

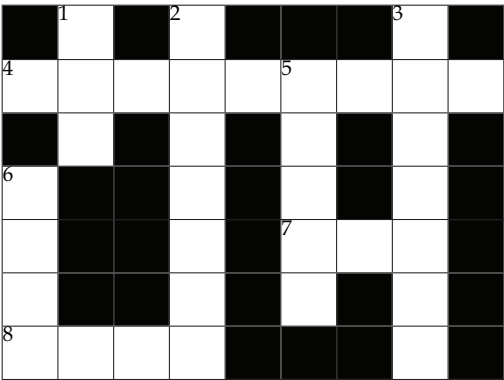
# Roxbury Newsy

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## Roxbury Crossword

01-01-20120\_Edition



### Down

- \_\_\_\_\_ River Watershed runs North out of Roxbury
- March 3rd 2020 is the date for Roxbury’s next Town \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hall is the name of a hotel that has operated in Roxbury.
- Structural component of the Community Center that received an uplift this fall.
- Roxbury Free Library is the best place in town to get this.

### Across

- In the 1880’s Ira Frisk was this kind of a doctor.
- Another name for a large bovine you find scattered around Roxbury.
- “\_\_\_\_\_ of the Hill” is an enduring children’s game played in the snow banks at the Town Hall during Town Meeting.

Stop by the library for the answers to our crossword puzzle, or visit [www.roxburyfreelibrary.org](http://www.roxburyfreelibrary.org)! 🏠

## Field Naturalist’s Corner

The three main ways of coping with cold weather are migration, dormancy, and adaptation.

Migration is a species-wide movement to another place where food is more available. Some species of insects, birds, and bats migrate.

Dormancy is going into a state of inactivity for a prolonged period. It can range from being semi-active to complete hibernation. Many animals go dormant, such as amphibians, reptiles, many small mammals and black bears.

Adapting to one’s environment includes growing a thicker coat of fur (including the feet), changing coat color to match surroundings, changing diet, food caching, making dams, dens and shelters. Any animal that doesn’t migrate or go dormant has adapted to the cold climate.

How do **you** deal with cold weather? 🏠



# Roxbury Newsy

Your community newsletter

January-March 2020, Vol. 5 No. 1

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*Do you have upcoming newsletter submissions, suggestions, or corrections to the mailing list?*

*Please contact the RFL at [librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org) or 802-485-6860.*

*Thanks to Ryan Zajac, Courtney Jenkins, Jane Pincus and Heidi Albright for compiling, editing and designing this issue of the Newsy! We hope you enjoy it.  
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The Parrotte family circa late ‘80s. Photo by Ed Pincus

## A Roxbury Tale

*An Interview with Linda and Sonny Parrotte  
by Jane Pincus*

We met the Parrotte family when we first drove up our road in Roxbury in 1973 to our new house. And for these 47 years, in easy and tough times, they have been wonderful friends and neighbors.

Linda has lived in Roxbury almost all her life. The mother of five children, over the decades she has served as a member of the school board and of the Fire Department’s Ladies Auxiliary. In addition, as “Nana” she and her husband Sonny have cared for generations of children at the town’s longest-running daycare facility. Here’s what she says about the town:

*“It was always a family town -- clean, the houses always looking neat, with some remaining tall trees shading Route 12A. I remember jumping over the sidewalk cracks (remember ‘Don’t step on the cracks?’). It was smaller. You knew everybody, people did more things together – now you don’t know your neighbors so well. Town meetings were always a great social event of the year.*

*At Halloween, trick or treating, you knew what you’d get at each house in town. May Sayers, for instance, had the best popcorn balls. The school held all kinds of Halloween and Christmas parties.*

*continued on next page...*

*“Roxbury Family” continued from front page..*

*Back in the 1950s and 1960s, not a lot of people were coming to live here. The town harbored a lot of older people. I ended up caring for the elderly Mrs. De George, who told me stories about an even older Roxbury when the marble quarries were in operation, with its watch factory, hotels, and a doctor’s of- fice, and the train stopping regularly at the railroad station.”*

There were still farms and farm animals right in town. Linda hung out with the boys -- Skip Buck, Donny Thresher and Mort Dickinson. All the kids would get together at the two- room schoolhouse, the only one of four schoolhouses that were still around. In those days, each schoolroom held four grades. Kids of different ages would help one another during classes. Linda was in the Roxbury graduating eighth grade class with three other students. In winters when the weather was really bad, the teachers would stay in Roxbury overnight rather than go home.

Mrs. Manning ran one of the two stores, which boasted a real ice-cream parlor with old-fashioned round tables, metal chairs and jars of candy. When Teela-Wooket kids entered in large groups, Mrs. Manning made it clear that the town kids had to give way to them. And two churches flourished – in 1965, Linda and Sonny were married in the Catholic church. In ad- dition, there was a Grange, and a 4-H club. Linda continues:

*“As in any town, you had the poor and the rich, and some weird ducks too. Eventually a few additional and unusual people appeared. A psychiatrist from Connecticut bought the old Spaulding house across from the school. He fixed it up to be very fancy. At auctions he’d find photographs of people he didn’t know and decorate his walls with them, passing them off as his own relatives.”*

Another man with all kinds of far-reaching and mysterious connections throughout the world moved to town. He was fishing in a pond close to where Sonny was working, and then Sonny heard cries for help. He ran over to find the man sunk chest-deep in the mud and sinking even deeper! It took all Sonny’s strength to pull the guy out. Afterwards he was told “I’ll make it right with you some day.” But Sonny said, “That never happened.”

From the moment we flatlanders arrived in town, the Parrottes have pulled us out too -- out of snowbanks or muddy ruts. On one memorable evening on Mill Hill in Northfield, Sonny towed our pickup home, a precarious and funny drive.

As the years go by, as we all grow older, and as the town changes even more, the Parrottes continue to be the best neighbors anyone could have.🏠

# From the Town Clerk’s Office

## 2020 DOG LICENSES

In January, residents can start licensing their dogs. Who would like their precious dog to have the title of Roxbury #1 dog? Well, it will be whoever gets in here first on January 2nd when the 2020 dog licenses are issued. Dog tags are ready - come on in.

The cost is \$9.00 for a neutered dog and \$13.00 for an un-neu- tered 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 we hold a Rabies Clinic at the Town Garage. A notice will be posted when we schedule a date.

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.

Speaking of dogs, Roxbury adopted a Dog Ordinance in 2005. The ordinance is posted on the website. Please read it, get ac- quainted with the rules about owning dogs in Roxbury.

## TAXES

The next property tax installment is due on February 14, 2020.

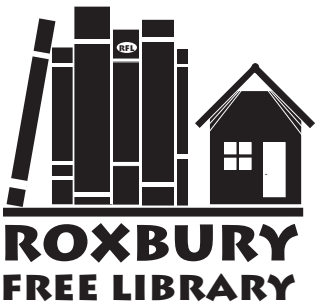
## 2020 TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting is on March 3rd at the Roxbury Town Hall (Vil- lage School). The deadline to register to vote is March 3rd. Deadline for submitting petitions for office is January 27. The number of signatures required of legal voters of Roxbury is 7. Deadline for submitting articles for the Town Meeting Warning is January 16. The number of signatures required of legal vot- ers of Roxbury for the petition is 27.

Since the merger of the Montpelier Roxbury School District took place, the voters of Montpelier and Roxbury will need to fill three new positions: School District Clerk, School Dis- trict 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. Contact the Town Clerk at 485-7840 if you have questions.

The new tabulator machine will be used at Town Meeting this March for all articles to be voted by Australian ballot. As a reminder, the Secretary of State’s Office encourages voters to use the MY VOTER PAGE which you can access at [http://mvp. sec.state.vt.us](http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us). You can request absentee ballots and keep track of your ballot. You can register to vote online, in person or via mail. The online registration can be found at [http://olvr.sec. state.vt.us](http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us).

*continued on page 6...*



# Roxbury Free Library Notes

Happy New Year Roxbury!

Here at the RFL we are beginning 2020 with some changes in faces. Last month new Assistant Director Karen Grow began work at the RFL. We are excited to have Karen joining us and encourage you to stop by on a Thursday or Saturday and wel- come her.

Next, after many years of exceptionally devoted volunteer service, Joan Leary is now spending more time at her real home as opposed to her “second home” - as she always referred to the RFL. We are truly grateful for all the energy and commitment Joan provided over her years at the library - her contributions are felt here and we are saddened not to have her present at the RFL anymore.

In this Newsy issue we are promoting a pair of projects to be managed by two longtime RFL volunteers, Sally Kirn and Debra Rogler...

Sally will manage the RFL Branches project, our effort to cata- log, connect, and share the books we each have in our personal collections across the community. We are excited about the potential to grow our collection, but more importantly to make new connections among community members. Sally is excited about the challenge! Contact us if you have questions or are in- terested in getting involved as a “Branch location” of the RFL.

Debra will be taking the lead on cataloging and showcasing our existing and expanding collection of non-information resources (think telescope, games, ice skates etc...). We’d love to hear your suggestions for items that you would like to add through this project. Please share your ideas with us. Both of these projects have room to grow and evolve. We are confident Sally and Debra will develop these projects successfully.

## Upcoming Programs for this Winter/Spring include:

**January/February:** Story hours, Book Club

**February:** VT History Trivia competition, Play readings

**March:** Introduction to Letterboxing (a kind of outdoor scavenger hunt), Gardening Series (will continue through the spring!)

**January-March:** ongoing coordinated visits with RVS.

Don’t miss out on any of the fun! If you have more ideas for programs, please reach out and share them with us!

Besides the usual reminder to get out and vote at Town Meet- ing on March 3rd, we also want to announce the start of a **Gardening Program series**. The RFL Board worked with High Mowing Seeds to acquire a variety of vegetable and flower seeds to be given out for free at Town Meeting. This seed distribution will initiate a multi-month progression of gardening lectures and demonstrations at the RFL. Specific dates will be announced in the April issue of the Newsy.

Remember the RFL is open on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 - 11:00 following the school calendar.

Finally, we wish you a year full of quality entertainment and accurate information. 🏠

The Roxbury Free Library is open three to four days a week and has WiFi access 24/7!

RFL is more than a place to find a great book– you can use computers for many purposes such as writing a resume or surfing the internet.

You can also use RFL passes to several museums and events in the area. Come in and visit!

Hours: **Tues.** 10-6, **Weds.** 8-11 **Thurs.** 2-7, **Sat.**10-1



*“From the Town Clerk’s Office” continued from page 6...*

## ROXBURY VILLAGE CEMETERY

The Roxbury Cemetery Association transferred ownership of the village cemetery to the Town of Roxbury. The Roxbury Cemetery Commission has been busy taking care of our new- est cemetery.

Thank you Gloria Gerdes and Mark Gerdes for the time you spent as Trustees on the Roxbury Cemetery Association.

Thank you Jack Cashman, Wendy Cashman and Sue Nevins for the time you spend on cemetery matters. Your contribu- tion to the Town of Roxbury is much appreciated. 🏠

*"From the Town Clerk's Office" continued from page 2...*

The Absentee Ballot Request form is also on the Town's website. As a reminder, every year a new request needs to be submitted so if you filled out a form last year for all elections, you will need to fill out a form again this year.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is March 2nd at 5 p.m.

All articles for the non-profit organizations will be voted by Australian ballot this year.

### PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Town Meeting Day is also Presidential Primary. As a reminder, you will be asked which ballot you would like (Democrat, Republican, etc). You must state which ballot you want, you will not be able take all ballots and choose in the booth. Presidential Primary is the only election you have to state which ballot you want.

### POLLING HOURS

On Town Meeting Day, polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. The polling location is the Roxbury Town Hall (Roxbury Village School).

### LISTER POSITION

Carmeta French has been appointed to fill the vacant position of Lister until Town Meeting.

### PLANNING COMMISSION POSITION

Dottie Guiffre has been appointed to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is hard at work updating Roxbury's Town Plan.

### ANIMAL CONTROL POSITION

Reggie Brown Jr. resigned his position as Roxbury's Animal Control Officer. If anyone has any issues, please contact the Town Office. The Town Clerk staff will forward your concerns to the appropriate person.

### COMMUNITY HALL/SENIOR CENTER

A BIG THANK YOU to Jay Swann for replacing the porch foundation and floor on the Community Hall. It looks wonderful.

Another BIG THANK YOU to Terry Edwards for adding a coat of finish.

*continued on page 7...*

*Roxbury seniors host weekly lunches each Monday at 12:00 in the Community Center. Please RSVP to Jane Pincus(485-8427) the night before if you plan to attend.*

## Montpelier-Roxbury Board of School Directors

We are half way through the school year! Town Meeting is on the calendar which means school budget creation and adoption are the school board's big priorities right now. The draft budget has been presented at a couple of meetings so far and will be presented again at a public forum on Jan. 8th at the MHS. Come share priorities and ideas if you have not yet attended a presentation and discussion of the draft budget.

With this budget, we hope to accomplish supporting all students and strengthening instruction within the district. More specifically, the budget addresses a need to increase the social-emotional learning capacity of the students within the district; to increase staffing with growing enrollment; and continue our commitment to the capital improvement fund.

The approved budget will be presented on March 2nd in an informational hearing. Bring any last minute questions about the budget. Remember, all board meetings are video-recorded and archived here ([www.orcamedia.net](http://www.orcamedia.net)). Agendas and materials from meetings can be found here: <https://www.mrpsvt.org/policies/>. 🏠



*Halloween party 2019, sponsored by the RVS PTO*

## Roxbury Village School News

School will be closed January 20th for a teacher in-service day.

Report cards will be sent home on January 31st.

School will also be closed on the following dates:

- Vacation February 24-March 2.
- Town Meeting Day on March 3rd.
- March 20th for parent/teacher conferences. 🏠

## Roxbury Village School PTO

Greetings from the Roxbury Village School PTO. The year has been off to a great start!



In September we had a big event with parent groups from all four schools of the Montpelier Roxbury School District. We put on the annual Montpelier Fall Festival! The event was a huge success and featured a kid's one-mile race (with several RVS students participating), a 5K race, a dodgeball tournament, games, raffles, a bouncy house and more. A big shout out to our very own **Rhett Williams** who was the RVS honeybee in the mascot race and did a great job!! This event raised over \$10,000 to support all four schools! We hope to see you there next year. I would also like to thank our generous community businesses that donated to our raffle basket including:

Mad River Glenn, Sugarbush, Turtlefur, Gordini, Northfield Savings Bank, and Carrier Coffee! If you shop at any of these wonderful establishments, please thank them as well!

In October we hosted the annual kids Halloween party where lots of treats were eaten and lots of fun was had!

In November students from Norwich came to teach our fourth grade class how to properly raise and lower a flag, and we also held our annual Yankee candle fundraiser. A big thank you to everyone who supported the kids and for your patience with some delayed candle deliveries.

In December the PTO sponsored the annual Holiday Shopping Day where preschoolers through 4th grade pick a gift for everyone that lives in their immediate household as a way to

support the kids in sharing their gratitude and love. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help us get gifts and wrap them for the kiddos!

**The RVS PTO is hoping to try and build a beautiful new gazebo to be shared by the school and the town.** This gazebo would be used by the school during school hours and by the community at large outside of these hours. It could be used for picnics, birthday parties or as a central public place to meet with your neighbors. We hope to have a variety of fundraising options and would love your help and input on our goal. Some of you may have already seen or signed the petition and by the time you read this, it will be on the town meeting ballot. If you have questions, contact Dottie Guiffre or Hannah Zajac!

**Things to come:** In January you will see the return of the Roxbury Ice Rink for the winter sports program. If you would like to help out with reading to the kids on ice-rink days at the Community Hall; helping kids get skates on, or with rink maintenanc, please let the RVS PTO know.

In the spring we plan to do a Little Caesars Pizza fundraiser, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) night and to sponsor a field trip to the Montshire Museum of Science.

As always, you can follow us on our Facebook group or at <https://www.mrpspie.org/rvs-pg> And if you want to volunteer for a specific event or have any questions feel free to email us at [RoxburyPTO@gmail.com](mailto:RoxburyPTO@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
RVS PTO 🏠

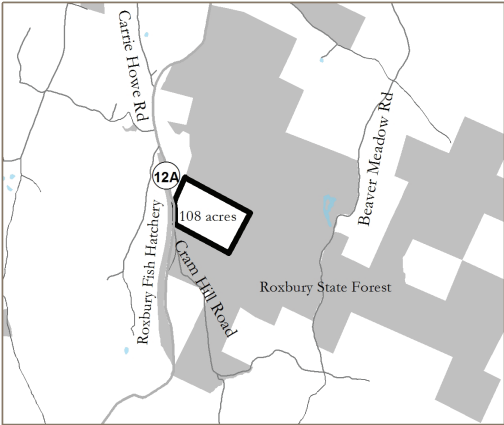


The Newsy always welcomes new contributors. Please let us know if you have anything you'd like to share with the community and we can get it into the next issue. Send questions and content to [librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org).

# Roxbury State Forest

## Inholding to be protected

The State of Vermont is working with The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit conservation organization, to acquire 108 acres in Roxbury on Route 12A and Cram Hill Road and add it to Roxbury State Forest. State ownership of the property could help improve flood resiliency, protect the quality of ground and surface waters and healthy native fish populations, prevent forest fragmentation and provide recreational opportunities such as hunting and hiking. The headwater streams of the Third Branch of the White River on this property contain native brook trout, providing excellent fishing.



Third Branch Headwaters:  
Addition to Roxbury State Forest



Located immediately across route 12A from the Roxbury Fish Hatchery, protection of the property will leverage \$6 million of state and federal funds being used to reconstruct the hatchery and provide future visitors with an opportunity to go for a hike in the woods after visiting the hatchery. Ownership by the State will not affect property taxes, as the State’s Payment in Lieu of Taxes will equal the taxes paid by the current landowner.

The Roxbury Selectboard voted in August to fully support this addition to Roxbury State Forest, as it conforms with the Town Plan, and will help retain the viewshed and rural landscape along Route 12A, one of the most popular and scenic bicycle loops in the State. The Trust for Public Land has secured 74% of the costs to protect this land and create a more intact State Forest, and are reaching out to the public to raise the last \$36,000.

If you would like to support these efforts please contact Kate Wanner at [kate.wanner@tpl.org](mailto:kate.wanner@tpl.org) or 802-223-1373 x 27 for more information, or see the page on the town’s website, <https://roxburyvt.org/state-forest/>.



## Roxbury Ice Rink 2020

We expect to have the ice rink up again in downtown by mid-January. We lost a couple of rink-maintainers over the past year and would love to have another set of hands or two to help keep the rink in good shape this winter. Are you interested in helping out in some capacity? If so, please reach out to Josh Axelrod at 485-7788.



## 2020 Summer Camps at Drift Farmstead, Roxbury

Let us share our love for farm, food and forest with your kids. Romp, stomp, build, grow, explore and create with other kids at the farm all summer long! Our summer camps vary from Survival Skills to Exploring Insects. Learn more and sign up at [www.driftfarmsteadvt.com](http://www.driftfarmsteadvt.com).

*At the Vermont Farm and Forest School we value foundations built with deep connections to the natural world, in order to recognize our human impact on the earth. We believe people need the tools to connect to oneself, one another, and the natural world. We aim to provide experiences immersed in the web of life, making visible our interdependence and practicing stewardship of the land.*

## Community Calendar January to March 2020

Mon	1/6/2020Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	1/7/2020Roxbury Planning Commission Meeting
Wed	1/8/2020Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Thu	1/9/2020RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 5:45
Mon	1/13/2020Roxbury Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
Tue	1/14/2020Roxbury Free Library Trustee's Meeting at 5:30 in the RFL.
Wed	1/15/2020Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Thu	1/16/2020Deadline for petitions to be on Town Meeting Warning
Mon	1/20/2020MRPS Schools closed today
Mon	1/20/2020Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	1/21/2020Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
Mon	1/27/2020Petitions to be on Town Meeting ballot for office
Fri	1/31/2020MRPS Schools closed today
Sat	2/1/2020VT. History Trivia bowl and potluck at the RFL
Mon	2/3/2020Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Wed	2/5/2020Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the RVS library
Mon	2/10/2020Roxbury Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
Tue	2/11/2020Roxbury Free Library Trustee's Meeting at 5:30 in the RFL.
Mon	2/17/2020Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	2/18/2020Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
Wed	2/19/2020Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Mon	2/24/2020MRPS Schools closed starting today until March 4th Deadline to submit absentee ballot request forms for both Town Meeting and
Mon	3/2/2020Presidential Primary
Mon	3/2/2020Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Mon	3/2/2020Montpelier Roxbury School District budget informational hearing
Tue	3/3/2020Roxbury Town Meeting 2020
Wed	3/4/2020Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Tue	3/10/2020Roxbury Free Library Trustee's Meeting at 5:30 in the RFL.
Mon	3/16/2020Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Tue	3/17/2020Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Roxbury Congregational Church
Wed	3/18/2020Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Fri	3/20/2020MRPS Schools closed today Deadline to donate to the Trust for Public Lands Roxbury State Forest expansion
Tue	3/31/2020effort

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.