

# ● Roxbury Newsy ●

*Your community newsletter*

July – September 2018 Vol. 3 No. 3

We are beginning with this issue our third year of production of the Roxbury Newsy. With all the trends in declining newspaper sales we are proud to have been able to stake a solid claim on the Roxbury VT. newspaper market and still be here today! Thanks again to all the contributors who provided the content for the last two years.

## ***From the Town Clerk's Office***

### **2018 DOG LICENSES**

There are still dogs that are not licensed. To avoid legal action, owners of unlicensed dogs MUST license their dogs.

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 expected due date for property taxes is August 10th for the first payment. Tax bills must be mailed thirty days prior to due date. The Town Officials are stilling waiting for the State to tell them what the school tax rate will be. Hopefully, the Town will be informed of the tax rates in time to send the tax bills out for the August 10th payment.

### **SUMMER HOURS**

Summer hours will began May 4th. The Town Office closes at noon on Fridays

(except for the day property taxes are due). Summer hours will end the last Friday of September.

### **CELL TOWER UPDATE**

The cell towers in the village seem to be working. For how long, who knows. But it is very nice to have cell service and as an added perk, AT&T phones are working too. Thank you, Senator Pollina and other State Officials for helping with the cell tower issues.

REMINDER: THE NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS is [www.roxburyvt.org](http://www.roxburyvt.org)

### **NEW VITAL RECORDS LAW**

Town Clerks have been told the new laws on Vital Records are being delayed a few months. In case you didn't see the newsletter last time - the below paragraph was printed in it. I am repeating it for your convenience. Town Clerks will be trained prior to the new system beginning.

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

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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.

## REMINDER - 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 two elections. Voting will be at the Roxbury Town Office.

Ballots are required to be delivered to Town Clerks at least 46 days prior to each election.

A new voting system that can be used by the visually impaired will be available for the 2018 elections. Town Clerks will be trained this summer on the new system.

A legal resident of Roxbury can register to vote up to and including on the day of election.

Absentee ballots can be requested no later than 5pm or the closing of the Town Clerk's Office on the day before an election. Roxbury's Town Clerk has traditionally

opened the office on that day for the convenience of the legal voters of Roxbury. We will continue to offer this service. The Office will be open 9-12/1-5 on the day before an election.

## JUSTICE OF PEACE

The election for Roxbury's Justice of Peace is during the General Election. The Republican and Democratic Parties and Other Parties will nominate candidates. Anyone who would like to run as an independent, please contact the Town Clerk's Office or get on the Secretary of State's website. They have a lot of information regarding elections.

## MY VOTER PAGE

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can: check registration status; view information on upcoming elections; access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling location and polling hours; view a sample ballot; request and track an absentee ballot; and much more. The Secretary of State's Office encourages voters to log into their My Voter Page to learn more.

Registered Voters can log in at:

<http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>

Online registration can be found at:

<http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>

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

### **The town of Roxbury will have its Independence Day Celebration on**

Wednesday, July 4th starting with a parade at 12 noon, followed by our AREA FAMOUS! Firehouse chicken BBQ at 12:30. Line up for the parade begins at 11:30 near Teela Wooket. There will also be a church rummage sale starting at 9:00 AM and a library sponsored bake sale at the firehouse. The Historical Society will be open for history buffs to enjoy. So, come early with a friend or two and enjoy everything our small community can offer.

### **Montpelier Roxbury School Board**

More than a year since voters in Roxbury and Montpelier voted to come together as a school district the Montpelier Roxbury School District came into existence as legal entity on July 1st 2018. Lots of hard work has been taking place by a dedicated group of administrators and elected officials to make the merger transition successful. Fall 2018 marks the beginning of the first academic year that the district operates as a single entity and we should be all set to make it a great one. If any parents or students have any questions about where they will be attending school or how things will work in the new district please reach out to the district principals or board members with any questions. (Principals: RVS - Ben Brownell; MSMS - Pam Arnold; MHS - Mike McRaith. Roxbury board members: Lisa Frost and Ryan Zajac.) We welcome here also the district's first Superintendent, Libby Bonesteel, who the board hired last month. We are excited to have Libby joining the leadership team of the MRSD on July 1st.

Finally, we want to share a grateful thank you to both of our outgoing Superintendents: Laurie Gossens and Brian Ricca. Laurie was the SI of WSSU for the

last 7 years and supported the Roxbury district through those years. Laurie is responsible for implementing many great improvements at RVS, such as the afterschool and the farm-to-school programming and upgrading all of RVS's technology infrastructure. Brian was the SI of the Montpelier district for the last 7 years and supported the new board during the last year of transitioning into the single district. We want to thank both for their committed service to our community's youth and wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

### **Roxbury Planning Commission**

Roxbury's Planning Commission has been tasked with updating Roxbury's 2014 Town Plan. We have only just begun and will be focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of the current plan at our next meeting which is scheduled for Thursday July 5th, 2018 at Roxbury's Town Office. We encourage your participation and welcome your suggestions as we move along with the process of updating Roxbury's Town Plan. Currently, we are looking for a fifth member to our board, which includes Gloria Danforth, Mike French, Lucinda Sullivan and myself Kate Jackson. If you are interested, please contact Tammy Legacy at the Town Office.

### **Roxbury Church and Food Shelf**

As this newsletter goes to press, the church will have begun preparing for its annual rummage sale on July 4th. And, as always, we invite folks to donate gently-used (and, presumably, desirable) items to us, maybe not till the last week of June, if possible. No furniture drop-offs, please, unless we can check it out first. Call 485-7779 and leave a message with Flake, deceased feline since 2010 but still faithfully taking our calls.

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Coinciding with our rummage sale effort - only several stories up above - the work on the church steeple is proceeding on fair weather days. We've rented an 80-foot boom lift, and - appropriately enough - the person overseeing those valiant workers climbing this "stairway to heaven" has a surname of "St. Pierre".....coincidence?

We want to take this opportunity to thank our Roxbury friends and neighbors for their lavish support for our food shelf - we believe there is a special place in heaven for you! But why wait till then, when you might be able to get a free trial run on our 80-foot boom lift? O.K., just kidding.

Hope to see you on the 4th!

## ***The Status of the Roxbury Fish Hatchery***

"The fish hatchery", as it's known locally, was devastated during Tropical Storm Irene. Since that significant event, in the facility's rich history dating back to 1891, the facility has operated at 2% of its historic capacity. Shortly after the flood, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department began developing plans to revamp the facility to meet modern day water quality standards while also working to preserve the historic integrity of the facility. The revamp included working with many different state and federal agencies along the way such as FEMA, US Army Corps of Engineers, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, and the VT Division of Historic Preservation to name a few.

The new facility will not only meet the needs of keeping Vermont's waters clean but will also provide a better visiting experience for the general public. To

accomplish this, most of the ponds will be replaced with two open air pavilion buildings south of the main hatchery building. Each of those buildings will have six, twenty-foot round tanks for fish rearing. The move to tanks from the previous fish rearing ponds will allow fish waste to be better collected and filtered out of the water before being discharged back into the 3rd Branch of the White River. Additionally, two other buildings will provide water treatment equipment to filter and clean water for both discharge and re-use in the system. Although much more complex than the pre-Irene fish hatchery, this newer updated facility is what is required to meet modern wastewater discharge codes and standards of the Clean Water Act and Vermont Water Quality Standards.

The facility will still remain open to the public and to enhance the visitor experience and preserve the historic nature of the facility the Department will maintain a historic core at the north end of the hatchery site. In this core the three preexisting historic hatchery buildings will stay in their present form and function. The first two ponds will be restored for fish viewing purposes and a fish food pellet machine will be installed to still provide the same fish feeding experience people remember prior to Irene. In addition to the ponds, handicap accessibility will be addressed. The historic ponds will have walkways and railings to provide better access. Along the walkways there will be a series of interpretative displays, explaining the history of the property and documenting the need and change to a new modern facility. The facility will have an outdoor accessible restroom and path ways that are handicapped accessible. With the increased reliance on equipment and with adequate construction

funding, the Department also plans on building a hatchery caretaker residence to ensure proper emergency coverage and resiliency.

With a contractor already on contract and awaiting instructions to commence construction, the Department is now in the final stages of FEMA approval process and plans to start construction in the very near future (this summer). The total build time for the project will be 12 active construction months. The department anticipates the facility being open to the public again with fish in the spring of 2020. It has been a long tedious process but I'm sure we can all agree that the final product will have been worth the wait!

Jeremy Whalen, Fish Culture Specialist V  
Roxbury Fish Culture Station

### ***Family scouting is here!***

Family scouting is for the whole family boys and girls. In Cub Scouting, children and their families have fun and adventure in a program that builds character and instills values. Cub Scouting embraces the values of the Scout Law, encouraging Scouts to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. These values come to children in all parts of the Cub Scout program – all while they're having a great time with their friends and families. For almost 100 years, Scouting programs have instilled in youth the values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Today, these values are just as relevant in helping youth grow to their full potential as they were in 1910. Scouting helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives.

While various activities and youth groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appreciation for service to others in their community. Scouting provides

youth with a sense that they are important as individuals. It is communicated to them that those in the Scouting family care about what happens to them, regardless of whether a game is won or lost. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Scouting promotes activities that lead to personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, when hard decisions have to be made, peer pressure can be resisted and the right choices can be made.

Family scouting is now available in Northfield. Serving Roxbury, Braintree, Randolph, Brookfield, Williamstown schools.

For more information please contact Kim Tenney 802-4854575 or [KMT922@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KMT922@YAHOO.COM)

### ***Drift Farmstead***

Drift Farmstead (formerly The Barn Yard), home of VT Farm and Forest School is offering an exciting new program starting in September. If you or someone you know is looking for a way to get the kids outside more, our Field School could be just the thing. This program is open to children ages 4-12, and is once a week on Fridays from 8:30 to 3:00, with a long break in the winter. Many folks around VT have sent their kids to similar programs (Earthwalk VT, Crow's Path, etc...), whether they go to public school, homeschool, or other.

The Field School follows the flow of the seasons. We begin in the fall, when students harvest, process, and prepare food using simple tools and techniques. Moving through the seasons students will learn the basics of primitive skills: how to build and sustain a fire, how to make a shelter, how to use a knife, and how to navigate. With the spring, we welcome new life through planting. These experiences will empower students to be self motivated, resilient, and independent thinkers. Opportunities for leadership and collaboration are interwoven throughout the program.

Risk-taking, curiosity, independence, and interdependence are all cornerstones of the philosophy informing the Field School. Our



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website is [driftfarmsteadvt.com](http://driftfarmsteadvt.com), and email is [vtfarmandforestschool@gmail.com](mailto:vtfarmandforestschool@gmail.com), feel free to get in touch if you have questions or for more information!

## **Roxbury Free Library Notes**

Greetings Roxbury, Summer time is upon us and there is no better time to stop in and visit the RFL, and we welcome everyone in the community to do just that. We would also like to welcome here Jeanne Beckwith as the newest RFL Trustee. Since the last edition of the Newsy was sent out in April the RFL collection has grown by 352 items. Think about all those new books, movies, magazines, music, and more awaiting you. Plus, don't forget that we offer free home delivery of materials with pre-arrangements. Who said there are not benefits to living in a small town with a small library! For the summer months the RFL has available multiple copies of the current VT Reads title *Bread and Roses*. Stop in and grab your copy and join the statewide conversation. During the summer we have more happening at the RFL than just new books. Check out the community calendar for the details, but here is an overview of some of the summer programming at the RFL. **July:** an ice cream social and open house. **August:** a stop by the Arts Bus, and family performance by the VT. musical group the Swing Peepers (The Swing Peepers offer original Vermont made songs and storytelling for the whole family that is engaging, entertaining, and goofy to boot. This show will be free and appropriate for all ages.). At the end of August we anticipate offering a dog training class in conjunction with the Brown library, but do not have details confirmed yet. The

adult book club is on summer break and will not meet again until September.

Finally, are you interested in some tennis this summer? For more than 10 years the RFL and Teela Wockett have teamed up to provide an opportunity for community members to get access to the camp's tennis courts. Here is how the program works - by providing a donation to the RFL you will gain access to some of the camp's tennis courts from July 1 until the nets come down in September. If you are interested in playing but can't afford a donation please contact the RFL to investigate options for volunteering time to waive the enrollment fee. The RFL also has a couple of rackets available for folks to borrow if needed. Please contact the RFL with questions about donations and specific details related to the courts and their usage.

Please note, the RFL board will not be hosting a book sale on the fourth of July, but there will still be a bake sale during the community lunch on the fourth. Unfortunately, during the month of July we anticipate having reduced services on those four Tuesdays. We apologize in advance for any inconveniences.

## **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. Please contact Joan Leary or Flo Parzych with questions.

### **Roxbury Website**

The Town of Roxbury's new website is up and ready to grow! Please visit [www.roxburyvt.org](http://www.roxburyvt.org) and check it out! Questions, suggestions, comments, and local events calendar items for the website can be sent to [roxburyvtwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:roxburyvtwebmaster@gmail.com)

**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.

### **Community Calendar July to September 2018**

<b>WED</b>	7/4/2018	July 4th Celebration in Roxbury
<b>FRI</b>	7/6/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
<b>WED</b>	7/11/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>SAT</b>	7/14/2018	Ice Cream Social and Open House at the Roxbury Free Library 12:00 - 2:00
<b>WED</b>	7/18/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>WED</b>	8/1/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>FRI</b>	8/3/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
<b>FRI</b>	8/10/2018	Property taxes due today
<b>TUE</b>	8/14/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
<b>WED</b>	8/15/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the RVS library
<b>WED</b>	8/15/2018	Auditors meeting in the Town Office
<b>THU</b>	8/16/2018	Music performance by the Swing Peepers (time and location TBA)
<b>SAT</b>	8/18/2018	Arts Bus at the Roxbury Free Library 10:00 - 12:00
<b>TUE</b>	8/21/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
<b>WED</b>	8/29/2018	First day of school for the Montpelier Roxbury School District
<b>WED</b>	9/5/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>THU</b>	9/6/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
<b>FRI</b>	9/7/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
<b>TUE</b>	9/11/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
<b>TUE</b>	9/18/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
<b>WED</b>	9/19/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>WED</b>	9/19/2018	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. The Roxbury Selectboard meeting schedule was not available at the time of this issue's printing.*