

● Roxbury Newsy ●

Your community newsletter

January – March 2018 Vol. 3 No. 1

Happy New Year Roxbury, welcome to 2018. You will find in this issue of the Newsy a lot of what is happening in Roxbury at the beginning of the new calendar year. Please remember, future newsletters will only improve with more suggestions and content from you, the Roxbury community, so please keep them coming.

From the Town Clerk's Office

2018 DOG LICENSES

In January, residents can start licensing their dogs. The cost is \$9.00 for a neutered dog and \$13.00 for an un-neutered dog. After April 1st the cost will be \$11.00 for a neutered dog and \$17.00 for an un-neutered dog. Usually in March there is a Rabies Clinic at the Town Garage. A notice will be posted when a date is scheduled.

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.

TAXES

The next property tax installment is due on February 9, 2018.

2018 TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting is on March 6 at the Roxbury Town Hall (Village School). The deadline to register to vote is March 6. Deadline for submitting petitions for office is January 29. The number of signatures of legal voters of Roxbury is 7. Deadline for submitting

articles for the Town Meeting Warning is January 18. The number of signatures of legal voters of Roxbury for the petition is 27.

Since the merger of the Montpelier Roxbury School District took place this past summer, there are three new positions that the voters of Montpelier and Roxbury will need to fill. Those positions are School District Clerk, School District Treasurer and School District Moderator. The number of signatures of the legal voters of Montpelier and Roxbury on the petition for these positions is 30. If you any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 485-7840.

NEW WEBSITE

The Roxbury Selectboard has appointed Andre Souigny Roxbury's Webmaster after the resignation of Alan Waterman. Andre has worked hard this fall creating a new website. The new website address is www.roxburyvt.org. The Board appreciates the time Alan Waterman has spent on keeping the website up to date. The Board also wants to express gratitude to Nina Govoni for the work she did this past summer updating the old website so that it was manageable and *(continued on next page)*

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easier to use. Roxbury is lucky to have such dedicated people helping the Town. Please check out the new website.

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

Roxbury School Boards

The Montpelier Roxbury School Board held its first meeting on October 18th. Since then we have focused primarily on the budget for next year, with an emphasis on a smooth merger transition. We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, and every 4th meeting is in Roxbury. However, in January, we will have three meetings: Saturday January 6th at 5 pm, Wednesday January 10th at 7 pm, and Wednesday January 17th at 7 pm. Feel free to check the website calendar at:

<https://www.wssu.org/Page/2#calendar1/20180117/month>. We welcome public input, whether you attend the meetings or contact us via email or phone (Ryan: 485.4278 zajacr@wssu.org, Lisa: 485.4249 frost.lisa@gmail.com). Our next few meetings will focus solely on the budget, where the Superintendent, Business Manager, and leadership team will present their proposal. By mid-January the finalized draft will be submitted. There are many variables that go into each town's tax rate, and while we don't have precise numbers at this time, we expect Roxbury resident's taxes to go down by as much as is possible (the state allows for a 5% maximum decrease of any district in the first few years of a merger).

While drafting the budget, the team is following the Act 46 merger proposal quite closely. A few specific examples: hiring a full time Principal for RVS, and providing school day transportation to Montpelier as well as an 'activities van' for Roxbury students returning later in the day.

We understand that with this transition there are questions and uncertainty, so please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions. We will do our best to disseminate decisions and information quickly. 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>.

The Vermont Farm and Forest School at The Barn Yard ~ Roxbury

Now taking signups for summer camp
Summer Camp 2018

June 25-29 Wild Wild Animals

July 16-20 All About Seeds & Bugs

July 23-27 Survival Adventures

July 30-Aug 3 Global Village

more details at www.thebarnyardvt.com

Community Calendar January to March 2018

Tue	1/2/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Thu	1/4/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
Fri	1/5/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
Sat	1/6/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 5:00 in the MHS library
Mon	1/8/2018	Roxbury School District meeting at 6:00 in the RVS Library
Mon	1/8/2018	Roxbury Adult Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
Tue	1/9/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
Wed	1/10/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
Mon	1/15/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	1/16/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
Wed	1/17/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
Thu	2/1/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
Fri	2/2/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
Mon	2/5/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Mon	2/5/2018	Roxbury Adult Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
Wed	2/7/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
Fri	2/9/2018	Property taxes due today
Tue	2/13/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
Mon	2/19/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	2/20/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
Wed	2/21/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Thu	3/1/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
Fri	3/2/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
Mon	3/5/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	3/6/2018	Town Meeting Day 2018
Wed	3/7/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Tue	3/13/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
Mon	3/19/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	3/20/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
Wed	3/21/2018	Montpelier-Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library

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.

Roxbury Village School

January 2018 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

RVS teachers and students are looking forward to a fantastic 2018!

- RVS teachers will begin their connection with the Montpelier teachers through some scheduled professional development days. These professionals will have the opportunity to make necessary connections and plan for the future. We are all looking forward to this new chapter!

February –

- On 2/9 RVS will be holding parent/teacher conferences. This is a great point to check in with families and monitor progress made and establish a plan for the remainder of the school year.

- RVS students will be showing some “love” on Valentine’s Day, which takes place on a Wednesday this year. Students will share heart felt cards and treats to celebrate this occasion.

- RVS will enjoy a winter break the week of 2/26

March –

- School resumes on Wednesday, 3/7 following the winter break.

- Happy St. Patrick’s Day! RVS students will certainly be wearing their green and learning about this popular holiday that allows everyone to be Irish for one special day!

Roxbury seniors host weekly lunches each Monday at 12:00 in the Community Center. Please RSVP to Claire Chomentowski (485-7779) the night before if you plan to attend.

Roxbury Free Library Notes

In 2018 the RFL promises to keep you entertained and informed. To meet that promise we will continue offering hours of operation on Wed. mornings from 8:00 – 11:00 in addition to normal hours on Tues.,

Thurs., and Sat. The “informed” part will be met with the ever expanding print and digital collections at the RFL. The “entertainment” part will be met with both the collection offerings as well as programming and service outreach. We highlighted a couple of the planned programs in the end of this section.

The RFL board will have at least one vacancy that will be voted on at Town Meeting 2018. If you are interested in getting involved with the RFL board of trustees please either contact the library or the board chair, Jane Pincus, with any questions about responsibilities and duties for those positions.

We hope to offer this winter a story hour session, a computer building program and Shakespeare reading. Please share thoughts on what else you would like to see offered in the near future. We would like to offer the story hour session for our youngest readers on Wed. mornings. If you or someone you know is interested in attending a fun weekly story hour program please let us know.

The Roxbury Book Club will be meeting at 7:00 in the RFL on the following dates to discuss the respective books. No reservation is required for any of these meetings. January 8 – The Velveteen Daughter by Laurel Davis Huber; February 5 – The Winter Vault by Anne Michaels; March (date to be determined) – News of the World by Paulette Jiles.

Learn How to Build a Computer at the Roxbury Free Library!

Have you ever wondered how your computer actually works? Are you tired of depending on tech support over the phone to resolve computer problems you think you could probably fix (*continued on back page*)

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yourself? Spend an afternoon at the RFL this winter as we walk through the steps of designing and building a computer from the ground up. We will have all the materials ready to construct a computer during the program. No date is confirmed for this program, but we plan to offer this program in early February. Please contact the RFL with questions and to sign up.

Shakespeare's "Tragedy of Othello" at the Roxbury Free Library

Infidelity. Pride. Jealousy. Retribution. Insecurity. Anger. Racism. Prejudice, Misogyny, and yes, even Murder.

Unfortunately, these elements are part of human existence and have plagued us for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years. Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Othello/The Moor of Venice", likely written in 1603, exposes all these human traits and emotions, and it does so in such a way as to make the play truly poignant and frighteningly timeless. Othello, a black, mercenary general, is led to believe his wife is unfaithful to him by a jealous and deceitful Iago who is bent on retribution after being passed over for a military position he desired. Or is this really the case? The play ends in a tragic unfolding of events resulting in murder and tragic loss. Perhaps you'd like to learn more about Shakespeare's writing. Or, you may feel a bit intimidated by the language and the text. Why not join me in a dramatic reading of Othello at the Roxbury Free Library. My goal is to make the play interactive and accessible to anyone, and to connect the play to our lives and times. I taught "Othello" for twenty years, and I feel that the play is like an old friend to me that I want to revisit.

Come and share this experience with me at the Library.

All books will be provided with no charge. I estimate that it will require five or six session at approximately an hour to an hour-in-a-half in length.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact me via email or phone. Once we know how many folks are interested, we will create a schedule that can hopefully accommodate all participants.

Thanks kindly, Norm Vandal

Community Ice Rink

Did you know that as you are reading this there is a 45' x 50' slab of ice in downtown Roxbury waiting for you to come and play on? Thanks to the generous support of our community members and surrounding businesses we have a free and open ice rink ready for you. You name the game - curling, broomball, figure skating, or whatever, go have fun. The rink is between the Fire Station and the Town Office. Please use the parking lot at the Town Office for rink parking, and do not park in front of the Fire Station. If you are interested in getting involved and helping maintain the rink this winter please contact Ryan Zajac at 485-4278.

Roxbury Food Shelf

The Roxbury food shelf is located at the Union Congregational Church of Roxbury. Our usual hours are Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:00, then from 3:30 to 5:00. In an emergency, don't hesitate to call Claire Chomentowski and leave a message, at 485-7779. Do not be put off that the cat answers the phone. That's the least he can do to earn his rodents and board.