

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020



Montgomery Fire Department 4th of July Festivities

This year, the Montgomery 4th of July parade is going to look a little different. This year's parade will be a social distancing parade with no road closures. The fire trucks will be conducting a parade starting at the Public Safety Building, travelling Route 118 to Montgomery Village, returning through the Center and continuing up Route 242 as far as Alpine Haven. Residents are encouraged to spread out along the parade route --adhering to the current social distancing guidelines-- and enjoy the show. Residents and businesses are also encouraged to join us in the parade with decorated vehicles only. (No floats due to no road closures). Any vehicle joining the parade must be legally registered and insured. No minibikes, ATVS, or horses. Residents and businesses are also encouraged to decorate their property or a stationary float. Due to the extended parade route, the parade will start at 11AM.



The FD is also pleased to announce that the Chicken BBQ will still be available. This year, the grill will be set up for drive-thru pick-up at the Public Safety Building. Servings must be pre-ordered. Tickets can be purchased at <https://montgomeryfiredepartmentchickenbbq.ticketleap.com/montgomery-fire-department-chicken-bbq/> Receipt of ticket purchase must be provided. Pick-up starting at 12PM.

Local Election Bond Vote: July 7th

What: Bond Vote July 7th, 2020 Wastewater/Streetscape Proposal

Where: OUTSIDE the PSB/Fire Station - [election will be outdoors to increase the ability to gather in a public location while staying at safe distances because of Covid-19]

When: Polls open on July 7th @ 10am-7pm/ Absentee ballots available now!

Why: Still have questions or concerns? Please check out the Montgomery Thrives Site which has loads of great information about the projects, how they got started, and where we are now in terms of the bond vote & please consider joining the public hearings.

Public Hearing Forums: Hearings on the Wastewater/Streetscape bond vote are scheduled for June 30th, July 2nd, and July 6th, all starting at 6:30pm. Given the restrictions on gathering size, these will be held via Zoom. Links to join the meetings will be posted soon on the Town website, as well as the Thrives website.

<http://thrives.montgomeryvt.us/>

Remember to check out "My Voter Page" online to check your voter status and update your information if you have any changes to your mailing address or have yet to register in town!

Turn over for summarized statement of bond vote initiative

Montgomery Town Library 12th Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser

The Annual Auction sees a change in venue this year in response to state health guidelines and so will display the extensive selection of items up for bid at the **Grange Hall** with designated hours for visitors to peruse the inventory and place their bids. As always, there is a considerable and varied collection of items from talented local craftspeople and artists, donations and gift certificates from local and regional businesses, a handmade coffee table built with Montgomery cherry and maple, and more. Also, new this year, an elaborate assortment of adult-sized costumes (flapper, mascots, super heroes, etc.) and over 100 vintage hats!

Saturday, July 11th from 10AM-5PM

Sunday, July 12th from 11AM-4PM

Bidding & Tables close at 4PM on Sunday

For more information, call Patty Hathaway at 326-4388, Patty Perl at 326-2176 or email montgomery.trustees.library@gmail.com



Help Support the Library

Turn over for additional fundraising benefit from Gentlemanly Pursuits to support the MTL



Montgomery Center for the Arts presents The Paper Bag Mask Project

Due to Covid-19 Our Annual Summer Art Show has been postponed, so we have come up with an innovative and interactive public art project....“THE PAPER BAG MASK PROJECT.” A Virtual Gallery Art Show of Community Members’ Creativity. Inspired by 1950’s artist Saul Steinberg’s Paper Mask series, we invite the community to get creative with a sharpie and a plain brown paper bag. We will be curating a Gallery and Virtual Show in MID July featuring all submissions.

To submit your entry, please send a photo or a video to montgomerycenterforthearts@gmail.com, mail your mask to the MCA at PO Box 137, Montgomery Center, VT 05471, or drop it off at the MCA building (a drop box will be installed on the porch presently). No limit on number of submissions, all ages and abilities welcome. Stay safe and keep creating!

Board of Listers Hearings

The Board of Listers lodged the tentative 2020 Grand List on June 25, 2020 and will be holding grievance hearings on July 10, beginning at 8:30am. We are not holding in-person hearings this year, due to recommendations around public safety and COVID-19. We will be conducting live hearings by video teleconferencing (Zoom). If you do not have internet access, you can still attend a live hearing; you simply need a telephone to access the meeting. You can find a copy of the grievance application on the Town website: www.montgomeryvt.us/directory/listers.



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. We have partnered with the library to bring a curated selection of Summer Auction Items to help keep the funding stream flowing. How you can help is by going to 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!

UPCOMING BOND VOTE RE: WASTEWATER & STREETSCAPING INITIATIVE

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 Select Board 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 be incredibly clear—an affirmative vote for this bond 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. More info on the Town website at <http://thrives.montgomeryvt.us>

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. 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.

****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.