

Roxbury Newsy

Your community newsletter

April- June 2023, Vol. 8 No. 2

Inside...

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!

Back and Forth in Time

by Jane Pincus.....p 1

From the Town Clerk's Office.....p 2

Roxbury Green Up Day.....p 3

Two Poems: Spring Song, and Moment
by Jane Pincus.....p 3

Poem: Evergreen
by Jade, 4th grader.....p 3

Independence Day Events
by Mary Bouchard.....p 3

MRPS
by Kristen Getler and Rhett Williams....p 4

Roxbury Village School
By Beth Kellogg.....p 5

Roxbury Park Development.....p 6

RVFD.....p 6

Poem: Gardens
by Malachi, 2nd grader.....p6

Roxbury Free Library Notes.....p 7

*Poem: on reaching the milestone of
widowhood*
by Claire Chomentowski.....p 7

*Photos in this issue were contributed by:
Roxbury Park Committee, old photos
found in the Community Hall/Senior
Center, and the Vermont Historic Sites and
Structures Survey of 1989.*

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 B. Jen-
kins, Jane Pincus, and Heidi Albright
for compiling, editing, and designing
this issue of the Newsy!

We hope you enjoy it.

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Back and Forth in Time

by Jane Pincus, with Barbara Sullivan

As a little girl, Barbara Sullivan lived in Glenvale, California, for most of the year. But she considered herself lucky when her family spent two weeks each August in Roxbury. They would visit the Grandparents from the time she was two years old in the early 50s, until 1961.

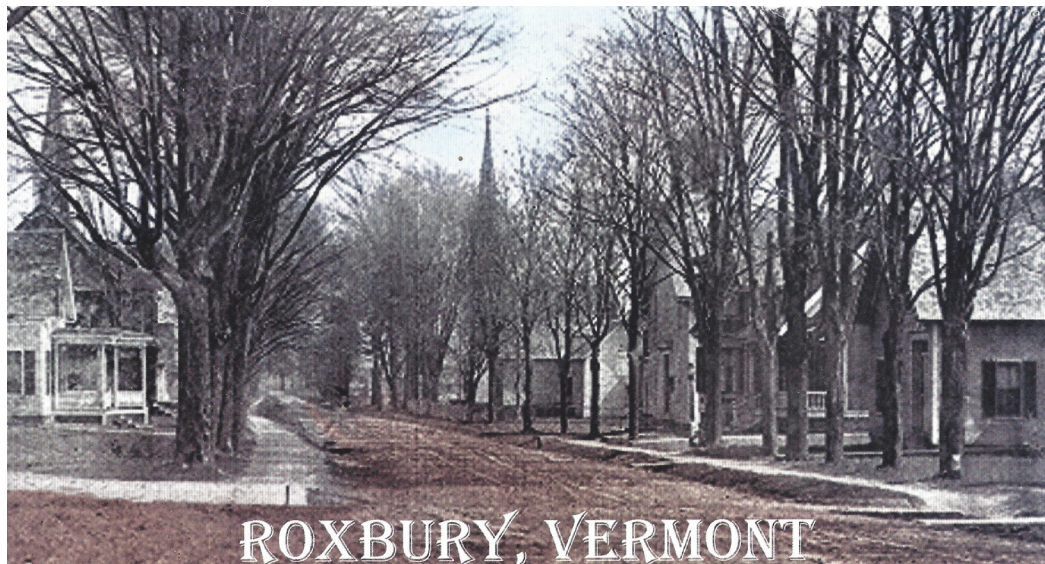
She loved coming here. She stayed with her family in Charles and Edith Sullivan's home. That particular house is no longer here—but you can face the school, and imagine it standing just opposite you, in the very left-hand corner of the schoolyard where Tracy Hill Road joins 12A.

(In 1971, when she returned for one of her visits, she was sad to see the house's windows broken, the place "a mess").

Barbara talked about how it felt to live in the village in the summertime. People up and down the main street were always friendly. She was fascinated to learn that that the Post Office was actually located in somebody's house! And that the schoolhouse consisted of only one room. And that they lived so close to the whistle and roar of the trains passing through.

Most wonderful of all, the tall elm trees lining Main Street formed a gorgeous canopy shading the entire village.

continued on back cover...



Beautiful downtown Roxbury, in a past age.

From the Town Clerk's Office

2023 DOG LICENSES

It is time to license your dog(s). The deadline is April 1st. The cost is \$9.00 for a neutered dog and \$13.00 for an un-neutered dog. After April 1st the cost will be \$11.00 for a neutered dog and \$17.00 for an un-neutered dog. 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 should be vaccinated every three years, but the first vaccination is only good for one year.

TAXES

The next property tax installment is due on May 12, 2023. The office will be open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Town accepts postmarked envelopes.

SUMMER HOURS

Summer hours will begin May 6th. The Town Office will close at noon on Fridays (except for the day property taxes are due). Summer hours will end the last Friday of September.

2023 TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting was held on March 7th. 312 votes were cast via Australian ballot (119 in person and 193 at the polls). 71 voters attended Town Meeting.

Officers elected on March 7th:

Town Moderator – Lucinda Sullivan
 Town Clerk – Tammy Legacy
 Town Treasurer – Anne Maxham
 Selectboard for 3 years – Rene Bouchard
 Lister (3 yrs) – Bill Hansen
 Collector of Delinquent Taxes – Bill Hansen
 Library Trustees (3) – Heidi Albright, Dotti Guiffre, and Jane Pincus
 Cemetery Commissioner – Jack Cashman
 First Constable – Reggie Brown Jr.
 Second Constable – Dave Santi

There is a vacancy on the Board of Listers and two on the Board of Auditors. Anyone interested in filling a vacancy should contact the Town Office at 802-485-7840.

I would like to send a thank you out to Sam Twombly for his years serving as Roxbury's Delinquent Tax Collector; Ed Carney for his years on the Board of Library Trustees; and to Ryan Johns for the time he was on the Selectboard.

All articles passed but some were amended by increasing the

financial amount. Article 20 also passed, which disapproved the Junk Ordinance.

The Montpelier/Roxbury School District meeting was also held on March 7th.

School District Clerk – Tammy Legacy

School District Treasurer – Hillary Montgomery

The combination of Montpelier and Roxbury votes passed all articles.

The Central Vermont Career Center articles passed.

The Central Vermont Career Center consists of four school districts (eighteen towns). Since the ballots were combined, there is no way to know how Roxbury voters voted.

2023-2024 PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES

At Town Meeting, the voters approved the dates the property taxes will be due. The dates are:

August 18, 2023, November 10, 2023, February 9, 2024, and May 10, 2024.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

The Roxbury Selectboard appointed the following:

Selectboard Chair – Jon Guiffre

Road Commissioner – David McShane

Animal Control Officer – Janine Manninen

Town Health Officer – Craig Sullivan

Deputy Health Officer – John Valentine

Chairman of Civil Defense – Steve Twombly

CVRPC Representative – Gerry D'Amico

Roxbury Planning Commissioner – Mike French

E-911 Coordinator – Rene Bouchard

CV Internet Representative – Tim Sullivan

CV Transportation Rep – Gerry D'Amico

Green-Up Day Coordinators – Claire Chomentowski and Kim Copeland

There are more appointments to be made by the Selectboard.

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

Roxbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes are posted on the Town's website, www.roxburyvt.org. If you are unable to attend meetings, you can keep up with what is happening in your town by reading the minutes or listening to the recordings of the meetings.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

The Roxbury Selectboard will be discussing the suggestions of the ARPA committee on how Roxbury's ARPA funds should be used. This will take place over the next few Selectboard meetings.

continued on page 6..

Roxbury Green Up Day Saturday, May 6th.

The bags can be picked up on Claire Chomentowski's front porch (red house next to the Post Office), and we'll have our traditional lunch at the church at noon. Please join us!

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!

Spring Song

in the beginning the springtime of winter
this day
tremulous buds shimmer chilled in their shells
wondering
nearly deceived into bloom by an exquisite
sun

Jane Pincus

Evergreen

by Jade, 4th grade

Tall
Evergreen
Tall swaying giant
Strong big powerful tree
Birds come and rest
With ease on branches
Long and high
Robins fly and make a
Nest on the big
Evergreen
Tree

Moment

The Watch has caught: How wide how deep my world
is ringing with dimension: Fact and poem,
abstraction, tenderness- I sing to sing
Aie! Feel the spring, it lives in me again!
I had not guessed the muted life in me to be so
durable; though quiet, strong.
Will he just nod his head, or understand
how rich my song, and hold it in his hand...

Jane Pincus, 1961

Independence Day Events

by Mary Bouchard

July 1, 2023, Independence Day Celebrations

Save the date, mark your calendar, and join in the celebrations! Roxbury's Parade Day celebrations are underway, and we are moving forward with big plans!

We encourage Roxbury residents to enter a float in the parade, to display your artistic/crafting talents in our Local Talent Exhibit, and if you are musically inclined, to offer a fun form of "entertainment" that you are willing to share. That would be amazing! **We ask that you contact any of us listed below by May 15, 2023.** This date will give us a good idea of participation. If spaces are still available, we will invite our neighboring towns to join in.

As in years past we will be offering the BBQ, the rummage sale, book sale, and bake sale, as well as opening the Historical Society building. We have a few new ideas in the works, too! Our Park will be open and welcoming, we hope to have tours at the Fish Hatchery, and we are planning a few wonderful events just for children. Look forward to another fun-filled celebration!

Contact these community members to learn more or to participate in these different events!

Parade: Mary Bouchard, marymbouchard@outlook.com

Visual Art/Local Talent: Carol Randall, carolwillisrandall@yahoo.com OR Amanda Habel, amandahabel@tds.net

Performing Art/Entertainment: Susan D'Amico, abuzzard@tds.net OR Amy Barrett, amy.martin.barrett@gmail.com

Bake Sale: Jane Pincus, aggiesmee@tds.net

Rummage Sale: Claire Chomentowski, woopie@tds.net

Book Sale: Ryan Zajac, librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org 



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

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.

MRPS

(Montpelier-Roxbury Public Schools)

Kristen Getler and Rhett Williams

We thank you for coming out to vote and choosing to invest in the Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools (MRPS). The proposed MRPS FY24 budget (\$28,608,500) passed in Roxbury and Montpelier. This budget will result in 9.59% decrease in the tax rate for Roxbury and a 1.37% increase for Montpelier. We look forward to the work ahead, the positive impacts on students based on the priorities in this budget, and hearing from you as we move through the coming year.

The MRPS school board has identified three goal areas for the coming year: closing student achievement and opportunity gaps; belonging, safety, and wellness in the schools; and board communication and accountability. If you're looking for a better understanding of efforts underway at MRPS, there are a number of avenues for you to learn more.

MRPS produces a blog, vlog, and podcast (<https://www.mrpsvt.org/podcast>). Through these mediums, we hear directly from students, principals, special educators, our superintendent, and more. It's a great way to hear the voices leading and experiencing education at MRPS. You can also follow MRPS on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

The MRPS school board meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. each month. Every 4th meeting is held at the Roxbury Village School; otherwise meetings are held at Montpelier High School. You are welcome to attend school board meetings in-person or virtually, and you can also access recordings of previous meetings. All school board meeting information can be found at <https://www.mrpsvt.org/agendas-minutes>; all school board meetings are videotaped and an archive is available at www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-roxbury-school-board.

Additionally, all MRPS school board committee meetings are open to the public. Currently active board committees include Negotiations (teacher and staff contracts); Finance; Policy; Equity; Facilities and Energy; and Superintendent Evaluation. Kristen chairs the Facilities and Energy Committee, and serves on the Equity Committee; Rhett serves on the Negotiations, Finance, Policy, and Superintendent Evaluation Committees. Find committee agendas and minutes on the MRPS school board committee page (<https://www.mrpsvt.org/committees>).

MRPS has initiated two audits of district operations that include reviews of (1) our special education programming and (2) educational equity. The MRPS board will receive a

“Special Education 101” presentation at our April 5th meeting, followed by a presentation of the Special Education audit results at our April 19th meeting. The MRPS equity audit will occur over an 8 month period, April - November 2023. Educational equity means that every student has access to the educational resources and rigor they need when they need it across all identities and backgrounds (i.e., race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background, and/or family income) in order to be successful. The equity audit consultants will engage with MRPS teachers, staff, and broader community through a variety of formats to understand current practices through multiple perspectives; with an emphasis on hearing voices of traditionally underrepresented people including, but not limited to: the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities, multilingual families, and families who are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch. Consultants will examine systems currently in place, including established and emerging curriculum documents, teaching practice, flexible pathway opportunities, and systems of student support. If you are interested in learning more about this process, reach out to Kristen.

Following detection of high PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) levels at what is now the former Burlington High School, the state legislature passed Act 74 in 2021. Act 74 requires all schools constructed or renovated before 1980 to test for PCBs in indoor air and address any PCB levels found at or above the school action level. Lighting ballasts in older fluorescent lighting fixtures and caulk are the common sources of PCBs in school buildings. State agencies are leading the coordination and scheduling of PCB testing at schools. As of this writing, PCB testing has been completed (early march 2023) at Union Elementary School and MSMS with results expected within one month of testing. Testing at RVS is scheduled for January-March 2024 and at MHS for January-March 2025. Notably, as of this writing, the legislature was discussing pausing the PCB testing program. It is widely held that there are inadequate state funds to back up the wide-scale remediation that may result from the mandated testing. Of the 22 Vermont schools tested, eight detected PCB levels that require further action. We will continue to watch this conversation closely. If you are interested in this topic, contact Kristen.

Following advocacy efforts over the past 2 years by the MHS Earth Group and Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee (MEAC), the MRPS school board's Facilities and Energy Committee is working on a resolution to establish goals and a work plan to guide MRPS's transition away from fossil fuels across facilities and operations. In March 2021, the MHS Earth Group requested that the board adopt a net zero policy. In August 2021, MEAC shared the Montpelier Net Zero Action

continued on page 5...

Roxbury Village School

Happy Spring, everyone! While we still have a lot of snow on our playground at Roxbury Village School, work is underway to begin planning for our gardens at RVS. We continue to be grateful to our Caregiver Group for all of the support they provide to our school gardens. Facilitating the High Mowing Seed fundraiser, buying supplies, donating time and labor, and organizing our RVS GARDEN DAY are just a few of the examples of how the Caregivers help with our school gardens. Please plan to join us at RVS on Sunday, May 7th, from 1:30-4:30, for a day in the dirt as we prepare the garden beds for planting. This event was well attended last year, and a lot of fun was had by all who were there. This year, our Caregiver Group is hoping to have even more people help with the gardens, and they are planning a barbecue to cap off the day's activities. We look forward to seeing you!

Our preschool students have been busy getting seeds ready for planting. They are preparing ground cherries, kale, carrots, watermelon, pumpkin, birdhouse gourds, and various herbs for tea. Thanks to the generous donations of seeds, soils, and containers from our Caregiver Group, each classroom will take responsibility for starting seeds that will eventually be planted in our school gardens. Students were surveyed to see what they'd most like to eat. From there, the plans made for planting, and food choices were coordinated with Ms. Marion in the kitchen, to ensure that food that is planted in the garden will be gathered, prepared, and served by and for students. In addition, other items to be planted include popcorn, potatoes, zucchini, carrots, beets, radishes, peas, and more. I understand that plans also include pickling cucumbers, as we have a lot of students who love pickles!

Another sign of Spring in Vermont is the start of sugar season. Our Bridges group has been busy tapping a few trees here at RVS. Sap will be gathered and boiled off at school. We are hoping for enough maple syrup to have sugar on snow for students (we know we have enough snow)! The weather has cooperated so far with cooler nights and warmer days. With more daylight in each passing day, we hope everyone is finding more time to enjoy the outdoors. Our students certainly enjoy visiting the forest each Friday to learn about the world around them. They bring the learning back into the classroom with lessons aligned to our science curriculum.

Be on the lookout for a future post on the MRPS vlog featuring our Forest Friday program and a visit from Superintendent Libby Bonesteel. More information about all of the great things happening in our district can be found in our MRPS blog, as administrators throughout the district highlight how our various schools share support for our Theory of Growth. Beyond that, everyone is welcome to subscribe to our Roxbury School News-

letter, "The Buzz," to learn more about what is happening in our local school community.

Beth Kellogg
Principal, Roxbury Village School 🏠

Calling all Roxbury Kids !

Tell us what you did this year! 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

"MRPS" continued from page 4...

Plan which included recommendations to eliminate oil-based heat at MSMS and MHS. The draft resolution will be considered for review and approval at the April 5th and April 19th school board meetings. If you are interested in learning more about this process, reach out to Kristen.

We are working to re-establish contracts with our teachers and instructional assistants (IAs). We appreciate the skill and hard work of our teachers and we will compensate them fairly. We are restructuring the pay scale for individual assistants (IAs) based on three tiers: classroom IAs, intensive needs IAs, and behavioral IAs. Staff in these categories will be required to maintain training, paid for by the district, which will reinforce the skills needed for each position. We have had a number of open IA positions for a few years now. We hope to increase compensation for individual assistants in order to remain competitive with other school districts and other industries. As of this writing, contracts are still being negotiated. Contact Rhett if you have any questions on this topic.

Caregivers of Roxbury MHS and MSMS students, please be reminded that we advocated for a late bus to serve Roxbury students who participate in after-school activities (i.e. clubs, sports programs, academic support). The bus goes from MHS (6:15pm), to MSMS (6:20pm), with a drop-off at Northfield's South Village Mobil at 6:40pm. We understand there are few riders on this bus route. We hope ridership will be substantial enough to continue justifying the expense. If you have any comments or questions about this bus route, please contact us.

Three student issues we are hearing about from Montpelier-based caregivers are bullying, concern about literacy/reading instruction, and learning loss during Covid. If these issues are challenges coming up for your family, we would like to hear from you.

Kristen and Rhett

Kristen Getler (kristengetler@mpsvt.org)

Rhett Williams (rhettwilliams@mpsvt.org) 🏠

Roxbury Village Park Committee

Cheers to all from the Roxbury Village Park Committee! Thank you so much for helping us meet our campaign goal of \$7,500, which qualifies us for an additional \$15,000 matching grant from the Better Places Grant Program from the State of Vermont. It was truly awesome to meet our goal well ahead of the 60-day deadline! Meeting that goal early reinforced that the Roxbury community supports the Park, and it reduced the stress of having to figure out how to close any financial gap between the funds we had begun to raise and the required \$7,500 match.

Your financial contributions, as well as those from friends in neighboring communities and beyond, lifted the Committee's spirits and strengthened our resolve to succeed in obtaining the funds to complete the park project. We hope to be able to install the picnic tables, ping pong table, chess table, bike rack, and attractive safety fencing so that we may all celebrate the completed park and salute the many who participated in its development as part of the 4th of July celebration!

Roxbury Village Park Committee

Edward Carney, Craig Sullivan, Dotti Guiffre, James Rogler, Elizabeth Carney 🏠



Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department

The Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department (RVFD) thanks voters for their approval of Articles 16, 17, and 18 at the March town meeting. Your support enables the department to continue fire and emergency response, conduct training, purchase equipment, and plan for eventual replacement of vehicles.

Recently the RVFD participated in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator training (CPR/AED) for response to cardiac or breathing emergency. All department members are now recertified to meet current standards.

Please note that burn permits are required when snow is no longer present at the burning site. Call Tim Martin, Fire Warden, at (802) 485-6555 or Don Randall, Assistant Fire Warden, at (802) 485-8341 to obtain a permit. For complete information on backyard burning and other fire-related safety information from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, click on the link under RVFD on the Roxbury Town website, or go to: <https://roxburyvt.org/our-roxbury-vt/roxbury-vt-fire-department/> 🏠

Gardens by Malachi, 2nd grade

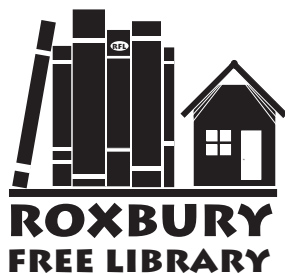


Green
Animals
Radishes
Dirt
Earthworms
Nature
Seeds

"From the Town Clerk" continued from page 2...

GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Green Mountain Passport Program allows free day-use passes for Vermont State Parks and historic sites. If you are a Vermont resident at least 62 years of age or a Vermont veteran of the uniformed services you are eligible. To enroll in the program, you must complete an application at your Town Clerk's Office and pay a one-time fee of \$2. Once completed you will receive a Green Mountain Passport card which is good for life and is not transferrable. For more information contact the Town Clerk's Office at 485-7840 or stop by. 🏠



Roxbury Free Library Notes

A few notes of interest from your local public library.

We have several upcoming events over the next few months we want to bring attention to. The RFL book club is meeting on April 10 at the RFL for a discussion about Ishiguro's book *Klara and the Sun*. The postponed community meeting with Curtiss Reed Jr. (about reimagining race in Vermont) will be held in May, final date forthcoming. We're in conversation with the director and producers of the Vermont documentary Ruth Stone's "Vast Library of the Female Mind" and expect to host a screening of the documentary with a Q&A in May. More details forthcoming. We are planning to host the annual Green Up Day book sale on Sat. May 6. Details for dropping off books and hours of the sale will be posted before the event. We hosted a first annual Roxbury Garden Tour in July 2022. Both the gardeners and visitors called it a success last year, so we're planning another tour in 2023. Do you, or someone you know have a garden you'd like to share with the community? Please let us know, we'd love to offer more stops on the tour route.

The RFL Board has organized another great fundraiser raffle. You can purchase tickets at the RFL for \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. Raffle prizes include: A selection of beef from Flint Brook Farm; a round of golf at the Northfield Country Club; and gift cards to Bear Pond Books, the Roxbury General Store, and Frazier's Greenhouse. All the ticket sale proceeds support library initiatives, like the *Newsy* you're reading here. The winners will be drawn on July 4th.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that we tend to do a big portion of our acquisitions work in April and May each year. So, that means you can expect to find the RFL filled with lots of great new materials this spring and early summer. Wishing you all a happy spring.

Your RFL staff: Ryan, Caitlyn, and Lisa 🏠

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.

on reaching the milestone of widowhood

the former questions of
when? how? (but never, why?)
once looming over me and casting
wide shadows
are suddenly stripped of relevance,
exposed like roots
worn slick, polished
and obvious.

a subsequent question:
where?
where are you now?
(are you now?)

no matter

yet here
i hold you in the hand
you used to dwarf with yours
your essence pooled in my palm
like the sand one shakes
from a shoe after a day
on the beach.

it is only the tangible in life
fit for kissing,
a tug of a thought which unspools
this memory:
we are walking the shoreline on plum island;
you stoop to kiss the print
my foot leaves,
then rise with mist in your eyes
and a face stubbled in sand.

what you wore on your face then
seems very like all that is left of you
now, once the flames
in the furnace have finished with you.

one last question:
are you stardust still
as you once were
as i am now, every gleaming
molecule missing you?

claire chomentowski
all saints' day
november, 2020

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.

Roxbury Newsy

PO Box 95

Roxbury, VT 05669



“Back and Forth in Time,” continued from the front page..

The family traveled South of the village to visit the Fish Hatchery. And North... to Northfield! Back in town, they sat at little tables to drink sodas in the ice cream parlor (imagine the parlor along the right side of what is now the Community Hall/Senior Center).

On Sundays, when Teela Wooket (now Windridge) was a girls-only riding camp, the Catholic girls would come into town each Sunday to worship at the church (the building still standing on one corner of Rte 12A and the Warren Mountain Road).

And then, up the road to Warren, they loved visiting with the Flynns’ chickens and three cows.

Two weeks were never long enough for her and her family to visit Vermont—she always wished it could be more.

Barbara has visited Roxbury a number of times, the last being a half-year ago. She said she found Randy and Tammy very helpful! Let’s hope she comes again! 🏠

Top: The house Barbara Sullivan’s grandparents lived in. It stood in what is now the playground/parking area of the RVS.



Bottom: Looking north at the Roxbury Train Depot (now the Town Offices). The white building in the background is what is now the Community Hall/Senior Center. Circa mid-20th century.