

# TOWN OF MONTGOMERY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



The newsletter was suspended for the past two months given the circumstances of the pandemic eliminating any need for a social calendar; however, as our town begins to cautiously reopen it is important to convey information regarding actions of our various town Boards and organizations, rescheduling or cancellations of events and services, local resources and assistance programs, and the protocol being recommended for the safety and well-being of our community members, as well as other important and relevant community information.

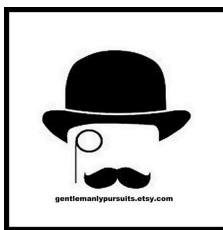
If you have any information to be shared with the community in this regard for the coming months, please submit a brief summary for publication. Stay safe and healthy.

## ATV/UTV Reminder

With warm weather come the many summer activities that bring people out-and-about including the use of ATVs. Just a reminder to folks that Rt. 58 is not open to ATV use, nor are they allowed on any portion of our State Highways Rte 118 & Rte 242 or Fuller Bridge Road. Due to the number of issues in town enforcement by multiple agencies will be stepped up so riders operating on prohibited roads will be ticketed and fined. All drivers should follow posted speed limits and be mindful of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers. A copy of the Montgomery Ordinance governing ATV operations can be found on the town website or check out the link below. Please also remember that is illegal in the State of Vermont to operate an ATV under the influence of alcohol. We want everyone to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather but we please ask that we all do so respectfully and safely.

## Public Service Building Covid-19 Closure Update

In order to respect the public's health in this troubled time and address the concerns of community members, the Town Offices will begin resuming services with a soft re-open as restrictions are slowly being lifted on the Stay-home order. Although the State of Emergency has been extended to June 15th, we will begin introducing in-person services once again as long as Vermont continues to see a downward trend in Covid cases. Starting May 19th, in-person services for the public are available. Masks are required by visitors to the building. One person at a time in the lobby for desk-service only. An appointment is necessary for access to land-records or any documentation requiring entry within the office. Please call 326-4719 or email [municipalassistantmontgomery@gmail.com](mailto:municipalassistantmontgomery@gmail.com) to make an appointment. If you make a record request you must have deed references (book/page required). If you do not have references we can provide copies of our e-search and card file indexes. Our Search/Retrieval Policy has not changed; we will not conduct title research. Lister Cards can be viewed online on our website at [http://nemrc.info/web\\_data/vtmong/searchT.php](http://nemrc.info/web_data/vtmong/searchT.php)



## MONTGOMERY TOWN LIBRARY BENEFIT

At Gentlemanly Pursuits, We Believe in Community!

When the COVID 19 Emergency began to become a concern in our little community and our local library closed we went into action. Every summer there is a fundraiser and auction to keep the doors of The Montgomery Town Library open for all...but this year things may be different so with that in mind we have partnered with the library to bring a curated selection of Summer

Auction Items forward a bit earlier to help keep the funding stream flowing. How you can help is by going to [GENTLEMANLYPURSUITS.ETSY.COM](http://GENTLEMANLYPURSUITS.ETSY.COM) and click on LIBRARY BENEFIT to view the items for sale to benefit the library. Choose one of the several beautiful items to help us keep the doors open now and forever! Your purchase will be parceled up and sent off right away. ALL the proceeds from ALL SALES will go directly to the library. In a tiny town like this one our library serves many functions in addition to the expected ones so it is imperative that it remains fully functioning and cannot do so without your support! Thank you so very much!

The River Walk Community Garden is in full swing this spring, even after the flooding. Many thanks to Remi, Dave, Donny, Duane and Sylvester's for clean up and donations to get things going. And of course all of the enthusiastic gardeners filling their garden plots. Here's to an enjoyable and productive growing season!



## CONGRATS MES GRADS

The Montgomery Elementary School and Friends will be having a parade honoring our 8th graders. It will start at the Public Safety Building at 6:30PM on June 9th. The procession will go down Main Street and end at the school. Please cheer them on... respect social distancing guidelines....

## UPCOMING BOND VOTE RE: WASTEWATER & STREETSCAPING INITIATIVE

In January of last year, the town of Montgomery came together to discuss and select priorities for the community. The process, *Montgomery Thrives*, followed three failed attempts to bond for a new Town Office Building, and a Selectboard discussion around how to better engage the community in setting priorities. Over 250 committee members participated, and in the end three priority areas emerged: a wastewater system for the center and village, streetscape improvements to enhance safety and catalyze greater economic development, and increased access to Broadband. At Town Meeting 2019, the community voted to advance a feasibility study for the infrastructure improvements. On Monday June 1st, after an eight-month process of preliminary engineering and continued community engagement in selecting alternatives, the Montgomery Selectboard adopted a Resolution to advance a July 7th bond vote for a Municipal Wastewater and Streetscape project in the amount of \$18 million. I want to incredibly clear—an affirmative vote should be considered a *yellow light* from the community to advance the project. The town is pursuing multiple funding avenues, but the primary source will be a low-interest grant/loan package from USDA, which requires the town to approve the issuance of bonds for the full project amount as a demonstration of support for the project, *even though the final amount of actual indebtedness would be a fraction of that*. The town is pursuing numerous state and federal grant programs to offset the project cost, including the Northern Borders Regional Commission (with a \$1 million application submitted by the town on June 1st). To be clear, we would not advance the project without additional funding to reduce our liability for the project. The board realizes that an \$18 million project is difficult to wrap our heads around, even more so during a time of uncertainty such as we face now, but the opportunity before us is clear: with the eligibility to receive up to 75% of the project cost in grants from the USDA alone, interest rates at historic lows, and more attention by policy makers (and public dollars) being turned every day to infrastructure projects as a means of economic recovery, our community has a chance to build for the future at the lowest cost we're likely to see in decades. Information on the project is rolling out on the Town website this week, and multiple public hearings on the project are scheduled for the coming month. Debt is never something for a town to take lightly, and this project deserves all our careful consideration. Please, stay engaged, read up, and reach out in the coming weeks as we consider this opportunity.

A more extensive informational pamphlet will be available in print and on the Town website with a breakdown of FAQs.

## LETTER FROM THE BLUE BIKE

Dear Blue Bike Friends and Family,

We want to start by saying how hard this decision has been for us. We wish to thank you for your patronage and support over our last couple of years. The Blue Bike Cafe and this community have a special place in our hearts.

After days of discussion, and hours of problem solving, It is unfortunate that we have to close our doors permanently. We want you to know how thankful we are for your continued support and appreciation for the Blue Bike Cafe. You will always remain the reason we were a success.

Peace and love to all.

## CANCELED/POSTPONED PROGRAMMING

Sadly, with the circumstances of the pandemic health restrictions per state and federal guidelines, there are a number of annual and seasonal events that have been canceled or deterred. A list of known scheduling changes is given below:

- The Rec Center Summer Session Music Series has been canceled due to social-distancing concerns and limitations.
- The Montgomery Center for the Arts Summer Art Show and Fundraiser "20/20 Visions" has been canceled.
- The Annual Library Auction will see a change in format. Rather than the usual cocktail hour silent auction event, the fundraiser items will be featured in the Grange Hall with designated visiting hours to peruse and place silent auction bids over the course of several days in July (exact dates and times TBA) maintaining the under-25 person limit. More information to come.
- The Annual Montgomery Farmer's Market has been canceled due to challenges and restrictions that became inhibiting for vendors and facilitators.

Look for this monthly newsletter distributed at your local stores, post-offices, and public buildings, as well as online at the official Town of Montgomery website: [www.montgomeryvt.us](http://www.montgomeryvt.us). We want this newsletter to be valuable to the community, so please be sure to offer feedback and content to the Editor, Suzanne Dollois, whom you can email at [sdoll.vt@gmail.com](mailto:sdoll.vt@gmail.com).

**\*\*NEW\*\*** The Town now has a new event website. If you want to find all of this information at the click of a button, visit [www.montgomeryvermont.wixsite.com/calendar](http://www.montgomeryvermont.wixsite.com/calendar).