

# ROXBURY TODAY

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

**ROXBURY PRIDE - CAPTURE IT**

SUMMER/FALL 2013

## **Town Updates From the Board of Selectmen**

*Barbara Henry, First Selectman  
Russ Dirienzo, Robert Lowe, Selectmen*

[bhenry@roxburycct.com](mailto:bhenry@roxburycct.com)

*"No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other's worth."*

—Robert Southey

### **Municipal Election – Goodbye and Thank You Selectman Bucky Lowe**

We have a municipal election on Tuesday, November 5th. There are many positions on the ballot as well as time periods for absentee ballots, etc.

The Republican Town Committee has expressed the desire to contact the Democratic Town Committee to host a "Meet the Candidates" forum, for all positions on the ballot sometime in October. We'll keep you posted.

There are three (3) very qualified men running for two (2) seats on the Board of Selectmen. They are incumbent Russell Dirienzo (R), James Conway (D) and Andrew Engel (U). All three gentlemen would be an asset to the Board as all have the desire to run for the position and all have served, and continue to serve, our community in numerous and various offices. The Town is very fortunate to have an outstanding slate of high-caliber candidates to choose from.

The open seat on the Board has come about with the retirement of Robert "Bucky" Lowe from the Board of Selectmen

after sixteen (16) years of service. Russ Dirienzo and I have had the privilege of serving with Bucky all of those years and will miss his evenhandedness, advice and non-partisanship on the Board. His sense of humor and broad background of service to our community over the years made him not only a pleasure to work with but a true friend who will be sorely missed. I look forward to continuing our friendship and even tapping into his common-sense recommendations on issues facing us whenever I feel the need arises.

Thank you, Bucky, for your service to our community not only on the Board of Selectmen but in various and multiple boards, commissions and groups over the years. The Town was the beneficiary of your time and presence and you will be sorely missed on the Board.

—Barbara Henry

### **Municipal Election/Election Day**

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th. The polls will be open at Town Hall from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. All offices in Town Hall will be closed.

Be sure to read all the information from the Town Clerk regarding voting and dates for registering as well as absentee ballots leading up to Election Day.

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

### **Town Information Meeting to Discuss Region 12 Future and Referendum**

The Board of Selectmen will be hosting a Town Information

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## **OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

*Peter Hurlbut, Town Clerk • Jim Hurlbut, Assistant Town Clerk*

**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

**Absentee Ballots Become Available October 4, 2013**

**The Last Day To Register To Vote By Mail Is October 22, 2013**

**The Last Day To Register To Vote In Person Is October 29, 2013**

**The Last Day Absentee Ballots Will Be Issued Is November 1, 2013**

## **Town Updates** (continued)

meeting with Roxbury's representatives to the Board of Education – Greg Cava, Emily Hibbard and Kelly Lott. It will be an open discussion with Q&A on the future of the elementary schools and the referendum coming in the fall on that issue. **It will be held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 10th at 7:30 p.m.** If you are a senior citizen who does not like to drive at night, call Jerrilynn Tiso at 860-210-0201 and we will try to arrange for transportation if there is interest.

### **Volunteer Recognition Picnic** **Sunday, September 15th**

The Board of Selectmen will be hosting our Annual Volunteer Recognition program on Sunday, September 15th at 12:30 at Hurlburt Community Park. ALL volunteers and their families in the town are invited to join us for a BBQ at the park. We'd like to also say thanks to Bucky Lowe for his years of service on the Board of Selectmen along with others.

### **Resident Trooper Kevin Anderson**

Once again our Resident Trooper, Kevin Anderson is being deployed to Kuwait with the U.S. Marines. We wish him well and a safe return. In his absence, Trooper Tony Cipriano will once again be filling in for Kevin. We welcome Trooper Cipriano back and look forward to working with him once again.

### **David Coyle, New Constable**

We have appointed one of our former Resident Troopers, David Coyle, who has retired from the CT State Police and has completed all the requirements to be P.O.S.T. (Police Officers Standard Training) certified as a Constable. David has been working part-time with parks enforcement and now he will also be filling in on patrols, etc. He is also driving our Senior Bus every other Monday on scheduled trips. Welcome back to Roxbury, David!

### **Brien Cartagena, Deputy Fire Marshal**

The Board of Selectmen has appointed Brien Cartagena as Deputy Fire Marshal after completing all the requirements to serve in this position. Brien is a member of our Volunteer Fire Department, also served as past Chief of the Department and will now also serve the Town in this new capacity. Congratulations, Brien!

### **Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation** **Revolving Loan Program Grant**

The Selectmen have been notified we were awarded the Small Cities Block Grant we applied for with the help of L. Wagner Associates in the amount of \$400,000. This grant is to benefit both the towns of Roxbury and Bridgewater with housing rehabilitation projects.

Roxbury will be the lead town for this grant. Funds will be used to provide financial assistance to income-eligible households in the two towns to correct code violations, improve energy efficiencies and safety issues. These funds are given interest free for as long as the home is in the name of the applicant. When the home changes hands, the funds are then returned to the town where they remain for use for another resident applying. It is a revolving fund. This is the second time Roxbury has applied for these funds, the first time was with the Town of Woodbury. Our chances for receiving these funds are better if it is a multi-town application.

We are in the process of accepting the grant. In the meantime, if you are interested in applying, please contact Jerrilynn Tiso, Social Services Director and Municipal Agent as soon as possible. She can be reached at [socialservices@roxburyct.com](mailto:socialservices@roxburyct.com) or 860-210-0201.

### **Town Purchases 3 Nasturwich Parcels**

On July 18th 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 approvals, 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 will decide how to honor the Hallock name, as you wished.

#### **USEFUL WEBSITES:**

[www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov) Email been hacked? Or if you want to learn more about scams that exist and how to protect yourself.

[www.ct.gov/recycle](http://www.ct.gov/recycle) DEEP's Paint Recycling webpage. Learn about the new law requiring paint manufacturers to manage unwanted paint.

### **Town Budget**

The Town's budget was unanimously approved at the Annual Town and Budget Meeting on May 18th. The Town budget of \$3,061,053 combined with Roxbury's portion of the Region 12 budget of \$6,878,203 results in a total budget of \$9,939,256.

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## **Town Updates** *(continued)*

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. It went to 12.1 in 2012-2013 and in 2013-2014 it is 13.3. 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.roxburymt.com](http://www.roxburymt.com).

### **Household Hazardous Waste Day Collection**

**Saturday, August 31st from 9-12**

The Roxbury/Bridgewater Hazardous Waste Collection Day is going to be held on Saturday, August 31st 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 please call the Selectmen's Office at 354-9938. Electronics are no longer taken at this collection. Electronics are collected at the Transfer Station on the days it is open – Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. *(See flyer printed in this newsletter.)*

### **Board Members Needed**

If you are interested in serving on the Conservation Commission or the Western Tourism District please let one of the Selectmen know or call the Selectmen's Office at 860-354-9938.

### **Blackboard Connect**

**(formerly W.A.R.N. Alert System)**

We're always trying to keep current your phone numbers and now email addresses so we can expand the use of how we alert you in case of emergency. Assistant Town Clerk, Jim Hurlbut will be managing phone numbers and emails as well as cell phone numbers for text messaging as we move into the winter months. He will be providing a form to be filled out during the election – help us help you in times of emergency and for other notification purposes.

### **News article on**

**Union Saving Bank Expansion - False**

Unfortunately the recent article on Union Savings Bank expanding in Roxbury was not true. The bank will remain in its current space next to the market

### **"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  
before your hauler picks them up or before you  
take them to the Transfer Station,**

***your 5¢ returnable bottles and cans are  
used to go toward  
Roxbury Resident Relief***  
**Thank you for your efforts.**

**Forgot to renew your  
dog's license in June & July???**  
**Please see the Town Clerk, ASAP!**

**Need a Transfer Station Permit?**  
**See the Operator at the Transfer Station on  
Tues., Wed. or Sat.**

### **Save the date!**

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th!! It will be here before we know it.

### **Need Work Done?**

**Support Your Neighbors, Look Locally First**

While this has been stated before, it's worth repeating in these economic times.

With the economy where it is today, it's important to look locally, first, when you need a job done. You'd be surprised at the number of terrific resources right in your home town. Many of Roxbury's "commercial" ventures exist tucked away in entrepreneur's homes and they count on local support, competing with not only the larger established "name brand" companies but with out-of-town competition as well.

They include landscapers, gardeners, electricians, attorneys, carpenters, painters, graphic artists, HVAC, web designers, computer and technology consultants as well as counselors. You can find everything from excavating companies to public relations firms right here in your neighborhood and they are just a phone call away. These businesses are owned and operated by our friends and neighbors.

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## **Town Updates** *(continued)*

By supporting them we are helping to support our fellow residents, their families, our community and even our own tax base. So if you're going to spend the money to get a job done, why not support those in your own community? Check out the Roxbury Business Directory – a terrific resource provided by Litchfield Solutions, a home-based enterprise, itself.

### **Green Corner**

#### **Green alternative uses for beer**

There are so many uses for beer aside from drinking it, using it in cooking or wasting it; and beer can sometimes replace more environmentally unfriendly products for a variety of applications. Here's a few ideas:

#### **Compost booster**

Sprinkle the beer over your compost pile and then turn it over – it's said to give the micro-organisms a real boost.

#### **Plant fertilizer**

A little beer splashed around the base of plants will provide them with additional nutrients; but don't drown them in the stuff.

#### **Wood furniture cleaning**

A little beer on a cloth rubbed into your wooden furniture will help remove dust and grime and revive the grain patterns.

#### **Copper cleaner**

Apply to copper items, let sit for a bit and then buff off (spot test first of course)

#### **Gold polish**

Dump your gold jewelry into the beer, then buff with a soft cloth

#### **Bee deterrent**

Place shallow dishes of beer on the outer boundary of the area where you are having a BBQ or a picnic to entice bees to those spots rather than where you are gathered. There are variations on this tip banded around as a beer trap intended to capture and kill bees. Given that bees are critical to food production and are facing enough challenges at the moment it is strongly recommended not trying to kill the little critters. Bees are our friends.

please visit us at [www.roxburyct.com](http://www.roxburyct.com)

## TOWN CALENDAR

### **August**

7	7:00	Recreation
8	7:30	Planning
12	7:00	Board of Selectmen
	7:30	Zoning Commission
14	7:00	Conservation Commission
15	7:30	ZBA
19	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
20	7:00	Board of Finance
21	7:30	Historic District Commission
27	7:30	Inland Wetlands
31	9-12	Haz. Waste Collection Day

### **September**

2		Labor Day – Town Hall Closed
3	7:30	Board of Selectmen
4	7:00	Recreation Commission
9	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
	7:30	Zoning Commission
10	7:30	Town Info Meeting
11	7:00	Conservation
12	7:30	Planning Commission
17	7:00	Board of Finance
18	7:30	Historic District Commission
19	7:30	Zoning Board of Appeals
24	7:30	Inland Wetlands

### **October**

2	7:00	Recreation Commission
6		Tractor Parade
7	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
	7:30	Board of Selectmen
9	7:00	Conservation Commission
10	7:30	Planning Commission
14		Columbus Day – Town Hall Closed
15	7:30	Zoning Commission
	7:00	Board of Finance
16	7:30	Historic District Commission
17	7:30	ZBA
22	7:30	Inland Wetlands Commission

### **November**

4	7:00	Board of Ed SVHS/MS
	7:30	Board of Selectmen
5		Town Hall Offices Closed – Election Day – PLEASE VOTE
6	7:00	Recreation Commission
11		Town Hall Closed – Veteran's Day
12	7:30	Zoning Commission
13	7:00	Conservation Commission
14	7:30	Planning Commission
19	7:00	Board of Finance
20	7:30	Historic District Commission
21	7:30	Zoning Board of Appeals
26	7:30	Inland Wetlands
28 & 29		Town Hall Closed – Thanksgiving

## Assessor's Office

Linda Bertaccini, Assessor

### Application Deadlines

Request for extension to file for the Homeowner's Benefit – prior to August 15, 2013

Application for the Additional Veterans Exemption – October 1, 2013

Application for the Renters Rebate – October 1, 2013

Application for classification of land as Farm, Forest or Open Space – October 31, 2013

Forester's Report – October 1, 2013

### Personal Property

All persons liable to pay Personal Property Tax in the Town of Roxbury are required to return to the Assessor's office, on or before November 1st, a list of taxable personal property belonging to them on the first day of October. All business assets located in the Town of Roxbury are taxable. Business assets include, but are not limited to: manufacturing and industrial machinery and equipment; office fixtures, furniture, equipment and supplies; farm machinery and tools; tools of your trade; electronic data processing equipment; cables and conduits. All horses, ponies, unregistered motor vehicles and leased equipment located in the Town of Roxbury are taxable, whether they are a business asset or a personal asset. Any business or individual required to return a list may obtain the proper form from the Roxbury Assessor's office, if they do not receive a form in the mail. Failure to receive a form by mail does not excuse a property owner from filing.

### On-Line Field Cards

Property Cards and Tax Maps are now available on a GIS site, qPublic. Go to the Roxbury Web Site Assessor's page and click "On Line Field Cards". As of the end of July, finished basement area, fireplace and basement garage count and sketches are not available. Overlays showing the Zones, Historic District and Scenic Roads will be available soon.

## Conservation Commission

SAVE THE DATE:

2 PM, Sunday, October 27

The Conservation Commission and Minor Memorial Library will be presenting a program on energy at the Town Hall at 2PM Sunday October 27. Several experts will speak on aspects of the new state strategy that are relevant to Roxbury:

- opportunities to improve household energy efficiency
- solar and other emerging household technologies for the generation and controlled use of electricity
- a plan to finance capital energy improvements that costs less to service than what you can save in energy costs.

An area resident will present a case study. There will be refreshments. We may even be able to offer a real and immediate opportunity to cut your heating costs.

## Blood Drive - November 15 - 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 40-50!

In order to get a better turnout for both towns, we are coordinating our blood drives with Washington. The next two drives are:

**Give Blood.**



*The gift of life.*

**Saturday, Sept. 7**

**Washington Firehouse, 8:00-1:00**

**Friday, Nov. 15**

**Roxbury Congregational Church, 1:00-6:00**

**Deborah Beckman Memorial Drive**

Please mark your calendar now **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.

To donate blood, please make an appointment at:

**800-GIVE-LIFE** or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

We really need You.

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

## **Social Worker & Municipal Agent**

*Jerrilynn Tiso*

### **MONDAY SENIOR BUS TRIPS**

Our “**On The Road Again**” Monday bus trips for seniors started in July. We’ve already been to the Christmas Tree Shops and the Whole Foods Market in Danbury, and to the Mark Twain House in Hartford. Planned trips for August include the IKEA store and restaurant on the 12th, and SoNo (South Norwalk) Maritime Museum and IMAX Theater on the 26th. Call Jerrilynn at 860-210-0201 to sign up for a fun time!



### **ENERGY ASSISTANCE:**

Jerrilynn will begin taking applications for this year’s Energy Assistance Program on September 1st. There are several levels of assistance each with its own income guideline, so please do **NOT** assume eligibility. For example, the range for a family of four is from \$23,550 to \$61,904. Call Jerrilynn at 860-210-0201 for more information or to schedule an appointment. First deliveries actually begin on November 15th, so make sure your application is in and approved by then.

### **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 \$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 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 at 860-210-0201 if you’d like more information about this great program, or if you’d like to apply.

### **LITCHFIELD HILLS CHORE SERVICE:**

The goal of LHCS is to help our elderly residents remain safely and independently in the community. And one of our Chore workers can provide that little bit of extra help a senior may need to make this possible. We currently have 13 Roxbury seniors happily receiving Chore services such as general housekeeping support, general outside maintenance, and driving to appointments and/or shopping.

Chore workers are also local residents who are happy to be earning a little extra money while assisting their neighbors. We need one or two more Chore workers for Roxbury. If you are interested in earning \$12.50 per hour helping a neighbor, please call Jerrilynn at 860-210-0201.

## **The Roxbury Conservation Commission Announces a Discounted Well Testing Program for Town Residents**

In partnership with Hydro Technologies Laboratory of New Milford, CT, the Roxbury Conservation Commission is offering a limited time opportunity for Roxbury residents to test the health of their well water. The Well Testing program will start with a kick-off booth at the Roxbury Tractor Parade Picnic on Sunday, October 6th. A representative from Hydro Technologies will be present to provide instructions and answer questions. Discounted well testing kits will be available to area residents at a cost of \$69, a 22% savings over Hydro Technologies’ list price of \$89 per test. Payment must be made in advance directly to Hydro Technologies.

It is important for owners of private wells to have regular water quality testing. Many contaminants cannot be identified by taste or odor, making it difficult to know if the water quality of their well has changed.

Some contaminants are naturally occurring from features found in the rocks and soils of Connecticut. These include substances like bacteria, radon, arsenic, uranium, and other minerals such as iron and manganese. Residential activities can cause contaminants to find their way onto the land, such as the use of fertilizers and pesticides, fueling of lawn equipment, and disposal of household chemicals. Industrial and commercial activities, improper waste disposal, road salting, and fuel spills can also introduce hazardous substances to the ground.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) of Connecticut recommends that private wells be tested annually for Total Coliform and E. coli Bacteria, Nitrate/Nitrate and pH, Color and Turbidity. The test offered by Hydro Technologies, a Connecticut certified environmental laboratory, checks the levels of these items and iron, sodium, chloride, manganese, sulfate, odor, residual chlorine, hardness, calcium and magnesium.

Residents may also consider testing for other contaminants discussed above or for lead and copper if their water is

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please visit us at

**[www.roxburyct.com](http://www.roxburyct.com)**

## Conservation Commission Well Testing Program

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acidic, they have small children, or they notice blue-green staining. Please consult with the lab for the required sample bottles, procedures and costs for any additional tests.

If there is enough interest the Roxbury Conservation Commission may sponsor a pick-up day when collected well samples can be dropped off at a central location in Roxbury and delivered to Hydro Technologies laboratory for testing. Results from the test will be mailed to the resident's home address.

For further information, please contact:

Ron Faanes: [ronfaanesphd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ronfaanesphd@sbcglobal.net)

Trudy Swenson: [trudyswenson@gmail.com](mailto:trudyswenson@gmail.com)

## Building Department

*John Blaney, Building Official*

There have been several drownings in pools reported in the news again this summer.

Just a reminder that all pool safety devices must be maintained. This not only includes maintaining a proper pool fence but also insuring that any doors or gates to the pool area self-close and latch properly and that any alarms serving the pool are kept in working order.

Hope you have an enjoyable and safe pool season, if you have any questions in regards to pool codes call the Building Department, Tues- Fri 8-1pm at 355-2948 .

## Town of Roxbury Ornament



*The sale of these beautiful ornaments will benefit the Roxbury Relief/Fuel Assistance Fund. The ornament will be available for sale at Friends of the Senior Center Festival of Trees which will be held on Dec. 7th at 6:30 PM at the Senior Center after the Tree Lighting and in Town Hall.*

## Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

The Garden Club would like to thank community members for supporting our annual Plant Mart in May. Proceeds will enable us to continue our outreach programs and beautification projects in both towns. These projects include the meadow garden at Weller's Bridge Road, the triangle at the junction of routes 67 and 317, as well as the Diebold Garden at Great Oak Cemetery.

Our 2013 Scholarship was awarded to Shawn Childs of Roxbury. Shawn has distinguished herself both academically and through her community service.

Our August meeting on the second Thursday of the month will include a tour of several Roxbury Gardens. Members and guests will gather at St. Mark's Church at 9 am for horticulture and a brief meeting to be followed by the garden tours.

A workshop to create various ornaments from natural materials for our holiday fundraiser donations will take place in September.

For the seventh year, the Club will create a holiday showcase room at the Kellogg Nature Center's Frances Osborne House. This property, under the umbrella of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, has become a holiday tradition for many families in the area. This year's theme is "Connecticut History" with the various rooms highlighting the contributions of the Nutmeg State in the early twentieth century. Our room, the library, will feature Connecticut clocks as well as Connecticut authors who were contemporaries of Frances Kellogg. If any community members have collectible Connecticut clocks which they would like featured at the museum, on loan, please contact Marilyn Mehr at 860-354-7069.

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club welcomes residents and friends to attend our meetings on the second Thursday of each month at St. Mark's Church in Bridgewater. Meetings begin at 9am with horticulture in the summer months and 10 am otherwise. For more information please contact Fran Bednar at 860-210-1142 or Barbara Lang at 860-350-6524.



## Roxbury Conservation Commission

Dear Crabby,

I noticed my dog Fluffy's water bowl glows in the dark. Well, it's not really the bowl but the water in it. I change it once a day like a good dog owner but now I'm starting to think Fluffy has superpowers. She stares at the refrigerator like she has x-ray vision; she starts barking a full minute before the mail carrier opens our mailbox. When I go to take her for a walk she shows up with the leash in her mouth. She is reading my mind. What do you think? Is there something in our water?

Yours sincerely,  
Hildegard S. Husky

Dear Ms. Husky,

I think you are the lucky owner of a clever dog. I also think you need to check your water. Like most other property owners in Roxbury you probably have a private well. You might be surprised to learn that private (domestic) wells are not currently regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Private well owners are responsible for the quality of their own drinking water. And, while there is no state requirement to have your well water tested (although there may be from your mortgage lender), the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Section, recommends all homeowners with private wells do so.



When private wells are used for drinking and household consumption water quality testing is important. Some contaminants in drinking water are linked to cancer and toxicity, posing a risk to human, and canine, health. Many contaminants have no taste, odor or color. Their presence can only be determined by laboratory testing. Here are a few questions and answers concerning private wells and water testing:

How did my well get contaminated?

Well water originates as rain and snow and filters into the ground. As it soaks through soil and rocks, the water often dissolves materials present on or in the ground, becoming contaminated. Some of these contaminants occur naturally in rocks and soils and can possibly be found in well water at unsafe levels. These include bacteria, radon, arsenic, uranium and other minerals. Other contaminants find their way onto the land or into groundwater from human activities. Industrial/commercial activities, improper waste disposal, road salting, and fuel spills can introduce hazardous substances to the ground. Even typical residential activities, such as the use of fertilizers and pesticides, fueling of lawn equip-

ment, and disposal of household chemicals can contaminate the ground when done improperly. Taking measures to protect your well from contamination is important.

How do I identify potential well problem sources?

To start your search for potential problems, begin close to home. Do a survey around your well.

- Is there livestock nearby?
- Are pesticides being used on nearby agricultural crops or nurseries?
- Do you use lawn fertilizers near the well?
- Is your well "downstream" from your own or a neighbor's septic system?
- Is your well located near a road that is frequently salted or sprayed with de-icers during winter months?
- Do you or your neighbors dispose of household wastes or used motor oil in the backyard, even in small amounts?

When should I have my well tested?

You should have your well tested once each year for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels. If you suspect other contaminants, you should test for those as well. However, spend time identifying potential problems as these tests can be expensive. You should also have your well tested if:

- There are known problems with well water in your area
- You have experienced problems near your well (i.e., flooding, land disturbances, and nearby waste disposal sites)
- You replace or repair any part of your well system.
- You notice a change in water quality (i.e., taste, color, and odor)

For further information, please refer to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Section Publication #23: *Private Drinking Water Well Standards*.

So Fluffy may be a super dog but it's probably not because of your water. And, more importantly, she shouldn't be drinking water that glows in the dark. Do Fluffy a favor, along with the rest of your family, and get your private well water tested regularly.

Yours truly,  
Crabby Appleson

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

## Roxbury Land Trust

**Test your knowledge about RLT! Please take our survey at [www.roxburylandtrust.org](http://www.roxburylandtrust.org)**

Our thanks to Sean Irwin and Nate Steers for their Eagle Scout projects (Troop 65) at our Mine Hill Preserve. Sean built a shed to protect the historic tumbler and Nate will mark the location of a number of former buildings vital to the functioning of this 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial iron mining site.

### 2013 *Save The Date* Events Calendar

- **Labor Day Weekend - Hike River Road Preserve.** Circle the pond to the trail entrance at woods' edge. River for fly fishing. Picnic table at Volunteers Bridge. The bridge connects the River Road Preserve to the Erbacher, Golden Harvest and Orzech Family Preserves.
- **Sept 7, Sat 5-7 PM Sunset Celebration for Families at the Gavel Family Farm Preserve.** BYOPicnic. Dessert provided by RLT. Special guest musicians, *The Doug White Jazz Quintet*. Children's activities. No dogs. Rain cancels this event.
- **Sept 21, Sat 8:30 AM Race for Open Space at River Rd Preserve.** Register/\$5 per person; children under ten free. Benefits RLT. Open to all ages for running or walking. Sponsored by Roxbury Road Races.
- **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](mailto:tom@THPstudio.com).
- **Columbus Day Weekend – Hike the Baldwin Preserve.** One trail hugs the edge of the Van Deusen Preserve swamp and leads to a nice picnic site overlooking a beaver lodge. Another trail follows an old wood road to a crest of a hill that affords distant views of Good Hill. Access the Baldwin Preserve from RT 317 or from Lower County Road.
- **Oct 20, Sun 4 PM, Lecture, *Big Birds Around Us~ Owls, Eagles and Hawks*,** Ken Elkins, Bent of the River Audubon, at Roxbury Town Hall.

**We invite you to participate! Come to an Event! Hike a Preserve!**

One of our Preserves is within five minutes of your home. Maps available on our web site. We thank Ann Oberkirch, MD, for underwriting a reprint of our popular Preserves Map.

We welcome volunteers for trail monitoring and clean-up. Please contact the RLT office to volunteer or report any trail issues: 860-350-4148. Dog lovers/dog walkers: We ask that you keep your pet, preferably, on a leash or under your control.

*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 3,474 acres.  
This is possible because of the annual support of many Roxbury residents. Thank you!*

Visit [www.roxburylandtrust.org](http://www.roxburylandtrust.org) for more information.