

# Roxbury Newsy

*Your community newsletter*

July-September 2020, Vol. 5 No. 3

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Photos and illustrations contributed by Kai Pincus, Heidi Albright, Caleb Pincus and Drift Farmstead.	

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

*Please contact the RFL at  
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.  
© 2020 Roxbury Newsy.*



## *What's Growin' on? at Drift Farmstead*

A HUGE thank you to all that came out for our STORYWALK with Brown Public Library and our Grab and Go Pizzas. It was such a wonderful weekend to have community and friends back on the farm (safely distanced and faces covered). It was a joy to hear kids squeal with excitement from the sight of baby animals. Bellies were happy with the wood fired pizzas.

We are so excited that we will be open for summer camp for the month of July. With a lot of planning and rearranging we are able to offer many kids a much needed farm and forest experience this summer

### **Sign Up NOW for YOUR Winter Farm Share.**

We are expanding our number of shares this winter! We do expect to sell out in a flash! Please sign up now to reserve your share (no need to pay a deposit yet, just simply fill out the form)

### **Benefits of a winter farm share include:**

- Ultra local, fresh, nutrient dense foods
- Nourish your body with food that is grown from healthy soil, washed and handled safely following Covid-19 guidelines
- Access to food—don't let another Covid-19 mad hoarding scenario run you short

*continued on next page...*

*"Drift Farmstead" continued from front page..*

on food—the farm share guarantees your delivery from Oct-Feb

-Beef and Chicken is available as an add-on

PORK will only be available as a whole or a half—reserve yours now so you can have meat all winter long! Sign up here:

<https://driftfarmsteadvt.com/drift-farmstead-beef-pork> 🏠



## *The Newsy is 5 years old!*

*We are celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Newsy! Thank you to all the community organizations and individuals who have taken the time to share something with the whole community. Though the list is not exhaustive, we appreciate everyone who has been involved in the past and always welcome new contributors.*

### **Newsy Contributors:**

RVS PTO and MRPSPIE

Red Cross Emergency Shelter

Roxbury Seniors

Roxbury Round Table

Lost Nation ATV Club

Roxbury Webmaster

Roxbury Hazard Mitigation Committee

Roxbury Crafters

Roxbury Book Club

Roxbury Union Congregational Church

Roxbury Town Clerk

Roxbury Free Library

Montpelier Roxbury School District and the Roxbury School

District and Washington South Supervisory Union

Roxbury Fire Department and Auxiliary

Roxbury Food Shelf

Roxbury Auditors

The Barnyard

RVS Students

Fish Hatchery

Scouting BSA

Roxbury Cemetery Assoc.

Trust for Public Land

Roving Reporter 🏠

## *From the Town Clerk's Office*

The Town Clerk's Office is open, with limitations. There is a newly-constructed Plexiglas entranceway for the public to work. The small table in the hallway is now the public's counter, with a little window to give and receive paperwork. The Office has been open for several weeks and the new setup seems to be working well. Masks are required at this time.

People that need to research land records in the vault will now need to wear gloves and masks and work out of the meeting room. The public computer for the land records program is now up and running for them to use. The Office Staff will get all books, etc. that are requested, and will make all copies. Appointments (available Tuesday through Thursday) are required.

Selectboard Meetings are being held via conference calls. The agenda, with call in information, is posted on the website and in the required locations. If you need information regarding the meetings, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 485-7840. The Board is currently discussing what day they will hold their meetings, possibly Monday or Thursday. When decided, a schedule will be posted on the website and in the required posting locations.

Roxbury's webmaster has been keeping the website up to date with COVID-19 information. She has done a wonderful job.

### **2020 DOG LICENSES**

Dog licenses are now past due. Please get your dogs licensed before legal action is taken. To all those that have licensed their dogs—THANK YOU. It is important that the State of Vermont law is followed.

Please contact the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions. 485-7840

### **LISTER'S ANNUAL GRAND LIST MAINTENANCE**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Listers may not be conducting interior inspections of homes/buildings that have had construction work done. The Listers will be in touch with property owners to schedule an appointment, whether in person, via email, or on the property. Protecting everyone is very important to town officials.

### **TAXES**

The Roxbury Listers have requested an extension to file the Abstract Grand List. This request was approved by the Selectboard and the State of Vermont. At this time, the due date for the first tax installment of property taxes is not known but will most likely be later than normal. A notice will be posted on the

*continued on page 7...*



## U.S. Census

It is time to fill out the necessary Census information. **It is vital that all Roxbury residents get counted.** As of June 16, Roxbury only has 37.6% responses.

Vermont needs everyone to complete the 2020 Census. Please help Roxbury by doing this important task.

**Results from the 2020 Census determine the number of Congressional seats and helps direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.**

Roxbury's Census Response Representative is Rob Perry, his email is [robert.j.perry@2020census.gov](mailto:robert.j.perry@2020census.gov) if you need to reach him.

**Online Census link:** <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-online.html>

**Phone-in Census:** 1-844-330-2020. For languages other than English, see the website. 🏠

## Roxbury Fire Department

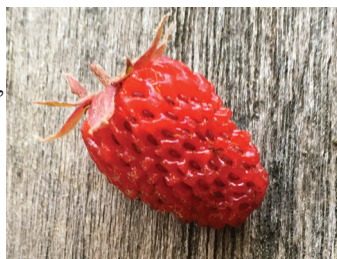
### Remember Your Permit for Outdoor Burning!

Most of Vermont's 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 a 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 (cell 272-3330).

Other safety tips include:

- clear flammable material from 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> 🏠



"Wild Strawberry" photo by Kai Pincus

## Trust for Public Land

In 2019, Kate Wanner, Project Manager for the Vermont office of The Trust for Public Land (TPL), came to the Roxbury Select Board regarding the possibility of purchasing 108 acres of privately held land on the Third Branch Headwaters, to protect valuable wetlands and forest adjacent to the current Roxbury State Forest parcel on VT 12A. The Roxbury Select Board voted in August 2019 to fully support this addition to the Roxbury State Forest, as it conformed to the Town Plan and would help retain the viewshed and rural landscape along Route 12A, one of the most popular and scenic bicycle loops in the state. TPL also asked the Town of Roxbury to assist in an appeal to the public to raise the final \$30,000 not covered by funding provided by the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), which was done through the Roxbury website.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has made great progress on this project, and together with the Town, the purchase has become a reality.

At the end of March, The Trust for Public Land purchased the property with funds from VHCB and private donations. TPL is holding the title until the property can be transferred to the state as an addition to the Roxbury State Forest. TPL hopes this closing will happen by Wednesday June 17th, or soon after.

Thank you VHCB, the Town of Roxbury and its residents, and all the private donors who helped TPL get this purchase of valuable land over the end zone! 🏠



Pink Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) is a native orchid found growing in Roxbury State Forest. It is also called Moccasin Flower.

## Roxbury Village School News

Hello, Roxbury!

I am writing to introduce myself as the incoming Principal of Roxbury Village School. I am thrilled to be joining the RVS community. I am looking forward to working with staff, families, and students to create a collaborative working relationship that benefits all learners. As I navigate my new role in Roxbury, I strive to be an advocate for all students, their families, and the amazing educators who work with the children each day. It is my hope that our community will share the vision of every student, every day and support our work of ensuring that all students are learning at high levels.

I grew up in Barre and graduated from Spaulding High School. Afterward, I attended Trinity College of Vermont where I earned a dual degree in Business and Comparative Studies. Shortly after graduating from college, I married and began a family. My family includes my husband, David, and our three children – Mackenzie, Brendan, and Cassidy. About twenty years ago, my family and I left Vermont and moved to Maine. Over the last 15 years, I have worked as an elementary school teacher. Throughout that time (as a parent and as a teacher), I discovered that the single most important factor to student learning is creating a positive, safe learning environment that puts students first. Wanting to build capacity for others to do the same, I became certified in school administration. Wanting to return to central Vermont and make a difference in the lives of all students has brought me to you.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and have been able to enjoy all the best our beautiful part of the world has to offer. I am excited about the beginning of the school year, the beginning of wonderful things for our students, and the beginning of a positive partnership with all of you.

I look forward to meeting you soon! In the meantime, should you wish to connect with me I may be reached via email at [bethkellogg@mpsvt.org](mailto:bethkellogg@mpsvt.org).

Beth Kellogg  
Incoming Principal  
Roxbury Village School 🏠

### Calling all Roxbury Kids !

Tell us what you did this summer! Got a story to share? We want your artwork, poetry, photos and writing to publish in the next Newsy. Send it to [librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org)

## Roxbury Planning Commission

We, the Roxbury Planning Commission (Lucinda Sullivan, Mike French, Elizabeth Carney, and Dottie Guiffre), meet twice a month on Thursday at 6PM at the Town Office Building. These meetings are open to the public, with agendas and minutes available at the Town Office and on the Town Website.

We are continuing to work on rewriting/updating the Roxbury Town Plan, which was written in 2014. In conjunction with that, members of the RPC have attended several Regional Planning Commission meetings and presentations via teleconference. We very much appreciate the responses from the survey sent out last fall, and are using that information as we work to develop a plan for the future of our community.

Once the proposed Town Plan is completed, there will be opportunities for review and comments. The final plan is rewritten every eight years, as mandated by the Regional Planning Commission for the State of Vermont. 🏠

### Field Naturalist's Corner

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is a shorebird that lives in old fields and forest edges. A small, round bird with a long bill, they are cryptically mottled in shades of brown and gray. Their bill enables them to probe the soil for earthworms, and in a single day they can consume more worms than their own body weight. Their distinct call, a nasal *peent*, can be heard often at twilight in mid- to late spring when the males perform an aerial dance to impress a mate. Special feathers on the wingtips creates a whistling "flight song." that can also be heard during disays.

As ground-nesting birds, they are vulnerable to early mowing of farm fields. Other common names for the woodcock include timberdoodle, bog sucker and night partridge. 🏠



illustration by Caleb Pincus



## Looking for the Roxbury Community Calendar?

*We apologize, but we did not print one this issue. When this issue went to the printer, schedules for literally everything in Vermont were falling apart as institutions and businesses were responding to COVID-19. Rather than advertise events and meetings that might not be happening, or could not be allowed to happen when they were initially scheduled, did not make sense to us. Please monitor all the groups in Roxbury individually to see what might be happening and when.*

Visit our Town website for official information on the COVID-19 pandemic.  
[www.roxburyvt.org/resources-vt/covid-19-resources/](http://www.roxburyvt.org/resources-vt/covid-19-resources/)

## Roxbury Food Shelf

Because of the COVID viral pandemic, we are asking individuals in need of food to please contact Claire Chomentowski at 485-7779. She will let you know how food may be picked up, or if necessary, delivered. 🏠



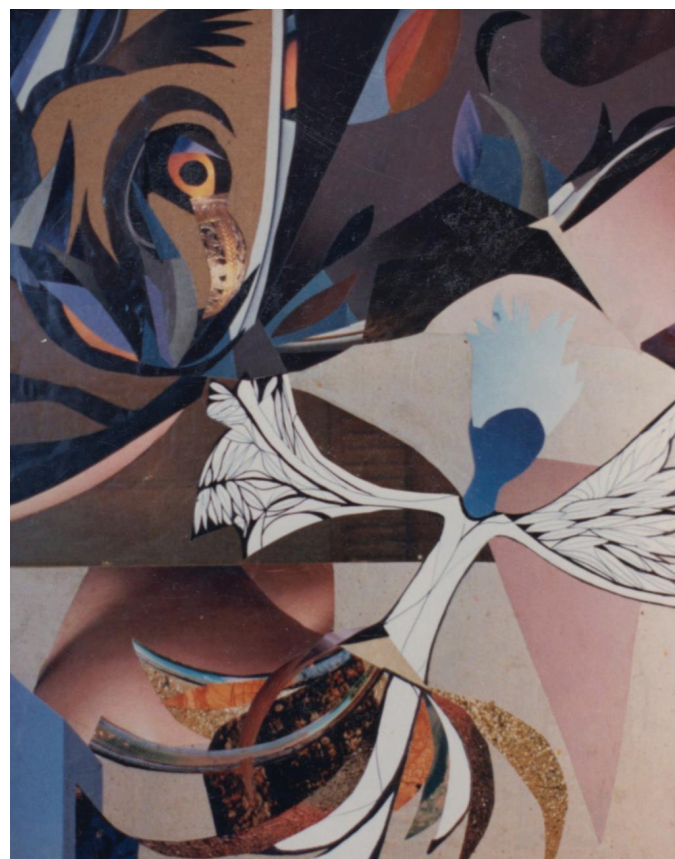
*Calypso, a Halflinger draft pony (formerly owned by the late Keith Gould of Northfield), shown relaxing in semi-retirement at Third Branch Flower. She also keeps the lawn clipped with a horse-drawn gang-reel mower.*

## Red Cross Shelter

The Roxbury Village School is an American Red Cross Emergency Shelter. The school now has a generator which makes the building a great resource in case of an emergency.

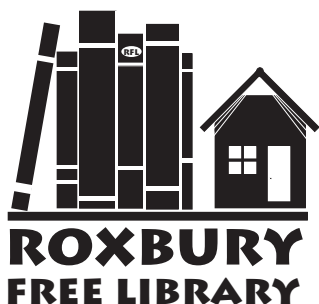
Tina Young is the coordinator and can be reached at tinayoung@mpsvt.org or 262-1506. Please contact her if you would like to be added to the list of volunteers.

In the event of an emergency, volunteers would be asked to stay at the shelter in order to enter the building. We have cots, blankets, and dried food stored at the shelter. 🏠



*"Everytime I try to fly a big bird gets in the way" collage artwork by Jane Pincus*

**Roxbury Senior Lunches are cancelled until further notice. Please reach out to seniors in our community to see if they need assistance during the COVID-19 outbreak. Let's all help to keep them safe and healthy!**



## *Roxbury Free Library Notes*

Our fellow Roxburians,

We want to start by simply sharing how much we have missed you. Over the last three months, the RFL has not been the same lively and positive place we are all used to. In the first few days after March 17, when the building became limited to staff access only, we were excited about the unique opportunity to do work on the inside of the building without the presence of the public. Yes, it was nice getting some of those lingering projects crossed off the list, but our excitement was short-lived. The RFL is an eerie place without the energy and flow of people coming through the doors. Though I will not be outlining here anything specific as to when you can walk through the door again, we are working to make it as low-risk as possible for our patrons, staff, and collection. I suspect many of you feel like we do—that acquiring materials at the curb or delivered to your home is not the way you'd like to be doing your material borrowing. We are optimistically exploring ways to better reach our patrons and community, and to provide the best entertainment and information resources in this moment. Though there are several scenarios possible, we await RFL Board approval; and are aware that the recommended guidance on public library management during the pandemic is constantly evolving.

What have we been up to in the past few months? Well, it's been the same, just not the same at all. Since the facility was limited to staff access only, we've been: printing tax forms for people; getting laptops set up for patrons to access computers while remaining outside the building; growing the collection by 224 items; providing RFL materials via curbside and home deliveries.

We also collected stories of life in Roxbury during the shut-down. When we fully transcribe these stories, they will become part of the permanent library collection.

We've set up a mentor-based program for children's summer reading and encourage any families who have not yet heard from us to get involved in a lot of fun summer reading opportunities.

We made many phone calls to touch base with our patrons and identify needed services during this unique time. Just recently, we accessed a program through the State of Vermont to increase our WiFi coverage and boost that important service (the WiFi network continues to be accessible 24/7 with no password). After considering the options for virtual library programs, we concluded at that time it was not a great fit for our library or community. If we were off-target with that decision, we apologize. We encourage you to tell us the virtual programs you would like to be part of. We miss hosting these programs and seeing everyone in the community.

To conclude we are looking at the pandemic as a way to re-vision and grow our service and serve the community as best we can. Stay in touch and be well.

Gratefully yours,

RFL Staff: Ryan, Lisa and Caitlin 🏠



## *Covid-19: Roxbury Interview Excerpts*

The following excerpts are from interviews of your fellow community members in the last three months, since we have been living under a state of emergency. Find the complete interviews, their sources, and more at the RFL this summer.

*[... "I'll have my first tele-medicine visit. Yeah, that's like thinking about the things we've talked about so far. Like how different it really is. We can't go to the doctor. The kids can't go to school.*

*Teachers can't get to the school. It really has been some pretty big change. It's definitely a big change in my life" ...]*

*[... "I think, honestly, that there is a lot of good that can come out of this. And one of it is that people have to assume a lot more self-responsibility about a lot of things, definitely your health. Definitely your health, and that you should always, you know, remember we are going to have to take more responsibility for our kids' education, we have to take more responsibility." ...]*

*[... "I don't feel isolated. I feel like I still have my good neighbors all around. And I'm happy to be in Roxbury. I'd much rather be here." ...]* 🏠



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

website and bulletin boards when a decision is made.

### SUMMER HOURS

Town Clerk's Office hours are Tuesday – Thursday, 9am - noon/1pm - 4pm; and Friday, 9am - noon.

### FALL ELECTIONS

Due to COVID-19, changes are happening with the August Primary and General Election in November. The Legislature passed a temporary COVID-19 Election Law, H.681. It is the intent of the Secretary of State's Office to conduct the remaining elections in 2020 as closely as possible to the standard process. They do not intend to make any changes unless absolutely necessary for the health and safety of everyone involved.

The Primary is on August 11th and the General Election is on November 3rd.

Residents of Vermont can register to vote at [olvr.vermont.gov](http://olvr.vermont.gov) or you can contact your Town Clerk. Vermont has Same Day Voter Registration so a resident can register to vote on the day of election and vote in person.

Registered Voters can access a variety of voter services, including requesting an absentee ballot, at their My Voter Page at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov).

If you would like to request an absentee ballot for the upcoming elections, you can contact the Town Clerk at 485-7840 or access through My Voter Page. At this time, it seems that absentee ballots may be the safest way to vote in the upcoming elections.

The Secretary of State's Office will keep the public posted on how the upcoming elections will proceed.

### NEW HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT

The 2021 International Truck has arrived. This truck replaced the aging 2012 International Truck. The Town replaced the very old chainsaw with a 362 Stihl chainsaw. A Henderson Hydro-seeder was purchased. This equipment will save on labor and is the recommended way of seeding ditches.

### SELECTBOARD

Due to COVID-19, the Vermont Corrections is unable to mow Town properties (Municipal lawns and cemeteries). The Selectboard has contracted with Jason's Handiworks to do the mowing.

There were issues with the guardrails on the bridge near the railroad crossing on Warren Mountain Road and Town Garage Road. The Town contracted with Lafayette Highway Specialties to replace the damaged guardrail.

The Highway Crew are busy grading and mowing. Grant work is being scheduled for the summer months.

The Town Office's roof needs to be replaced. The Board accepted the bid from Burrell Roofing Company.

THIS IS A DIFFICULT TIME FOR EVERYONE. PLEASE STAY SAFE. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM OTHERS. STAY AT HOME IF POSSIBLE. 🏠



*"River" illustration by Heidi Albright*

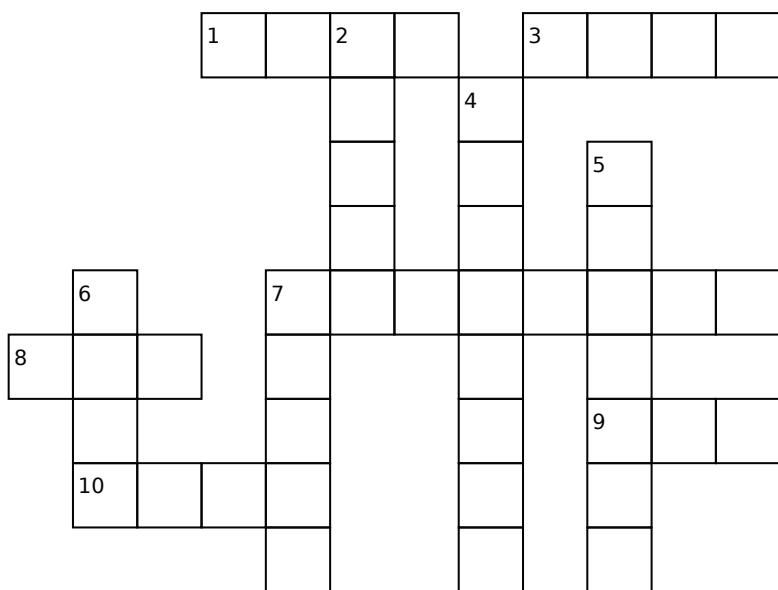
The Newsy always welcomes new contributors. Please let us know if you have anything you'd like to share with the community and we can get it into the next issue. Send questions and content to [librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org).

# Roxbury Newsy

*PO box 95*

*Roxbury VT 05669*

## Roxbury Crossword Puzzle



Across:

1. \_\_\_\_ mountain is on the west side of the Roxbury valley.
3. Roxbury \_\_\_\_ Office is where you pay your property taxes.
7. Back in February, this article of clothing was worn only because it was cold in Roxbury
8. This kind of pet has been missing and a reward is posted for its return at the Roxbury Post Office
9. Item produced by Burning Mud Pottery of Roxbury.
10. Roxbury \_\_\_\_ Office is where Gil works.

Down:

2. \_\_\_\_ country where fireworks were invented
4. Roxbury Volunteer \_\_\_\_ will be there to protect our community, even during a global pandemic.
5. Dutch philosopher who lived long before the Town of Roxbury was founded.
6. Roxbury is fortunate to have a great summer \_\_\_\_ in its downtown.
7. This issue is the \_\_\_\_ anniversary of the inaugural issue of the Newsy 