

ROXBURY TODAY

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

"ROXBURY PRIDE - CAPTURE IT!"

AUGUST 2012

Town Updates From the Board of Selectmen

Barbara Henry, First Selectman
Russ Dirienzo, Robert Lowe, Selectmen
bhenry@roxburyct.com

"Beauty is whatever gives you joy."

– Edna St. Vincent Millay

September is National Preparedness Month

In an effort to stay in the loop on what is available at the State level and to polish our own local response during emergencies, our Emergency Operations Committee participated in a State-wide Hurricane Drill over a two-day period the end of July. It was a good time to review, bring new players on our Committee into the fold, find out where our shortfalls are, see what we can do better and act on them. Overall, it was a good exercise to have participated in and shored up communication among town agencies and between town and state agencies.

With that said, it was one year ago that Hurricane Irene made landfall in CT. It's time to review your own personal plans, making sure you have at least 3-day supplies of bottled water and non-perishable foods, flashlights and batteries, medical and pet supplies, etc.

For us to contact you in the event of an emergency, PLEASE be sure we have:

- *Your correct home and cell phone number(s)*
- *Your correct email address*

You can email this information to bhenry@roxburyct.com. If you do not want your phone number given out, and only used for emergency purposes by our office, please state that and we will comply.

You can also go online at www.roxburyct.com and sign up. It's easy. Just tap into the **W.A.R.N.** logo on the home screen. It's a good time to also sign up for **CT Alert** – the State's Emergency Notification System. The logo is below the WARN logo on the home page of our website.

Finally, if you are interested in volunteering with "Shelter Help" please contact Mari Acton at macton124@aol.com. Thank you for helping us to help and serve you better.

Cell Tower Public Hearing
Town Hall, Sept. 18th, 7:00 PM

Household Hazardous Waste Day Collection

Saturday, August 25th from 9-12

The Roxbury/Bridgewater Hazardous Waste Collection Day is going to be held on Saturday, August 25th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Bridgewater Public Works Garage on Hut Hill Road. The special chemical waste collection service is only for residents of Roxbury and Bridgewater; identification will be requested. There is no fee to bring items in. If you need information or are interested in volunteering that day for a few hours, please call the Selectmen's Office at 354-9938. Electronics are no longer taken at this collection. Electronics are collected at the Transfer Station. *(See flyer printed in this newsletter.)*

Volunteer Recognition Picnic – **Sunday, September 9**

The Board of Selectmen will be hosting our Annual Volunteer Recognition picnic on Sunday, September 9th at 12:30 p.m. at Hurlburt Community Park. ALL volunteers and their families are invited to join us for a BBQ at the park where we'll thank and honor our community volunteers. Please join us.

Election Day – Tuesday, November 6, 2012

The polls will be open at Town Hall from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. All offices in Town Hall will be closed for the day.

Dates to Remember:

October 5 Absentee ballots available in the
Town Clerk's Office
October 23 Deadline to register to vote by mail
October 30 Deadline to vote in person
November 2 Last day Town Clerk's Office is open to
issue Absentee Ballots

On the Ballot:

President and Vice President of the United States
U.S. Senator
U.S. Congressman – 5th District
State Senator, 32nd District
State Representative, 69th District
Registrars of Voters

It is your responsibility and your duty to vote if you are eligible.

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Town Updates (continued)

Minor Bridge Rehabilitation

Minor Bridge has been rehabilitated with some new features. Unfortunately, there has already been vandalism at the bridge after it was repaired, the underside painted, and fencing put up to prohibit jumping from the bridge. If you see anyone trying to jump, please report it to the Town Hall or Police. The Selectmen have seen that the rope swings under the bridge were taken down and now they are back up. This means that someone is traversing the underside of the bridge to put them up. It is very dangerous and parents need to let your children know just how dangerous it is. The "Falls" area is a wonderful place to visit and sit in the water or picnic on the grounds. We pay to keep the grass mowed and garbage picked up when it's placed in the barrel provided. The garbage we do not get to is what is thrown in the water, glass bottles included, fishing line (some with hooks) and diapers.

Please, Please, Please make sure No Garbage is left behind and report anyone you see (get a license plate #) who does not comply with our regulations.

THOSE WHO DO NOT RESPECT OUR PARKS ARE NOT WELCOME TO ENJOY THEM.

Special Enforcement Agent

The Board of Selectmen has hired former resident and Resident Trooper, David Coyle, to enforce parking, permit requirements and littering at our parks – Roxbury Falls, Hurlburt Community Park, Sherman Park and Hodge Park. He will also help with enforcing our Recycling Ordinance and other enforcement requests of the BOS. He will work part-time and will report to the BOS. Please welcome Dave back to our Town, we look forward to having him work on our community's behalf.

Roxbury Resident State Troopers – Tfc. Mike Saraceno/Tfc. Tony Cipriano

As you may recall, our Resident State Trooper, Kevin Anderson, is still serving in Afghanistan with the U.S. Marines. We continue to wish him well and pray for his safe return. We have sent him care packages which include Peanut M&M's, his favorite.

Resident State Trooper Michael Saraceno has been filling in for Kevin and has done an wonderful job for us while he was here. He has now been promoted to a permanent position as the Town of Sherman's Resident State Trooper. Congratulations, Mike, thank you for your time here and best of luck in Sherman.

Roxbury's new interim Resident State Trooper is Anthony "Tony" Cipriano. His first day was August 10th. Welcome Tony, glad to have you with us. Enjoy the ride!

Fire House Upgrade

With the proceeds from a STEAP grant, the fire house underwent a face lift and has new siding, windows, shutters and mechanicals. Special thanks to firemen Tim Ring and Brien Cartagena for working with the Historic District Commission to see the project through the planning process. Also, thanks to former Chief Kyle Szymanski for his help with the project and learning the new mechanical system.

Board Members Needed

If you are interested in serving on the Conservation Commission, Senior Center Board of Directors or Historic District Commission please let one of the Selectmen know or call the Selectmen's Office at 860-354-9938.

Roxbury Resident Relief Fund

We have always been blessed with very generous people who donate through the churches, or directly to the Resident Relief Fund. Above and beyond that, the Fund has had the good fortune to be the beneficiary of tag sale profits and, sadly, "in lieu of flowers" after the death of a resident. Thanks once again to Mr. & Mrs. Diebold for donating their tag sale profits (twice) to the Fund and many thanks to the families of Ryan Ruscoe and Scott Borger for requesting donations be made to the Fund in memory of Ryan and Scott. In their darkest hours, they chose to reach out and help others in their community. Remember all donations are tax deductible.

Local Churches Resident Relief Fund

The local churches take up special collections and always accept outside donations to another Resident Relief Fund. The churches work with the Town and at times share filling requests for help. Checks can be put in the collection baskets at their services marked for this purpose. These donations are also tax deductible.

Christmas Tree – Special Thanks

Special, special thanks to Arthur and Joanna Koepfel who so very generously solved our Christmas Tree problem by purchasing the beautiful tree that now stands near where the old one stood. The Koepfel's purchased the tree, had it dug, transported and planted for us in honor of their families. David Gardener, Tree Warden, helped with the entire process and built the housing to hide the old electrical box. The Public Works crew has made sure it stayed watered during the dry summer months. Thank you to all, especially to the Koepfels for such a wonderful donation.

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Town Updates (continued)

Town Budget

The Town's budget was unanimously approved at the Annual Town and Budget Meeting in May. The Town budget of \$3,067,171 combined with Roxbury's portion of the Region 12 budget of \$6,672,301 results in a total budget of \$9,739,472.

In fiscal year 2003-2004 the mill rate dropped after a revaluation from 20.2 to 15.4. It remained at 15.4 until fiscal year 2008-2009 when it dropped again after a reval to 10.9, where it remained for 2 years. In fiscal year, 2010-2011, after a decline in revenue from investments, fees and the state, the Board of Finance saw fit to increase the mill rate from 10.9 to 11.4. For fiscal year 2011-2012, even though there was a decrease in the Town budget, there was a significant increase in the school budget and the Board of Finance had to increase the mill rate to 11.9. For similar reasons, this fiscal year 2012-2013, the BOF increased the mill rate again to 12.1. Thank you to the boards and commissions, library, town employees, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for all the hard work put forth to bring you the best possible Town budget in these difficult economic times. The approved budget can be viewed on our website at www.roxburycct.com.

"Roxbury Pride – Capture It!"

**Show Community Pride by
Putting Trash in its Place**

**Please Do Not Drop Off Appliances or
Trash outside the gate after hours at the
Transfer Station**

*Your 5¢ returnable bottles and cans
are used to go toward
Roxbury Resident Relief*

Thank you for your efforts.

Do You Know a Resident Who is Presently Serving in the Military?

The Selectmen's Office would like to keep current the names of Roxbury's men and women who are serving in the military today. If you know of someone we can add to our list, please call the Selectmen's Office at 860-354-9938. Thank you for your help.

Green Corner

102 Tons

That's the estimated weight of garbage the average American will probably throw out in his/her lifetime. That's like pitching a plane to the curb! Simple measures could reverse the trend – start by refusing plastic bags when you shop and feel better that you're not trashing the future.

Share the Road

Drivers, watch for Bikers and Runners on our narrow and winding roads. Bikers and Runners, have consideration for those driving on those same roads. Let's all be careful out there, think more about safety than your "rights." There's room for everyone, share the road with your neighbors in mind.

Anonymous Letter

It's seldom that I receive an "anonymous" letter. And when I do, I usually throw it in the trash because the writer does not give me the opportunity to respond. However, recently I received a letter from a resident who was "appalled" at the condition of our roadsides and included an ad for a weed wacker.

Dear Appalled:

I'm sorry you felt the necessity to send an anonymous letter. My door and email have always been open to receive concerns and/or complaints. We do not need a weed wacker, as we have two new ones, but thank you anyway, the ad did have a good price. With budget cutbacks a couple of years ago, went our hiring high school and college students looking for summer jobs. We have 5 Public Works crew men who take care of 60 miles of roads. The grass came up quickly this spring and we found ourselves behind before we even got started. The roadside mower has been out almost daily. When our 2nd mower went out, my office quickly got complaints about the job it did. We have rectified that because people picked up the phone to complain. I knew about it immediately. I can respect that.

The Road Foreman himself weed wacks intersections and we have had to take on more of that because the state is not doing its job – they are responsible for mowing all town road intersections that intersect with state roads. We have almost 30 miles of dirt roads that need grading and mowing. We are getting to all that we are scheduled to do during the summer months, along with fixing equipment, tree work, drainage and still cleaning up after last year's storms.

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Town Updates (continued)

Please feel free to contact me if you'd like to offer advice, pass along a complaint or concern. We're here to serve.

Respectfully,
Barbara Henry

FRAUD ALERT!

Text Message phrasing Scam

A phrasing scam is being used to collect and access personal and account information. This scam comes in the form of a text message sent to cellular phones. An example of the message is: ***THE CREDIT UNION CENTER ALERT: Your card starting with XXXX has been DEACTIVATED. Please contact us at 203-YYY-ZZZZ.***

Banks, etc., are not in the practice of notifying clients of any account issues via text messaging. If you receive a scam text message, **we strongly advise you NOT to call the phone number provided.** Further, should you receive any questionable text messages or emails, NEVER provide any personal information or PIN numbers.

What is "vishing"?

The term "vishing" is a socially-engineered technique for stealing information or money from consumers using the telephone network. The term comes from combining "voice" with "phrasing," which are online scams that get people to give up personal information.

How does it work?

Typically attackers use a technique called caller ID spoofing to make it look like calls are coming from a legitimate or known phone number. It's a very similar technique to email spoofing, which makes e-mail addresses look like they are coming from a trusted source. But because people typically trust the phone service and caller ID, spoofing phone numbers can be particularly damaging.

And just like with online phrasing attacks, which direct consumers to phony Web sites, vishing attacks usually have a recorded message that tells users to call a toll-free number. The caller is then typically asked to punch in a credit card number or other personal information.

What can you do to protect yourself?

Here is some advice from security experts:

Be aware. Consumers need to know that these scams exist. To find out more information, go to the [FTC Website](#).

Be suspicious of all unknown callers. People should be just as suspicious of phone calls as they are of e-mails asking for personal information. Some experts suggest letting all calls from unknown callers go to voicemail.

Don't trust caller ID. Just because your caller ID displays a phone number or name of a legitimate company you might recognize, it doesn't guarantee the call is really coming from that number or company.

Ask questions. If someone is trying to sell you something or asking for your personal or financial information, ask them to identify who they work for, and then check them out to see if they are legitimate.

Never provide credit card information or other private information to anyone who calls you.

Register your phone number with the National Do Not Call registry at [donotcall.gov](#). Also, the Website provides a place where complaints can be filed.

Report vishing calls to [www.ftc.gov](#) or call (888) 382-1222. The FTC wants the number and name that appeared on the caller ID as well as the time of day and the information talked about or heard in a recorded message. If you think you've been a victim of a vishing attack, you can also visit the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

TAX COLLECTOR

Kimberly Pokrywka, Tax Collector
Cindy Fink, Assistant Tax Collector

Thank you to all the Timely Taxpayers!

****NEW****

Online Tax System

Beginning July 1, 2012 all paid or due taxes can be viewed on the Roxbury Town web site.

Log on to [www.roxburyct.com](#), once there scroll down the Home page and click *Online Tax Bill Lookup*.

If you are being billed for a motor vehicle that you no longer own, contact the Assessor's office (860-354-2634) for instructions on how to have it removed. You may be entitled to a credit or a refund.

Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00

Friday 9:00-12:00

TOWN CALENDAR

August

1	7:30	Recreation Commission
6	7:30	Board of Selectmen
8	7:00	Conservation Commission
9	7:30	Planning
13	7:30	Zoning
15	7:30	Historic District Commission
16	7:30	ZBA
20	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
21	7:00	Board of Finance
28	7:30	Inland Wetlands Commission

September

3		LABOR DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED
4	7:30	Board of Selectmen
5	7:00	Recreation Commission
10	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
10	7:30	Zoning Commission
12	7:00	Conservation Commission
13	7:30	Planning Commission
18	7:00	Board of Finance
18	7:00	Cell Tower Public Hearing
19	7:30	Historic District Commission
20	7:30	Zoning Board of Appeals
25	7:30	Inland Wetlands Commission

October

1	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
	7:30	Board of Selectmen
3	7:00	Recreation Commission
7	12:00	Roxbury Annual Tractor Parade
8		COLUMBUS DAY TOWN HALL CLOSED
9	7:30	Zoning Commission
10	7:00	Conservation Commission
11	7:30	Planning Commission
16	7:00	Board of Finance
17	7:30	Historic District Commission
18	7:30	Zoning Board of Appeals
23	7:30	Inland Wetlands Commission

November

5	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
	7:30	Board of Selectmen
6		Town Hall Offices Closed – Election Day – PLEASE VOTE
7	7:00	Recreation Commission
8	7:00	Planning Commission
12		Town Hall Closed – Veteran's Day
13	7:30	Zoning Commission
14	7:00	Conservation Commission
	7:30	Historic District Commission
15	7:30	Zoning Board of Appeals
20	7:00	Board of Finance
22 & 23		Town Hall Closed – Thanksgiving
27	7:30	Inland Wetlands



ROXBURY LAND TRUST

Since 1970

Susan Payne, Executive Director

2012 SAVE THE DATE

Visit www.roxburylandtrust.org

**We invite you
to join in the
following activities.**

Labor Day Weekend – Hike the Good Hill Farm Preserve Trail to the Miller Preserve. Trail connects across the eastern ridge of Roxbury to the Miller Preserve on Tophet Road. Park at Good Hill Farm Preserve, just east of the farm off Route 317 (Good Hill Road).

September 8, Saturday, 5 PM – Sunset Celebration for Families at the Gavel Family Farm Preserve. BYO Picnic. Dessert provided by RLT. Special guests: *The Doug White Jazz Quintet*. Children's activities. No dogs. Rain location: Hurlburt Park, Apple Lane.

September 22, Saturday 8:30 AM – Race for Open Space at River Road Preserve. Register/\$5 per person; children under ten free. Fee to benefit new kiosk for River Road Preserve. Open to all ages for running or walking.

October 6, Saturday, Columbus Day Weekend – Family Portrait Day. For a \$250 donation to RLT, native son, Photographer Thomas Hurlbut will offer a photo session on an RLT Preserve. Register directly by emailing: tom@THPstudio.com (Rain date October 7th)

Columbus Day Weekend – Hike the Beardsley Preserve. See the spectacular Caroline Glen cascade. One entrance off Route 199. Second entrance off Moosehorn Road.

October 14, Sunday, 3 PM – Lecture on Bees by Al Avitabile. At Roxbury Town Hall. Program and refreshments.

Thanksgiving Saturday, November 24, Noon - 2 PM – Explore 19th Century Iron Mining at Mine Hill Preserve. Self-Guided Family Hike. Off Route 67. Historians will be on site at the furnaces.

VISIT

www.roxburylandtrust.org

for more information and location of preserves.

Social Worker & Municipal Agent

Jerrilynn Tiso, Roxbury Social Services & Municipal Agent, (860-210-0201)

Office hours Tuesday and Wednesdays 10-4, by appointment, also available Fridays to handle emergency

RENTER'S REBATE applications are now being taken for renters who turned 65 last year or who are disabled and receiving Social Security. If your income does not exceed \$32,300 per year for individuals and \$39,500 per year for couples, and you have paid at least one-third of your monthly income towards rent and utilities (electric, oil, gas, propane), you should be eligible for a rebate from the State of Connecticut. You will need to provide proof of all income for the year 2011 (bring any 1099 forms you received, and your income tax return if you filed). In addition, we need proof of total rent and utilities paid in 2011. If you do not have your receipts in order, you can ask your landlord for a letter stating total rent paid, and you can call CL&P and your fuel company for a letter stating total paid in 2011. This program ends September 15th. Please call me for more info/appointment.

THE SHINGLES VACCINE IS COVERED BY MEDICARE: You will have to pay up front, but you can be reimbursed by Medicare for your shingles vaccine. Your Medicare B will pay your doctor for giving you the shot, and he/she can bill Medicare directly for that. Your Medicare D Prescription Drug Plan will pay for the vaccine itself. You will have to submit a claim form to your Med D plan with the original itemized bill and the label from the vaccine. You should be reimbursed within a couple of weeks.

FUEL ASSISTANCE: I will begin taking applications for the 2012/2013 Energy Assistance Program on September 1st. This program requires proof of total income (for the four weeks prior to application date) and assets for all household members over the age of eighteen. Please call me for more info/appointment.

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM: The Medicare Savings Program is 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 \$99.90 a month . . . that's \$1198.80 for the year! There are different tiers to the program which can provide additional benefits. To qualify, a single person's gross monthly income may not exceed \$2,308.88, and a couple's gross income may not exceed \$3,127.28. 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 if you'd like more information about this great program, or if you'd like to apply.

CONNECTICUT DENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: If you are receiving medical assistance through the CT

Medicaid or HUSKY programs, you are also eligible to receive comprehensive DENTAL care. Unfortunately, you may be having great difficulty finding a dentist who will accept your insurance. The **CONNECTICUT DENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP** can help you find a participating network dentist or dental specialist. They also can help with scheduling appointments and transportation. Call their Customer Service Reps @ 1-866-420-2924 M-F, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

Attention: A Roxbury resident would like to donate a hospital bed and a motorized scooter. If you are in need of either or both of these almost new items, please call Jerrilynn at 860-210-0201.

Wheels of Greater New Milford: If you are a senior citizen or disabled individual living in Roxbury, you can use the Wheels Program of Greater New Milford for transportation to non-emergency medical appointments. To schedule a ride, please call 860-354-6012 at least 48 hours in advance.

Blood Drive - November 16 Blood Donors Needed!

WE NEED MORE DONORS! Blood donations have been slowly dwindling in recent years and we need to reverse the trend. Roxbury drives used to collect 75 or more pints per drive and now we're down to 35!

If you are 17 or older and weigh 110 pounds or more, please consider giving blood. One pint can save up to three lives and there is no substitute.

Please mark your calendar now for **Friday, November 16** from 1:00-6:00 at Roxbury Congregational Church **and** call or go online to make an appointment. The number of staff and supplies depends upon the number of appointments. Although walk-ins are welcome we want to have the resources to get everyone in and out as quickly as possible. However, as always, if you'd like to linger in the canteen, we welcome you to do so!

To donate blood, please make an appointment at:
[800-GIVE-LIFE](tel:800-GIVE-LIFE) or www.redcrossblood.org

If you would be willing to help out at the drive, or have any questions please call Brooke Wheeler at 860-354-4821.

please visit us at www.roxburyct.com

Conservation Commission

My wife and I are tired of raking leaves. We are thinking of cutting the trees down in our front yard to let the sunshine in. Does Roxbury have any regulations I need to be aware of before I warm up my chainsaw?

*Signed,
Blake Rakely*

Dear Mr. Rakely,

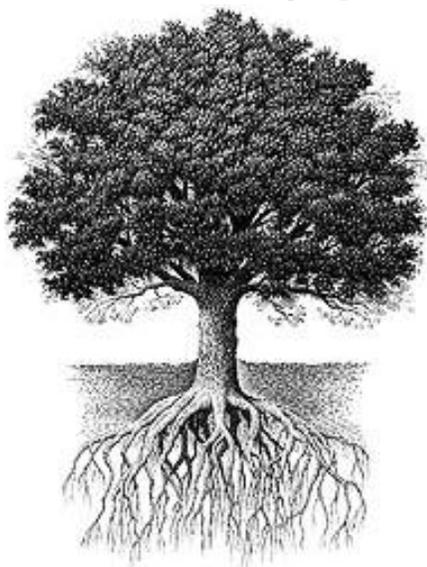
Thank you for your letter. Any clear cutting requires a permit from the Inland-Wetlands Commission regardless of its distance to wetlands. Clear cutting, removing all trees in an area, can cause a change of drainage patterns and the commission needs to review the potential for change.

Our town right of way is generally 25 feet from the center line of the road to each side of the road.

More accurately, our roads travel within a 50 foot right of way corridor. The center line may not always be in the center of the road. Permission is needed from the First Selectman's Office for the cutting of even one tree in this zone. Cutting a few trees for maintenance purposes in non-wetlands and outside of the right of way does not require a permit. A courtesy call to the Selectman's office is always in order and will help you establish the location of wetlands and right of ways.

Although, thankfully, trees are not an endangered species in Roxbury, we all need to keep in mind:

- Trees reduce flooding and storm water runoff by absorbing water directly and through making the soil more permeable.
- Trees' roots serve as anchors that reduce erosion and sediment flowing into our streams and rivers.
- Trees trap and hold lung-damaging pollutants such as dust, ash, pollen, and smoke.
- Trees produce oxygen (every acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people every day).
- An acre of trees absorbs enough CO₂ over a year's



time to equal the amount you produce when you drive your car 26,000 miles. Trees also store an average of 2.6 tons of carbon per acre every year, thus slowing the impact of climate change.

- Trees reduce cooling expenses by providing shade (reducing air conditioning needs as much as 30 percent).
- Trees reduce heating expenses by providing a windbreak (reducing heating needs as much as 50 percent).
- Trees create habitats for wildlife and thus support ecosystem biodiversity.
- Healthy trees can add as much as 15 percent to residential property values.

(This is a partial list of the many benefits of well-managed and healthy trees to all of Connecticut from the fine work of Connecticut Forest & Park Association; John Hibbard, Adam Moore, Eric Hammerling.)

As an alternative to clear cutting your front yard David Gardener, Roxbury's Tree Warden, recommends keeping saplings standing for succession and creating a sight-line/sunlight/view-line through very selective thinning or "feathering" your wooded area. Here's David's explanation of feathering:

"Feathering is a general term for softening a transition. In applying the concept to the transition from a lawn to wooded area, the goal is to carefully edit brush and fallen dead wood, even carefully selected trees, in order to open a view into the woods. 'Carefully' (used twice for emphasis!) is the active word here as an overenthusiastic approach can result in a mere tree-studded extension of the 'cultivated' back yard. The idea is to create sight lines into the woods that offer detail of the particular character of your woods – the variety of high canopy trees, understory trees and shrubs, even a better view of the topography of the land – perhaps a hidden bit of stone fence. If done with a sensitive touch, the result is still 'the woods,' but one that can be better appreciated, all its character and inhabitants undisturbed."

So, before you pull out your chainsaw, consider the many benefits of those leafy trees on your property, consider the role trees play in keeping our land stable, our air clean, and our woodland critters happy. You just might miss jumping in that pile of colorful fall leaves one day.

Yours,
Crabby Appleson

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

Roxbury Conservation Commission – Streamwalking

Gary Steinman, Conservation Commission

The Roxbury Conservation Commission has added streamwalking to the variety of programs it has undertaken to monitor the health of the Shepaug River and its tributaries.

The Commission has been collaborating for several years with the Washington Environmental Council (WEC), Rivers Alliance of Connecticut (RACt), the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), the Shepaug River Association (SRA), Friends of the Lake (Lillinonah; FOTL) and other organizations in developing and carrying out programs to monitor the condition of the Shepaug River. A twice annual macroinvertebrate sampling program gauges the health of the Shepaug by determining what kind of bottom-dwelling critters live and prosper in the river. Ongoing chemical and thermal monitoring determines whether the river is threatened by pollution or low-flow conditions in which trout, for example, do not thrive. Geomorphological studies have documented the topography of the river's bottom and banks at four locations that can be monitored to detect unwanted change in the river bed's condition. This pilot streamwalk program was undertaken to extend our monitoring activities to include the Shepaug's tributaries and to find out whether we would be able to carry out streamwalks on a regular basis.

Last summer, the Commission participated with WEC and HVA in a pilot streamwalk program sponsored by SRA and funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation. About a dozen volunteers received training from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Staff and literally walked in and along the Battleswamp and its tributaries last August following an established protocol to identify and document key aspects of stream conditions and to identify potential signs of impairments.

The full results of last summer's Battleswamp Brook Streamwalk can be found in a technical report posted on the Conservation Commission's webpage on Roxbury's website (www.roxburyct.com). It is a widely held view that the Battleswamp is pristine. What may surprise many is that we found 50 areas of concern, some potentially serious. Among these were:

- 17 instances where dams and other fish barriers impair the passage of aquatic species
- 14 instances of unusual water conditions such as turbidity, foaminess, odor, cloudiness and several hundred yards of dry river bed
- 7 instances of erosion including along several hundred yards of riverbank near Battleswamp's confluence with the Shepaug



The Battleswamp was dry and its trees are being undermined near its confluence with the Shepaug. (Photo: Trudy Swenson)

- 4 instances of degraded
- 4 instances of inflow from drainage ditches and pipes
- 3 instances of significant deposition of trash and debris
- 1 instance of significantly modified channel.



Cloudy, discolored water and sediment flowed into the Battleswamp from this drainage ditch. (Photo: Trudy Swenson)

These concerns have been referred to the Inland Wetlands Commission for its consideration.

If you are interested in volunteering in future monitoring events, please contact Commission Chair Trudy Swenson at Trudy.swenson@gmail.com.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

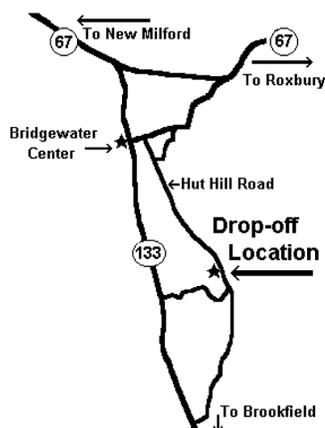
FOR RESIDENTS OF
BRIDGEWATER • ROXBURY

Bridgewater Town Garage
324 Hut Hill Road
Saturday, August 25, 2012 9am to Noon

August 2012



Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



WHAT TO BRING

Oil Based Paints
Stains and Varnishes
Paint Thinners & Strippers
Wood Preservatives
Resins, Rosins & Adhesives
Furniture, Floor & Metal Polishes
Rug & Upholstery Cleaners
Oven, Toilet Bowl & Drain Cleaners
Fluorescent Bulb
Engine Degreasers

Swimming Pool Chemicals
Pesticides, Herbicides, Insecticides
(including Lawn Care Products)
Flea Powder
Moth Balls
Spot Removers
Dry Cleaning Solvents
Lighter Fluids
Septic Tank Degreasers
Thermostats, Thermometers

Waste Fuels (Kerosene, Gasoline)
Carburetor Cleaners, Brake Fluids
Transmission Fluids, Car Waxes
Full or Partially Full Aerosol Cans
Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue
Photo Chemicals, Chemistry Sets
Hobby Supplies
Rechargeable (Ni-Cd) Batteries
Camera Batteries

WHAT NOT TO BRING—NO ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS

Latex Paints (*Allow to dry then put in garbage*)
Empty Aerosol Cans
Household Batteries (*put in garbage*)
PCB Capacitors
Smoke Detectors (*Return to manufacturer*)

Auto Batteries & Tires
Motor Oil & Antifreeze
(*Recycle at Town Drop Off Center*)
Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives
(*Call the Resident Trooper*)
Dehumidifiers or other Freon containing items

Radioactive Materials
Unknown Gases
Controlled Substances
Pathological Material
Pharmaceutical or Medical Wastes

NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT YOUR TOWN OR
HRRRA at 203-775-6256 x304 or at info@hrra.org

Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

On June 18 members of the club's Youth Program joined students at Burnham School in Bridgewater for the annual end of school barbeque, featuring a salad made with lettuce grown by the children in the Friendship Garden adjacent to the school.

On June 30 the club hosted the dedication of the Dorothy R. Diebold Memorial Garden, located at the entrance to the new part of Roxbury's Center Cemetery on North Street. Mrs. Diebold was a lifetime member and generous benefactor of the club. The garden was designed by club members Barbara Lang and Carol Beerbaum and features trees, shrubs and flowers particularly loved by Mrs. Diebold, most native to Connecticut. We hope this natural place will be used and enjoyed by the people of Roxbury in the days and years to come.

The winner of the club's \$1000 scholarship is Shepaug High School graduate Tiffany O'Rourke of Roxbury. Tiffany will attend Western Connecticut State University and looks forward to a career in horticulture or landscape design.

In July we will tour the gardens at Maywood in Bridgewater and in August we will visit Kent Greenhouse and Gardens in Kent.

Our September meeting will be a workshop and October is our annual awards luncheon.

In November club members will decorate a room at the Osborne House Museum following the theme of "plants of the season" established for the Christmas decorations of the House.

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club welcomes area residents and guests to our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month at St. Mark's Parish Hall in Bridgewater. During the growing season meetings begin at 9 AM with horticulture followed by a business meeting at 10 AM, then special projects, a speaker or a workshop concluding with refreshments or a light lunch.

For more information please contact co-presidents Ann Wagner in Roxbury at 355-2195 or Wanda Heaney in Bridgewater at 354-6966.

please visit us at
www.roxburyct.com

Scholarship

*You are earnestly invited
to contribute to The Sheree Lynn Williams
Memorial Scholarship Endowment*

The income of which will continue to provide a scholarship annually to a student from the towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington in the graduating class of Shepaug Valley High School.

Sheree Lynn Williams, daughter of Donald G. and Olive Stuart Williams originally of Bridgewater, and 1973 graduate of Shepaug Valley High School, died on January 12, 1977 at the age of twenty-one years after a long and courageous battle against bone cancer. All who knew her were moved to watch how she grew as a person during this fight and were impressed by her courage, her cheerfulness, her concern for others, and her zest for life.

During her years in public school, Sheree was known by students and teachers alike for both her personal qualities and her academic achievements. She won several awards for citizenship and was elected to office many times by her fellow students. Her teachers noted her conscientious work and her high motivation.

At the time of her death, many friends, teachers, and associates chose to honor her by establishing this scholarship fund in her memory. Approximately \$10,000 was donated to this fund as a result of the initial appeal. Beginning in 1977, and continuing until 2011, this scholarship was awarded at graduation. Beginning this year, 2012, it was awarded at the Shepaug High School Scholarship Night ceremony. The original intent was to create a permanent award in Sheree's memory. The Scholarship is proud to report that to date over \$27,000 has been awarded over the past 36 years. The current value of the endowment is approximately \$13,500.

The selection committee is comprised of the principal and guidance counselors of Shepaug Valley High School, the senior class advisors, and two of the scholarship committee members. The recipients are chosen on the basis of their contribution to the life of the school and their academic achievement.

It is the hope of this committee that this scholarship will continue to be an incentive for current students to follow the example Sheree set. A plaque listing each of the 36 winners is displayed in the high school.

After 36 years, the purposes of the current appeal are three-fold: first, to acknowledge again the powerful influence of

continued on page 11

Minor Memorial Library – Summer/Fall, 2012

Visit our air-conditioned building or our beautiful Contemplation Garden to enjoy a peaceful, quite and comfortably cool summer and fall. Wireless access is available during regular library hours both in our building and around our grounds. Call for additional information at 860-350-2181 or visit our website at www.minormemoriamlibrary.org

New Hours: Monday 12-7; **Wednesday (new hours) 10-5;** Thursday 12-5 ; Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-2

Art Exhibits:

Michael Rivera's "undercurrents" exhibit will be available for viewing, while programs are not in progress, through August 6, 2012.

"An Artist's Journey Fulfilling a Dream" and exhibit of the paintings of Jay Pinchbeck will open in our community studio on August 11th from 2 - 4 p.m. This exhibit will be available for viewing, while programs are not in progress, through September 17th.

An opening reception featuring the artwork of Faith Stuart Gordon and local artist, Georgette Miller, is scheduled for Saturday, September 22nd from 2 - 4 p.m. This exhibit will be available for viewing through October 29, 2012.

The book Art and wall and floor art of Terri Tibbatts will be available for viewing, while programs are not in progress, beginning with an opening reception on November 3rd from 2 - 4 p.m. and continuing through December 10, 2012.

Book Discussions:

Our adult book discussions are held in our library every 3rd Monday of the month from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Our Senior Center Book discussions are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Please call the library at 860-350-2181 or check the library website for additional information.

Children's Programs:

End of the summer reading program party – Saturday August 4th. Prizes, refreshments and a special surprise for all.

Pre-school story times are scheduled throughout the year on Friday mornings at 10:45.

After school programs for kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and third grade students will resume this fall. Please call the library or check the library website for additional information.

We will begin a lapsit program for Roxbury's youngest resi-

dents – up to age 2 this fall.

Please call the library or check the library website for additional information.

Commemorative Walkway News:

There's still time to order your personalized brick/paver commemorating family, friends, pets, special anniversaries, birthdays, etc. Small pavers (4 x 8") are available for \$125 and larger pavers (11x 11") are available for \$225. Be a part of Roxbury's history by memorializing a brick.

Call the library at 860-350-2181 for additional information.

Roxbury Historical Society

The RHS will open the Farm Life Museum on 15 September from 10 am to 3 pm. Located on Painter Hill Road at Toplands Farm, the museum is part of the farm tour scheduled for that day. The Museum preserves and commemorates the working farm life of Roxbury's rural past. Farm machinery, tools and domestic items used in old farmhouse kitchens are on display. Descriptions are provided and docents will explain the uses and significance of the various items in the collection. Some of the working farm machinery will be in operation in the adjacent field. It's a fun and educational outing for the whole family.

While the Museum is open, individuals can sign up to join the RHS. There are several ongoing projects designed to enrich our understanding of what life was like when Roxbury was primarily a farming community. We need volunteers, for example, cataloguing and preserving a postcard collection featuring Roxbury, and researching and reproducing a local farmer's diary from 1800s.

On that same day, the Bernhardt Meat Market Museum on South Street will be open with RHS members present.

For further information, call Jan Steers at 860.354.7210

Scholarship

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this fine human being on her family, peers, and the members of this committee; second, to introduce Sheree to those who may not have known her; and third, to increase our endowment so that we may make our scholarships even more financially meaningful to the recipients. Gifts of any amount are welcome from all who admire Sheree's life. Participation by as many as possible is as important as the size of any individual gift. Thank you!



Wide Area Rapid Notification[©]

You can go online at www.roxburyct.com
and sign up.

It's easy. Just tap into the
WARN logo on the home screen.

**Now you can also sign up for CT Alert –
the State's Emergency Notification System.**

The logo will soon be next to the
WARN logo on the
home page of our website.



Litchfield Hills Chore Service

Could you use help with:

- * Transportation to shopping and
doctor's appointments
- * Housekeeping, laundry or cooking
- * Odd jobs around the house or yard

Call the Chore Service – an affordable way to
get the help you need. We will supply a
Chore Worker for up to 4 1/2 hours per week;
this service is available to people age 60 and
over or individuals with disabilities.

• Roxbury, Jerrilynn Tiso, Social Services
Director / Municipal Agent - 860-210-0201 •

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inside ...

- *Household Hazardous
Waste Day*
- *September is National
Preparedness Month*