Calendar of Events

May 1       Wednesday       Brush Burning Season Ends
9 am     May Day Celebration: May pole, singing and Morris Dancers at the Village School. Community is warmly invited.

3:45 pm

May 5       Sunday       Fire Dept and EMS Squad Pancake Breakfast at Town Hall. adults $7
8 - 11 am

May 10      Friday       Children’s Fishing Derby, Royalston Fish and Game Club. All children are invited.
10 a.m.

May 10      Friday       Annual Town Meeting at the Royalston Community School. Vote on the town budget, mostly line by line.
7 pm

May 11      Saturday       Father-Daughter Dance at Athol Town Hall to benefit the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation, a group that brings enrichment programs and community involvement to local public schools. Tickets available through the schools or at the door.
7 - 8:30 pm

May 12      Sunday       Mother’s Day
11:00 am     Royalston Fish and Game Club Regular meeting. New members welcome.

May 17      Friday       The Village School Annual Original Play at the Royalston Town Hall. Based on a year-long study of Ancient Greece, the 4th-6th grade class performs an original play. Donations accepted.
10 am and 7 pm

May 18      Saturday       Chicken BBQ to benefit 2nd Congregational Church of Royalston at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Tickets $12 from Luann Simula at 978-249-8976 or Janice Trask at 978-249-2510
5 pm

May 24      Friday       Penumbral Eclipse of the Moon
11:43 p.m. - 12:37 a.m.

May 27      Monday       Memorial Day
2 pm     Honor those who have served their country and its citizens. Gather at the flag pole on the Common and parade to the Old Center Cemetery, where children are invited to place wreaths on veterans’ graves. Return to the Common for ceremony and speeches. Following, service members and their families are invited in the town hall for refreshments provided by the Ladies’ Benevolent Society.
6 pm

May 29      Wednesday       Ladies’ Benevolent Society meeting at the home of Pat Worth on Gulf Rd. Phil Leger will present on recycling and public health issues. All welcome. Call for information 978-249-5807.
7:30 pm

June 1      Saturday       Saturday morning on the common
7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Village School organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup breakfast at the Town Hall. Adults $6 Children $3

9 - 11 am     Spectacular Silent Auction to benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan.

June 4      Saturday       Friends of the Library plant sale at the post office and book sale at the library.
9 - noon

June 5      Sunday       Historical Society Museum at Old School House #1 (post office building) open.
9 - noon

Save the Date:
June 8     Saturday       Chicken Barbeque at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. $10. Open to the public.
5:00 p.m.

June 9     Sunday       250th Committee Breakfast at town hall. adults: $5
250th Committee Breakfast at town hall. adults: $5

June 22     Saturday       Amanda Putney Memorial Open Horse Show
9 am     Motorcycle Poker Run, classic car show, chicken BBQ and Texas Hold ‘Em at the Royalston Fish and Game Club to benefit the 250th Committee.

Selectboard Notes

Christine Long, Member

The Selectboard urges voters to attend the annual town meeting on Friday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at the Royalston Community School.

As required, the board will offer a balanced budget for voter consideration, one that includes very modest raises for town employees, firefighters and police officers and very modest increases in operating funds.

However, because of the failure of the two overrides at the town election in April, there is only about $60,000 left for everything else. Thus, the board will recommend tapping the stabilization fund for over $100,000 for the snow and ice account, leaving stabilization with less than $45,000. The board will also recommend tapping two other accounts for $75,000 for a generator that will allow RCS to be used as a shelter in emergencies. (The town hopes, however, to get half that money back via a grant.)

Voters will also be asked to face the serious problem of the need for a new fire truck for Station 2, which serves South Royalston and the rest of town, as well as the broader area to which Royalston responds. The current 33-year-old truck (safety and insurance standards dictate a 20-year limit) is failing fast and is beyond repair. Specifically, voters will be asked at town meeting and at the June 25 election to approve a multi-year debt exclusion for the $400,000 lease/purchase of a new truck.

Also at town meeting and at the June 25 election, voters will be asked again to approve the establishment of a $50,000 special purpose stabilization fund, one dedicated to capital projects like the fire truck, like a new police cruiser that we cannot recommend this year, like the plan to put a roof over the entrance ramp to Whitney Hall that cannot be recommended.

The Selectboard is disappointed that the two override questions failed. Voters themselves have asked the town to do a better job with capital planning, and the town will ask voters again to make a start on doing so.

If approved, that capital stabilization fund would add only 35 cents to the tax rate and cost the owner of a median-value property ($180,000) only $63 per year.

Northeast Fitzwilliam Road Closing for Bridge Work

May - October 2013: Bridge Work coming to N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd:

Alternate routes include:

Stone Road or Brown Road
(Please use care as these roads are very narrow.)
Drivers can also loop around North Fitzwilliam Road from the north.

Royalston Agriculture Commission

We would like to introduce ourselves as your Agriculture Commission. We meet The fourth Thursday of each month in the dining room of the Town Hall at 7 pm. You are invited to attend or to contact any one of our members.

This is the mission statement of the committee:

The mission of the Royalston Agriculture Commission is to actively promote, support, preserve and develop local and regional agriculture. Our objective is to ensure people are actively aware of the Town’s agricultural businesses and farming’s positive influence in the town; provide resources that bring consumers to local agricultural businesses; educate the public about the benefits of locally grown agricultural products; and safeguarding the right to farm in Royalston. This mission will help to preserve Royalston’s historic and aesthetic rural character and open space.

To this end we have asked the Board of Selectmen to put a Royalston Right to Farm By-law on the Special Town meeting warrant which will take place on the same night as the Reconvened Annual Town Meeting in June. Copies of the By-law will be available at the library, the Town Hall, the post office and the Town clerk’s office in South Royalston. There will be a public hearing on the by-law. The Board of Selectmen will post the date, time and location. Please read the by-law. It is only a little more than two pages. Then, come and let us know your thoughts. Thanks.

Randy Divoll, chairman
Brenda Putney, secretary
Tom LeRay
Kate Collins

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904

The Boston Marathon bombings hit very close to home closer than you may think. A Royalston runner crossed the finish line within 30 seconds of the bomb blast, was quickly herded onto a bus, shuttled to a random hotel and locked down. Of course pandemonium ensued, cell service was halted while concerns of phone-detonation were ruled out...and when cell coverage was back, the lines were humming. Fortunately this runner managed to get word out to put family and friends at ease. During the next couple of days, residents in areas where the suspects were likely to be were asked to “shelter in place” – quite literally, batten down the hatches and don’t come out until it’s declared safe.

Over the past few years Royalston residents have been urged to be Royalston Ready by making a “kit” to grab and go in the case of hurried evacuation, to have everything needed for at least three days to “shelter in place,” and the “make a plan” that includes a person outside of the area to serve as the contact point for everyone checking in during a crisis.

These activities are part of what is called “all hazards planning” which is being promoted by FEMA on a national stage and through the regional, state and local EMAs. The steps taken are easy, don’t cost any extra money, and are invaluable for events ranging from New England weather to terrorism.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chairperson

Checkpoint Charlie:
Thanks to everyone who participated in Checkpoint Charlie’s annual town wide clean up. Together we can keep Royalston as it should be. As one younger team member stated, “Charlie makes the best chili, too!” Next year hopefully, we can gather under the proposed pavilion to tally up the road pickings and share some food. And, a great big thank you to Charlie Scribner for making it happen. It’s people like Charlie that make Royalston a great place to live! If anyone spots illegal dumping, contact the police department.

Rabies Reminders:
Now that spring is here and animals are on the move coming out of winter habitat and having their young, it is important to follow some basic tips in order to keep wild and human contact at a minimum.
1.) Have your pets vaccinated against rabies. Protect your dogs, cats, and ferrets by keeping them up-to-date on their vaccines.
2.) Do not go near wild animals. Raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, feral cats, and other wild animals may be infected with rabies and should not be touched, dead or alive.
3.) Stay away from stray animals. Do not try to feed them or touch them.
4.) Make sure your home and yard do not attract wild animals. Keep garbage cans tightly covered. Do not leave pet food outdoors. Seal areas around the home so animals can’t get in. Once an animal gets a meal somewhere, it will come back to check.
5.) If you are scratched or bitten by an animal, wash the wound with lots soap and water and seek medical attention right away. Report the bite to the animal control officer, Robin Mowrey.

Recycling Material Update:
Go to the town website royalston-ma.gov and click on Board of Health for an updated sheet on what is acceptable recyclable material. It’s important to know what is recyclable in order to keep out trash and other items in that material. Remember if it’s trash and you put in recycling, it’s still trash.

Next 250th Committee Community Supper:
Foods from our Mothers

May 18 - 6 pm at
Town Hall
Tickets $12 from any board member or reserve by calling Beth at 978-249-0358

What did you used to request as your birthday supper? It may be on the menu as part of the next public supper to benefit the 250th celebration.

Homemade comfort food, prepared using mom’s recipes, will be served. Try Lorraine Cassinghino’s mom’s chicken Cacciatore, Bert Sawicki’s mama’s chicken and dumplings, Carol Dzub’s creamed onions, Marlene Jarvenpaa’s green bean casserole, Mother Blasco’s tempura cauliflower, Mariah Mallet’s mama’s salad and Mary Gospodarek’s strawberry shortcake. There will also be family dishes recreated by Lydia Musco, Barb Richardson, Jan Woodbury, Rose Lawrence, Kim MacPhee, Becky Krause-Hardie, ( probably) Allen Young and others..Maybe you! If you’d like to donate a family favorite dish for 10 people to the cause, it would be appreciated. Call Beth 978-249-0358 to make plans or reserve tickets. Photos of all the mothers will be on display.

Still hungry? Save the date for the 250th Breakfast-a-looza! Sunday, June 9 at Town Hall. Tickets $5- for homemade hash, eggs, pancakes and more!

But wait there is more.... VROOM, VROOM
June 22nd at Royalston Fish and Game Club
Poker Run with Fire and Iron Motorcycle Club *
9 am motorcycle registration $25
10 am kickstand up! $100 grand prize
12 pm Classic and Antique Car Show with North Quabbin Cruisers. Registration $15 - includes ticket for the 3 pm chicken barbecue. (guest $7)
3 pm chicken bbq
5 pm Texas hold “Em” at the club
Refreshments all day. Prizes. Silent Auction
* Club located on Rt 68. Main Rd. Phillipston, Mass.

History Corner
Get involved with the Historical Society
Love history? Explore the Historical Society Museum on the morning of June 1 hoopla. Also save the date for the Historical Society Meeting on July 19., which will be held in the museum and feature live music as well as a business meeting.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney
Mondays: 10:00 am - 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends
Grace Belmont
Patience Bundschuh
Bob and Lorraine Casinginho
Ralph and Joy Cutter
Lian Cutting
Maj/Gen Robert Davenport
Barbara Dean
Aaron Ellison and Elizabeth Farnsworth
Tony Ferragamo
Celt Grant
Ginny Gingras
Ron Hurley
Don Igoe and Pat Shea
Rev. Philip and Phebe Jacobs
Pat and Jim Kelley
Diane Lincoln
Dan and Cheryl Mahoney
Gerald Marcanio and Robert Jalbert
Bill and Kim Manser
Tom Montagno
Gordon Morrison
Tom Musco and Deb D’Amico
Deb and Joe Nunes
Jack and Antonia Petrash
Elizabeth and Clarence Rabideau
Mary Ellen and John Scribner
Jeanne and Donald Stanton
Patricia Stearns
Barbara and Dwight Stowell
Leslie Williams
Allen Young

Royalston Shakespeare Company
What a Piece of Work is Man? Come find out.
Summer with the Bard. Kids age 5 and up and who can attend every rehearsal and want to work hard and have fun acting, building sets, running lights and sound, creating costumes or all of the above are welcome. Tentative dates for the RCS’s kids’ theater workshop are weekdays June 24 (after-school) with a performance on July 7 at town hall (with no rehearsals on July 4). Produced by the Friends of the Library, the RCS is free to participants. Also, older teens/younger 20-somethings are welcome to apply for a modestly-stipended director position. Interested? Contact the library. If there is a critical mass of participants, it will be "once more into the breech." for the RSC. Call Beth Gospodarek for more information. 978-249-0358.

Thank you
Maureen Blasco for spending hours untangling a myriad of kites and then running a fun kite and poetry event
Patience Bundschuh for use of her extensive grounds perfect for kite flying
Carl Kamp for creating beautiful acoustical guitar music prior to our ‘Into the field’ program
Gordon Morrison for a great autobiographical program about what it takes to be a botanical illustrator
Maureen Blasco, Beth Gospodarek and Patti Stanko for baking for the programs

Green thumbs up for the library.
Friends of the Library Plant Sale -
June 1 - 9 to 12 am at the post office.
Gardeners, shop the annual plant sale to fill those holes in the yard, garden, or veggie patch with the plants you need and the ones you didn’t know you needed. Good local plants; good prices; good advice.

Patrons, can you spare a perennial? or an herb, a shrub, some extra seedlings- or anything else with chlorophyl that can be sold? Pot it up and bring it all to this sale to benefit your library. Garden-to-garden neighborliness promoting health, beauty and community. The plant sale is a good deal.

Book Sale at the library: Good prices on used books. All genres: all ages.

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. On April 22nd, the group will discuss Escape from Camp 14 by Blaine Hardin, the true story from 2012 about an escape from a North Korean prison camp, possibly the only one to ever succeed. All are welcome to gather, munch cookies and chat about books and geo-politics. Copies of the selection are available to be checked out at the library.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

**Adult Fiction**
- Atkinson, Kate *Life after Life*
- Baggott, Julianna *Pure*
- Barnes, Linda *The Perfect Ghost*
- Beaton, M.C. *Death of Yesterday*
- Berg, Elizabeth *Tapestry of Fortunes*
- Bergman, Megan *Birds of a Lesser Paradise*
- Bradford, Barbara *Secrets from the Past*
- Dermont, Amber *Damage Control*
- Diffenbaugh, Vanessa *The Language of Flowers*
- Hobb, Robin *Blood of Dragons*
- Johansen, Iris *Taking Eve*
- Kennedy, A.L. *The Blue Book*
- Koch, Herman *The Dinner*
- Kushner, Rachel *The Flamethrowers*
- Leon, Donna *The Golden Egg*
- Lewis, Beverly *The Guardian (Large Print)*
- Macomber, Debbie *Starting Now*
- Maxwell, Abi *Lake People*
- Perry, Anne *Angels in the Gloom (Large Print)*
- Roberts, Nora *Whiskey Beach*
- Roiphe, Katie *In Praise of Messy Lives*
- Russell, Karen *Vampires in the Lemon Grove*
- Shapiro, Barbara *The Art Forger*
- Strout, Elizabeth *The Burgess Boys*
- Van Praag, Menna *The House at the End of Hope Street*
- Winspear, Jacqueline *Leaving Everything most Loved*
- Wolitzer, Meg *The Interestings*
- Woods, Stuart *Unintended Consequences*

**Adult non-fiction**
- Deraniyagala, Sonali *Wave*
- Hawa, Abdi *Keeping Hope Alive*
- Lovejoy, Bess *Rest in Pieces*
- Madison, Deborah *Vegetable Literacy*
- Mosley, Michael *The Fast Diet*
- Reavill, Gil *Mafia Summit*
- Roach, Mary *Gulp*
- Spencer-Wendel, S. *Until I say Good-bye*
- Stewart, Martha *Meatless*
- Wilson, Edward *Letters to a Young Scientist*
- Zeiger, Jennifer *Stingrays*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Armstrong, Kelley *The Rising*
- Gola, Mark *Winning Softball for Girls*
- Grant, Michael *Light*
- Kidder, Tracy *Mountains Beyond Mountains*
- Patterson, James *My Brother is a Big Fat Liar*
- Stephens, John *The Fire Chronicles*

**Art Exhibits**
Gordon Morrison will continue with his second set of illustrations during April through May. They combine images done for educational displays for major nature organizations along with illustrations from the five children’s books written and illustrated by Gordon. Many of these pieces were originally part of the Arnold Arboretum retrospective.

**Children’s Fiction**
- Dean, James *Pete the Cat*
- Fox, Mem *Where is the Green Sheep?*
- Gerstein, Mordicai *How to Bicycle to the Moon to Plant Sunflowers*
- Hopkinson, Deborah *Knit your Bit*
- Kaplan, Michael *Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake*
- O’Connor, Jane *Elegant Easter*
- Raschka, Chris *Everyone can Learn to Ride a Bicycle*
- Snicket, Lemony *The Dark*

**Children’s Non-Fiction**
- Coudray, Philippe *Benjamin Bear in “Bright Ideas!”*
- Kennedy *Poems to Learn by Heart*
- Pearson *Hilda and the Bird Parade*

**DVDs:**
- Django Unchained, Hitchcock (DVD and BluRay), The Hobbit, an Unexpected Journey, Hyde Park on Hudson, Killing them Softly, Lego Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Out, Les Miserables , Lincoln, Margaret (DVD and BluRay), Parental Guidance, Searching for Sugar Man, This is 40, and Zero Dark Thirty

**CDs:**
- Justin Timberlake *The 20/20 Experience*
- Luke Bryan *Spring Break*
Recipe of the Month
Lisa Freden moved to Royalston in 1979. She raised two daughters here and is now a proud grandmother. She has been a library trustee for a long time and was previously an assessor. Recently, she became a member of the town Finance Committee. Here is a recipe from Lisa’s kitchen:

3 pints strawberries
3 tbls sugar
2 tbls balsamic vinegar
1 cup mascarpone cheese (cream cheese like)
1 cup well chilled heavy cream

In a bowl toss the strawberries with the sugar and vinegar. Let them macerate at room temperature, tossing occasionally, for 1 hour. Reserve 1 cup of the strawberry mixture separately. In a food processor or blender puree the remaining mixture with the mascarpone. In a chilled large bowl, beat the heavy cream until it holds stiff peaks, fold in the mascarpone mixture gently but thoroughly. Divide the reserved strawberry mixture among six glasses or bowls, spoon the cream mixture over it and chill dessert for 1 hour.

Local Arts Scene
Royalston Blues Night
Saturday May 11 at Town Hall
Royalston Blues Night, the year’s most anticipated musical event, will take place this year at 7:00 on Saturday, May 11 at the Royalston Town Hall. The featured band is the spectacular Texas group Littlewolf, just making its appearance on the national scene, with Royalston’s own Scotty Monette on the bass. Littlewolf describes its music as “a unique, dynamic roots/blues/rock explosion,” propelled by Steve Lott’s guitar and Kristi Clanton’s spellbinding voice and slide-steel guitar. You can catch a preview at the website, http://www.littlewolfmusic.com. Melanie and the Blue Shots will be the opening act. As always, Blues Night will feature drinks, snacks, and plenty of chances to dance. Tickets are $10, children free. Tickets are limited – you can reserve yours by calling Lorraine Casinghino at 987-249-5151.

Chicken BBQ
The 2nd Congregational Church of Royalston is offering a Chicken Barbecue Saturday, May 18 at 5 p.m. at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Tickets are $12 and includes appetizers, dinner and dessert. Tickets are available through most Church members or by calling Luanne Simula at 978-249-8976 or Janice Trask at 978-249-2510

More Than 80 Youngsters Enjoy Annual Egg Hunt
Ivers, Natalie, and Irene Lawrence, Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi, and Gordon Morrison: hopping down the bunny trail

The Annual Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30 saw more than 80 eager youngsters scramble to find more than 2000 plastic eggs filled with candy on the Royalston Common. Organized by Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi, the annual egg hunt is made possible through contributions from townspeople and volunteers who assist at the event itself.

This year’s volunteers included Irene Lawrence and her son Ivers and daughter Natalie as well as Gordon Morrison and Peter Gagliardi. And, as has become the custom, both the Royalston General Store and the Phineas S. Newton Library served as collection points for contributions of candy, plastic eggs, and money.
Kite Poetry from the Library Kite Day

The Kite Attempt by Bella Cooke
There I was in the sun,
Holding a kite hoping to have fun,
My butterfly kite,
So still, so bright,
I dash, I run,
Floating, floating, it’s stunned,
There it goes in the bright blue sky.
I’m telling you this, it’s no lie.
I pull and tug,
I’m not going slow like a slug,
I think I got this thing,
it landed with a kling!
But bad for me, I landed in a sling.

Kevin’s Marvelous Spring Vacation
by Kevin O’Connor
The crowd claps until the
Parade mishap
Followed by pained scab slap.
Kite trapped
Grandma visits, then, naps.
Eating pancakes with sap
Trip to Maine with a map -
Got coconut chocolates – gift wrapped
Bike trail laps
The highlight was the new Irish cap
I’m looking like a jolly old chap.

My Kite by Sydni Ayres
I fly a kite. It’s out of sight!
It’s in the sky. Now, it can fly.
And I know why. The wind is high.
I love my kite and it’s in flight.
My kite is pink, blue and white,
but me and the string had a fight.

Kites by Noah Michelsson
Kites have fights with other kites.
Who have fights with these.
But the other worst thing of all has got
to be the trees.
The kites will fight when they take flight.
But the trees end up on top.
They fly so high but trees are out of sight.
So they fly right in and the fun begins to stop.
At R.C.S. ... It Is A Busy Month!

tayiah Neale, grade 6

May is going wonderful here at R.C.S. Students have just received report cards for the third term, and we are heading into our LAST semester. All honor roll students from the previous terms had a pizza party, which Mr. Leander provided to reward their hard work. Grades 3,4,5, and 6 are preparing for the math M.A.C.S. testing series.

In the classrooms....

Grade 3 is working on a healthy snack chart. Grade 4 is learning to classify foods as well. Grade 6 recently had a pizza party and are working really hard in math and on pirate- themed things too.

May is a busy month!!!!!!

RCS Calendar

May 3 - 6 th grade sleepover
May 8 - Grade 2 to Eric Carle Museum
May 13 - May 17 - Grade 6 to Nature’s Classroom
May 27 - No School in honor of Memorial Day

RCS Honor Roll

HIGH HONORS (GOLD), ALL “A’s”: Dominic Cassarino, Krystal McCulley, Noah Michelson, Sadie Wright, Haley Wrigley, Maria Bianchi, Samantha Buturla, Erika Gambill and Matthew Willhite

HONORS (SILVER), A's & B's: Isabella Cooke, Ashley Hadmack, Alexandria Lajoie, Jonathan Mahony, Kevin O’Connor, Cole Benoit, Miranda Carpenter, Molly Divoll, Tayiah Neale, and Anthony Oro

HONORS (BRONZE): A's, B's & 1 C+: Jayce Lajoie, Olivia Parmanen Jamieson Francis, Jocelyn Trenga and Matthew Vega

Monty Tech News

Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay – mchbarclay@juno.com – 978-249-2598

Monty Tech’s Practical Nursing program has received full approval status from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing. The annual process ensures graduates, upon successful completion of PN nursing boards, can be licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Congratulations to John Bozicas, who was selected as Outstanding Employee of the Year, and honored recently by the Rotary Club of Fitchburg at its annual dinner. Mr. Bozicas is a special education teacher at Monty Tech and is an advisor to the Drama Club, assisted in running the summer MCAS Academy, spearheaded the school’s co-teaching initiative, leader of co-teaching initiative, and oversees the development of the students’ Educational Proficiency Plans.

The newly-formed Monty Tech Fish & Game Club has a deep sea fishing trip scheduled for this month’s adventure, “searching for the fish that made New England famous, the Atlantic Cod.” If you’re involved in hunting, fishing, outdoorsmanship and have some ideas for future trips, be sure to “drop a line” to Ken Baer at Monty Tech.

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School

Go to www.villageschooloma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 8 to July 26, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, Woodworking for Kids for ages 8 and up, and the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up. Discounts are given to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy. Brochures are at the Post Office and the library.

Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show

Family and friends are working diligently towards keeping the late Amanda Putney’s dream alive – to help young equestrians afford the expenses of horse showing. To that end an absolutely HUGE fundraising event is slated for the entire day on Sunday, June 9 at the Cheshire Fairgrounds in Swanzey, NH. The first Amanda Putney Memorial Open Horse Show takes place with an entire day of affordable family fun.

Expect vendors with all things equestrian, as well as an assortment of raffle items: everything from cords of wood, bales of hay and tack to catered barbecue, metal roofing, and custom photography. If you have items or certificates for goods and services you’d like to donate, please contact Brenda L. Putney at 978-249-7787.

Program sponsors are being sought – deadline is May 15. Quarter page ads are $50, half-page ads $100 and full page ads $250. Proceeds will help defray expenses of the show, so those profits can go to the Amanda Putney Scholarship. Business cards, camera-ready display or information should be sent to MA QHYA Amanda Putney Memorial Show in c/o Brenda L. Putney; 185 N. Fitzwilliam Rd.; Royalston, MA 01368.
Open Space and Recreation Committee
Paul A. Montero, Chairperson of the Open Space and Recreation Committee successfully completed the 3-day Training Workshop for the Keystone Project, held at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, April 11-14.

In ecology, a keystone species is one whose impacts on its environment are larger and greater than would be expected from one species. The Keystone Project invests education and reference materials in important, keystone people making a large impact at their local level. The training covers subjects such as forest ecology and management, wildlife management, land protection, and community outreach. In exchange for the training and take-home resources, graduates of the program, called Cooperators, agree to return to their communities and volunteer at least 30-hours of their time towards projects that promote forest and wildlife conservation. For more information about the Keystone Project, visit: http://masskeystone.net/.

More than three-fourths of all woodland in Massachusetts is owned by thousands of private families and individuals. Much of this land is at risk of conversion to developed uses. It is important to reach woodland owners and communities with information on the care of this land. Keystone training is designed to provide Cooperators with skills and information to better engage in this important activity at the local level.

The Keystone Project is organized by the University of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Conservation and UMass Extension, with funding support from DCR, the Harvard Forest, and the Mass. Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. For more information on forest conservation or Keystone, contact: Paul at (978) 249 – 5879; gozorno@verizon.net or Paul Catanzaro, Extension Assistant Professor; University of Massachusetts; 413 545-4839; cat@umext.umass.edu

North Quabbin Garden Club
Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, May 18, 2013
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine
Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main St., Athol, MA
Most plants are dug and potted from local gardens by club members and volunteers

Michael Young Wins Watershed Poetry Contest
April meeting of the Millers River Watershed Council, Michael Young of Royalston was awarded First Place in the Adult Division, River Poems Contest. He read his poem for the audience and received a blue ribbon, certificate, and a gift certificate to Hannafords.

THE LURE
Star-burst sun thru
pine tree canopy,
slanted sideways beams
near dawn or dusk
illuminating leaf-green filagree
above
friendly waving ferns
below,
the soothing sound of
tea-dark water,
flowing thru pools,
‘round rocky rapids.
A heron poised stock-still
on a rock,
likes to fish alone.
A duck darts downriver,
ot deigning to share the scene.
Visions of
leaping trout,
launching over my line
and the big one
I caught once
evaporate into
the foggy mist,
rising from the Millers River.
It’s time to go home.

Cat Shelter Auction in Winchendon
Tickets are now available for A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats first annual Adopt the Cause benefit auction. The event will be held Saturday May 4th, from 7-10pm at the Old Murdock Auditorium, 52 Murdock Ave, in Winchendon. Tickets are $15/per person and can be purchased online at www.shelterforcats.org, at the shelter during open hours (Wednesday 6-7PM & Saturday noon-3PM) or at the door on the evening of the event. A detailed list of highlighted auction items is available on their website which will be updated regularly prior to the auction date.

The Shelter is run by volunteers, several of whom are from Royalston, and is committed to the care and well-being of every cat or kitten it rescues. The Shelter’s goal is to provide shelter, medical care and placement of homeless cats into responsible, loving homes. As space allows, they accept cats who might otherwise be euthanized or abandoned, from individuals with financial hardship or emergency situations. To learn more about A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats go to www.shelterforcats.org. The Shelter is located at 202 Central Street, Winchendon, MA.

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Garden Notes

Most months there is ‘preparation’ for this column. Occasionally a thought comes to mind that I want to commit to paper before it has become a forgotten thought. In the absence of a pad and pen in my hip pocket, I rush off to locate the appropriate materials. More often, I’ll simply be attending to my chores and making a mental note to share them. At month’s end, I gather these notes and these thoughts and assemble my five hundred plus words. This month I am noteless and I am thoughtless. The downside is that the column is due in the hands of our sainted editor in a matter of hours. The upside is I’ve completed twenty percent of the column by telling you I have nothing to write.

There is the weather, of course, always a handy subject, this being New England after all. Notwithstanding the fact that it had melted by mid-day, it was nothing short of discouraging to arise to a snow cover on the twelfth. Then there is the matter of warmth. Or lack thereof. On April 10, the thermometer reached 63°. No big thing, you might be thinking, but actually it is. We have not exceeded 63° since October 20. Let me do the math for you. On hundred seventy eight days. Admittedly, temperatures are a bit more moderate here, almost atop Prospect Hill, but not that much more moderate. Global cooling?

It is not as if I am idle. But how many years running can I repeat April’s litany…..fruit trees are pruned, raspberry canes are cut back, peas and spinach and lettuce and potatoes are planted, seedlings are attended to. Apparently, one more year. What occurred last April is occurring this April and will occur next April (dare I say Lord willing). At the same time, sh*t (editorially modified) abounds: be it attached to the economy (always, it seems, on the brink of disaster), the political system (whose practitioners are inept at best, criminal at worst), or the world (as it prepares for its next war). Even Royalston, dear Royalston, is not immune, inexorably depleting its resources to pay its bills. (Why not attend the annual town meeting and find out for yourself?) None of it matters, though, to the garden or the gardener. I cannot prop up the economy, or clean up the political system, or stop the next war (or even solve the town’s financial woes). I can, however, plant the peas.

In recent years, there has been an addition to my spring must-do list: returning the road to the road. This might require some explanation for those of you who do not reside astride a gravel road. Over the course of the winter a fair amount of snow is removed from the road. Alas, a fair amount of road is removed as well. Since the grader did the removing and my back does the returning you can imagine how unenthusiastic I am undertaking this chore. There is, nonetheless, a garden connection: over the years I have planted the roadside with ground covers and perennials, so unearthing these planting can be categorized as garden maintenance.

I’ve been kicking the garden into shape. Since most of the kicking occurred last fall, my activities can be more accurately described as ‘maintenance and construction’. Winter takes its toll: fencing has been restored to its former ‘elegance’ and bed markers returned to where they actually mark the beds. I have set up posts and chicken wire for the cherry tomatoes and sweet peas, brush for the sugar snap peas and tepees of poles for the pole beans (they are called pole beans, mind you). The perimeter of the garden sports a fresh crop of burlap coffee bags (which disintegrate after one year), providing at least a modicum of weed suppression. It is orderly if not particularly awash in growth. (There are patches of green, however, primarily the alliums [the garlic, chives, shallots, and scallions are six inches tall] and the spinach [which survived the winter]).

It seems I had something to write after all.

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Wildlife Sightings? Wasps wanted!
Do you have too many of those pesky brown wasps or an easy-to-reach hive of bald-faced hornets? Researchers at the Harvard Forest would like them to feed to carnivorous pitcher plants. Don’t spray them, but instead call Aaron @ 249-6771, (email: aellison@fas.harvard.edu) who will come collect them from you.

It takes a village to laud a graduate:
Graduates - Send your photos, honora, future plans and other particulars to the Royalston Community Newsletter for publication in the June issue, so the whole town can celebrate. You did it. Be loud and proud.

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