

Roxbury Newsy

Your community newsletter

July-September 2025, Vol. 10 No. 3

Inside...

Roxbury Youth on the Rise!
by K. Geller, Roxbury Rising.....p 1

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

Sliding into Summer!
by K. Geller, Roxbury Rising.....p 3

MRPS Update
by Rhett Williams & Kasey Kathan.....p 4

RVFD.....p 4

Art in the Hills, Open Studio Weekend
by the Roving Reporter.....p 5

Roxbury Community Crafters
by D. Rogler & C. Randall.....p 6

Field Notes, Vol.2..
by Rachel Field.....p 6

Roxbury Free Library Notesp 7

Congregational Church News: Rummage!
by Claire Chomentowski.....p 7

Roxbury ROOTS Recipe.....back cover

*Photos in this issue were contributed by
Roxbury Rising, the Roxbury Community
Crafters, Josh Axelrod, Jane Pincus, Heidi
Albright, and Peter Evans*

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

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.

Thanks to Ryan Zajac, Courtney B. Jenkins Mesquita, Jane Pincus, and Heidi Albright for compiling, editing, and designing this issue of the Newsy! We hope you enjoy it.
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ON THE RISE!

Shemarie Jeshurun Finds Her Voice

by Kristen Geller, Roxbury Rising

Roxbury Rising decided to take a different approach this round, to write a feature on one of our (many) amazing young people in Roxbury. The lives of our tweens, teens, and young adults are ever widening. We want to share more stories about them—their achievements, passions, hopes, and dreams—to provide a window into their lives.



Cue Shemarie Jeshurun, a multigenerational Roxburian and freshman at Montpelier High School. If you listen carefully, sometimes you can hear

her powerful, soulful voice floating south on the Third Branch River. This past winter, Shemarie's music teacher encouraged her to audition for the 98th Vermont All State Music Festival. Despite her nerves, skepticism, and self-doubt, she auditioned for the choir and thought, "If I don't get in, there's always next year."

To her surprise, she was selected for the All State Choir (alto), one of very few freshmen from around the entire state to be invited. In her acceptance letter, they told her: "You have a beautiful instrument inside of you—your voice." On a 110-point rating scale, Shemarie scored a 97.

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“Roxbury Youth” continued from front page...

When she found out, she ran to her mom, Liza Baker (a musical aficionado and teacher), and yelled, “I got in! I got in!” She says her inspiration to pursue this opportunity was “To come out with her voice and get out of her comfort zone.” She was scared to reveal her passion for singing. She remembers singing with her dad when she was young. She knew this powerful voice was inside her from a young age, and she felt ready to share it.

Shemarie was then handed 7 pieces of complex music to practice for the festival in May, all chosen by the conductor to explore the opposing themes of darkness and light. Shemarie says the songs were powerful, intimidatingly complicated, and talked about real world problems, giving her the chills, and the compilation of them all was just downright beautiful. Lyrics have stuck with her, like “Can you sing the darkness to light?” “Can we put down the swords of judgment?” and “Can we soften these hearts that have hardened?”

During the festival, Shemarie and her cohort practiced 7 hours a day for 3 days in a row. She says her conductor was so inspiring, bringing great humor and lightness to the process, so it was enjoyable for all. Even though she was scared and anxious at the outset, finding her tribe of other passionate young singers was well worth her pushing through that wall. She made new friends who outwardly told her how much they liked her voice and her hair. She shared that, “Coming together and creating beautiful music and showing it to the world . . . was so powerful—so empowering.”

Shemarie plans to audition again next year, and says she “Hopes to be a part of the 100th festival” in a couple years. Shemarie was invited into the MHS Honors Chamber Choir, and was also presented with an award by her music teacher in front of all her high school peers, acknowledging her growth, talent, and hard work in developing her “voice as an instrument.” She was also invited to sing at the Race Against Racism in Montpelier, where her experience from the Festival gave her the confidence to add her own personal style to her rendition of “Tennessee Whiskey” by Chris Stapleton.

In her acceptance letter, they told her “You have a beautiful instrument inside of you - your voice.”

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From the Town Clerk's Office

2025 DOG LICENSES

There are still dogs that are not licensed. To avoid legal action, owners of unlicensed dogs **MUST** license their dogs. Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3581 of the Vermont Statutes, a dog must be licensed by six months of age at the Town Office to be legal. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the past year is required. Dogs NOT licensed can be seized and euthanized, per State Statutes. 20 V.S.A. § 3621 states a warrant can be issued to impound.

The Town of Roxbury adopted an amended Dog Control Ordinance. The cost for spayed/neutered dogs are \$13 each. Unneutered/non-spayed dogs are \$19 each.

TAXES

Due date for property taxes is August 15th for the first payment. Tax bills must be mailed thirty days prior to due date.

SUMMER HOURS

Summer hours began May 2nd and are as follows: open Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–4 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m.–12 p.m. only. (The Town Office closes at noon on Fridays, except for the day property taxes are due). Summer hours will end the last Friday of September.

continued on page 5...

“Roxbury Youth” continued from previous column..

Shemarie says her superpower is obviously singing, and writing too; she’s combined these talents in some songwriting projects. Her wish for Roxbury is more opportunities for people to show and share their talents. She said that if the Roxbury variety show was ever revived, she would love to help organize and perform in it.

Thank you, Shemarie, for the opportunity to interview you! Bravo! Your passion is so palpable. Get your autographs now, people, she might just wind up famous. Either way, I hope you get a chance to hear her sing—her voice is arresting and so inspiring.

Let’s bring back the variety show and give our young people a stage! 🏠



Shemarie singing “When I was Your Man” by Bruno Mars to a big crowd of kids at Roxbury Rising’s Stick Season Silent Disco in November 2024.

Photos contributed by Roxbury Rising



SLIDING INTO SUMMER!

On Saturday, June 14th, Roxbury Rising hosted the Slide into Summer bash—a combination of RVS end-of-school-year traditions with some new twists (literally). There were rippin' waterslide runs, endless creemees, Roxbury-star-studded karaoke renditions, and fantastical face painting by the one and only Miss Casey of Bridges Afterschool. THANK YOU, big-hearted volunteers, for bringing your effort and cheer to make the event truly awesome for Roxbury kids—it's very fair to say the adults also had their fair share of fun.

As you may know, Roxbury Rising is a volunteer-driven project working to bring and maintain JOYFUL TRADITIONS for Roxbury kids in their home community. Look forward to the return of Stick Season Silent Disco (November) and Community Caroling (December), as well as a fall fundraiser. Are you interested in joining our mission and helping to organize these joy-filled events? Are you interested in making a donation to our mission? Send an email to: roxburyrising@gmail.com for details! Thanks for your support, Roxbury!🏠



Sliding into summer! From left to right, top row: Ella, Hazel and Ophelia. Bottom row: Quinn, Neveah and Sage

MRPS Summer Update

By Kasey Kathan and Rhett Williams,, MRPS Board Members

The MRPS School Board has been monitoring activities at the state house. H.454, the education reform bill, passed the legislature on June 16 and will have significant impacts on school governance structure and budgets in coming years. This bill impacts school budgets by shifting state funding to a foundation formula, which provides a set level of per-pupil spending across the state. Districts that currently spend more than the set per-pupil amount will have to cut budgets and Districts that currently spend less than the median will see tax increases. MRPS will most likely have to make some cuts but as of now, it is unclear how large.

Over the next year, a group of 6 lawmakers and 5 education professionals will propose three options for new school district boundaries, targeting 4,000-8,000 students within each district. Currently there are 52 supervisory unions and 119 districts in Vermont. Any of these proposals will be a significant change for our district and our surrounding districts. These proposals for redistricting will be taken to the 2026 legislative session for further decision. If an agreement on district mapping can not be made next year, the new foundation formula funding approach could not be implemented either.

On June 4th, the MRPS school board met at RVS after attempting to gather perspectives from Roxbury families about how this year of transition has gone. Unsurprisingly, few shared their views. On the whole, from those we did hear from, the experience has been positive. The students and grownups feel like they're getting a good education and access to things that weren't previously available in Roxbury. The bus, and the travel, and impacts on family schedules are all challenges. Having familiar 'Roxbury' faces in the school, and available to students has been essential. These familiar faces have served as a 'safe' space when things seem overwhelming.

On June 4th, Casey Searles presented to the school board on some of the successes of the Bridges After School Program here in Roxbur. Many students have expressed the Bridges Program has been a highlight of their year. Some Bridges students participated in skiing at Bolton Valley, wrestling, and climbing the climbing wall at Norwich. A grant was used to obtain Nordic skis that made Nordic skiing accessible to Bridges students. A dance troupe and an end of year play culminated the year. Bridges was an overwhelming success and the opportunities it offered friends can not be adequately detailed here. Casey expressed her appreciation and care for Roxbury families, especially adults, who assisted with all

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RVFD

by the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department

Congratulations to Louis and Max!

The Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department (RVFD) extends congratulations and appreciation to Louis Stamatelos and Maxwell Baker for their recent achievement of Firefighter II certification. Participation in the Vermont Fire Academy's classroom and hands-on training held in Woodstock, as well as successful completion of the written exam and practical skills assessment, are certification requirements. Max serves as RVFD's secretary; Louis is the department's training coordinator. We are grateful for their dedication and investment on behalf of our community.

The RVFD has completed the annual maintenance on Roxbury's five dry hydrants. These non-pressurized pipe systems allow firefighters to quickly access water from reliable sources, thereby reducing response time.

A Motorola radio and repeater were recently installed in the RVFD first response truck after being on backorder since town meeting in 2023, when voters approved funds for this important equipment. The repeater function allows firefighters using portable radios away from the truck to communicate with Capital Fire dispatchers and other support personnel.

Please note that burn permits are required when snow is no longer present at an outdoor burning site. Call Tim Martin, Fire Warden, at (802) 485-6555 or Don Randall, Assistant Fire Warden, at (802) 272-3330 to obtain a permit. For complete information on backyard burning and other fire related safety topics, click on the link under Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department (RVFD) on the Roxbury Town website www.roxburyvt.org.

We continue to recruit new members. Meetings are held on second and fourth Sundays at 6PM in the fire hall. 🏠

"MRPS Update" continued...

of these activities. The Bridges program was open to families who chose to homeschool, students residing in Montpelier, and friends at the Vermont Farm and Forest School. More than 50 students attended some offerings of the Bridges program, more than had attended RVS in many years. We offer our heartfelt thank you to Casey and all of the grown ups and other friends who helped Bridges provide a safe space for our children to come home to. Happy summer to all.

Kasey Kathan, kaseykathan@mpsvt.org
Rhett Williams rhettwilliams@mpsvt.org 🏠

Art in the Hills of Roxbury

by the Roving Reporter

This past May's rainy Vermont Crafts Council Open Studio Weekend (OSW) saw visitors knocking on the studio doors of Josh Axelrod, Peter Evans, Heidi Albright and Jane Pincus. Refreshments accompanied the variety of art work, from elegant photographs and useful, decorative pottery to realistic wooden, curving snakes, and colorful fanciful acrylic paintings.

Peter commented "The OSW was fun and eventful as usual. Lots of old friends, family, and met some new folks. As always the conversations were rich and interesting." Josh recapped the weekend with his usual enthusiasm, "A solid number of Studio Tour visitors this year, great to meet and visit with folks from the upper reaches of neighboring hills to far off lands!" Jane and Heidi reported over 50 visitors despite the weather, ranging in age from five months to a few folks in their 80s.

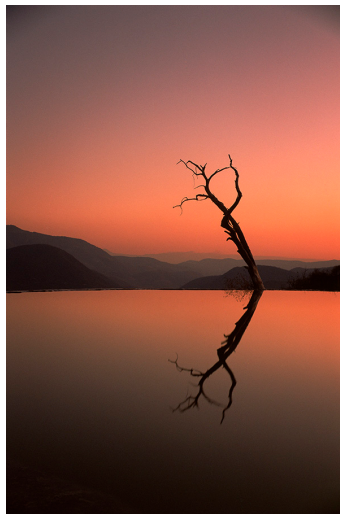
If you are an artist in the Roxbury area and are interested in joining us for the next OSW, please reach out to Heidi black-wolfe@icloud.com (or any one of us), so we can support each other in promoting more art events in Roxbury!

More information on OSW can be found at <https://www.vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend/> 

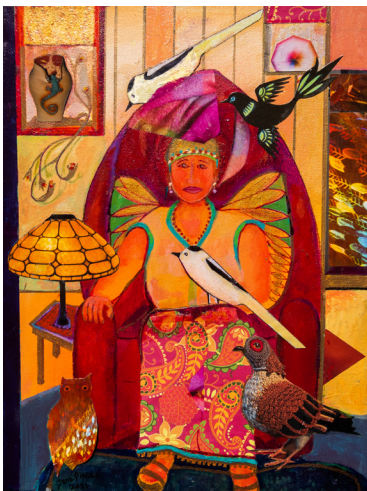
A sampling of art in the Roxbury hills....



Tea Set, Peter Evans Pottery



"Infinite," 2024 Josh Axelrod Film photograph



"Wise Woman," Jane Pincus, acrylic & collage painting



"Crotalus horridus," Heidi Albright, wood & acrylic sculpture

"Town Clerk" continued from page 2...

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

Longtime Road Foreman, Loren Bent, has decided to leave the Town of Roxbury. Loren has worked for the Town since 2001. Under Loren's leadership as Road Foreman, the roads in Roxbury have been well maintained. Loren helped the Town get through some major floodings. I wish Loren luck in his new position in the Town of Braintree and I extend a big THANK YOU to Loren for all his years of service to the Town.

ROAD CREW VACANCIES

The Roxbury Selectboard has two positions they would like to fill. One is for a full-time Road Foreman and the other is a part-time road crew member for the summer. Anyone interested in applying can contact the Town Office at 802-485-7840 or email townclerk@roxburyvt.org.

Full Job Description: Road Foreman

The Town of Roxbury, located in the geographic center of Vermont, is looking for a Road Foreman. The Road Foreman is our working supervisor of the Town of Roxbury highway crew and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Highway Department. The Road Foreman plans and executes work, supervises work performance, oversees equipment care and maintenance, and oversees garage operations. This position requires experience with highway and bridge construction and maintenance; working knowledge of drainage and culvert construction; personnel management; employee and contractor oversight; equipment operations and maintenance; job safety; mechanical ability; record keeping, computer, and communication skills; and budget management and assistance with budget development, road grants, and any other tasks assigned by or handled in conjunction with the Roxbury Road Commissioner and the Selectboard. This is a full-time, 40hr/week position requiring a flexible schedule which may include nights, weekends, holidays, and overtime as needed. Applicants must have a valid Class B CDL. Pre-employment and random drug testing are required. Salary will be commensurate with experience; excellent benefits package.

Full Job Description: Part-time Road Crew Member

The Town of Roxbury, located in the geographic center of Vermont, is looking for a per diem, part-time Road Crew member for the summer of 2025. This position will be a contributing member of our Town of Roxbury highway crew and will be overseen by the Road Commissioner and existing Highway staff. Work hours (in the 20-40 hours per week) can be somewhat flexible, at the applicant's discretion. This is a per diem temporary position and Applicants must have a valid Class B CDL and/or prove-able backhoe experience. Pre-employment drug testing and drug testing pool placement

continued on page 7...

Roxbury Community Crafters

by Debra Rogler & Carol Randall

The Roxbury Community Barn Quilt Project - A Joyful Event!

During the last gray, snowy weekend in March 2025, more than fifty Roxbury community members gathered in our town hall to rekindle friendships, make new connections, and experience the joy of creating original artwork through the Roxbury Community Barn Quilt Project. The two-day event was generously funded through a Vermont Arts Council Creative Aging Grant, and based on two previous well-received barn quilting classes provided by the Roxbury Community Crafters (RCC).

The art form of barn quilts, traditionally a design painted on wood, was brought to our country hundreds of years ago by Central European immigrants. Now barn quilts are displayed in agricultural areas across the United States and Canada as symbols of family, friendship, and community. Visiting artist Carrie Caouette-DeLallo, founder and director of the Chelsea

Arts Collective, provided guidance and inspiration. Together with her daughter Sarah, Carrie has established the Chelsea Barn Quilt Trail, which includes nearly 130 barn quilts painted by residents in the First Branch Valley.

The Chelsea story of rekindling community pride through the arts prompted the Roxbury Community

Crafters to seek grant funding to offer a no-cost, inclusive, and accessible creative experience to our residents. A delicious gourmet lunch was provided by Roxbury Roots, a local group that fosters connections through food, farming, and community. The results of these combined efforts were lively conversations, healthful dining, and stunning painted designs that will be displayed throughout our town. This was a truly joyful event!

continued next column...



RCC founder Mary Bouchard and Carrie Caouette-DeLallo of the Chelsea Arts Collective at the Roxbury Community Barn Quilt Project event

Field Notes, Vol. 3

by Rachel Field

Originally from the Mad River Valley, Caroline and Dillon Edlund were drawn to return to central Vermont in 2020 to be closer to their families. All it took was a trip up Tracy Hill Rd. to discover the place that they and their daughters have called home for the past 5 years. It wasn't just the stunning views of these beautiful mountains or the ability for them to raise their own food that kept them here though. Between the village school, wonderful neighbors, and deep friendships, the community in the hills really made the place home. I had a wonderful morning chatting with Caroline after a chance meeting through that tried-and-true community builder—Front Porch Forum. We laughed and shared stories about the beauty of the place and the grit that it takes to live here, all while Caroline gave me a truly fantastic haircut. She's in the process of setting up her home salon, which will be open for business soon! When I asked what they love about Roxbury, they offered something that I think resonates with everyone who calls this mountainside town home: "It feels like the real Vermont." 🏠

July 4th in Roxbury

Rummage Sale at the Church, 9am–4pm
Parade starts at 11am! (line up @ 10:30)
Book Sale at Community Hall, 10am–3pm
Townwide BBQ, at the Fire Station, 12pm
Bake Sale, at the Fire Station, 12pm
RFL Raffle Prize Drawing, 3pm

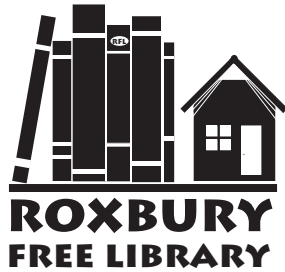


"Community Crafters" continued from previous column..

Roxbury Community Crafters is grateful for the support of the many volunteers, businesses, and organizations that made the Roxbury Community Barn Quilt Project possible. We extend thanks to the Vermont Arts Council, Roxbury Roots, the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department, Randy at the Roxbury Country Store, Sirak Woodworking and Design, Home Depot, and all participants. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

RCC would be happy to share information on our project to groups seeking ways to revitalize their communities. Visit our website for contact information and to view photographs of the wonderful paintings.

www.roxburyvt.com 🏠



Roxbury Free Library Notes

Greetings Roxbury,
We hope this note finds you all well and enjoying your summer. What's happening at the RFL this summer? First up, the RFL will be hosting a book and bake sale during the July 4th activities in Roxbury. Book donations are being accepted for the sale, and they should ideally be delivered on the 3rd. Please reach out to the RFL if you have any questions about book donations. You can still get tickets for the 8 fantastic raffle prizes being drawn on the afternoon of July 4th—could you be the lucky winner? As you plan your summer outings, please remember the RFL offers passes to provide you with free or reduced admission to parks and museums all across Vermont. Starting last year, we now offer a pass to the Vermont Granite Museum in Barre, which is an offering that is new to our patrons and you should take advantage of. Vermont State parks, Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center (BMAC), ECHO, VINS, and more can be on your summer fun list, with the RFL helping you get in affordably. Finally, by simply making the RFL part of your routine this summer, you'll not look back with any regrets. Hundreds of new books, air-conditioning on those hot days, friendly staff, either distraction for or escape from your kids—the reasons abound for why a stop by the RFL is in order soon.

Have a great summer, everyone, and see you at the library soon!
Ryan, Caitlyn, and Lisa 🏠

roxburyfreelibrary.org | librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org
(802) 485-6860



The RFL has developed a three-year **Strategic Plan**, based on community feedback about our services, and data comparisons with other similar libraries in the state of Vermont. You can read the full Plan, and an Executive Summary that includes our Goals for 2025-2028, on the RFL website:

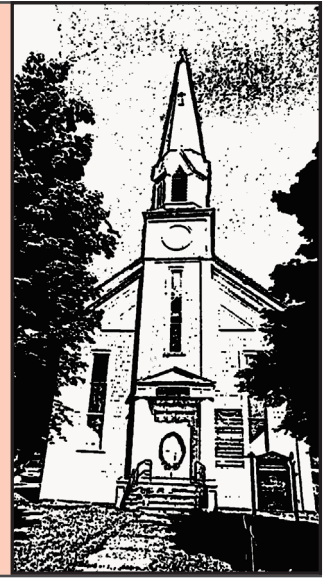
<https://roxburyfreelibrary.org/s-p/>

Congregational Church News

by Claire Chomentowski

Church Rummage Sale July 4

Our annual church rummage sale will once again take place starting at 9 a.m. on July 4th. Need to rehome your curios and tchotchkes, your knick-knacks and novelties, your doodads and geegaws? Or most any other (gently used) item under the sun? We'll be collecting from mid-June on. Call Claire (485-7779) for details, and help keep the church and the food shelf afloat. 🏠



Roxbury Food Shelf: open every Wednesday from 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Individuals in need of food can contact Claire Chomentowski at (802) 485-7779.

"Town Clerk" continued from page 5...

may be required, as per law, depending on CDL status. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

VACANCIES

The following vacancies for office are:

Town Auditor

Lister

Alternate Representative for NEKCV Board

The 250th celebration of the Declaration of Independence is coming soon. The Roxbury Selectboard is seeking volunteers to be on Roxbury's 250th celebration committee. Anyone interested should contact the Roxbury Town Clerk at 802-485-7840 or email: townclerk@roxburyvt.org 🏠

You can find town documents, meeting agendas and minutes, meeting warnings, and town governance information at the official town website:

www.roxburyvt.org

SUMMER ROXBURY FREE LIBRARY HOURS

TUE 10:00 – 6:00

THU 2:00 – 5:00

SAT 10:00 – 3:00

Roxbury Newsy

PO Box 95

Roxbury, VT 05669

Savory Zucchini Bread Pudding

Ingredients:

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 1/2 cup cooked winter squash or pumpkin
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 4 cups cubed day-old bread
- 3 medium zucchini, chopped
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar

Directions:

- In a small skillet, saute onion and celery in butter until tender.
- In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and poultry seasoning. In a small bowl, whisk the pumpkin, eggs, milk and butter; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in the bread cubes, zucchini, cheese and onion mixture.
- Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Cover and bake at 325° for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 10-15 minutes longer or until lightly browned.🏠

Roxbury Roots has served a version of this recipe at a few Community Suppers! We hope you enjoy making this easy meal at home.

