

ROXBURY TODAY

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2008

Town Updates From the Board of Selectmen

Barbara Henry, First Selectman
bhenry@roxburyct.com

*"There's never enough time to do all the nothing you want."
- Calvin & Hobbes*

FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 BUDGET

The 2008-2009 budget was prepared by the Board of Selectmen and has been presented to the Board of Finance. We have proposed a 3.56% increase in the Town budget. Grants have been secured that were written and applied for by the Selectmen's Office to offset bridge repairs. The Town was just awarded a \$445,000 STEAP grant last week towards our Judds Bridge rehabilitation project. We have also secured a \$250,000 STEAP grant towards repairs for Minor Bridge. The Boards of Finance and Selectmen worked to secure a Municipal Lease Agreement with First Litchfield Leasing Corporation in the amount of \$431,129 to offset the cost of repairing Squire Road.

The Board of Selectmen is committed to presenting the Board of Finance with a budget that will be acceptable to the community without decreasing necessary services or infrastructure improvements and building maintenance. We stay committed to seeking out grants to offset large expenditures that must be done.

The Board of Finance will complete the budget process at its April 15th meeting. Copies of the proposed budget will be available for the public after that meeting. There will be a Budget Hearing on Wednesday, April 23rd at 7:30 in the

Town Hall. The Annual Town and Budget Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20th at 7:30. It is after that meeting that the Board of Finance sets the mill rate based on the approved budget.

WELCOME RESIDENT TROOPER FRANS DIELEMANS!!

We hope that most of you have had an opportunity to introduce yourselves to our new Resident Trooper, Frans Dielemans. Trooper Dielemans replaced Tfc. Michael O'Donnell after Trooper O'Donnell's promotion. Trooper Dielemans is most welcomed and we look forward to a mutually beneficial working relationship with him. Stop in and say hello if you haven't done so already.

REVALUATION

The Board of Assessment Appeals has completed their hearings. Fifty-two (52) property owners appealed seventy-two (72) properties. Thirty-one (31) appeals resulted in adjustments. The finalized Grand List after Board hearings is as follows:

Real Estate	\$704,784,190
Personal Property	5,469,442
Motor Vehicles	<u>26,323,170</u>
Total Grand List (after appeals)	\$736,576,802

It is expected that the mill rate will decline after five years at 15.4, which will result in lower Motor Vehicle and Personal Property taxes.

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MEETING NOTICES

April 7, 7:00 p.m. Region 12 District Budget Hearing Shepaug Middle/High School	April 23, 7:30 p.m. Town Budget Hearing Town Hall	May 5, 7:00 p.m. Region 12 Annual District Meeting Shepaug Middle/High School
May 6, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Vote on Region 12 Budget Town Hall		May 20, 7:30 p.m. Annual Town Meeting and Budget Vote Town Hall

ROXBURY PRIDE - CAPTURE IT! - GO GREEN!

Spring is just around the corner and it's a great time to do all the things we've been thinking about over the winter months that we can do to improve our lives and the world we live in, which includes our community. We slip into Spring this month and when we do, we're going to GO GREEN!

Zachary Gross, a Senior at Shepaug High School, is contributing to our newsletter this month with an explanation of Global Warming and Going Green (see page 9). Zachary is giving ideas that blend with Governor Rell's OneThing campaign which was launched in 2007. "OneThing" builds on the momentum that can be achieved if everyone in CT takes one small step, everyday. If each of the state's 3.5 million residents do OneThing a day, every day, for a year that would be more than 1.2 billion OneThings - more than enough to make a real difference on issues such as consumption, conservation and the use of clean and renewable energy. One idea will be posted in this spot in subsequent newsletters. See below for what the Town is going to do.

E-RECYCLING TO BE HELD AT THE TRANSFER STATION - APRIL 26

We agree with Zachary that we should all make contributions to reduce our impact on the planet. So, to continue with Zachary's efforts to raise the environmental consciousness of our residents, the Town will hold its first residential electronics recycling event (E-Recycling) at the Transfer Station on Saturday, April 26th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. We wanted to have this event to coincide with the town clean up day, sponsored by the Recreation Commission, on May 3rd but we could not secure that date with the company, WeRecycle!. This type of recycling is something we want to continue on a weekly basis but will have this one-time event to start us off. There will be press releases in the newspapers announcing the event.

This is a free event for all Roxbury residents who have a 2008 sticker on their windshield. There will be a limit of six (6) items from each car. Residents are encouraged to bring their used computers, old televisions, printers, cell phones, CD/DVD players, copy machines, stereo and other electronic devices. Used lamps, batteries and ballasts will also be accepted. There will be no charge at this event but proof of residency will be verified. If you have any questions, please contact the First Selectman at 860-354-9938. We will still hold the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in August 23rd with the Town of Bridgewater.

JUDDS BRIDGE

A STEAP grant request was submitted by the Selectmen's Office for help with the rehabilitation of this bridge. We were awarded \$445,000 toward this project through the State bonding commission. We are truly thankful for this award, as

it will have a tremendous positive impact on our 2008-2009 budget and allow us to complete this much needed project.

The Town has retained the services of Milone and MacBroom, Inc. of Cheshire, CT, to develop plans for rehabilitation of Judds Bridge over the Shepaug River. The firm has conducted a wetlands investigation, performed a topographic survey and has developed conceptual plans for improvements. Construction is expected to involve salvage of the main trusses and replacement of the steel superstructure and timber decking. All new steel components will be galvanized steel and railings will protect pedestrians as well as vehicles. An inland wetlands application has been submitted and the work may proceed as early as August 2008. The construction cost is expected to be in the \$500,000 range. The public should anticipate an informational session.

SQUIRE ROAD

This is the next road on our list to have drainage installed, the pavement reclaimed and repaved. The Inland-Wetlands Commission held a public hearing on the project where all residents who live on Squire Road were invited to see and discuss the project. The next step is to put the project out to bid for completion this summer.

Time to Clean your Property of JUNK Cars!!

Call **860-246-JUNK** to have your junk or unregistered car towed. Remember our Zoning regulations allow only **ONE (1)** unregistered vehicle on your property AND it needs to be hidden from view. Various complaints have proved to be true that this regulation is not being adhered to. Take advantage of this opportunity or sell your cars for scrap metal before the ZEOenforces these violations.

SAVE THE DATE!!

JUNE 18 Recognition of WWII VETERANS from the towns of Roxbury, Bridgewater and Washington, held in Roxbury Town Hall at 3:00 p.m. Watch for notices in the newspapers.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACILITIES

Unfortunately, there is no news to report on this subject. As of press time, we still do not have leases for the elementary schools in place and there is a feeling that the vote on the three-school option vs. the consolidated option will not take place again before the end of June. It is very disheartening to spend time and effort on this subject that goes nowhere year after year.

The hands on the clock have gone around many times

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Town Updates (continued)

and have brought us to where we are facing very uncertain times. The Board of Selectmen has discussed the impact of bringing a school bonding package in the \$20-30M range before the voters at this time and we are not in favor of it. We would like to see the elementary schools fixed and our capital repairs lists followed. Some might say that that is the most expensive option. Perhaps in the long run it will be, but if we don't have the money to pay the \$20-30M bond, we don't have it. The economic outlook is forcing us to look at other alternatives. The economic outlook is grim, oil prices have soared and gasoline will probably hit \$4/gallon by summer. Some of our neighbors are hurting under the weight of these burdens. And it is feared that the worst is yet to come.

COMMISSION MEMBERS NEEDED

The Board of Selectmen is looking for registered voters to serve on the NW Regional Housing Authority, the Zoning Board of Appeals and Volunteer Recognition Committee. If you are interested in finding out about these volunteer positions, call the Selectmen's Office at 354-9938.

SENIORS

Need a ride to a doctor or local business? Call Alice Griffin, Municipal Agent, and she'll try and help you get a ride in our senior van. Call 210-0056.

NEWSPAPER REPORTERS

It may appear that because there are few stories in the local papers that nothing is going on in town, but that is not the case. We are hoping that Voices and the Republican American newspapers will replace those who retired and reported on our community.

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NEW SERVICE STOPS CATALOG CLUTTER

Over 19 billion catalogs are mailed to U.S. consumers each year – representing 53 million trees, 5.2 million tons of carbon dioxide gas emissions and 53 billion gallons of water. You can stop unwanted catalogs from cluttering up your mailbox and wasting natural resources. *Catalog Choice*, a free service sponsored by the Ecology Center and endorsed by the National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, makes it easy for you to choose the catalogs you no longer wish to receive. To sign up, visit www.catalogchoice.org

RADON TESTING KITS AVAILABLE

Radon is an invisible and odorless gas that can enter homes through cracks in the basement floor or from well water.

- Prolonged exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking
- Only one in five homes has a radon problem. But the only way to know if your home is free of radon is to test it.

The American Lung Association of CT is offering a Radon Test Kit and Information Packet for \$12. This includes postage and handling. To order a kit, or for additional information, please call 1-800-LUNG USA or 1-860-289-5401.

Certified Lifeguards Wanted

The Town is looking to hire certified lifeguards for the summer months for work at the pond. Interested persons who are qualified, please stop by the Selectmen's Office to fill out an application.

BARNES OF ROXBURY CALENDAR ON SALE FOR \$1

We still have copies of the Barnes of Roxbury calendar for 2008 put together by the Roxbury Historic District Commission and they are available for purchase for \$1! That's right, \$1! The proceeds will be put in a special fund so the Commission can continue with these types of projects. Pick one up in Town Hall.



ROXBURY LAND TRUST
Since 1970

Julie Steers, Executive Director

Roxbury Land Trust Spring Calendar of Events 2008 - SAVE THESE DATES

May 10, 9AM-Noon- Preserve Work Day- Meet at the RLT Office, 7 South Street. *Bring hand tools. RLT gloves will be provided.*

Memorial Day Weekend- any time - **Hike the Lilly Preserve.** Two entrances: RT 317 and Old Tophet Road.

Mine Hill Preserve- Parking on Mine Hill Road, 0.3 miles from Route 67

The 360-acre Mine Hill Preserve is the focus of the Land Trust's visitor education program. Nine self-guiding interpretive signs orient you to this National Register of Historic Places site and the operation of this 19th century mining complex.

**REPORT: March '08 – PROGRAMS for our Community from the
*Friends of the Roxbury Community-Senior Center And The Roxbury Senior Center***
 "Cultivating a culture of giving, learning and looking after one another."
 "Keeping the window to the past and the door to the future of Roxbury, OPEN."

Happening Now:

- "Fall Country Fair" – Oct.
- "Annual Fund Drive" – Nov.
- "Festival of Holiday Trees & Country Christmas Traditions" = [Last Sunday of Nov. 30, 2008 & Town Tree Lighting]
- Veterans Receptions & "Remembering"
- Endowment Fund
- Bingo
- PLUS** All of Alice Griffin's Programs
(See Sr. Center Information)

In the Planning Stages – NOW:

- "Plow to Plate" -
 - "Our garden to & for you"
 - "Lovin' from the Oven"
 - Soup & Salad - Luncheons & Take Home
- A modern, well equipped kitchen:
 - Full inventory
 - Functional design
 - Plan of action
 - Needs Identified
- Professional decorators & committee - creating a "Home Away From Home."
 - Curtains
 - Intimate Sitting & Eating
 - Art Displays
- Games:
 - Cards ◦ Puzzles ◦ Board Games
 - Purchase of a Wii for all to enjoy. - Bowling & tennis anyone?
- Music - social events:
 - Opera ◦ Operettas ◦ Concerts
 - Roxbury Singers ◦ Jam Sessions
- "Roxbury Bargains"
 - "New to you" Sales ◦ Consignments
- Exercise:
 - Ti Chi ◦ Yoga ◦ Walking
 - Balance ◦ Dance
- Host & Hostesses
- Phone Tree

Maybe Someday -

- Tea Room
- Sunday Brunch
- Dinner Dance
- Tutoring
- "Fountain of Youth"
 - Youthful Makeovers (Hair, Clothes, Make up)
 - Stress management
- Hobby Clubs:
 - Arts & Crafts -
 - Art Lessons
 - Scrap Booking
 - Doll Exhibits
 - Jewelry Making
 - Laughter
 - *Make suggestions!*
- Interest Groups:
 - Theatre
 - Dining Out
 - Antiquing
 - Lecture Series
 - Art Exhibits
 - Retirement Planning
 - "Life After Diagnosis"
- Support Groups
 - Technology
- Computer
- Phones, etc.
 - Gardens
 - Dog Obedience
 - *Make Suggestions!*

And more to come!

Come - Volunteer - Have Fun!

Would you consider being a chairperson?

Stop by your Community Senior Center.

You are always welcome!

TAX COLLECTOR

Kimberly Pokrywka, Tax Collector • Cindy Fink, Tax Clerk

Thanks to all the Timely Taxpayers!!

We have collected 98.4 % of current taxes as of March 2008

The Tax Collector's Office is responsible for the billing and collection of Town property taxes and related penalty charges. Its mission is to assist in maintaining the fiscal stability of the Town by ensuring the timely collection and recording of all taxes through the diligent application of State Statutes, Town Ordinances, regulations and other enforcement aids, while assisting the public in understanding the taxation process and procedures and maintaining an effective and cordial relationship with the general public.

The Collector is also responsible for reporting fiscal information to various Town Departments, Boards, and Commissions, the State of Connecticut and the United States Bureau of the Census.

We are gearing up for the next collection period which will begin on July 1, 2008. Please contact our office if you have changed your mailing address or sold a vehicle and returned the plates. Corrections now-save time later.

If you do not receive a bill by July 1, please contact our office at 354-6484. Failure to have received a tax bill does not exempt you from payment of all taxes and all interest charges. (CGS 12-130)

The following measures are for Delinquent Taxpayers only:

A lien will be placed on all unpaid Real Estate Taxes on May 1, 2008.

Real Estate taxes that are more than 2 years delinquent will be sold via Tax Sale, with litigation fees that become the taxpayers' responsibility.

Unpaid (Business) Personal Property Taxes will have a U.C.C. Lien filed against their businesses in Hartford at the Secretary of the State's Office.

All Delinquent Motor Vehicle Taxes are reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles. You will not be able to renew or register any vehicle, until **all** taxes and interest are paid in full.

NEW for Fiscal Year 2008/2009

All tax records are open to the public. As an alternative to sending a statement every month we will post delinquencies on our Town web-site (www.roxburyct.com). We will begin in September with Motor Vehicles.

NOTE: Roxbury residents called to active service for Military action against Iraq or serving in the Middle East are exempt from any interest incurred during that tour. Please contact our office to update your records.

OFFICE HOURS

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

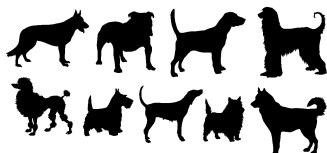
VIEW AND PAY YOUR BILLS ONLINE EASY-CONVENIENT-SECURE

1. Go to www.roxburyct.com
2. Click on Departments, Commissions, & Related Information
3. Click on Tax Collector
4. Register for Online Payments

June - Dog Licenses

You must register your dog annually in the month of June according to Connecticut General Statutes. Post-card reminders are mailed to all current license holders the last week in May. Fees remain the same, \$8.00 for a spayed or neutered dog, \$19.00 for a male or female. You may register without penalty for the entire month of June.

**AS ALWAYS
PLEASE DON'T WAIT FOR THE LAST DAY.**



Roxbury Volunteer Recognition Committee

Timothy Field Beard, Chairman

The Roxbury Volunteer Recognition Committee will soon begin selecting honorees for 2008. If you have a deserving volunteer in mind, please send his or her name to Timothy Field Beard, P.O. Box 269, Roxbury, CT 06783 or to Barbara Henry at the Town Hall.

The Committee also needs a few new members to fill vacancies. The group meets a few times a year to vote on honorees, plan the annual picnic and select the design for the year's pewter medallion.

Ornaments from previous years are available at the Town Hall for \$6.00 each.

Minor Memorial Library News

Valerie G. Annis, Director

Spring has sprung!!! Visit your local library to explore the many resources available to our Roxbury friends and neighbors.

Equipment for Loan at the Library:

Watts Up!!!

At the suggestion of the Town's Energy Task force, the Library has purchased a portable power analyzer, watt meter and electricity monitor. This all-in-one unit is available for a one-week loan to Roxbury residents and Minor Memorial Library cardholders.

"The unit incorporates sophisticated digital electronics that enable precise and accurate measurements in an easy-to-use format. State-of-the-art digital microprocessor design utilizes high-frequency sampling of both voltage and current measurements for true power. Power factor is captured so even phase-shifted loads such as motors are accurately measured. This fast, intuitive and easy-to-use unit quickly and accurately measures any 100-240* VAC appliance."

Upcoming Events & Programs:

Book Discussions:

Our next adult book discussion is scheduled for April 16th at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult. Please call the library to register for this event.

Art Exhibits:

"Private Labyrinths" an exhibit of Florin Ion Firimita's mixed media pieces on wood and masonite will open at the

library on Saturday, April 5th with a reception from 2-4 p.m. This exhibit will be available for viewing during regular library hours through May 12th.

The annual Young Artists Exhibit, featuring the artwork of the Shepaug High School senior class, will open with a reception from 2 - 4 p.m. on May 17th. This exhibit will be available for viewing through June 2nd.

The artwork of Banjie Nicholas and Mary Hawvermale will be on exhibit in our community studio from Saturday, June 7th through Monday, July 14th.

Children's Programs:

Children's programs will resume in April. Please call the library at 860/350-2181 for additional details.

McCann Concert:

Our annual Frasier McCann Concert is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th. Please call the library at 860/350-2181 for additional details.

SAVE THE DATE!

Calder Event At Minor Memorial Library

Sunday, July 20th, 2008 will be a very special day in the history of Roxbury, Connecticut. On that date "MOUNTAINS," a sculpture by Alexander Calder will be dedicated at the Roxbury Memorial Library.

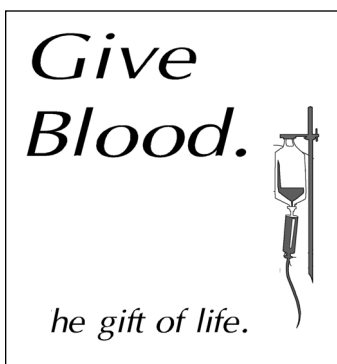
More information to follow.

NEEDED: BLOOD DONORS

Brooke Wheeler, Roxbury Blood Drive Committee

Blood must be available before it is needed, and you never know when you, a family member or friend may be the person who needs a pint, or several pints, of life-saving blood. There is no substitute. If you are 17 or older and weigh 110 pounds or more, please consider giving blood. Every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood, and the growth rate in donations is not keeping pace with the 6% annual increase in the amount of blood being transfused. The need is real and the need is now.

In order to get a better turnout for both towns, we are



coordinating our blood drives with Washington. Scheduled blood drives are:

Friday, May 23	Roxbury Town Hall, 1:00-5:45
Friday, July 18	Roxbury Town Hall, 1:00-5:45
Friday, Sept 12	Washington Depot Firehouse
Friday, November 7	Roxbury Town Hall, 1:00-5:45

Please mark your calendar now. We really need YOU.

Under the new Red Cross guidelines, all those with appointments and arriving on time will be taken before any walk-ins.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or log on to www.givelife.org or www.bloodct.org.

In addition to feeling good about donating, all donors will immediately be rewarded with our regionally famous homemade refreshments!

Health District!

Donna Culbert, Health Director

Yes, its time to talk about **LYME DISEASE** and **TICK-BORNE ILLNESS PREVENTION**.

Lyme disease and tick-borne illness are as big a problem as ever. Please do not become complacent and think "you've got it covered" when it comes to being aware of your risk (or your family's risk) of getting bitten by a tick.

I do not have any evidence that there are less ticks or that there is less Lyme Disease and tick-borne illness. What I do know is that because we live in the beautiful and wooded area that we do, we are at significant risk for tick bites. And to make matters more difficult, the spring time brings the tiny nymph-stage of the tick's life cycle, which makes them virtually impossible to see.

The Health District will never tire of warning you about ticks and the damage they can do. Below are suggestions to help prevent tick bites, Lyme disease and tick-borne illness. Please remember that *it takes only one time* of not using protection or doing a thorough tick check, and you can be bitten and infected.

The District urges residents to pay attention to their possible exposure to ticks. It is critically important that when you are outdoors that you be careful to:

- (1) Avoid tick habitats whenever possible. Ticks like to live in leaf litter and moist and shady areas. Remove leaf litter, clean up stone walls, use wood chip borders along the yard edge and moving play areas and swing sets out of the shade will all help reduce your potential exposure to the ticks.
- (2) Use personal protection (protective clothing, long pants and sleeves, pants tucked in, long hair tied back, and use of repellents if desired and used according to the manufacturers directions)

- (3) Check yourself, your children and your pets for ticks when you come in from the outdoors.
- (4) If you find a tick attached, remove it carefully and properly with thin tipped tweezers just behind the head – the place of attachment and pulling straight out,
- (5) Disinfect the area and put the tick in a sealed plastic bag or container,
- (6) Bring the tick to the Health District office where we can then send it out to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, for identification and possible testing for the spirochetes that cause Lyme Disease.
- (7) Also, do a tick check and check for a rash everyday. You may not remember being outdoors, or you may have missed a tick bite; its important to check daily for ticks and for a rash. (Note: not everyone who is bitten by an infected tick gets a rash, but it is important to be on the look-out)

There are many things you can do to your outdoor environment to reduce numbers of ticks and tick exposure – contact our office or stop by for an excellent brochure that provides these details.

Lyme disease and other tick borne illnesses can range from disruptive to devastating. Early detection, diagnosis and treatment is of the utmost importance to enable recovery.

For additional information, please contact the Health District office at (203) 270-4291, [email us at newtownhd@earthlink.net](mailto:newtownhd@earthlink.net).

Two good websites to visit on this subject are www.cdc.gov and www.caes.state.ct.us

ROXBURY/BRIDGEWATER GARDEN CLUB

Annual Spring Garden Mart

**SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2008 • 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON
BRIDGEWATER FIREHOUSE • ROUTE 133**

*Annuals, Perennials, Herbs, Shrub
Special Member-Grown Selections • New Varieties*

new "GARDEN BOUTIQUE"

Come Early For Best Selection

Ambulance Association

Bernie Meehan, Chief – 203 948 2561

In April of 1967 a group of Roxbury residents were able to organize and incorporate the Roxbury Ambulance Association. The next two years of the organization were spent getting organized and preparing themselves for delivering emergency care to the residents of Roxbury.

This group managed to receive First Aid training from the Red Cross, since this predated Emergency Medical Technician training. They then went about trying to get an ambulance. Everett Hurlburt stepped up and donated \$6234 to purchase a 1968 International Harvester Travelall Ambulance from the Springfield Equipment Company in Springfield, Ohio. That ambulance was delivered to Roxbury in March of 1969.

A number of things have changed in Roxbury since the late 1960's, however one thing is still constant, the Roxbury Ambulance Association (RAA) is still serving the emergency medical needs of the town with its group of dedicated volunteers. I believe the same spirit that drove people like Seth Houck, David Gillette, Frank Kinsella, Walter Hollister, Roland Lowe, and Raymond French among others to developing the RAA in 1967 is still alive and well in Roxbury. Currently we have approximately thirty dedicated volunteer responders who all share the same community spirit our founding members possessed. These current members step forth and offer their time to become members, and then embark on a mission to complete Emergency Medical Technician class - some 150 hours of training in all aspects of Emergency Medical Care. Once through the class, they complete a rigorous testing process that is required by the State of Connecticut, as well as the National Registry of EMT's. It is after this journey of training for a few months that the members are minimally qualified to act as responders. Once EMT certified, they are then mentored by senior members of the RAA who teach them all the ins and outs of being a "Roxbury EMT". Through the generous support of our neighbors we are able to outfit all of these volunteer responders with first aid kits, oxygen, protective

clothing, radios, pagers, and even defibrillators carried in their personal vehicles. Between tuition and equipment, outfitting an EMT responder costs approximately \$5000, which is almost the cost of that original 1968 ambulance!! Speaking of ambulances, we are currently in the process of drawing up plans for Roxbury's next ambulance. A number of members have been meeting throughout the winter and have drawn up specifications for a new ambulance. This latest ambulance will be delivered 40 years to the month of Roxbury's first ambulance! One significant difference will be the price tag of the new rig, which will be around \$200,000. For the first time in our history, the Town of Roxbury will be assisting us with funding for this purchase. The agreement to assist the RAA with capital funding was made by the Board of Selectmen nine years ago, when I advised them as EMS Chief that the Town should have a part in funding the delivery of EMS. The Roxbury Ambulance Association will be funding the majority of the vehicle and equipment purchase with funding derived from donations from our neighbors. In our archives I was able to locate an equipment list from 1977 which detailed that it cost \$4178 to outfit the latest ambulance with equipment. The stretcher alone in the new ambulance costs more than \$10,000! Outfitting the new ambulance will cost well over \$50,000, again a vast difference from years past. We are fortunate that the donations from our generous neighbors will allow us to purchase everything that is needed to deliver first rate emergency care to our town. On behalf of the Roxbury Ambulance Association I would like to again thank everyone for their support over the years.

We plan to commemorate our 40th year of service with a ceremony in the fall of this year, acknowledging the contributions of our members both past and present. Information on this event will be made public in the coming months. If you have information, photos, or memories of past members or history of the Roxbury Ambulance Association, please call me.

CERTIFIED LIGEGUARDES NEEDED

Call Selectmen's Office
For Application

354-9938

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

**MONDAY, MAY 26, 2006
ROXBURY TOWN GREEN
10:00 A.M.**

Global Warming

My name is Zachary Gross and I am a senior at Shepaug High School. Motivated by a love of nature and a passion for environmental activism, I have chosen to educate the community about global warming for my Senior Project. With Earth Day on the 22nd and Arbor Day on the 25th, April is the perfect time to embrace our local environment and to give the Earth the respect it deserves. As such, I have written two articles for the newsletter this month-the first offering an explanation of climate change and the second providing information about how to live in a more eco-friendly manner. I welcome any and all feedback and can be reached at zachary.g.gross@gmail.com.

"Global Warming:

It's Here, It's Near, Get Used to It"

Europe will freeze. Polar bears will die. New York City will disappear. Everyone has heard the theories about global warming, but there are many misconceptions about the actual phenomenon.

In order to better understand the climate crisis, the following is a brief summary of global warming, its causes and its effects:

Global warming vs. climate change. Although the two terms are sometimes used interchangeably, they are not the same. Global warming is the increase in the average global temperature, especially an increase considerable enough to cause climate change. Climate change refers to any long-term significant change in the weather patterns of a certain region. For example, South America has generally become wetter since 1900, and the Mediterranean has become drier.

Global warming vs. ozone depletion. Global warming involves the trapping of gases in the lower part of the atmosphere, or the *troposphere*. The ozone layer is located in the upper part of the Earth's atmosphere known as the *stratosphere*, and it protects life on Earth from the sun's radiation. While human-made gases called chlorofluorocarbons (once used widely in aerosols and refrigerants) are responsible for the depletion of the ozone layer, they account for less than one-tenth of Earth's warming. Therefore, global warming and ozone depletion are not directly related.

The basic science of global warming. Global warming is not particularly difficult to understand. Energy, in the form of light and heat, comes from the sun and enters the Earth's atmosphere to warm the planet. Some of the sun's radiation is absorbed by the Earth, while some is reflected back into space. Most of the heat, however, is trapped by a layer of gases known as greenhouse gases. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect. Because of the green-

house effect, the Earth is kept at a habitable temperature. However, as the layer of greenhouse gases increases, more of the sun's radiation is trapped, causing the Earth's overall temperature to increase slightly over time.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs). These include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and water vapor. Without them, life on Earth would not exist. Carbon dioxide is responsible for the majority of the Earth's warming because of its large concentration in the atmosphere.

How warm is warm? The Earth's average temperature is about 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The National Research Council estimates that the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by one degree Fahrenheit within the last century. Eleven of the past twelve years are among the twelve warmest on record since 1850, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a group founded by the United Nations in 1988 and consisting of about 2,000 scientists from 130 nations.

Reasons for the warming. There are several theories about the increase in the global temperature. Alterations in the Earth's orbit and changes in the intensity of the sun's radiation have been cited as two possible causes of global warming. A June 2007 article in *National Geographic* points out, however, that past warming due to changes in orbit and the sun's radiation occurred over a period of several centuries, not within a span of several decades. The consensus in the scientific community is that current global warming is due to an increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases.

Human activity. There is some debate over how much human activity has contributed to the increase of greenhouse gases. According to the IPCC's November 2007 Fourth Assessment Report, "Global GHG emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times, with an increase of 70% between 1970 and 2004." Regarding the increase in greenhouse gas levels, Stephen Schneider, an environmental studies professor at Stanford University in California, told CNN, "For the last 30 years, there's no way there's anything natural that can explain it." A report released by the IPCC in February 2007 states: "Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperature since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic [human-caused] greenhouse gas emissions." The term "very likely" means a 90 percent chance or greater.

The IPCC also noted in its September 2007 Working Group I Report that since the start of the industrial era around 1750, "the CO₂ concentration has risen by nearly 100 ppm [parts per million]." This amounts to a 35 percent

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increase. The burning of fossil fuels and deforestation are cited by the IPCC as the two major sources of increased levels of greenhouse gases.

Impact on the future. Global warming is truly a global problem, making it difficult to understand. In the Working Group I Report, the IPCC states that "the complexity of the climate system and the multiple interactions that determine its behavior impose limitations on our ability to understand fully the future course of Earth's global climate." Nonetheless, the IPCC has predicted to the best of its ability the future implications of global warming. While it is possible that the Earth could warm by as little as 2 or as much as 11.5 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century, most scientists in the IPCC agree that the actual increase will be between 3.2 and 7.1 degrees Fahrenheit.

Besides the obvious increase in the overall temperature, global warming, if left unchecked, will have serious consequences for many regions of the world. The IPCC predicts that sea levels could rise between 7 and 23 inches by the year 2100. Glaciers will continue to melt, and the summer of 2040 could be the first ever ice-free summer in the arctic region, according to a December 2006 McGill University study in the science journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. Stronger hurricanes due to increased water temperature, longer droughts, and more intense heat waves are also expected.

Think these predictions are exaggerated? According to a February 2007 study by the journal *Science*, the IPCC's predictions from their Third Assessment Report in 2001 were strikingly accurate. Current concentrations of carbon dioxide followed "almost exactly" projections from the 2001 report, and temperatures are now on the high end of the predicted range.

Now what? In its Fourth Assessment Report, the IPCC explicitly states that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal." It reports that the most devastating effects of global warming can be avoided if greenhouse gas emissions are stabilized at about 450-550 ppm, or around double the pre-industrial level. Current GHG levels are around 380 ppm, so emissions would have to be reduced by 50 to 80 percent of their projected levels in the coming years.

To achieve this goal, everyone must do his or her part. Small actions multiplied by a billion add up to something huge. It is not too late to help save the planet. Act now to reduce your carbon footprint and protect the world for yourself and future generations. To learn more about climate change, attend the climate change slide show, which will be presented by Colin Bennett, a Connecticut representative from The Climate Project, on Monday, April 28 in the auditorium at Shepaug. The time of the assembly will be posted on Channel 17 and at www.region-12.org/shs.

"Going Green"

We are certainly not helpless in the fight to save the planet. The following are small changes that you can make in your daily life in order to reduce your impact on the environment:

- **RECYCLE!** Recycling your paper, newspaper, cans and bottles is one of the easiest things you can do to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. The National Recycling Coalition estimates that recycling solid waste prevented 32.9 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE, the unit for measuring greenhouse gases) from entering the atmosphere in the year 2000. The Roxbury Transfer Station accepts many household recyclables. You can download the Trash and Recycling Guidelines at www.roxburyct.com/transfer.html. Your techno-trash, such as cell phones, batteries and computers, should also be recycled, as it saves an immense amount of energy and prevents toxic chemicals from seeping into the ground. To find out where to recycle your techno-trash, visit www.gcycle.org and type in your ZIP code.

- **UNPLUG YOUR APPLIANCES** even when they are off and not in use. Just by being plugged in, this "phantom electricity" accounts for 75 million tons of CO₂ emitted and wastes billions of dollars in energy costs per year, according to Live Earth. To solve this problem, plug many electronics in to a single power strip and turn it off when they are not in use. To save even more energy (and money) make sure any future electronic purchases are Energy Star certified. Visit www.energystar.gov to learn more.

- **LOWER YOUR HOME'S THERMOSTAT:** A decrease of just 2 degrees would save you 4 percent on your energy costs *and* prevent 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere per year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

- **BREAK YOUR BOTTLED WATER ADDICTION!** In the U.S. alone, we throw away 2.5 million petroleum-based plastic water bottles every hour and waste nearly 1.5 million barrels of oil each year in the process, according to the Container Recycling Institute. The Natural Resources Defense Council found that 26 times more water goes into making the bottle than the amount the bottle can actually hold! Buy a reusable bottle, preferably a chemical-free, easily recyclable aluminum SIGG-brand one.

- **REFUSE STYROFOAM:** The EPA estimates that in the United States alone, 25 billion Styrofoam cups are tossed into landfills each year. It takes 3.2 grams of fossil fuel to produce just one Styrofoam cup, and each one takes roughly 1,000 years to decompose. What can you do? Bring your own reusable mug when you go to your local coffee shop.

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Global Warming, *continued from page 10*

• **MAKE YOUR LAUNDRY GREENER:** The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that a washing machine motor uses only 10 percent of the electricity; heating the water uses the other 90%. If one million people washed their clothes in cold water, we would eliminate 250,000 tons of carbon emissions per year, according to Live Earth. Additionally, using biodegradable detergents, such as Seventh Generation brand, would save nearly 460,000 barrels of oil per year. Learn more at www.seventhgeneration.com.

• **BUY LESS "STUFF":** An unbelievable 99% of the materials that flow through our manufacturing system become trash within six months of their sale date in North America, according to environmental journalist Paul Hawken. By buying reusable products with minimal packaging, you reduce your global footprint and become an ethical shopper. Visit www.storyofstuff.com to learn more.

• **STOP THE JUNK:** The Clean Air Council estimates that Americans receive almost 4 million tons of junk mail annually, which averages out to about 41 pounds of paper and 92 pounds of carbon emissions per U.S. adult. In order to reduce your impact on the environment, subscribe to a junk-mail reduction service such as 41Pounds.org, GreenDimes.com, or CatalogChoice.org.

• **PURCHASE COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS, or CFLs,** which use 75 percent less energy and last 10 times longer than conventional bulbs. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if every American replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, it would be the equivalent of taking 800,000 cars off the road. Each CFL does contain about 5 mg of mercury per bulb (an amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen), so dispose of your CFLs along with other hazardous waste during the annual Hazardous Waste Day in Bridgewater.

• **BUY REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS!** This would save the 12 million barrels of oil and 14 million trees that are

used to produce the 100 billion plastic and 10 billion paper bags consumed in the U.S. each year, according to the National Resources Defense Council.

• **EAT GREEN:** Food within the US travels on average 1,500 to 2,500 miles from the production site to the dinner table, according to the Worldwatch Institute, burning a large amount of fossil fuels in the process. Eat local, seasonal, and/or USDA certified organic food whenever possible. You can find locally-grown food in your area by visiting www.localharvest.org or www.eatwellguide.org and typing in your ZIP code. Visit www.nrdc.org/health/foodmiles or www.ct.gov/doag to learn about seasonal foods in Connecticut. You might want to eat some more veggies, too. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) found that livestock (i.e. cows, etc.) is responsible for producing 18 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions-more than motorized transportation.

• **SET UP A COMPOSTER:** According to the EPA, of the more than 140 million tons of food that are wasted each year in the US, less than five percent is saved from the trash. Carbon is released in the organic composting process, but food that is left to decompose in a landfill (instead of a composter) releases methane gas, which is 20 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Learn how to set up a composter or a vermi-compost bin (with worms) at www.compostguide.com.

These are just a few of the simplest steps that you can take to combat global warming. If you would like to learn more, consider signing up for free eco-newsletters by e-mail, such as those offered at www.thedailygreen.com or www.liveearth.org. Also, be sure to check Channel 17 weekly to learn the latest "green tip" of the week. For more information, or if you have any questions or comments, e-mail me at zachary.g.gross@gmail.com

Auxiliary

Brooke Wheeler, President

Victorian Tea

Take a break from your busy schedule and come relax for a while with hot tea, soft music, light sandwiches and desserts.

On **Saturday, April 26th**, the Women's Auxiliary of the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department will host their 2nd Annual Victorian Tea, at the Roxbury Congregational Church Hall from 11 am to 4 pm.

Small tables will be set with linens and china in keeping with the Victorian Era. A selection of teas will be brewed in individual teapots, and served with a tempting variety of delicate tea sandwiches and delicious finger desserts. Several ladies of the Auxiliary will be wearing Victorian style clothing, and invite those who so desire to do the same.

Admission will be \$10.00 per person and \$8.00 for children 10 and under.

A Victorian Tea Basket will be given as a door prize.



Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club is gearing up for the growing season! Many exciting programs, events, and field trips are planned.

In early May members will plan and plant for the Annual Memorial Day Celebrations in both towns. At our regular monthly meeting on May 7th, members will take home identical seedlings to be grown and nurtured at home and brought back in early fall for an “in house” member’s show and challenge.

Plans will be finalized for our Annual Garden Mart to be held Saturday, May 24th, while members will be digging up and dividing their own garden favorites for our perennials table. This year’s sale, which kicks off at 8:00 a.m. will feature a new garden boutique, featuring garden books, tools, and decorative objects that members have donated.

June promises to be an exciting month with Advanced Master Gardener Lorraine Balatta scheduled to present one of her most popular topics, “Low Toxic Approaches to Home Garden and Landscapes,” at our June 12th meeting. Lorraine has written for *People, Places, and Plants*, *Plants magazine*, and *Connecticut Gardener*.

Our June field trip will be a tour of the Hollister House Garden led by owner George Schoellkopf, followed by lunch at a Washington Depot landmark.

On July 10th, selected garden club members will open up their gardens for our annual garden tour and progressive luncheon which was a huge success last year. A day trip to tour Harkness State Park will round out the month’s activities.

The August meeting on the 14th will be devoted to assembling entries for the Bridgewater Fair. Members will bring their best horticulture and work together in producing fine selections for the weekend event.

Roxbury Historic District Commission

Spring is here and it’s time for the HDC’s Preservation Award in May.

Each year the HDC presents a brass plaque to a homeowner to acknowledge their efforts in preserving/restoring/renovating a house in town.

If you’d like to make a nomination, send a note with your name, the name (if known) and address of the property that you believe merits an award.

Send it to: Georgette Miller, HDC Clerk, PO Box 152, Roxbury, CT 06783.

Energy Task Force Clean Energy Options for Roxbury Residents

Would you like to make a positive impact on the environment? Would you like to help fight global warming? Would you like to support the development of clean renewable energy? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you might be interested in signing up for a clean energy option for your home.

Connecticut Clean Energy Options is a voluntary program that allows you to buy your electricity from a supplier that generates power from renewable sources like wind and hydro. If 10% of Roxbury households sign up for clean energy, the town could qualify for a free solar system. This system would allow Roxbury to generate a portion of its electricity from the sun. Currently there are about 20 households (2.3%) in Roxbury that have chosen clean energy. Here’s how it works:

- When you choose a clean energy supplier, you agree to pay a small additional amount for your electricity (example below).
- You continue to receive a single bill from CL&P. The clean energy charge will show up as a separate line on your tax bill.
- Currently you have a choice of two clean energy suppliers that have been authorized by CL&P, Community Energy and Sterling Planet.
 - Community Energy generates 50% of its power from wind and 50% from hydro and they charge an additional \$.011 per kilowatt hour of usage.
 - Sterling Planet generates 33% of its power from wind, 33% from hydro, 34% from landfill gas and they charge an additional \$.0115 per kilowatt hour of usage.
 - Signing up on the internet takes about 10 minutes. Go directly to either supplier website. The address for Community Energy is www.newwindenergy.com. Click on the “Sign Up Today” link on the left side of the page. The address for Sterling Planet is www.sterlingplanet.com. Click on the “sign up now” link in the upper right of the page. To sign up by mail, pick up a sign-up sheet from the selectmen’s office in town hall, fill it out, and mail it in.
- Example of additional charge: If you use 700 kilowatt hours of electricity in your home in a month, you would pay an additional amount that month of \$7.70 (\$.011 x 700) with the Community Energy option or an additional \$8.05 (\$.0115 x 700) with the Sterling Planet Option. Your monthly CL&P bill details your kilowatt usage so you can easily calculate exact figures for your home.
- There are no sign-up fees and you can withdraw from the program at any time without penalty.

Join your Roxbury neighbors in supporting the development of clean, renewable energy.

Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department

Timothy Ring, Chief

February marked the sixtieth (60th) anniversary of the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department. Incorporated as a volunteer organization in 1948, the Department provides twenty-four hour emergency response to the Town of Roxbury and its neighboring communities.

From 1947 to 1948, the Town of Roxbury suffered three major fires that prompted members of the Roxbury Grange to discuss a fire brigade. In February 1948, Joseph Dooley lobbied to create the Department, and within a year, the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department had thirty-six charter members, a Dodge Maxim fire truck and an old converted, open cab GMC fire truck.

Two charter members still living in town are Joseph O'Brien and Frank Voytershark. In an effort to better protect their fellow friends and family, these men had the conviction to volunteer for a task that was considered extremely dangerous. There were only two self-contained breathing apparatus, fire coats and boots were scarce, no 911 system, and two fire trucks. When a fire was discovered, Ethel Hurlbut, Elinor Hurlbut, or Doris Richardson received the calls at their homes, then called all the firefighters in town. Fortunately, technology has changed the way we fight fires and respond to emergencies. At present, we have eighteen self-contained breathing apparatus, each firefighter has protective fire clothing, we have an enhanced 911 dispatching system, and five specialized fire trucks.

Today, the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department has thirty-one active members in addition to a Junior Corps, eighteen inactive members, and a Women's Auxiliary. The Department consists of two fire engines, a tanker, a res-

cue truck and a brush truck. Both engines hold one thousand gallons of water each and the tanker holds three thousand gallons. The rescue truck is a mobile power unit carrying the Jaws of Life, a fifteen-kilowatt generator, and numerous rescue resources and tools. The brush truck holds two hundred and fifty gallons of water and is used as a utility vehicle and to fight off-road fires. We also have an all-terrain vehicle, a Hazmat trailer, and a Command vehicle. All trucks and equipment are housed at our fire station at 27 North Street in the center of town. As there are no pressurized hydrants in town, all water supplies are taken from static sources being ponds and cisterns. Using previous call data, response times average approximately four minutes for an officer on scene and eleven minutes for an apparatus. We presently have an insurance rating of nine.

Over the past sixty years, the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department has seen many changes to our fire service and community. With an increase in new home construction, traffic volume, fire alarms, and mutual aid calls, the Department has expanded to serve the growing needs of the community. Started with the idea of protecting one's neighbor, the Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department still strives to honor that commitment with each call for emergency assistance.

The RVFD held a dinner dance on March 15, where all members past and present of the Fire Department and Women's Auxiliary were honored and presented with a token gift of appreciation. Ed Went, Ernie Finch, Sr. and Doug Irwin were recognized for their 58, 57 and 3 years of service, respectively.

Roxbury Senior Center

Alice Griffin, Director

Food Handler's Course

The town of Roxbury and the Newtown Health District are holding a Food Handling Certification course in February or March. There is no charge for this course, except purchase of the text book. If you are involved in food preparation at a school, church or other organization, you probably want to take this course so that you know what the Connecticut laws say about proper food handling. Knowledge of these rules will help you prevent the spread of food-borne illnesses. To enroll, and for more information, please call Judi Moker in the First Selectman's office, 354-9938.

Roxbury Scholarship Foundation

Carole Mackay, President

Scholarship applications for 2008 are now available for Roxbury residents at the following locations: The Shepaug High School, Roxbury Town Hall, and Minor Memorial Library. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need, academic achievement in relation to the student's goals, and character. Please note that the *completed applications and all other required materials must arrive at the Roxbury Scholarship Foundation on or before May 1. No applicant will be considered after this deadline.*

The Scholarship Foundation has just made a second appeal for donations. Your support provides scholarships that are generous enough to keep abreast with the rising cost of higher education. To date, the Scholarship Foundation has awarded more than \$1.2 million to local students. Please give generously if you have not done so already.

TOWN CALENDAR

APRIL

- 1 7:30 Lake Lillinonah Authority
(Brookfield Town Hall)
- 2 7:30 Recreation Commission
7:30 Board of Selectmen
- 7 7:00 District Budget Hearing
7:00 Board of Education SVHS/MS
- 9 7:00 Conservation Commission
- 10 8:00 Planning Commission
- 14 7:30 Zoning Commission
- 15 7:00 Board of Finance
- 16 7:30 Historic District Commission
- 22 7:30 Inland - Wetlands Commission
- 23 7:30 Annual Budget Hearing
- 24 7:30 Democratic Town Committee

MAY

- 5 7:00 Board of Education
Annual District Meeting
7:30 Board of Education - SVHS/MS
7:30 Board of Selectmen
- 6 6 am to 8 pm School Budget
Referendum Vote
7:30 Lake Lillinonah Authority
(Brookfield Town Hall)
- 7:00 Republican Town Committee
- 7 7:30 Recreation Commission
- 8 8:00 Planning Commission
- 12 7:30 Zoning Commission
- 14 7:00 Conservation Commission
- 15 7:30 Zoning Board of Appeals
- 20 7:30 Annual Town Meeting
Immediately following:
Board of Finance
- 21 7:30 Historic District Commission
- 22 7:30 Democratic Town Committee
- 26 10:00 a.m. Memorial Day Parade
- 27 7:30 Inland - Wetlands Commission

JUNE

- 2 7:00 Board of Education –
SVHS/MS
7:30 Board of Selectmen
- 3 7:30 Lake Lillinonah Authority
(Brookfield Town Hall)
- 4 7:30 Recreation Commission
- 9 7:30 Zoning Commission
- 11 7:00 Conservation Commission
- 12 8:00 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 Commission
- 26 7:30 Democratic Town Committee

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- *E-Recycling Event*
- *Tax Collector*
- *Global Warming*
by Zachary Gross