of the questions you had. I will continue to share all of the information that comes my way. If something is unclear, please call (485-7768) or email me (brownellb@wssu.org) with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Brownell
Principal, Roxbury Village School

Roxbury Free Library Notes

Greetings Roxbury,
What are things looking like this spring and early summer at the RFL? Here are a couple happenings we can share now. If you haven't filed your taxes yet and need help let us know soon. A generous community member is able to help file simple personal tax forms for community members who make less than \$54,000 annually. Contact the RFL to schedule an appointment (485-6860). The Roxbury Book Club has the following books lined up for the next couple of months; please join in the conversation if you're interested - *Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood (April), and *Margaret Fuller* by Meagan Marshall (May). The RFL board will be hosting the annual Green Up Day book sale at the community center on May 5th starting at 10:00. To help us manage the flow of donations we will only be accepting book donations for the book sale the day before the sale (5/4) or the morning of Green Up day in the community center. In the beginning of June we expect to move to

summer hours which means we will not be open on Wednesdays again until the fall.

Are you one of the folks who looks forward to April every year so you can celebrate everything poetry? If so, join the RFL in supporting National Poetry Month this April. Roxbury has at least 3 community members who are published poets. Not sure who, stop in and find out. As for programming, we are wrapping up some after school programming in April. Then, on the evening of April 17th we will be showing a film on the modern women's movement. We are planning a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk by the No Strings Marionette again in coordination with RVS, but don't have a date confirmed yet. We are expecting to have the Arts Bus stop in late June instead of July this year, so stay posted for that.

One last note, we have been helping several community members recently with employment needs. We will use this space to remind all of our community members that the RFL offers tools and services for anyone seeking employment. Some of the services available to you are free resume paper, access to the internet and computers, resume and cover letter templates, career guidance databases, and access to free online classes to boost your resume. Please stop by and take advantage of it all if you are in the job market.

Announcement

Some community members are planning a Roxbury Craft Fair for this fall. No details are available yet about a date or location. However, anyone who is interested in making items for the sale now has an extended early warning regarding the event so you have ample time to prepare.

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Justin Coutts

Recently, our dear friend Justin Coutts was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Justin is a life-long resident of Northfield VT.. After many years as a professional meat cutter he started a contracting business. Justin has built amazing relationships with his customers. He always goes above and beyond to get the work done and get it done correctly. He believes in second chances and often hires people who could use one. He bravely plans to enjoy his last few months to the fullest, but he is unable to work. We are raising money for expenses and to allow him the resources to make some lasting memories for his friends and family.

Join us in making a donation for our amazing son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend to all!! Let's step up and lend a hand to this guy who'd give the shirt off his back to anyone.

JustinStrong t-shirts by Lesskia Lawliss are available (Small to Large for \$20; XL or larger for \$25. Contact Jessika on facebook). Contact Trinia Cookson about other donation or fundraising options (485-3501).

Thank you in advance!

Roxbury Website

"The Town of Roxbury's new website is up and ready to grow! Please visit www.roxburyvt.org and check it out! Let us know what kind of information and resources you would like to see! Questions, suggestions, comments, and local events calendar items for the website can be sent to roxburyvtwebmaster@gmail.com

Justin Strong

"Vermont's Lifeblood"

By Caitlyn Santi

Smoke plumes into the late winter sky.

Steam sifts from the opening in the sugar house roof.

Vermont's Green Mountains stand like protective sentinels all around me.

I approach the pan of sap that is busily boiling and watch the liquid slowly getting darker brown.

I scoop a spoonful of the amber goodness then move outdoors into the cool air.

The dark sky stares down at me.

Stars wink at me, I firmly believe they shine brighter in Vermont than anywhere else in the world, and it seems they agree.

Then I tilt back my head and swallow the hot maple.

Perfection!

A taste of heaven on earth!

Let me just put it plain and simple, we, as Vermonters are the heart and soul of Vermont.

Integrity is our middle name.

Just like the flag says we live and breathe freedom and unity.

And the same as the maple trees that dot our landscape, maple syrup is the lifeblood that flows through our veins.

We will never be defeated because out here in our little corner of the world others may try to cut us, but we always bleed pure and sweet maple syrup!

Community Calendar April to June 2018

MON	4/2/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
MON	4/2/2018	Roxbury School District and WSSU meeting at 5:00 in the Brown Library
TUE	4/3/2018	Dog licensing deadline
WED	4/4/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
THU	4/5/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
FRI	4/6/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
TUE	4/10/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
WED	4/11/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
WED	4/16/2018	Auditors meeting in the Town Office
MON	4/16/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
MON	4/16/2018	First day of RVS Spring Break
TUE	4/17/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
TUE	4/17/2018	Film showing at the RFL
WED	5/2/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in RVS
THU	5/3/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
FRI	5/4/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
FRI	5/4/2018	Summer hours commence at the Town Office
FRI	5/5/2018	Green Up Day 2018 (Cleaning; Book sale & raffle)
MON	5/7/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
TUE	5/8/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
FRI	5/11/2018	Property taxes due today
TUE	5/15/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
WED	5/16/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
WED	5/16/2018	Auditors meeting in the Town Office
WED	5/16/2018	RVS early dismissal today
MON	5/21/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
FRI	6/1/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
MON	6/4/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
WED	6/6/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
THU	6/7/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
TUE	6/12/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
FRI	6/15/2018	Last day of school at RVS (dependent on school closings)
MON	6/18/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
WED	6/20/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
WED	6/20/2018	Auditors meeting in the Town Office

Please note, board meeting schedules change so check the official posting places for each of these boards to verify the above meetings will occur as listed here before you travel to attend.