

# ● Roxbury Newsy ●

*Your community newsletter*

October – December 2018 Vol. 3 No. 4

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Calling all crossword puzzle enthusiasts - now is your chance to bring your hobby closer to home. After the last Newsy went out a community member suggested we include a small crossword puzzle in each issue related to the community. We liked the idea but didn't find time to create it ourselves for this issue. If you are the person who looks forward to their Saturday morning coffee and crossword puzzle, you could be just the person to help. Please contact [librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org) or 485-6860 if you are interested in getting involved in this or another capacity with the Newsy.

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

### **TAXES**

The due date for the second installment of property taxes is November 9th. The Town Office will stay open until 5PM on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the week taxes are due.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Summer hours will end on September 28. Starting in October, the Town Office will be open Tuesday through Friday 9-12/1-4.

### **CELL TOWER UPDATE**

If you haven't noticed, the cell towers are not working at this time. According to a State Representative, the Department decided to terminate the contract with CoverageCo and is seeking a new vendor. CoverageCo's switch operator has ceased providing service to the company.

### **NEW VITAL RECORDS LAW**

Town Clerks have been told the new laws on Vital Records will not take effect until July 1, 2019.

### **REMINDER - 2018 STATE ELECTIONS**

The General Election is on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

The Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. 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.

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

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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.

## VOTING CHANGE IN ROXBURY

The Board of Civil Authority met on September 6 to discuss whether the Town should start using a vote tabulator machine for voting. After a discussion on the pros and cons of using a vote tabulator machine, the Board of Civil Authority voted to start using a machine for elections. The machine will be used at the General Election. The staff and election officials will be trained prior to the election. It will be up to the Board of Civil Authority on whether the machine will be used for local elections but the machine must be used for General 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>

## 2018 DOG LICENSES

If you haven't licensed your dog(s) this year, please do so to avoid legal action.

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.

## GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORT-PROGRAM

Green Mountain Passport is a program for seniors and Veterans. To be eligible for a Green Mountain Passport, a person must be a legal resident of Vermont, 62 years of age or older or a veteran of the uniformed services.

A passport will allow you free admission to Vermont State Parks, Vermont State Historic Sites and events which are fully State sponsored. Overnight camping and other park fees are excluded.

To receive a Green Mountain Passport, just fill out an application at your local Town Clerk's Office and pay a \$2.00 fee.

If you'd like more information about services and benefits for seniors, contact your local area agency on aging by calling the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119.

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.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION - POSTERS POSTED AT THE TOWN OFFICE

### NOTICE FROM THE STATE

Don't bring firewood into Vermont - It's the law. Buy it where you burn it.

Tree-killing pests can hitchhike on your firewood! Pests like the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle threaten our trees, forests and communities. New infestations can spread by the movement of firewood.

Protect the places you love: Buy local or heat-treated firewood, be aware of firewood laws and tell your friends.

For Vermont firewood information visit:  
[firewood.vt.gov](http://firewood.vt.gov)

### NOTICE FROM THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Is your rental property lead safe? Did you know that lead paint in pre-1978 homes is a major source of lead poisoning, which can cause damage to the brain and behavioral problems? About 70% of housing in Vermont was built before 1978 and there is no safe level of lead in the body for kids or adults.

It's the law. Vermont law requires landlords of pre-1978 housing to maintain their rental properties and file an annual compliance statement to protect children, pregnant women and other adults from lead poisoning.

Landlords - Follow the law, maintain your property & protect your tenants from lead poisoning. Know your role - learn about Vermont's lead law and find resources to help.

Tenants - Alert your landlord, tell them if you notice chipping, flaking or damaged paint.

Know your rights - learn about Vermont's lead law & keep yourself & your family safe.

Be Lead Safe: [healthvermont.gov/lead-law](http://healthvermont.gov/lead-law)  
or 1-800-439-8550

Test your tap - Get your well water tested today. It could be harming your family. Only 5% of Vermonters with wells have had their drinking water tested for contaminants. The only way to find out if your water is safe for you and your family is to get it tested by a certified water testing lab.

Don't keep drinking water that could be harming your family. The "big three" - arsenic, lead and E. coli - along with other contaminants could be in your drinking water. You can't see, taste or smell many contaminants in your water.

Call the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory today to get your homeowner's drinking water test kits. 1-800-660-9997

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

The EAB has been confirmed in Vermont. Roxbury's tree warden, Steve Lusk, has begun a roadside inventory of ash trees in Roxbury. If you have questions or concerns about EAB please check the Vermont Invasives website ([vtinvasives.org](http://vtinvasives.org)). Some additional materials may be found at the Town Offices or Roxbury Free Library

### **Emerald Ash Borer**



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## **Montpelier Roxbury School Board**

We have a few key notes to share about recent and upcoming happenings of the Montpelier Roxbury School District board. In September the board voted to appoint Andrew Stein to the vacant Montpelier seat when Peter Sterling resigned. The appointment was still pending City Council's approval when this went to print, but we expect Andrew to be appointed that seat until the 2019 Town Meeting election. Late this summer the board drafted the following vision for the district: Our schools are caring, creative, and equitable communities that ensure all children grow into engaged citizens and life-long learners. Looking forward, the board is now getting ready to start its next budget cycle. We encourage community members to get involved and share their thoughts about priorities for the 2019/2020 budget soon. Even though it feels like this school year just began, we are already starting to prepare the budget for the next school year. It takes that much time to prepare a responsive and accurate budget to be voted on at Town Meeting 2019. Sharing ideas and concerns sooner rather than later makes it easier to consider the feedback early in the process before the budget gets revised and more finalized. So, please reach out early. Your two Roxbury representatives are - Lisa Frost (lisafrost@mpsvt.org) and Ryan Zajac (ryanzajac@mpsvt.org). Don't forget to keep an eye on the district's website. The district's website is still being populated but is getting better all the time. You can find school information as well as board materials like policies, minutes, and video recordings (<https://www.mrpsvt.org/>)

## **Roxbury Village School**

### October

- RVS students in grades K-4 will hike to Drift Farmstead on October 1st, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> where they will spend the morning focusing on safety and the curriculum for the day. Students will rotate to different stations on the farm focusing on specific curriculum standards. The last farm visit of the season will be a Fall Festival where students will hand-crank apple cider, bake apple cider donuts, play fall themed games and more.

- School will be closed October 5th for teacher in-service day

- School will be closed October 8th in observance of Columbus Day

### November

- School will be closed November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> for parent/teacher conferences and teacher in-service

- School will be closed November 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup> for Thanksgiving break

### December

- We will have our second late start on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> where all MRPS teachers will participate in professional development activities

- School will be closed for the winter break beginning on December 24<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**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 Church and Food Shelf**

The Roxbury Church will once again host its more or less renowned Soup-a-thon and Pie-pourri fundraiser on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, between 5 and 7 p.m.

We'll feature at least a dozen homemade soups catering to all tastes and dietary restrictions, and an equal (or greater) assortment of amazing pies.

Only \$8 a pop (and maybe less for Grandpop; plus, children 10 and under FREE!) Money-back guarantee if you can't taste the LOVE!

No reservations necessary - for further information, call Claire, leave a message with the cat 485-7779!

## **Roxbury Website**

Andre Souigny has resigned as webmaster. Nina Govoni has been appointed. There is a new email address for her. It is roxburyvtweb@gmail.com.

Please visit [www.roxburyvt.org](http://www.roxburyvt.org) and check it out!

## **Roxbury Free Library Notes**

We will start off this issue by recognizing two individuals who have made recent contributions to the RFL. Last month Erik Wardle volunteered his time to help us create a little more usable space inside the RFL building. Erik built some shelving and benches that have allowed us to turn the old storage entryway into usable library space. We will be putting the finishing touches on the project this month and plan to have it unveiled mid-fall. We will keep you posted on the progress. After many years of

helping out around the RFL Fran French has decided to spend more of her time at home reading. A big thank you to Fran for all her help in the past. We will miss seeing her every week. We are grateful to both Erik and Fran for their help at the RFL and all the contributions they have made to our library. Now, let's look to the future.

The community calendar lists the upcoming RFL events that have confirmed dates. Our website will have the most up to date list of library events, please keep an eye on it. Here are a few of the things in the works but without a confirmed date yet. We expect to host a day of holiday ornament crafting for children in early December like we've done the last few years. We will have another distribution of free children's books for Roxbury kids in December. The adult book club is back in the routine of getting together once a month to talk books, please feel welcome to join in the conversation. Here are a couple of the upcoming programs not to miss.

We partnered with VTDOL and NOFAVT on the *Rooted in VT* initiative and have joined in with the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday night potluck at the Community Center to offer an educational twist to the normal monthly potluck on 10/5. Later in the month Gold Star Dog Training will present: "WOOF! WHAT'S THE DOG SAYING?". During this 1.5-hour multi-media program cohosted with the Brown Public Library, we'll demystify dog communication, reveal some common dog-human misunderstandings, and explore how we can all live safely and happily together. At the end of the presentation, the audience will get to engage in several fun, interactive exercises to practice reading dog body language. We look forward to seeing you at some of these events or at the RFL next time you are in.

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## Community Calendar October to December 2018

<b>Thu</b>	10/4/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
<b>Fri</b>	10/5/2018	"Rooted in Vermont" Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
<b>Tue</b>	10/9/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
<b>Mon</b>	10/15/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
<b>Mon</b>	10/15/2018	Roxbury Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
<b>Wed</b>	10/17/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the RVS library
<b>Wed</b>	10/17/2018	Auditors meeting in the Town Office
<b>Sat</b>	10/20/2018	Roxbury Church Soup-a-thon and Pie-pourri between 5:00 & 7:00
<b>Sun</b>	10/28/2018	Dog Communication lecture with Goldstar Dog Trainers
<b>Thu</b>	11/1/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
<b>Fri</b>	11/2/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
<b>Mon</b>	11/5/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
<b>Wed</b>	11/7/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>Fri</b>	11/9/2018	Property taxes due today
<b>Mon</b>	11/12/2018	Agriculture Literacy Week events at the RFL
<b>Tue</b>	11/13/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
<b>Wed</b>	11/14/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>Mon</b>	11/19/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
<b>Wed</b>	11/21/2018	Auditors meeting in the Town Office
<b>Mon</b>	12/3/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
<b>Mon</b>	12/3/2018	Roxbury Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
<b>Wed</b>	12/5/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the MHS library
<b>Thu</b>	12/6/2018	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 6:00
<b>Fri</b>	12/7/2018	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
<b>Tue</b>	12/11/2018	Roxbury Free Library Board meeting at 6:00 in the RFL
<b>Mon</b>	12/17/2018	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
<b>Wed</b>	12/19/2018	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 7:00 in the RVS library
<b>Wed</b>	12/19/2018	Auditors meeting in the Town Office

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*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.*