Calendar of Events

May 1 Thursday
9 - 10 am May Pole Revels, Music and Morris Dancers at the Village School. Community welcome!

May 3 Saturday
9 - noon Royalston Roadside Clean-up. (Rescheduled from rainy 4/26) Pick up litter, bring to transfer station, and meet at Checkpoint Charlie (behind the Post Office) for Charlie’s famous chili.

May 4 Sunday
Eta Aquarid Meteors will be seen as shooting stars during the pre-dawn hours today. They will originate from southern skies and these remnants from Halley’s Comet will occur about once every five or six minutes.

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. F&G Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby. Rain or shine. All kids 14 and under are invited for fishing, food and fun! Prizes! Members free. Non-member - nominal fee. Hamburgers and hotdogs, chips and beverages available at “pond side.”

May 8 Thursday
4 pm Friends of the Library Annual Meeting: elect officers, make plans, eat rhubarb squares. All welcome!

May 9 Friday
7 pm Annual Town Meeting at Royalston Community School. Participants vote to allot tax dollars and discuss town issues. Registered voters encouraged to attend, vote and engage in democracy.

Saturday May 10
10:00 am - 2:00 pm Family Fun Day at Athol-Orange Elks Club. Sponsored by MOC Community Partnership Athol and the North Quabbin Community Coalition. The Royalston library will have a display and be doing crafts with families.

May 11 Sunday
Mother’s Day

May 14 Wednesday
3:16 p.m. Full Flower Moon

7 p.m. CodeRED test to phones.

7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting. Public comment sought on the Zoning Bylaw Draft. Coffee and cookies served.

May 15 Thursday
6 pm Comfort foods like our Mamas used to make supper to benefit Royalston’s 250th anniversary celebration. Helen Woodbury’s shepherd’s pie, Sandy Knight’s babi’s authentic Polish cookery, Natalie Chase’s rhubarb pie and so much more. Tickets $12/ adult, $6/ children. at town hall. Call Beth 978-249-0358 to reserve a seat.

7 - 10 pm The Royalston Cultural Council’s annual Blues Night at the Town Hall. Features Miller’s River All-Star Band as opener, followed by Tabasco Fiasco. Beer and wine available for purchase. Tickets are $10.00 and the number is limited. Reserve by calling Lorraine Casinghino at 978-249-5151.

May 19 Monday
4:30 Library book group will discuss Zoli, a novel by Colum McCann. Cookies, tea and book chat. All welcome. Books available to be checked out at the library.

May 26 Monday Memorial Day
2 p.m. Memorial Day Exercises – South Village, pot luck lunch to follow.

May 31 Saturday Morning on the Common
7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall Adults $6 Children $3 Organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Auction Items include original art by local artists, hand-crafted jewelry, maple syrup, maunure, tickets to Disney World, and much more. See complete list at www.villageschool.ma.org. Auction bids close 11:30 a.m.

9 am The Friends of the Library plant sale at PO
9 am - noon The Historical Society antiques and collectables sale. Museum open.
9 am Friends of the library book sale at library
9:30 Miller’s River Morris Dancers
10 am Live birds of prey
11 am Cake walk

Save the date:
June 28 Saturday 250th Committee motorcycle poker run and classic car show. Cash prizes, trophies, music and a pasta supper.

July 20 Sunday MusicFest! in Bullock Park. For more information please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.
Select Board Notes

Christine Long, Member

The Select Board urges residents to attend annual town meeting on Friday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at Royalston Community School.

The board will present a budget of $1.8 million for FY15, up just $55,000, or three percent over this year. Based on projected income, that leaves only $40,000 for other spending except snow and ice. (The $110,000 overage in that account this past year will come from stabilization and storm accounts, depleting both.)

What probably won’t be funded: $20,000 to shore up the deteriorating hearse houses at two historic cemeteries; $18,000 for trees for the town Common; $10,000 for public safety radios (the planned first installment of ten); $5,000 for a sewer jitter (an industrial-strength RotoRooter); and $2,500 for fire turnout gear (one set will be funded), among other items.

Had the $50,000 Capital Stabilization Fund passed at last month’s annual town election, these needs – some of them – could have been met. That fund would have cost the average homeowner just $70 per year. Annual town meeting voters, and voters in the November midterm elections, will again be asked to create this fund. The Select Board also reminds voters that the town faces big projects in the relatively near future: coming up with our share of a grant to build an elevator at town hall, rehabbing the Raymond School for town use, replacing totally inadequate restrooms in Whitney Hall, and creating better public safety and public works facilities. Without that Capital Stabilization Fund, the town will fall further and further behind.

Support for the Stretch Code: The town has already met three of the criteria for being designated a Green Community and bringing in about $130,000 in state funds to improve our facilities. The board urges voters to take us one step closer by approving the Stretch Code at annual town meeting.

Call for volunteers: In June the Select Board will be appointing residents to the various town boards and committees. Are you interested in the process of capital planning? In wise energy use in town? In the protection and enjoyment of our open spaces? Then contact the Select Board to volunteer for the Capital Planning Committee, the Energy Committee or the Open Space & Recreation Committee.

Memorial Day Commemoration

Mary C. Barclay

Please take time out of your busy schedules to attend Royalston’s Memorial Day Exercises which begin promptly at 2 p.m. in South Royalston, at the flag pole in the park. The ceremony lasts about an hour, with all willing children participating in decorating the graves at the Riverside and Hillside Cemeteries. All are invited to a pot-luck luncheon hosted by the Ladies’ Benevolent Society immediately following. Veterans are guests of honor. The luncheon provides an opportunity for everyone to thank veterans for their service, and especially for the young people to ask questions of the veterans about their experiences.

What Happened at the Annual Town Election?

Selectman – 3 years – Christine Long : 129 votes, Gary Winitzer: 72 votes
Write-in winners were:
Assessor- 3 years –Jim Richardson: 32 votes
Sewer Commissioner - 2 years - Phillip Trask - 8 votes
Planning Board-5 years - Joshua Doub: 19 votes
Re-elected were:
Cemetery Commission – 3 years – Roland Hamel
Board of Health – 3 years – Philip Leger
Library Trustee – 3 years – Mary Longsworth
Board of Public Welfare – 3 years – Nancy D. Melbourne
Sewer Commission – 3 years – Marie Mello
Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – Royalston seat – 3 years – Nancy Melbourne
Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – Two, 3-year seats – Lee Chauvette (re-elected) and Mitchell Grosky (elected).

The ballot question “Shall the Town of Royalston be allowed to assess an additional $50,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding a capital projects stabilization fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014?” was defeated 116 to 84.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE: MAY 9, 2014.
Employment Opportunity!!
Oh, you need a job that pays money? Sorry, can’t help you there but there are openings on the Conservation Commission (1) and Zoning Board of Appeals (2). Not very time consuming as a rule, these positions can be interesting and provide an opportunity to get involved in the business of the Town. If interested, contact the Selectmen (249 9641) or any member of the Conservation Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency
EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904
CodeRED TEST in Royalston!
Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m. – The first official test of CodeRED, Royalston’s emergency notification system will take place. Landlines in Royalston should be included, and cell/text phones and e-mails for those who signed up should also receive the test message. CodeRED is a system for authorized Town officials to disseminate emergency, hazardous or urgent information on situations affecting the safety, health, welfare or property of residents. If you wish to register your cell phone for a call or text, your e-mail accounts or VoIP lines for CodeRED alerts, or if you would like an informational brochure, please contact the Royalston Emergency Management Agency at 978-249-2904 or ema@Royalston-ma.gov.

Spring brings longer and warmer days, but also water, wind and fire – in the form of spring rains and flooded basements, whipping winds that dry out winter-browned vegetation and fire from careless smokers, sparks from trains and lightning strikes. A quick way to brush up on what to do in each of those situations is to log on to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s preparedness website, www.Ready.gov.

For those willing to invest a little more time and energy, the preferred method is for residents to sign up for a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Over the course of a few weeks, one or two sessions per week, learn how to ensure you and your family are “Royalston Ready” for any of the above mentioned problems, and much more. Participants receive all classroom materials and a backpack with essential tools and supplies for an array of emergencies. Although there is no commitment to do so, it is hoped that “Royalston Ready” families, feeling confident their families are safe, check up on neighbors and friends who may not be as well prepared. For a select few who successfully complete the program, are willing and able to volunteer, there are opportunities to be called up in the event of major emergencies near and far. For more information on the CERT program or being “Royalston Ready,” please contact Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay.

Can’t be long now... Four layers of underpavement were applied on April 24th to the NE Fitzwilliam Rd bridge. That just leaves the top coat and the guard rails.

Royalston Energy Committee
Donna Caisse
There will be an informational meeting on the “Stretch Code” on May 7th at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. At the moment, Royalston has few resources to prepare for the town’s future. Now, the cold wind blows through the Town Hall and Whitney Hall; residents sit with coats on while the heat goes out the windows. The Green Community Act provides appointed “Green Communities” with the financial opportunity to make the best choices on town energy use, including weatherizing and protecting valuable town buildings.

Becoming a federally-designated “Green Community” can be the first step toward saving the Town of Royalston some serious money on municipal energy bills. How many more winters can we all afford another Polar Vortex? Come to the informational meeting on May 7th to hear about the Stretch Code, an energy efficient building code. Express your concerns and discuss the realities of the State and Federal building codes. Adoption of the Stretch Code is one of the five criteria for our Town to become a designated “Green Community”.

Energy efficiency makes sense for our town and our world. To become a responsible and informed voter, please attend this meeting... and then, vote at Town Meeting.

On May 9th, attend the Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Royalston Community School. This is the place and time to advocate for increased fuel efficiency. Your vote is so important to our Town’s future.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, Chairperson
New transfer station stickers have arrived and will be available in May for the new fiscal year in May. They are orange this year and cost $15 for the 1st household vehicle and $5 for each additional household vehicle. This fee helps keep recycling free for users of the facility. It helps pay for recycling shipping cost ($150) per container, and monthly clean outs of the reusable area. New stickers are due by July 1st. See Tony to purchase a new sticker. They should be displayed on the drivers side windshield.

Come out and participate in “Checkpoint Charlie’s” annual roadside cleanup on May 3rd. This annual event goes a long way toward keeping Royalston roads clean from litter and trash. Thanks to Charlie Scribner for the annual sponsorship! You don’t need an annual clean up to pick up trash, however. If you see it in your neighborhood, just pick it up. Help keep Royalston clean year-round.

A note From Mass Wildlife: DON’T FEED THE BEARS!
Jon Hardie
Black bears have been emerging from their winter dens and seeking food. It’s now past the time to take down bird feeders. In many cases, bears will ignore natural foods such as skunk cabbage and instead head to the nearest birdfeeder for a good meal. NOTE: removing bird feeders WILL NOT create a problem for birds. AND, If you leave your feeders out, you are exposing everyone in your neighborhood to bear visits. You can download: “Co-existing with Black Bears in Massachusetts: Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Bear Damage”. http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/facts/mammals/bear/pdf/coexist_black_bear.pdf for more information.
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 - Thank You!
Vyto and Pat Andreliunas
Kathleen Pirro
The Carrier family
Steve and Cindy Savoy
Diane Lincoln
Elizabeth Weaver and Glenn Hastings
Norah Dooley and Robert Fairchild
Deb D’Amico and Tom Musco
Alyce Mayo

Kite Flying Day a Big Success
It was super blustery kite-crashing Kite Day this year, but the intrepid participants withstood the gusts with gusto and eventually retreated for kite-snacks and poetry writing. Here is the result:

Kites
I’m hanging onto a windy day
Kite - Super windy!
It’s pulling on me!
I got it!
I’m happy. by Anthony Gaulzetti

Kites
I like to fly my kite there.
In
My kite is a rainbow
The
by Sydney Ayres
Clear
Sky

Leaves
Entertainment
And
Sky
Vicious
In
Evil
Down
Swirling
End

By Adrianna Gaulzetti

Artists Exhibit: Marjorie Bassett’s photo exhibit will continue throughout May. Please stop by and get a fresh glimpse of spring and summer in an array of photographs of flowers in her gardens. In June, Tom Musco will display Japanese Woodblock prints from the 18th century.

Friends of the Library Book Sale and Plant Sale May 31st
If you’ve got a green thumb or a book worm, come to the Common on Saturday, May 31st for a large selection of reasonably-priced plants and books adapted for local tastes and conditions. Look for all genres: annuals, perennials, poetry, shrubs,shrinking violets, herbs, histories, medicinals, mysteries, cook-books and bodice-rippers, as well as raspberries, rhubarb and roman a clef. Novel novels, informative information-text and short short stories will be available. It is a a good chance to stock up on basil and biography; peppers and poetry; dahlias and dvds, or roses and romance. You get the idea. Book sale is at the library and the plant sale is at the post office. Both begin at 9 am.

Donations of plants needed! The reason this plant sale is the best in the whole world is the amazing quality and variety of plants dug from the gardens of friends and neighbors. It is the pedigree of place and person connected with the plant. Now, kind help is needed again. Drop off plants ahead at the library or at the plant sale on the morning of the sale. The plant sale is one of the biggest fundraisers for the Friends of the Library each year because of community generosity. Funds raised support library purchases and programs as well as help make it possible to direct mail this newsletter to each household in Royalston 10 times per year for the past 15 years. Thanks so much!

Ongoing:
Library Book Group meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months, (the fourth if it’s a holiday). All welcome for cozy literary chat and a cuppa with a couple cookies. On May 19, the book group will discuss Zoli, a novel by Colum McCann.

Zumba on all Mondays at 6 p.m. through May
Fun and friendly workout at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Friends but donations welcome. Out-boogie the black flies. Relaxed and fun exercise.

Yoga on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. through June
The morning yoga class led by Melanie Miller of Westminster and held on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the upstairs of the Town Hall will continue. This free class (donations accepted) provides a relaxed, stretch workout for every level and is funded by the Friends. No pre-registration needed. Bring your own mat and blanket to lie on and a cover (small blanket) for the cool-down/relaxation.

Drop in Pre-school Playgroup meets Mondays at 10 a.m. Books, crafts and healthy snacks. Good place for caregivers to connect while kids have fun.
To Be or Not to Be? Be!

Looks like the Royalston Shakespeare Company will be back for the 2014 summer season at Town Hall. Thespians ages 7 and up are encouraged to join this remarkable summer theater workshop for kids. Tentative dates are June 23 - July 3rd with a performance on the evening of July 3rd. Rehearsals are 9:30 to 12 Mon - Sat. Weds. rehearsal ends at 11. There may be some extra running of scenes and construction times for small groups. Participants will tread the boards, run lights, build sets and get their heads and mouths around the words and times of Shakespeare. Everyone who wants to be on stage is cast. Participation is free (forsooth!), but once cast, attendance at every rehearsal and performance is mandatory. Get more info or sign up by contacting the library. Sponsored by the Friends.

Children’s fiction

Agosin, Marjorie  I Lived on Butterfly Hill
Brashares, Ann  Princess Labelmaker to the Rescue!
Beatty, Daniel  Knock Knock
Dempsey, Kristy  A Dance like Starlight
Hurley, Jorey  Nest
Kahn, Victoria  Eggstraordinary Easter
Koechler, Fred  How to Cheer up Dad
MacGregor, Roy  The Highest Number in the World
O’Connor, Jane  Fancy Nancy and the Wedding of the Century
Reiss, Mike  The Boy who Looked like Lincoln
Samworth, Kate  Aviary Wonders Inc
Underwood, Deborah  Bad Bye, Good Bye
Viorst, Judith  Lulu’s Mysterious Mission
Wells, Rosemary  Stella’s Starlinter
Weninger, Brigitte  Happy Easter, Davy
Willems, Mo  The Pigeon Needs a Bath!
Yuly, Toni  Early Bird

Children’s Non-Fiction

Bishop, Nic  Lizards
Bruel, Nick  Bad Kitty Drawn to Trouble
Farshety, Greg  LEGO Minifigure Year by Year
George, Jean  Galapagos George
Gray, Rita  Have you heard the Nesting Bird?
Heiligman, Deborah  The Boy who Loved Math
Lipkowitz, Daniel  Lego Play Book
Liou-Perkins, C.  At Home in her Tomb
Simon, Seymour  Cool Cars
Stewart, Melissa  Feathers
Ward, Jennifer  Mama Built a Little Nest


Audio Books:
Finder, Joseph  Vanished
Nowra, Louis  Into the Forest

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Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult fiction

Barr, Nevada  Destroyer Angel
Bova, Ben  Transhuman
Brown, Sandra  Above and Beyond
Cotterill, Colin  The Axe Factor
Cussler, Clive  The Bootlegger
Donoghue, Emma  Frog Music
Gilchrist, Ellen  Acts of God
Glass, Julia  And the Dark Sacred Night
Green, Jane  Tempting Fate
Hustvedt, Siri  The Blazing World
Leon, Donna  By its Cover
Macomber, Debbie  Blossom Street Brides
Matthiessen, Peter  In Paradise
Oates, Joyce  High Crime Area
Pratchett, Terry  Raising Steam
Roberts, Nora  Shadow Spell
Roberts, Nora  The Collector
Robinson, Peter  Children of the Revolution
Shipstead, Maggie  Astonish Me
Scottonline, Lisa  Keep Quiet
Steinhauer, Olen  The Cairo Affair
Thompson, Ted  The Land of Steady Habits
Winterson, Jeanette  The Daylight Gate

Adult non-fiction

Borges, Carole  Dreamseeker’s Daughter
Booth, Michael  Eating Dangerously
Day, H. Alan  The Horse Lover
Hall, Carla  Cooking with Carla
Handler, Chelsea  Uganda be Kidding Me
Harris, Mark  Five Came Back
Mayes, Frances  Under Magnolia
McAlester, Virginia  A Field Guide to American Houses
Morris, Ian  War! What is it Good for?
Vallianatos, E.G.  Poison Spring

Yuly, Toni  Early Bird

Horse Boarding

Large box stalls. All day separate turnouts, large indoor arena, miles of great trails OFF property. Full board: $375, rough board available. Located in Phillipston, MA. Pony rides available for birthday parties, etc. Call 978-667-2921.

The Cat

A cat was on a mat
The mat had a word - “tat”.
But that was not that last word.
It was rat-a-tat-tat.
There was a drum.
It had the word “bat” on it.
The cat patted the mat.
by Chance Hubble
Recipe of the Month: Marie Mello’s Coffee Cake

Here is a Mother’s Day coffee cake recipe from Marie Mello. Her brother, Timmy, loved it so much that their mom dressed it up with blueberries and turned it into a blueberry cake! Marie is the daughter of Clayton and Joan Holmes. She grew up in South Royalston. In fact her son Mason, who is 7 years old, has the same second grade teacher she had, Mrs. Carnie. Marie went to high school at Monty Tech and focused on culinary arts. Now, she is a massage therapist and the Assessor’s secretary. Her husband, George, hails from Chelsea. Why not serve it to your mom?

**Mom’s Cinnamon Coffee Cake**

Bake at 350 for 45 minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cake</th>
<th>Topping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 cups Sifted flour</td>
<td>2 Tsp. Butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ Tsp. Cinnamon</td>
<td>½ C. Brown Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ Tsp. Nutmeg</td>
<td>¼ Tbl. Bread Crumbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tsp. Baking Powder</td>
<td>1 Tsp. Flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 C. Sugar</td>
<td>¼ C. Shortening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ C. Shortening</td>
<td>1 Egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ C. Milk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cake: Mix dry ingredients together; then, add wet ingredients

Topping: Mix together and crumble over batter

“Sometimes I double topping recipe. Then I pour ½ cake mixture; add some topping; pour the remainder of cake batter; and finish off with remaining topping.”
**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS**

Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasesos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

Audrina Marie Cormier was born on February 24th to Ross Cormier and Tiffany Favreau of Winchendon. Audrina weighed 9 lbs 4 oz and was 21” long. Grandparents are Tom and Christine Cormier of South Royalston, Christine Favreau of Templeton and Russell Favreau of Gardner.

Tobey Rose Chase was recently awarded the Jean Perkins Prize for “diligence, citizenship, and commitment to social justice” at the Winchendon School.

**RCS Academic honor roll - 3rd quarter**

**Gold - All A’s:** Anthony Divoll, Brian Nano, Jack Sonnabend, Julianne Trenga and Mariah Valliere, Maria Bianchi and Sadie Wright

**Silver - A’s & B’s:** Gabriel Hentz, Aliyah Neale, Krystal McCulley, Noah Michelson, Haley Wrigley Isabella Cooke, and Matthew Willhite

**Bronze - A’S, B’S, 1 C:** Ashley Hadmack and Jayce Lajoie

**Royalston Police Officer William J. Chapman** recently accepted a position with the Phillipston Police Department and will attend the full-time police academy this summer. As a high school senior, Chapman was torn between going to college for sports medicine or law enforcement. Although many of his pals chose the latter, he selected sports medicine. When Chief Curtis Devesneau put out the word in 2009 RPD needed call officers, Chapman not only stepped up to that commitment, he also began working with bloodhounds for tracking and searching. Officer Chapman will continue as a per diem physical therapist. His wife, Elaine, is an in-home physical therapist, and the couple has two young children.

**Obituary**


Jean attended Winchendon Schools, and graduated from Murdock High School. After high school she graduated from the David Hale Fanning Trade School for Girls in Worcester. In September of 1943 Jean joined the United States Navy Waves. She proudly served her country as a Store Keeper First Class with the Navy until her discharge in March of 1946. Jean was very gifted with her hands. She always grew large floral and vegetable gardens. She would can the vegetables and make the most delicious jams and jellies. She was known for her balsam wreaths that she made for many years. She enjoyed ten pin bowling and traveling by train with her husband. Jean was a member of the Eugene M. Connor, Post 193 American Legion of Winchendon and the Ladies Auxiliary. She was also a member of the Jessamine Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Jean will be sadly missed by her six children; Martha E. Pager and her husband Michael of of Winchendon, Catherine LeRay-Brand and her husband Paul of Rindge, NH, Sue A. Langlais and her husband Robert of Newport Richie, FL, Nancy J. Bailey-Bice and her husband Rolland of Zephyrhills, FL, Thomas W. LeRay and his wife Debra of Royalston, and George C. LeRay III and his wife Patricia of Winchendon, one brother; John Walker and his wife Barbara of Winchendon, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Donations in Jean’s memory may be made to the Baldwinville Nursing Home, Resident’s Activities Fund, PO BOX 24, 51 Hospital Rd, Baldwinville, MA 01436 or to the Gardner Visiting Nurses Association, 34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA 01440.

Let’s Hear it for Theater Majors! **Congrats to Noah Dawson, who has landed a job in his field, even before graduation. He will be starring in a traveling children’s theater troupe out of the University of New Hampshire.**

**Wedding Anniversary**

Congratulations to Vyto and Patricia Andrelunas - 57 years!
FOR THE COMMON GOOD

We’d like to build a pipeline
Running through your neighborhood
A natural gas pipeline
And it’s for the common good.

This pipeline’s sorely needed
Buried deep beneath the loam
Earthquake warnings won’t be heeded
And some folks may lose their home.

We’ll use eminent domain
‘Cause in case you didn’t know
It’s for the common good
Like Quabbin towns lost long ago.

What’s good?  Beth Gospodarek

Whether the pipeline is “common good” is an important
question.  Eminent domain laws on the books say fuel
companies can take land for a pipeline when they can
demonstrate it is for the “common good”.  In other
communities, pipelines have sometimes led to decreased
property values and even explosions - not so good.  This
graph from EPA.gov, generated for the 01368 zip code,
shows that people in Royalston do indeed get nearly half their
electricity from natural gas.  Residents need to be mindful of their electricity use,
maybe especially if they oppose local gas pipelines.  However, “common
good” needs to also consider the ultimate destination of this pipeline, which
is Dracut, where the gas can be sent to profitable foreign export markets.
Hence, this local pipeline may contribute little to local energy independence
or profits.  “Common good” needs to also consider the source of the gas,
which could be fracked gas fields in Pennsylvania, where some have experi-
tenced serious water table contamination and other environmental and
quality of life degradation.  Other considerations are climate change and the
powerful effects of methane as a greenhouse gas, (21 % more effective than
CO2 at preventing infrared radiation from escaping the planet although it
dissipates much quicker).  Does adding heat trapping
gas to the planet’s atmos-
phere contribute to the
“common good”?  Is ag-
gressively expanding the
use of natural gas rather
than facing hard choices
about paying the environ-
mental costs of burning
fossil fuels good?  Some
say “yes” based on the
benefit to business and
hence the potential trick-
le down as possible jobs
and cheaper fuel.  As
citizens, and particularly
as voters, people need to
decide what’s “good” and
then act accordingly.

Monty Tech News

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

Congratulations to Monty Tech’s impressive Jr. ROTC Marine Raiders, who for the second consecutive year, placed SECOND IN THE NATION out of 872 “services division” entrants in the sixth annual CyberPatriot national youth cyber security competition. Held in National Harbor, MD, the services division and open division of 621 teams came from all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada and U.S. Dept. of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe and the Pacific. Teams had to identify and fix vulnerabilities in static virtual systems, defend systems from a professional aggressor team of cyber security experts, participate in cyber crime scene challenge and conference, as well as the new Digital Forensics Challenge.
Community School News

6th Grade View
Noah Michelson

We have done a lot this past month at R.C.S. We have successfully completed another full term and have elected new students of the month. There is also a Teachers Award, given to students when much effort is being put in to their school curriculum work.

At R.C.S., the students know sooner or later the year is going to come to an end... It seemed that all of the students were looking forward to another vacation but most were saying, “ Didn’t we just have a vacation?” The sixth grade students at R.C.S. all seem to be ready for the upcoming Nature’s Classroom hosted by their teacher, Mr. Snell, and the students have waiting all year for this experience...many for even more than just this year! So that’s the basics of what’s going on in R.C.S. And we hope you had a great Passover and Easter and a great vacation again!

RCS Calendar:
4/30 - *Half Day - Professional Dev. at RCS
5/7 - Grade 2 Field Trip to the Eric Carle Museum
5/12 - 5/16 Grade 6 to Nature’s Classroom, Ocean Park, Maine
5/26 - Memorial Day, No Classes
5/28 - Poetry Class Celebration @ 6:30PM
5/30 - Art Show 6 - 7PM
6/3 - Spring Concert @ RCS
6/13 - Kindergarten Field Trip to Davis Farmland
6/17 - Kindergarten Celebration Night
Still waiting for PTG to finalize Field Day date

Change of Principals at RCS - Again
Mary C. Barclay

Superintendent Anthony Polito, the day after the April School Committee meeting, released to the press and committee members actions regarding the school district’s “Turnaround Plan” to address the level 4 status of the Riverbend/Sanders Street School. Jan Williams, the current principal of the Riverbend/Sanders Street School, will be transferred to the Royalston Community School and RCS’s current principal, Michael Leander, will take over at the “underperforming” school.

It is important to note that Ms. Williams has worked in the ARRSD less than a year. She was not principal during the MCAS testing that resulted in the level 4 “underperforming” designation at Sanders Street/ Riverbend Schools.

Nonetheless, given that this is at least the 17th change of principals since RCS opened its doors in 1996 – some years with a “half time principal” and other years with multiple principals – some parents are extremely displeased or even irate. (Longest-serving principals were Mitch Grosky, Duna Parker and Paul Goodhind, each of whom served two consecutive school years. Grosky returned two times, for one year the first time, and later for a half year.)

The other shoe to drop? The state-mandated Turnaround Plan demands 50% of the faculty and staff at Riverbend/Sanders must be replaced. The concern is that in addition to moving a principal, RCS teachers could be transferred.

Parent Teacher Group President Jen Basso is accepting comments and soliciting ideas for alternatives that would allow for stability in the RCS staffing.

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What’s Happening at the Village School:

Just before April vacation, the classes fanned out and identified the local floral and fauna for Biodiversity Day. One class visited Lawrence Brook, a few classes went to the Camp Caravan pond, and the preschoolers explored the vernal pool near the school. The students also illustrated the written records of their discoveries.

The students are planting the garden, looking towards snacks for the summer programs and the fall harvest. Potatoes, sugar snap peas and carrots are being planted. By June 1st, pumpkins and winter squashes, cucumbers, Indian corn and more will be planted. All the students love being in the garden – with the extra bonus of finding all kinds of interesting bugs.

The month starts with a traditional May Day celebration, May Pole and all, for which all the students have learned songs and dances. On May 16th, the annual Village School original play is performed at the Town Hall, the culmination of 2 months intensive work by the 4th-6th grade, based on their year-long study of the westward expansion of the 1800’s.

Openings for the next school year at the Village School

There are two openings in Preschool. Call as soon as possible to arrange a visit: 249-3505.

Summer Programs at the Village School (more info on website)

Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-10 9-1:00 Choose 1 or 2 weeks:
July 7-11and/or July 14-18

The Science and Art Experience for ages 8-13
July 7-11 9 to 1

Woodworking for Children for ages 8 and up
July 21-25 9 to 3
Garden Notes

April 14, 2014

Those of you inclined to take notice have already picked up on the early dateline of these garden notes. There is a story. Of course. Two days hence I am en-route to Haiti. Admittedly, Haiti is well down on my list of places I’d like to visit. (In all candor, Haiti, is not even on my list.) But. A friend established and continues to involve herself in a grassroots undertaking in a Haitian rural village with the emphasis on education and gardening. It is her thought that I might somehow be in a position to advise and assist in these gardening efforts. Perhaps. Though I know as much about growing food crops in Haiti as I do open-heart surgery.

When I initially signed up for this adventure, I assumed I’d have had three or so weeks of gardening under my belt and a break would be available before the crunch of late April/early May. Wouldn’t you know, I’ve been in the garden barely one week and have been scrambling to make some headway. My very first spring garden chore: uncovering the alliums (chives, scallions, and garlic). There are two reasons. One, they had begun growth, exhibiting the first signs of green in the garden. They would have eventually grown through the mulch, but, by pulling it away from the plants, I have given them a head start. (In one week some of them have grown six inches). And, two, the root cellar is virtually bereft of onions and the chives and scallions must serve as a substitute for the next many months. I even managed, yesterday, to plant peas, spinach, and radishes (while the better half put in her first planting of lettuce). Location and soil tilth are everything in respect to early work in the garden. The upper garden, with its underlying sandy nature, is surprisingly dry and amenable to preparation. Not so the lower garden’s heavy soil, made heavier by our hillside drainage. I approach that garden wearing rubber boots.

My first undertaking upon my return will be the planting of potatoes. As always, I set aside last fall those potatoes that will serve as my planting stock, seven varieties of varying shapes and sizes and colors (selected and re-selected over the years based on performance). If sufficiently inspired, I will venture out today and hoe out the seven varieties of potatoes for planting; that is, after removing the spent shoots from the potato plants which, in a few weeks, will be ready for transplanting. I will also plant black radishes; these, together with the chives and scallions must serve as a substitute for the next many months. I have managed, yesterday, to plant peas, spinach, and radishes (while the better half put in their first planting of lettuce) Location and soil tilth are everything in respect to early work in the garden. The upper garden, with its underlying sandy nature, is surprisingly dry and amenable to preparation. Not so the lower garden’s heavy soil, made heavier by our hillside drainage.

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My first undertaking upon my return will be the planting of potatoes. As always, I set aside last fall those potatoes that will serve as my planting stock, seven varieties of varying shapes and sizes and colors (selected and re-selected over the years based on performance). If sufficiently inspired, I will venture out today and hoe out the several hundred feet of trenches in preparation. It is one of the more rigorous activities of garden work (my back will remind me of that fact tomorrow morning), but there is no getting around it (unless of course, I look to Hannaford’s as my source of potatoes). A week, or ten days, later I will transplant the onion and leek seedlings (which, recall, have been growing indoors since late February), a tediously challenging activity made more challenging by the onslaught of black flies. Thereafter, not a day in May will go by without my presence in the garden being necessary and eagerly anticipated.  

Larry Siegel

North Quabbin Garden Club Events

Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Annual Garden Sale: Saturday, May 17, 2014
8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Rain or Shine


What garden problems flummox or enrage you? Bring notes or a couple of pictures on a CD or memory stick, and we’ll have a confab about them. If you’ve solved the problem, great - tell us how! If you haven’t, we’ll find solutions in our combined experience.

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Photography Services: Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowheronstudios.com Call at 978-249-8108 or 978-248-9454

Large box of material: cotton, velour, polyester, etc., solids and prints. Each piece 2-4 yards. Great bargain - $25 for the lot. 978-249-4013.

Royalston resident, 17 year old guy, looking for work. Will do any odd or outdoor jobs. $10/ hour. (603) 852-8094.

Horse Board: Closed shed w. turnout available in Royalston at Black Horse Farm for one or two horses. $300 monthly per horse, advance pay discounts available - secure space, arena, nearby trails. Call 978-249-9880 or email suzannagaits@gmail.com

Laurie Truehart: private wood carving lessons. 978-249-3291.

Sharpening: knives and scissors. Also, custom knife making. Call Rob 978-320-9982.

Little Farmers Child Care, located next to RCS, now has full and part-time openings! Hours are 6am-5pm Call Joni @ 978-575-1083

Graphic digital artist for hire. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, invitations, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Call Barbara at 508.364.3339 or email bguiney@wildblue.net.


House cleaning, 4 hr - $60.00. Royalston resident. Call Fran: home 978-249-4596 or cell 895-0817. References available.

Need help cleaning your house, outdoor work, or other odd jobs? $15/hr. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.


For sale:
Nigerian Dwarf Goats, 2 does and a wether. They are 2 y.o. hardy dairy goats from a closed pedigreed herd. Our children have raised them as pets. Friendly with children and other animals. Call Grace at 249.3902 or 617.413.7145.

Epson Perfection 3590 Scanner with install Cd - $25.00 call 978-249-2638.

Dean’s Beans Coffee - Order form at www.villageschoolma.org. Pick up the coffee in the Village School hallway.

Eggs: $2.00 per dozen. Best time to call or stop by: after 4 p.m. 249-5548.

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale. Goats for sale: for meat or pets or rent them for brush clearing. Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062.

Royalston Maple Syrup from Divoll’s sugar house. Prices $9/pint; $15/qt; $28/half gal.; $50/gal. Call Randy at 978-602-5583.

Grass-fed Beef: All cuts available. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.


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Wildlife Sightings

Richard Monahan spotted this bedraggled raptor on April 26 in his South Royalston yard near the Miller’s River. Carl Kamp identified it as “an accipiter and judging by the size and color I’d say it was a female sharp-shinned hawk. They regularly feed on small birds.” M. Monahan later judged it to be a Cooper’s Hawk.

“Just before sunset on March 29 a bobcat entered the back yard of Deb D’Amico and Tom Musco on North Fitzwilliam road. It trotted out of the woods and hopped onto their stone wall, about 40 feet from the back door. It sat for a few moments looking around, on high alert. When a weather vane at the other end of the wall turned in the wind, it got spooked and trotted back into the woods.”

Ann Verrelli has had regular visits from a bear for a couple of years so she brings in her bird feeders early each spring. She has stored her bird food in a shed for years but this year the bear very neatly went into the shed, took the covered bucket, went down to the stream, got the cover off, and laid there and feasted on the food.

The Andreliunas house had two screaming porcupines on its steps the night of April 25. The pets stayed in that night.

Lisa Freden had a hat-trick of sightings. Two days in a row, she saw a Tom turkey in full display showing off to his harem. Then, looking out her window on NE Fitzwilliam Rd, she spotted a beaver walking across her field. Finally, driving home from a FinCom meeting at Town Hall, she had to slow down as a young bear ambled down the center of the road.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
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