

ROXBURY TODAY

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

ROXBURY PRIDE - CAPTURE IT

FALL/WINTER 2014

Town Updates From the Board of Selectmen

Barbara Henry, First Selectman

bhenry@roxburyct.com

Russ Dirienzo & James Conway, Selectmen

Town Website: www.roxburyct.com

Facebook: Town of Roxbury

“The most important thing is to enjoy your life — to be happy — it’s all that matters.”

— Audrey Hepburn

It’s been 3 months since the Awlasewicz family in Roxbury lost their son, Joey, after an ATV accident. The response from the community was heartfelt in support of the family in their time of need. Below is a letter from the Awlasewicz family:

“Roxbury is truly a town of angels, now with one very special angel looking down on all of us. You are all such amazing, caring and giving people. Our family is so proud to be part of this community. We appreciate each and every one of you for all you have done.”

The day Joey went missing we made the 911 call and within minutes it seemed like the whole town was here to help. Police, fire, ambulance, family and friends and even help from neighboring towns. I know Joey was watching and smiling knowing how many people cared for and loved him so much. A special thank you to all the participants in the procession of trucks and machines, Joey would have been in awe over this grand parade for him. I wish I could thank each and every one personally for all the meals, help in planning the funeral, financial support and emotional support you have given our family. It is so overwhelming. The love we feel is so immense. There is just no way we could ever thank you all enough. Hugs forever, the Awlasewicz Family - Tom, Luanne and Cooper”

TOWN INFO MEETING ON ALTERNATIVE HOUSING – Pass the Word

Tuesday, September 30 – 7 p.m., Town Hall

The Selectmen would like to invite you to a Town Information Meeting to present the findings of the Smart Growth Committee and invite comments, questions and discussion. There has been a lot of information circulating, some false, and we’d like to have those questions and concerns brought before an audience vs. via selective emails, phone calls and letters to residents. This is your town, we want your involvement. Jocelyn Ayer, Community & Economic Development Director of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, of which Roxbury is a member, will present the findings of the Smart Growth Committee along with what our neighboring towns are doing in the Northwest Hills.

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

On the Ballot:

Governor, Lt. Governor, U. S. Representative, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney General

There is also a constitutional question on the ballot which reads: “Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on the day of an election?”

October 3rd: Absentee Ballots become available in the Town Clerks office. Applications for an Absentee Ballot can be picked up in the office or online on the Towns website under the Town Clerks page.

October 21st: Last day to register to vote. Registrations need to be hand-delivered or postmarked by that date.

October 31st: Last day Absentee Ballots will be issued.

Town Updates (continued)

WINTER IS AROUND THE CORNER, CAN WE CONTACT YOU IN A STORM?

WE CAN'T ALERT YOU IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU
If your cell phone number or email has changed – or if we don't have both of them – please consider letting Jimmy Hurlbut know your information so we can contact you in an emergency and update you through email on misc. information throughout the year. You can call Jimmy at 860-354-3328, email him at jhurlbut@roxburyct.com, or fill out the form on the website www.roxburyct.com under Town Notification Sign Up found on the Home Page.

TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE

“Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference.” ~B. DeAngelis.

We are all sad and disappointed, as are Arthur & Joanna Koeppl who so generously purchased and donated the Town Christmas tree that replaced the original tree on the Green. It, too, did not survive. It has been taken down after it was declared clean of needle cast, fungus, insects or disease at the UCONN Agricultural Experiment Station. The only possible cause mentioned was from the stress of its replanting and pressure on the roots from the use of the tree spade. The tree was in the soil it had been delivered and planted in, it just did not survive the transplant. Thank you Arthur & Joanna for your generous and thoughtful gift and we are grateful we got to enjoy the tree as it stood on the Green for two Christmas seasons. Thank you again.

*“Change always comes bearing gifts.”
~Price Pritchett*

If you go by the site where the tree was, you will see an offshoot of the original tree that was taken down in 2012 and it is growing rapidly. We will light that tree this year as well as the tree in Munson Meadow.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING –
SAT., DECEMBER 6th AT 6 PM FOLLOWED BY A
HOLIDAY FESTIVAL IN THE BARN BEHIND THE
SENIOR CENTER HOSTED BY THE FRIENDS
OF THE SENIOR CENTER.**

**THE FIRST SELECTMEN'S 16TH ANNUAL TOWN
HALL GIVING TREE WILL BE DISPLAYED
BEGINNING DECEMBER 2ND. BE AN ANGEL,
TAKE AN ANGEL AND HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS
IN NEED.**

RESIDENT TROOPERS OFFICE

*Trooper First Class Tony Cipriano
Trooper First Class Keith Buinauskas*

The Towns of Roxbury and Bridgewater, in an effort to maintain necessary State Trooper coverage while also trying to save on the escalating costs, have agreed on the first State Trooper sharing program in the State of Connecticut. The four-month long negotiations between both First Selectmen



and Lieutenant Mike Davis from the Southbury barracks went into effect July 1st. The pilot program is a one-year contract. A Trooper will be available every day of the week with an additional patrol in the towns.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Susan Stauffacher, Chair

SENIOR BUS - The Town of Roxbury is looking to purchase a much-needed new senior bus for the “On the Road Again” program and the Council on Aging (COA) would like to help. The bus will be used to take seniors on various trips, twice a month, for education, fun and a variety of other activities.

The present Senior Bus, purchased used, has a number of problems which are costly to fix and not worth it. A DOT grant was applied for and awarded. The Town will receive approximately \$48,000 (80% of the \$62,000 total price). The grant stipulates that the remaining 20% of the cost be covered. In addition, salary for the driver and operating expenses need to be taken care of. The Town will contribute towards the costs, but the COA wants to help raise \$5,000. Thank you to all who have made donations thus far. We have also received a \$1,000 anonymous matching donation for all future donations. Feel free to contact Jerrilynn Tiso at 860-210-0201 or Susan Stauffacher at 860-354-1274 if you have any questions.

BUILDING/LAND USE/HEALTH DEPT

Check with the above departments before starting a home project to avoid delays, work stoppage and/or penalties. Land Use personnel are here to help you through the procedure so you can get your project completed on time.

Town Updates (continued)

PLANNING AN EVENT?

YOU COULD RESERVE THE PARK

The pavilion at the park is available to rent for events. Contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-354-9938 to find out the details (must be a resident) or look on the Town's website at www.roxburyct.com for forms and details.

ROXBURY-BRIDGEWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is pleased to announce that thanks to such overwhelming support of our spring fundraiser and plant mart we were able to award three scholarships this past June. Ethan Lindblom of Bridgewater and Kirby Peters and Nathaniel Steers, both of Roxbury all received awards.

The Junior Garden Club is being expanded to Booth Free School this fall. The Burnham School chapter was featured on Channel 3's "Cool Schools" this past Spring.

The Garden Club meets the second Thursday of each month at St. Mark's Church in Bridgewater. Autumn and winter meetings begin at 10am. All area residents with interests from floral design to sustainable gardening are welcome to attend.

PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD

Roxbury joined with CCM to provide a prescription discount card to anyone in town without prescription coverage. Even if you have insurance for prescription drugs, you may still benefit from the discount card, since it may save you money on prescription drugs your plan does not cover. Everyone is eligible! You can also benefit from Vision Discounts, Lasik Discounts, Hearing Products and Services and even Pet Prescriptions.

Cards are available for free in the Selectmen's Office and the Senior Center. No income requirements, no age requirements, unlimited use for your whole family. Since Roxbury joined the program in November 2012, 288 claims have been processed and residents have saved over \$14,000. If you can use the card, pick one up today.

ROXBURY FOOD PANTRY

Through its Food Ministry, Christ Church graciously hosts a town Food Pantry in their Parish Hall. Their mission continues with volunteers and food donations are always welcome. Canned soup, tuna, baked beans, and boxes of pasta are very welcome this time of year. Roxbury residents in need can find the Pantry open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9-1.

"STOP TEXTING" MAGNETS FOR YOUR CAR

A few months ago the Board of Selectmen supported an AT&T program, "It Can Wait," to educate the public on the dangers of texting while driving. We have decided to purchase magnets for those residents who would like one for their car. We will let you know when they are available. In the meantime, talk to your children about the dangers of texting while driving and be an example by not doing it yourself. We read more and more everyday about someone getting killed by a driver who was texting.



VETERAN'S DAY RECEPTION

Information will be forthcoming on the Council on Aging's annual Veteran's Day reception scheduled for Tuesday, November 11th.

CITIZEN'S OIL CO-OP – Check it out to see if it's a benefit to you



*Saving Together
Helping One Another.*

We're Halfway There.

The Town of Roxbury partnered with the Citizen's Oil Co-op last year to save residents on their heating bills and we are halfway to our goal of 100 members!

Remember, as soon as we hit that threshold everyone in Roxbury will be saving an additional 20 cents on their heating oil. And, for each new member, the Co-op will contribute \$10 to the Town of Roxbury Fuel Bank.

What can you do?

Not a Member Yet?

Visit www.oilco-op.com to Join Today!

* Use "Roxbury" as the referral to earn funds for the Fuel Bank

Already a Member?

Tell a Friend! Tell a Neighbor!
Help us spread the word.

Town Updates *(continued)*

HALLOCK OVERLOOK

In July 2013 the Town purchased 3 parcels of land owned by the late Genevieve Nasturwich. They are located on the corners of Weller's Bridge and Rocky Mountain Roads. The 3 parcels total 9.86 acres and were purchased, after Town Meeting and Planning Commission approval, for \$433,310 funded from our Land Acquisition Fund. All lots are suitable for development, with restrictions, but will remain Open Space. This was an exciting opportunity for the Town.

Garnered from conversations with Mrs. Nasturwich, which spanned 6 years, she would be very pleased to have her father's family name, Hallock, associated with the property. Many pictures have been taken over the years at one of the corners where, when Mr. Nasturwich was alive, he kept the flowers and field lookout photo worthy. Thank you, Gean. The Board of Selectmen has honored your wishes and named this special place, Hallock Overlook.

HALLOCK OVERLOOK

THE TOWN OF ROXBURY
HONORED THE WISHES OF
GENEVIEVE NASTURWICH
BY DEDICATING THIS OPEN SPACE
TO HER PARENTS
JOHN AND LYDA HALLOCK

ENJOY THE VIEW
JULY 2013

TOWN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

30 7:00 Town Info Meeting – Smart Growth and Alternative Housing

OCTOBER

1 7:00 Recreation Commission
5 Tractor Parade
6 7:00 Board of Ed SVHS/MS
7:30 Board of Selectmen
7 7:30 Smart Growth
8 7:00 Conservation Commission
9 7:30 Planning Commission
13 Columbus Day – Town Hall Closed
14 7:30 Zoning Commission
15 7:30 Historic District Commission
16 7:30 ZBA
21 7:00 Board of Finance
28 7:30 Inland Wetlands Commission

NOVEMBER

3 7:00 Board of Ed SVHS/MS
7:30 Board of Selectmen
4 Town Hall Offices Closed – Election Day – PLEASE VOTE
5 7:00 Recreation Commission
10 7:30 Zoning Commission
11 Town Hall Closed – Veteran's Day
12 7:00 Conservation Commission
13 7:30 Planning Commission
18 7:00 Board of Finance
19 7:30 Historic District Commission
20 7:30 Zoning Board of Appeals
25 7:30 Inland Wetlands
27 & 28 Town Hall Closed – Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

1 7:00 Board of Ed SVHS/MS
7:30 Board of Selectmen
3 7:00 Recreation Commission
6 6:00 Tree Lighting – Town Green
6:30 Holiday Festival – Roxbury Senior Center
8 7:30 Zoning Commission
10 7:00 Conservation Commission
11 7:30 Planning Commission
16 7:00 Board of Finance
7:30 Inland Wetlands
17 7:30 Historic District Commission
18 7:30 Zoning Board of Appeals
25 Christmas – Town Hall Offices Closed



“LIKE” the
Town of Roxbury on
Facebook at

www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Roxbury/270791632979391

MINOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Valerie Annis, Director

Visit our air-conditioned building or our beautiful Contemplation Garden to enjoy a peaceful, quiet and comfortable fall morning or afternoon. Wireless access is available during regular library hours both in our building and around our grounds. A variety of programs and an extensive selection on materials are available. Call for additional information at 860-350-2181 or visit our website at minormemoriamlibrary.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 20, 2014 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Art show opening featuring the photography of Marc Isolda. The show will be available for viewing through Saturday, November 1, 2014.

October 5, 2014 – 3:00 p.m.

“Handed Down in Song” – A musical performance of New England songs by Walter Woodward.

November 8, 2014 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Art show opening featuring paintings by Kimberly Day Proctor and sculpture by Liz Alpert Fay. Available for viewing through Saturday, January 3, 2015.

Children’s Programs: Story Times for children are on Wednesday mornings at 11:15.

Book Discussions: are scheduled on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30 in the library and on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:30 at the Senior Center. Call the library for specific dates and titles.

“Tips & Trick of Computing”: First Monday of each month at 5:30 beginning on September 8, 2014. Join Bill Chin and John Irwin for on-site computer help & special topics scheduled for groups.



Social Services

Jerrilynn Tiso,

Social Worker, Municipal Agent & Veterans’ Contact

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday — 10-4

(860) 210-0201 in the Senior Center

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Social Services Director/Municipal Agent/Veterans Liaison Jerrilynn Tiso will begin taking applications for the 2014/2015 Energy Assistance Program on September 1, 2014. There are 5 different levels of eligible incomes for this program, so please do not assume you are not eligible. For example, the income range for a family of 2 is \$15,730 to \$42,519, or for a family of 4 \$23,850 to \$52,524 (liquid assets above \$10,000 are added to income to determine eligibility). Please call Jerrilynn at 860-210-0201 for more information and/or to make an appointment. Jerrilynn office hours are: T, W, and F 10:00 – 4:00.

RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM

The Renters Rebate Program is again available for all renters over the age of 65 or Social Security disabled. To qualify you must have been or turned 65 in 2013, and your annual income cannot exceed \$34,100 for a single person and \$41,600 for a couple. Assets are not counted for this Program. Please call Jerrilynn Tiso at 860-210-0201 for more information or to set up an appointment. Program closes October 1, 2014 for the year.

SNAP PROGRAM

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) helps individuals and families buy food. Anyone can apply for SNAP. The amount you receive depends in your income, expenses, and your family size. If found eligible, you are given an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card which you use like a debit card at the grocery store, corner stores, and even some farmers’ markets. Your SNAP is put on your card once a month, and can carry over from month to month. Income limits range from \$1,773 gross monthly income for a single person, to \$6,112 gross monthly income for a family of eight. Call Jerrilynn at 860-210-0201 for information or an appointment.

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM

The Medicare Savings Program in a State program designed to help Medicare beneficiaries meet their needs. At a minimum, MSP will cover the cost of your Medicare B premium which this year is \$104.90 a month...that’s \$1258.80 for the year! There are different tiers to the program which can provide additional benefits. To qualify, a single person’s gross monthly

Social Services, cont.

income may not exceed \$2,356.68, and a couple's gross income may not exceed \$3,180.78. Two good things about this program are that your assets are not taken into consideration in the determination process, AND there is no estate recovery by the State of Connecticut! Please call me @ 860-210-0201 if you'd like more information about this great program, or if you'd like to apply.

THE NEW HEALTH CARE EXCHANGE

Has been up and running since October 1, 2013. If you are under 65 and do NOT have health insurance, you can choose a health insurance plan that is offered in Connecticut through the Exchange. Depending on your income, you may even be eligible for Medicaid or another government subsidy to help pay for your health insurance premiums. For the latest information on the CT Exchange, please visit www.accesshealthct.com, or call 860-757-5300.

HELP WITH PHONE SERVICE

Individuals or families receiving assistance from a State or Federal program --- for example SNAP (formerly food stamps, CT Energy Assistance Program, Medicaid, Aid to Families) --- are eligible for the ATT Lifeline Program and Virgin Mobile's Assurance Wireless Program. The ATT Lifeline Program will give you a \$10.00 reduction on your ATT monthly landline service. The Assurance Wireless Program gives you a FREE Phone, 250 FREE Minutes & 250 FREE Texts each month. Call Jerrilynn for more info on how to sign up.

LITCHFIELD HILL CHORE SERVICE (LHCS)

The LHCS is alive and well in our wonderful Town of Roxbury, currently helping 12 senior citizens remain independent in and around their homes. Chore is looking to hire 2-3 more workers for Roxbury. If you are interested in helping an elderly neighbor and earning \$12.50 an hour while doing so, please call Chore Coordinator Sally Irwin at 860-806-0954.

“Roxbury Pride – Capture It!”

Show Community Pride by Putting Trash in its Place

**It never goes out of being necessary -
please remember to separate your recyclables**

**5¢ returnable bottles and cans are
used for Roxbury Resident Relief**

Thank you for your efforts

Roxbury Land Trust

Susan Payne, Executive Director

www.roxburylandtrust.org

Did you know that the Land Trust does not receive town, state or federal support on an annual basis? Today the Land Trust protects in perpetuity 3,494 acres. This is possible because of the annual support of many Roxbury residents. Thank you! Be on the lookout for our Annual Appeal. We invite your support and your participation.

NEWS

At the Land Trust's Annual Meeting of the Membership in June, John Yarbrough was re-elected to the Board of Directors. In April RLT was notified that the Good Hill Farm Preserve has been listed on the State Register of Historic Places as one of 200 important agricultural properties in Connecticut. The Tierney Preserve now has a reconstructed parking area.

In February the Painter Hill Neighborhood responded quickly and generously to a challenge to preserve in perpetuity 100 acres of pristine open upland and forest called the Greenbelt Expansion Project. This project will realize an uninterrupted greenbelt stretching from Painter Hill Road at the north to Grassy Hill Road at the south of the airstrip at Good Hill Farm. Rebecca Miller and Daniel Day-Lewis offered to donate 80 acres if RLT purchased a contiguous parcel of 20 acres. Purchase completed! Now RLT must complete its mini-campaign of \$165,000. \$147,300 has been donated to date. RLT invites you to join the challenge with a gift today, donate online at www.roxburylandtrust.org or send gift to PO Box 51, Roxbury 06783.

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS

We invite you to participate! Come to an Event!

Sept 27, Sat 3-5:30 PM

Bees and Art, an outdoor workshop for the whole Family - sponsored by ASAP at the Roxbury Land Trust, will be led by Mike of Mike's Bees and artist Kezia Hearn. Contact ASAP to register at 860-868-0740.

Columbus Day Weekend - Family Portrait Day

For a \$250 donation to RLT, native son, Photographer Tom Hurlbut will offer a photo session on an RLT Preserve. Register directly by emailing: tom@THPstudio.com.

Oct 26, Sun 4 PM, Lecture on Bats

Geri Griswold, White Memorial Conservation Center, at Roxbury Town Hall.

Visit www.roxburylandtrust.org for more information.

Roxbury Conservation Commission

Dear Crabby,

I'm cleaning out my Dad's garden shed. Once I uncover a HazMat suit, I'll be bringing a truckload of outdated chemical repellents and weed killers to Hazardous Waste Day. Dad loved gardening and had a green thumb - but the other one was purple, his left pinky was blue, and his index finger was orange. Deer and mice frolicked in his yard and garden and he was constantly finding ticks on his dog, T-Bone, and himself. There must be a better way to eliminate weeds and discourage deer and mice. Now that I'm taking care of ol' T-Bone, I want to fight back against ticks, but only with ingredients I can pronounce. Any ideas?

*Yours sincerely,
Joe Jim Bob*

Dear Mr. Jim Bob,

Good luck with your clean-out. You are a good citizen, bringing that chemical cocktail to Hazardous Waste Day. As you may know, mice are known as a "reservoir host animal," they harbor disease and transfer it to ticks when they are bitten by them. When the ticks hitch a ride on deer, they get distributed far and wide as these furry woodland creatures browse for food. There are many things you can do to keep deer and mice, and consequently ticks, from your yard. Here are some tips from the University of Rhode Island:

Eliminate Tick Habitat

Deer ticks are not out in the middle of your lawn, they live where yards border wooded areas, ornamental plantings and gardens, or anywhere it is shaded and there are leaves with high humidity. By raking leaves, trimming shrubs and low branches you can make certain areas where ticks cannot survive. Pay special attention to border areas, woodpiles, stonewalls and sheds. Creating borders of wood chips stone or any other landscaping material helps to serve as a reminder between tick-safe and tick-danger zones.

Do NOT Attract Wildlife

Keep deer out by planting undesirable plants, installing deer fencing, or applying deer repellents. Mice like to live in stonewalls, around sheds, woodpiles or any enclosed area they can get into. Clean up brush, keep stonewalls clear of leaves, move woodpiles away from daily activity. Birdfeeders also attract deer and rodents that may drop ticks off right where you are standing.

You can find a lot of information online concerning homemade and money-saving mixtures for deer resistant sprays, weed killers, and bug repellents. Here are a few recipes to get you started:

Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club Organic Deer Repellent Blend:

1 Gallon of Water
1 Cup Milk
1 Egg
1 Tbsp. Oil
1-2 Cloves of Garlic chopped
1 Tbsp. dish detergent
Add any cloves or spices that you wish to recycle
Strain into a spray bottle.
Spray on plants deer love to munch.
Repeat after heavy rains.

Organic Weed Control Mixture Richard Rossiello, Meadowbrook Gardens

One gallon vinegar
2-3 tablespoons of dish soap
Some warm water mixed with a bit of rock salt.

Homemade Bug Spray

Fill spray bottle ½ full with distilled or boiled water
Add witch hazel to fill almost to the top
Add 1/2 tsp vegetable glycerin if using
Add 30-50 drops of essential oils to desired scent.
The more oils you use, the stronger the spray will be. Examples: Rosemary, Clove, Cajeput, Lavender, Cinnamon and Eucalyptus . . . works great and smells good too!

Thanks for writing Mr. Jim Bob and give T-Bone an ear rub for me. Maybe you'd like my recipe for peanut-butter dog biscuits?

Yours truly,
Crabby Appleson

The Roxbury Conservation Commission invites you to submit your questions to Crabby Appleson at dearcrabbyinroxbury@gmail.com

inside ...

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ROXBURY TODAY

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 264

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Roxbury, CT 06783