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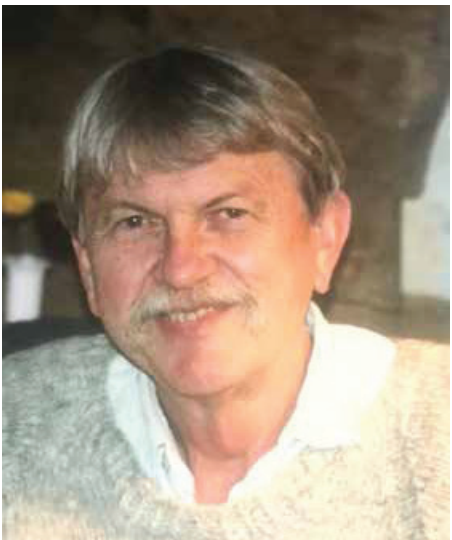
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Photos and illustrations contributed by
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Kai Pincus

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.
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Thomas Chester
Chomentowski

Thomas Chester Chomentowski passed away peacefully on Sept. 11, 2020, at his home in Roxbury. He was born on Sept. 13, 1936, in the ethnic enclave of Philadelphia affectionately known as Fishtown. His parents, Joseph and Helen (nee Wisniewski) Chomentowski, owned and operated a candy store there, and young Tom was raised on sweets and Polish food, preferences he never outgrew. The middle of three children - each spaced about

six years apart - Tom attended Philadelphia public schools, where he quickly developed his natural athleticism, particularly in basketball. While attending Northeast High School and summer varsity camps, he played both with, and against, basketball legend Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain.

He entered Dartmouth College in 1954 on a basketball scholarship, where he majored in philosophy and religion, both lifelong passions. After graduation in 1958, he worked for a time for the Department of Child Welfare in Philadelphia, then joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he fulfilled his boyhood dream of flying. Eventually, he became a fighter pilot, most notably on active assignment in Guantanamo during the exceedingly tense Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. In 1961, Tom married Anna Coyle, and the couple resided in various locales, including Philadelphia, South Carolina and Boston, before choosing an idyllic, sprawling property atop Braintree Hill. It was there they raised their five children and with the children's eager assistance, numerous horses, some goats, ducks and geese, as well.

After leaving active duty in 1965, Tom signed on to the Weekend Warriors as a U.S. Marine Reservist, and then made his way to Trans World Airlines, where his career spanned 31 years. Within three years, he achieved the rank of Captain, piloted both domestic and international flights, and with his tall stature, boyish good looks and jovial disposition, he was regarded by many as the quintessential pilot. Through the years, his work led him to several pivotal places figuring prominently on the world stage and brought him encounters with distinguished and celebrated people. In October 1989, he had the privilege of flying His Holiness the Dalai Lama, along with the Nobel Peace prize he'd just been awarded. A month later, Captain Tom and his crew were present in the streets at the toppling of the Berlin Wall. The following day, the

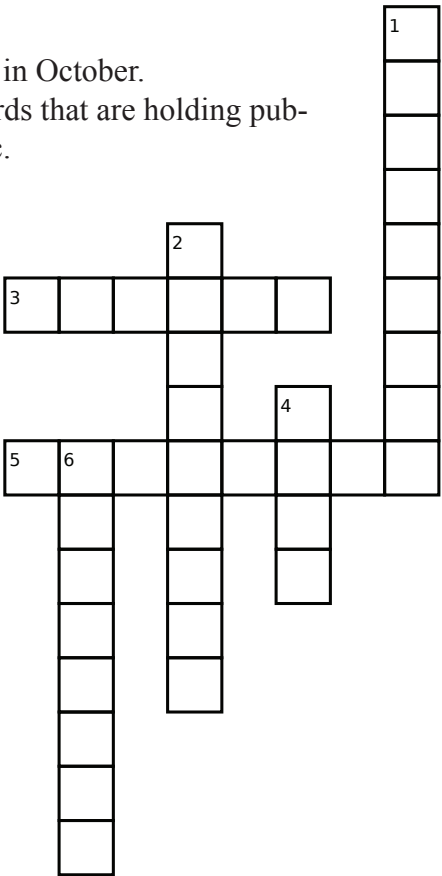
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Across:

3. Entertainer the RFL is hosting in October.
5. How many of Roxbury's Boards that are holding public meetings during the pandemic.

Down:

1. The RVS PTO mission is to help connect the students with the local _____.
2. A holiday at the end of October that will look different this year.
4. Get your water tested for this dangerous element.
6. An important event happening on November 3, 2020!



"Tom Chomentowski" continued from front page..

New York Times featured a front-page photo of the crumbling, graffiti-ridden wall accented by a large, red TWA spray-painted there by his co-pilot, amid an ecstatic crowd. And in 1995, Tom was present at the Christmas Eve Mass in Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity, the first such celebration there in 28 years free of Israel's military occupation, a Mass also attended by Palestinian Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir Arafat.

Tom retired from TWA in 1996, divorced a few years later and married Claire Manfredonia of Roxbury in 2001. He immediately assumed an active role in Roxbury church and civic affairs, heading up the food shelf and delivering many of the commodity boxes door to door. At the Roxbury Church, he became trustee, sexton, grant writer and member of the church choir, Endless Spring, his resounding baritone the only voice needed on that part. He also became active at the senior center and with the historical society and after many hours of diligent research, he filled the unofficial role of town historian. A spirited coterie of Boston sports fans would receive a warm welcome whenever they arrived to watch a game with him, as intent on hearing his stories as they were to cheer their teams on. And the numerous children who visited on Halloween each year were treated to his eerie silent presence in a dark corner of a far room, the green Frankenstein mask he wore unable to conceal the deep love he had for them, and all children.

Tom was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Regina; and his beloved son, Paul, who died in infancy. He leaves behind his wife, Claire, along with son Walter and Catherine of Michigan; his daughter, Maria of California, his son, John of Randolph Center, his daughter, Laura of Connecticut,

and his son, Robert of Quechee; and six grandchildren, of whom he was very proud.

The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice, and to numerous friends and neighbors who enabled us to keep Tom at home for the duration. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. 🏠



From the Town Clerk's Office

TAXES

Due to COVID-19, property tax due dates have been changed. The due date for the first installment of property taxes is October 9th.

The due dates for the other three installments are December 11, 2020; February 12, 2021; and May 21, 2021.

The Town Office will be open until 5pm on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week that taxes are due. (Normal office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 9am – noon/1pm – 4pm.)

VOTE

REMINDER – 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

The Polls at the Roxbury Town Office will open at 7am and close at 7pm. If you decide to vote in person, please wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from others.

This year, the Secretary of State's Office is mailing every registered voter a ballot. If you were a registered voter in Roxbury on September 2nd, you will receive a ballot in the mail. If you registered after that date, the Town Clerk's Office will mail you a ballot. Any legal resident of Roxbury can register to vote up to and including the day of election.

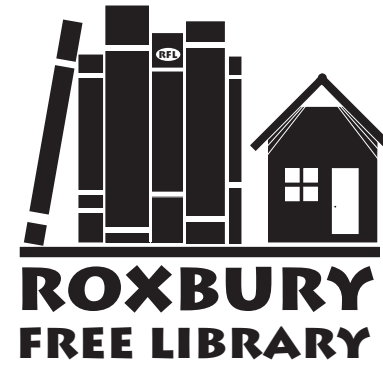
If voting via absentee ballot, please, please remember to fill out your CERTIFICATE ENVELOPE. If the envelope is not filled out and signed, your vote will not count. Your ballot must go into the certificate envelope.

You can drop off your ballot at the Town Office or return your ballot by mail—the envelopes have postage already on them. A new, secure drop box will be installed outside the Town Office for your convenience, or you can bring the ballot into the office. We do not know the exact date the ballots will be mailed to you, but if you have questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 485-7840.

MY VOTER PAGE

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can: check their

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Roxbury Free Library Notes

Thank you to all the cooperative patrons who have been diligently following our safety guidelines at the RFL since we reopened in July. We continue to be able to remain open for patron visits only because of your cooperation.

For the foreseeable future, we expect to continue following the same COVID-19 operations that we've been following since July. To visit the RFL you will have the option to reserve a private time block during the first and last hour of each shift, or you may utilize the open walk-in hours during all other hours of each shift. All visitors will be expected to limit their visits inside the RFL to 30 minutes. The RFL is open for in-person visits on Tues. 10am - 6pm, Wed. 8am - 11am, Thu. 2pm - 7pm, and Sat. 10am - 1pm. As always, home and curbside deliveries continue to be an option if you find either suits you better. Facial coverings and hand sanitization will continue to be part of all in-person visits. Don't forget that computer access, printing services, WiFi, and new reading materials continue to be accessible at the RFL during the pandemic. Stop in and you'll see recently acquired titles on the shelves, like: *The Book of Two Ways*, *A Burning*, *All the Devils are Here*, and many more.

We are going to host a socially-distanced and COVID-19-safe in-person family event on Sat. Oct. 3rd, at 10am. Join us in downtown Roxbury as Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate sets anchor for a free family music show. The show will run for approximately one hour. We are still confirming the final location for this fair-weather-only performance, but come downtown and you'll find us. Please bring your own chairs or blankets. No reservation required. We have not yet formally committed one way or the other about organizing the annual Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. We welcome more feedback over the beginning of October as we evaluate options and make a decision. Congratulations to all the winners of the RFL Board's annual fundraising raffle and thank you to everyone who has supported the RFL. Enjoy this issue of the Newsy and stay in touch, Roxbury.

~ The Staff of Roxbury's most popular public library, the RFL! 🏠



"From the Town Clerk's Office" continued from page 6...

lems? 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 and keep yourself and your family safe.

Be Lead Safe: 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. 🏠

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

registration status; view information on upcoming elections; access voter-specific election information, including directions to polling locations and 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>

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 and 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, 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 Help Line at 1-800-642-5119.

TOWN OFFICE

The Town Office is open to the public. Masks are required. A plexiglass barrier has been installed in the hallway—thank you Jon Guiffre for the wonderful job you did on that. There is a counter in the hallway for the public to use. If someone is doing research, an appointment is required. Please contact the Town Clerk to schedule an appointment.

Staff is working hard to protect the public and staff. Please honor our request to wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from others.

The roof has been replaced at the Town Office. Burrell Roofing was awarded the job.

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT

The Roxbury Selectboard is in the process of replacing the 2012 Ford Truck. A new Ford Truck has been ordered; delivery should be this fall. Also, the 1987 Loader has been replaced with a new 2019 John Deere Loader; delivery should

be in September. The Town took delivery of the 2021 International Truck in the spring. The Selectboard did not take the vote to replace the equipment lightly. The cost of repairs to the older equipment was increasing each year and at times the equipment was down for many days.

The road crew have been very busy this summer working on grant projects. They have completed projects on Cram Hill Road and Cruickshank Road. There are two projects on Warren Mountain Road that are being worked on now or will be soon. The large Warren Mountain Road Slope Project should begin in October. Parts of this project will be done this fall and finished up in the spring. Some of these projects will have contractors doing some or all of the work.

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

Currently, the Selectboard meetings are being held via conference calls. Please look at the agendas for dates and details on how to participate.

TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL

The Selectboard was ordered to start the process of having another town-wide reappraisal. They put the reappraisal out to bid. New England Municipal Consultants was awarded the job. Their plan is to start in the spring of 2021 with the new grand list being filed in June of 2022. The company is required to visit every property. Please keep an eye out for them to visit or call, or send correspondence regarding their inspections.

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

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 prob-

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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.

Maple Caramels

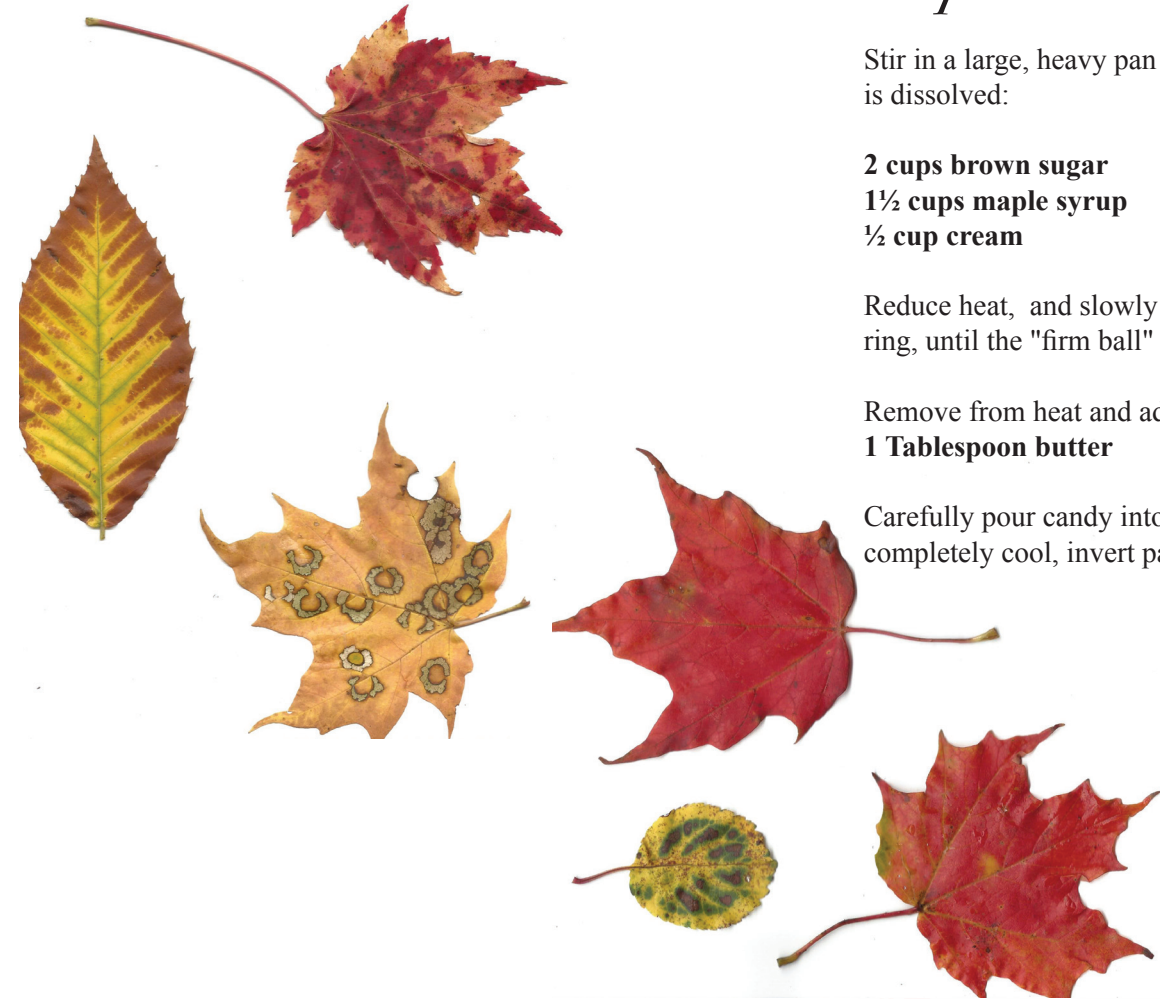
Stir in a large, heavy pan over medium heat until the sugar is dissolved:

2 cups brown sugar
1½ cups maple syrup
½ cup cream

Reduce heat, and slowly cook these ingredients while stirring, until the "firm ball" candy stage, or 242°F.

Remove from heat and add:
1 Tablespoon butter

Carefully pour candy into a buttered square pan. After completely cool, invert pan and cut into squares. Enjoy! 🏠



Field Naturalist's Corner

Every autumn, deciduous trees begin the process of shutting down for winter dormancy by shedding their leaves. Dormancy is triggered by a combination of day-length, temperature, and sometimes drought.

As chlorophyll production stops, the other pigments found in leaves are revealed. There are three main pigments responsible for autumn leaf color: yellow xanthophylls (C₄₀H₅₆O₂), red, orange and yellow carotenoids, such as alpha- and beta-carotene (C₄₀H₅₆), and the red and purple anthocyanins (C₁₅H₁₁O⁺).

Hormones produced by the tree also signal the leaf stem fibers to weaken, and the leaf eventually falls. Leaf abscission is an important strategy to conserve water during the dry and cold winter.

Can you identify the above leaves? They include Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Apple, and American Beech. 🏠



Roxbury Village School News

“What are your hopes and dreams for the school year?” is a common question teachers ask of students as we begin a new school year. It helps set a positive tone and good foundation for our year ahead. Setting learning goals for students shows them that school is a safe place, they are important members of our school community, and that they can look forward to a fun and engaging year of learning. We often refer back to these hopes and dreams throughout the year to remind students of their potential, their role in helping others, and to let them know they (and their education) are valued.

Some “hopes and dreams” from our students include:

- “I want to be in the military.”
- “I want to jump rope.”
- “I want to learn to read.”
- “My hope is to learn how to be a dentist.”
- “My hope and dream for kindergarten is to learn about animals and to be a cowgirl.”
- “My hope and dream is to go on a walk in a pretty place.”
- “I want to be a friend.”
- “I want to get good at helping animals.”
- “I want to fix things.”

As you can see, our students have amazing things to hope and dream about! As a school, our hope and dream is to create a community where all our students feel successful, safe, and ready to learn. Despite the current global pandemic, each of us at Roxbury Village School are committed to helping our students realize their hopes and dreams while maintaining a safe learning environment. We have an amazing group of educators who are all committed to the well-being of our students. Frequent handwashing, regular cleaning of surfaces, use of air purification machines, wearing of face masks, and a shared commitment to keeping everyone safe has become a regular practice throughout our school. The students have done a wonderful job wearing their masks. Families have done a great job modeling this for students. Our ability to provide masks for all students is due in large part to generous donations from our community members and PTO. Students have many fun patterns to choose from in the masks that have been donated. Beyond that, our PTO has donated masks and fabric markers so students can decorate their own mask. We are grateful for their generosity.

We are also grateful to our community partners in Roxbury. This fall, we will be visiting Drift Farmstead on a weekly basis, as part of our Farm to School program. Students will be connecting concepts learned in school to concepts they study on the farm. For example, students learning about life cycles in science will be able to experience life cycles in

person on the farm. The D’Amico family has also been very generous with their land, allowing our teachers and students to access their property for nature walks. Students use this space to engage their senses. For example, when writing about “small moments,” they can think and write about what they see, hear, smell, and feel as they explore their surroundings. Our time spent learning outside has been wonderful.

We typically post upcoming events in the Roxbury Newsy, unfortunately, due to guidelines related to COVID-19, we will not be able to host some of our traditional events this year. We hope to keep you informed on what’s going on in our school community through regular communications in this publication, as well as our weekly family newsletter and social media channels:
Facebook -- <https://www.facebook.com/roxburyvillageschool>
Twitter -- <https://twitter.com/RoxburyVS>
MRPS Website -- <https://www.mrpsvt.org/>

Thank you for your continued support of our school. 🏠

Roxbury Village School PTO

Greetings from the Roxbury Village School PTO. The PTO has been on a bit of a hiatus, likely similar to many members of our community - in one way or another. The RVS PTO continues to work toward our mission: To enrich educational experiences; Support our students’ being well-rounded socially, academically, physically, and emotionally; and Connecting with their community. Our mission helps us determine our goals and guides our decisions about the events and efforts we support. In past years our efforts have focused on raising money to support RVS student opportunities to attend field trips and fund special events. In the fall of 2020 our attention turns to the safety of our children, their teachers, and the community at large. The RVS PTO had our first meeting in months in the middle of August—masked and socially distancing in the parking lot of RVS in an attempt to respond to our new reality. The PTO would like to respond to a significantly, though not dramatically, changed school. We hope to support our teachers and RVS administrators in modeling safe mask usage, hand washing, and effective germ awareness. The PTO has not been able to sponsor a field trip in many months. It may be many months before we can. Therefore, the PTO is attempting to bring enrichment opportunities to RVS. We also seek opportunities to support efforts to increase the safety of children and staff at RVS. If you have any practical ideas to strengthen RVS and our commitment to the enrichment of our children and the safety of our school and our community, please share them with: roxburypto@gmail.com 🏠

Roxbury Community Calendar

Please monitor all the groups in Roxbury individually to find out the format (in-person, conference call or video conference).

Wed	10/7/2020	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30
Fri	10/9/2020	Property taxes due today
Tue	10/13/2020	Roxbury Free Library Trustee's Meeting at 5:30
Thu	10/15/2020	Roxbury Select Board meeting
Wed	10/21/2020	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30
Thu	10/22/2020	Montpelier Roxbury School District Budget Discussion at 6:30 (Zoom meeting)
Tue	11/3/2020	General Election Day
Wed	11/4/2020	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30
Thu	11/5/2020	Roxbury Select Board meeting
Tue	11/10/2020	Roxbury Free Library Trustee's Meeting at 5:30
Wed	11/18/2020	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30
Thu	11/19/2020	Roxbury Select Board meeting
Wed	12/2/2020	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30
Thu	12/3/2020	Roxbury Select Board meeting
Tue	12/8/2020	Roxbury Free Library Trustee's Meeting at 5:30
Fri	12/11/2020	Property taxes due today
Wed	12/16/2020	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30
Thu	12/17/2020	Roxbury Select Board meeting

Visit our Town website for official information on the COVID-19 pandemic.
www.roxburyvt.org/resources-vt/covid-19-resources/

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 pandemic. Let’s all help to keep them safe and healthy!

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

Montpelier-Roxbury Board of School Directors

A public meeting to share information about the Montpelier-Roxbury Public School (MRPS) draft budget will be held at 6:30 PM on October 22nd. Please check the MRPS web page for details: <https://www.mrpsvt.org/meeting-schedule>. We hope to see you there! 🏠

Roxbury Food Shelf

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. 🏠

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 tinay-oung@mpsvt.org or 262-1506. Please contact her if you would like to be added to the list of volunteers.

We have cots, blankets, and dried food stored at the shelter. 🏠