Calendar of Events

June 7 Saturday
9 a.m. - noon The Historical Society Museum (Old School House #1) will be opened the first and third Saturdays of the month from 9 - noon all summer.

June 9 Monday
3:45 pm Friends of the Library Meeting. All welcome.

June 13 Friday Full Strawberry Moon

June 15 Sunday Father’s Day

June 16 Monday
4:30 pm Library book group meets to chat about Jesus Land, a memoir by Julia Scheeres. All welcome. Copies of the book available at the library.

June 19 Thursday
5:30 - 7:30 pm Retirement reception for Mary Carnie at Royalston Community School. All invited. Refreshments.

June 20 Friday
early dismissal ARRSD school is out for summer

7 pm 16th - 17th Century Japanese Woodblock Print Program with Tom Musco to complement summer art show at the library.

June 21 Saturday Summer Solstice

June 23 - July 3rd Royalston Shakespeare Company’s free theater workshop for kids at town hall. Performance of Much Ado about Nothing on the evening of July 3rd. (Rehearsals are 9:30 to 12 Mon - Sat. ; Weds. rehearsal ends at 11.) Kids build sets, run lights and tread the boards. Contact the library for more information.

June 25 Wednesday
7 p.m. Reconvened session of annual town meeting at the Royalston Community School. Routine business plus a number of articles tabled last month are on the warrant. These include funds for legally required immunizations for Fire Department/EMS employees, an ordinance regulating sewer use, and the Stretch Code.

June 27 Friday New Strawberry Moon

June 28 Saturday noon - 3 pm car show and spaghetti dinner at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Registration of the vehicles begins at 11:00 a.m. ($15.00) and the show commences at 12:00 p.m. The dinner will start at 12:30 and run until the show stops, approximately 3:30 p.m. Tix $6.

Save the date:
July 20 Sunday MusicFest! in Bullock Park. For more information please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

Library Summer Reading Program will be held for school-aged children at 1:30 p.m. each Thursday in July and for preschoolers all Mondays in July at 10 a.m.. Fizz, boom, read!

Plant an extra row for the local foods supper coming in mid Sept.

Mary Carnie, Royalston’s iconic 2nd grade teacher and former town Poet Laureate, will retire this June. Mrs. Carnie instilled a love of books in 100s of Royalston students. She taught many useful lessons, including that leprechauns enjoy writing smart-alecky letters, that numbers add up (or not), that the natural world is full of wonder, that individuals can make the world better, and that basic kindness and recognition of the humanity of others is a big step toward world peace.

There is a reception June 19 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Royalston Community School. Former students, friends, poets and fans are invited to stop by to wish her well as she begins her next series of adventures. Refreshments.
Select Board Notes
Christine Long, Member

The reconvened session of annual town meeting will be held Wednesday, June 25 at 7 p.m. at the Royalston Community School. In addition to routine business, voters will also be asked to consider a number of articles tabled last month for a variety of reasons: funds for legally required immunizations for Fire Department/EMS employees, an ordinance regulating sewer use, and the Stretch Code.

Voters are reminded that adoption of the Stretch Code is a necessary step in the town’s receiving about $130,000 in state grants to do energy- and money-saving upgrades to town facilities.

On the same evening the town will as usual hold a special town meeting to tidy up end-of-the-year financial matters. The warrant for that meeting will be opened and closed at the June 3 meeting of the Select Board, so anyone wishing to submit a petition article must do so by then.

This month the Select Board will be making its annual appointments to boards and committees and urges residents to consider volunteering; just submit your name and interest to the board at 978-249-9641 or bos@royalston-ma.gov. The Capital Planning Committee, Energy Committee, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Conservation Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals all have openings. Other boards would love to have volunteers as alternates or assistants.

The time commitment is not large; some of these groups meet monthly in the evening, some meet as necessary, and some have occasional other meetings. But their work is interesting and important: Royalston absolutely depends on them to provide necessary advice and service.

We could say, “Ask not what your town can do for you; ask what you can do for your town.” In fact, however, if you volunteer to help the town, the town will be better able to help you.

Sewer Commission News
Gary Winitzer

On May 13th, after a Public Hearing, the Commission enacted updated Sewer Rules and Regulations to replace an ordinance last changed in 1977. The Commission also adopted a new Sewer Billing Policy and Procedures. This includes dates for bills to be issued, interest rate for delinquent accounts, senior discounts, and payment plans for certain hardships. Copies of these documents are available at the Town Clerk’s office and the Town web site.

Help Restore the Grand Drape

Volunteers are needed to assist the conservation team and carpentry help is needed for removal and installation of the Grand Drape (painted curtain in Town Hall). The project is expected to be completed this summer. If interested, please contact Gary Winitzer at 249-8957 or the Selectmen’s office at 249-9641.

Royalston Roadside Clean-up

Once again the awesome people of Royalston showed up to help clean the roadsides around town. There was a rain delay from April 26 to May 3, 2014. Thank you to all the volunteers who picked up before the 26th. – All trash collected was taken to the transfer station – Thanks to Tony and Stevie. It was a sunny day with just a hint of black flies. The cleanup was staged from the new pavilion at the end of Bullock Field. Family teams were assigned to different neighborhoods and sent out with bags, gloves and safety vests. Team Blinky was missing for a bit, but made it back for hot dogs, chips and Checkpoint Charlie’s chili. Thanks to everyone and the following people for their help in keeping Royalston beautiful;

Dan and Karol Monette – Checkpoint set up, use of grill and parts of Norcross Rd.; Erin Mahoney and Tyler Boyd – Pleasant Street – So. Roy.; Linda Alger and Nancy Skowrenski – School St., Main St. and Fernald Rd., So. Roy.; Maureen Blasco – Norcross Rd. and New Boston Road; Becky and Anthony Divoll – Deland and Stone Road; Pam McCorquandale and Brenda Hopkins – part of N. Fitzwilliam Rd. and part of Rt. 68; Charlie and MaryEllen Scribner – Laurel Lake Rd. and part of NE Fitzwilliam Rd.; Jim Taylor – parts of Warwick Rd. from red house; Jerry Lajoie – part of Norcross Rd.; Carla Rabinowitz – parts of Athol Road; Jill, Emma and Nick Sherman – Woods Rd and part of Winchendon Rd. (missed hot dogs); Steve Chase and Beth Gospodarek – parts of Athol Rd. and Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd.; Mike Young and Pat Worth – part of Gulf Rd, Dickly Rd. part of Rt. 68; Andrea and Ken Lively – part of Athol Road and Bolton Rd.; Gordon Morrison – parts of Rt. 68 from center of town; George Bennett – part of Rt. 68 by Camp Caravan; Dave Williams – Hot dog tester, parts of Jacob’s Ladder; Marie and Pierre Humblet – Part of Rt. 68; Samantha Hutchins – Stewart Rd.; Tom Kellner – So. Roy. – Blossom St. and part of Rt. 68; Tony Ferragamo, Jean McCurdy – Bliss Hill Rd.; Elvia Richards – part of Athol Rd. Team Blinky – Phil, Ray, Paul, Randy, Matt Davis – Taft Hill, Deland, Turnpike Rds.

See you again next year – keepin’ the town clean.

250th Committee Car Show and Spaghetti Feed on 6/28 at the Royalston Fish and Game Club

There is a car show and spaghetti dinner planned for June 28 at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread and coffee will be served and the Fish and Game will sell other beverages. The car clubs participating in this show are, North Quabbin Cruisers, Mid State Antique Auto, and Air Cooled Cruisers of Central New England.. The registration of the vehicles begins at 11:00 a.m. ($15.00) and the show commences at 12:00 p.m. The dinner will start at 12:30 and run until the show stops, approximately 3:30p.m. This is open to the public and the price of the ticket is $6.00 for everybody. Advance sales of tickets are available from 250th committee members.

The recent Mama’s Foods Supper was absolutely lovely. It was so fun to see the photos of the moms and grandmas at this comfort food community event. Moms left with flowers. Thanks so much to all who cooked: three generations of Jarvenpaas: Marlene, Carla Hartwell, and Tiffany Lusco; Jan St. Jean, Theresa Quinn, George Krasowski, Mariah Mallet, Karol Zub, Kristen West, Marie Mello, Stephen Chase, Sandy Knight, Eric Duffin, Geoff Newton, Carla Rabinowitz, Rose Lawrence, Beth Weaver, Marie Humblet, and others;
Royalston Energy Committee
Royalston’s Progress Toward “Green Communities” Designation
Jim MacPhee, member

Royalston is working to join the 134 (and counting) “Green Communities” in Massachusetts. So far, Royalston has achieved Criteria 1, 2, and 4. We still need to complete our plan for reducing our town building energy use by 20% over 5 years (Criteria 3) and adopt the Stretch Energy Code (Criteria 5) The Royalston Green Communities Action Plan can be linked through the Royalston Energy Committee’s page on the Town’s website.

Once all the criteria for Green Communities designation are met, Royalston will qualify for guaranteed grant assistance (the average grant to Green Community towns is approximately $130,000), saving taxpayer money by replacing our aging and failing energy infrastructure.

The benefits of the Green Communities designation for Royalston:

• Capital Cost Savings. Guaranteed grant funding from the Massachusetts DOER Green Communities program will be used to pay for purchase and installation of failing energy infrastructure in our town buildings. For example, funds can be used for replacement of the old, inefficient boilers in town buildings, thereby avoiding that huge (and inevitable) capital cost to us as property taxpayers.

• Ongoing Operating Cost Savings. As a town and as taxpayers, we will all benefit for years to come by reduced operating costs in our town buildings by upgrading our buildings and equipment to run more energy-efficiently. More cost savings will be realized as the price of energy rises. With a thoughtful, prioritized plan for equipment replacement and town building energy efficiency improvements, we will spend our funds more wisely and maximize our long term payback on our investment in high quality, energy efficient equipment.

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Board of Health News
Phil Leger, Chairperson

The Town now has a medication take-back kiosk located at the Police Station and a sharps/syringe take-back kiosk in the front hall of the Town Hall. There are also empty sharps red boxes for people to take and use. These are located on top of the department mail slots. Please do not put loose syringes in the kiosk. Also, the red boxes are constructed in such a way on the top that you can break the metal end off of a syringes in the box. If you do it that way, you can throw the remaining plastic syringe in trash. The box will go a long way that way. This doesn’t work with retractable needles, however. If you don’t have a red box, you can use a taped coffee can or plastic container. Any kind of medications will be taken back at the Police Station. Don’t flush meds down the drain. This will kill your septic system and is harmful to the water supply. These kiosks were provided from a grant from the Central Mass Health Alliance and the Montachusett Public Health Network.

New stickers are out. Please renew by July 1st. Fifteen dollars for 1st vehicle, and $5 for additional vehicles. Driver’s side lower windshield is proper place to display them so the attendant doesn’t have to ask you. This year they are orange.

Two goals remain to achieve Green Communities designation. For Criteria 3 (Establish an Energy Use Inventory and Reduction Plan), a grant has been secured by the Royalston Energy Committee to help establish a baseline energy use inventory of town-owned buildings. Once established, that baseline will be used in a 5 year plan to reduce energy use in town-owned buildings by 20%, a requirement of the Green Communities Action Plan.

To meet one criteria (Minimize Life Cycle Energy Construction Costs) of our Action Plan, Royalston must adopt the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code. The Stretch Energy Code promotes wise energy use by establishing sensible, enhanced energy efficiency standards for new residential construction, renovations, and additions. (Commercial renovation Stretch Code requirements generally do not apply to Royalston.) While misconceptions abound, the standards for construction under the Stretch Code are readily achievable. The relatively small initial added investment will be recouped quickly through tax credits, rebates, and energy bill savings. Indeed, most builders and design professionals are already designing and building structures that exceed the current Stretch Code requirements.

We all remember our fuel bills from last winter. The cost of energy will continue to rise. A fracked-gas pipeline is planned to snake through our collective back yards to feed the fossil fuel appetites of people in far-off communities. The enhanced energy standards of the Stretch Energy Code address these issues by promoting wise energy use and conservation. Finally, the current Stretch Energy Code will become the part of the Building Code for all of Massachusetts in July. Voting against local adoption of the current Stretch Energy Code only forestalls its implementation by less than a month.

The Royalston Green Communities Plan (and the adoption of the Stretch Code) currently has the endorsement and support of many of our local leaders, including the Royalston Board of Selectmen, the Royalston Planning Board, the Royalston Conservation Commission, and the Royalston Historic District Commission. Adoption of the Stretch Energy Code must be enacted by a majority vote at Town Meeting. Your opportunity to endorse the Stretch Energy Code will come on June 25. We’re close to the finish line in this process and need your help.

A fact sheet will be available on the Royalston Energy Committee website in order to counter misconceptions and misinformation currently out there concerning the Stretch Code. Also, feel free to call me directly with questions.

Dept. of Public Works
Supt.  Keith R. Newton

North East Fitzwilliam Road bridge over the Lawrence Brook has been completed and the road is now open. Heavy rains caused some superficial shoulder damage. The R.D.P.W. and E.T.L. Corp. met to review damage and agree about a solution. The asphalt berm will be extended further on both ends to capture surface water and project it into drain basins installed in the bridge structure. The reseeding of slopes at the south end and sections along the north side will be addressed. Thank you to all that have been inconvenienced with the detours.

One done; two to go!
**Phinehas S. Newton Library News**

**Kathy Morris, Library Director**

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Fren, 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

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**Donations to the Friends - Thank You!**

Ernest and Linda Amidon

Robin Ross

Richard and Rose Lawrence

Ken and Marty Bouchard

Patricia Stearns

Chris and Emily Santillo have donated to the library for the telescope stand in memory of Werner Bundschuh, Emily’s dad.

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**Japanese Woodblock Print Exhibit and Program at the Library**

Tom Musco will be exhibiting Japanese woodblock prints at the library in June and July. The twelve prints and one book will trace the evolution of Japanese woodblock printing from the 16th to the 18th century. The exhibit will include monochrome prints that were typical of the early 1600s as well as several examples of later work, when color and texture were built up in layers using aligned blocks, each carrying different colors and parts of the design. Tom will talk about the prints and their content in 16th-18th century Japan on Friday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Refreshments. Program sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

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**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 June 16, the book group will discuss Jesus Land, a memoir by Julia Scheeres.

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**Zumba is all done until cold weather, but Yoga continues on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. through June 18**

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.

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**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.

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**Donations to the Friends - Thank You!**

Ernest and Linda Amidon

Robin Ross

Richard and Rose Lawrence

Ken and Marty Bouchard

Patricia Stearns

Chris and Emily Santillo

**Much Ado about the RSC!**

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. (Wed. 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.

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**Summer Programs at the Library**

Summer programs for preschoolers are going to be held on Mondays in July beginning on July 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the library. There will be Bubbles Galore on July 7, Native American Stories and Music with Michael Young on July 14, Balloon Bonanza with Norma Butterworth on July 21th, and the Hoppin’ Poppin’ Ice Cream Party on July 28th.

Older kids will get to have some great fun on Thursdays in July beginning on the 10th at 1:30 p.m. at the library. We are excited to have Animal Adventures doing our first program. They will bring a wide assortment of animals, from an alligator to giant snakes to pink skunks and many other exotic animals for a fun and educational program. In case of rain or cold weather, this program will be held in the Town Hall. On July 17th we’ll be traveling to Birch Hill Dam, where Bill Mehr will show us around and tell us about the dam, its purpose, and its history. If you like to make things, on July 24th Kathy Morris will have you all creating kaleidoscopes. We’ll put all the parts together so that we’ll see how a kaleidoscope works and then have fun seeing all the designs that can be created with the help of a few mirrors. The 31st of July will have everyone cranking away making ice cream and enjoying the chemistry of air and cream. Funding for the summer programs is provided by a grant from the Royalston Academy and the Friends of the Library.

We have two other programs this summer. We will put our new telescope to work on Friday, July 18th at 7:30 p.m. behind the library in a family program looking at what’s up in the sky and learning how to use our new telescope. John Root, from the Aldrich Astronomical Society, will be telling us about what we’re viewing.

Due to the large demand, Alissa Allen will give another mycopigment dying workshop tinting silk scarves on August 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Using mushroom dyes participants will transform white silk to colorful artistic creations using some new techniques. There is a $10 program fee for supplies.
New Telescope coming to the Library:  
The Sky is the Limit for Upcoming Library Programs
Orion Telescope at the Library
Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library and Chris and Emily Santillo we have a new Orion Star Blast Telescope and work-of-art tripod made by John Chencharik. This telescope has been received through the central Massachusetts Aldrich Astronomical Society – Adopt a Library Program in cooperation with Cornerstones of Science in Brunswick, Maine. The goal is to foster scientific literacy, stimulate an interest in astronomy, and provide people who have never looked through a telescope the chance to experience the excitement that comes from discovery. After the summer, individuals (over 18 years of age) will be allowed to borrow the telescope from the library. We are excited to be able to offer this to everyone in Royalston. Join us to learn about the sky during our summer program on July 18th at 7:30 p.m. behind the library.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult fiction
Atkins, Ace  Robert B Parker’s Cheap Shot
Baldacci, David  Target
Barnouin, Kim  Skinny Bitch Gets Hitched
Berry, Steve  The Lincoln Myth
Binghame, M.  Chestnut Street
Butler, Nicholas  Shotgun Lovesongs
Clark, Mary Higgins  I’ve got you Under my Skin
Culver, Chris  By any Means
Cunningham, M.  The Snow Queen
Davis, Lydia  Can’t and Won’t
Deaver, Jeffrey  The Skin Collector
Doer, Anthony  All the Light We Cannot See
Evans, Richard  Walking on Water
Giffin, Emily  The One & Only
Greenwood, Kerry  Murder in Mendelssohn
Grisham, John  The Litigators (Large Print)
Hadley, Tessa  Clever Girl
Harris, Charlaine  Midnight Crossroad
Haynes, Elizabeth  Under a Silent Moon
Hemmings, Kau  The Possibilities
Hunter, Stephen  Sniper’s Honor
Iles, Greg  Natchez Burning
Kendrick, Beth  Care for the Common Breakup
Kennedy, Joanne  How to Handle a Cowboy
Lackberg, Camilla  Hidden Child
Levine, Jessica  The Geometry of Love
Lewis, Beverly  The Last Bride (Large Print)
Mayle, Peter  The Corsican Caper
McCraw-Smith, A.  The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon
McMurtry, Larry  The Last Kind Words Saloon
Mosley, Walter  Debbie Doesn’t do it Anymore
Nelson, Antonya  Funny Once
Nesbo, Jo  The Son
Palmer, Michael  Resistant
Patterson, James  NYPD Red 2
Patterson, James  Unlucky 13
Preston, Douglas  The Kraiken Project
Prose, Francine  Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932
Quick, Amanda  Otherwise Engaged
Reichl, Ruth  Delicious!
Roberts, Nora  Chasing Fire (Large Print)
Sanford, John  Field of Prey
St. Aubyn, Edward  Lost for Words
Stevenson, Stuart  Carnal Curiosity
Zevin, Gabrielle  The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry

Adult non-fiction
Blaser, Martin  Missing Microbes
Crawford, Arlo  A Farm Dies Once a Year
Gierach, John  All Fisherman are Liars
Gold, Russell  The Boom
Greenwald, Glenn  No Place to Hide
Huffington, Arianna  Thrive
Kaplan, Fred  John Quincy Adams
Korda, Michael  Clouds of Glory
Lewis, Michael  Flash Boys
Lourie, Bruce  Toxin Tossout
Marcoux, Paula  Cooking with Fire
Moise, Lenelle  Hait Glass
Taylor, Will  Bright Bazaar
Warren, Elizabeth  A Fighting Chance
Wilson, Edward  A Window on Eternity

For the complete list of new materials, including juvenile literature, visit the library website: www.royalstonlibrary.org

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. Pony rides available for birthday parties, etc. Call 978-667-2921.

DVDs
Call the Midwife Season 3, Her, Labor Day, The Monuments Men, Orange is the New Black Season 1, Paw Patrol, Veronica Mars, and Virginia Lee Burton

DVD on Tennessee Gas Proposed Pipeline Talk Available at Library
If you missed the discussion about the proposed Tennessee gas proposed pipeline by Bruce Winn at the Athol Town Hall in April, the library has a copy of his presentation available for borrowing. Bruce is part of BEAT, the Berkshire Environmental Action Team, spearheading some of the work about raising awareness and compiling information about the pipeline and its ramifications for the towns of Massachusetts it impacts. The film was done by Royalston’s Michael Young for AOTV and shows the powerpoint presentation and Bruce’s commentary.
Recipe of the Month: Cornish Pasty

At last month’s 250th dinner, showcasing food our mothers used to make, many people said they wanted recipes. So, for the next few months, we will hunt down recipes from that event.

The first is a recipe from the Duffin family. Eric will soon graduate from Monty Tech in culinary arts. In the fall, he will be going to study at the New England Culinary Institute of Vermont. Eric cooked up trays of Cornish pasties (a dish his mom still makes, too.) For centuries the pasty was the midday meal of Cornish miners. The pastry envelope contains a filling of meat and veg.

Ingredients for 4.
8 oz short crust pastry. (or 2 packets of Pepperidge farm puff pastry sheets)
6 oz stew beef.
2 potatoes, coarsely grated
1 small rutabaga, coarsely grated
1 finely chopped onion
Salt and pepper
1 tbsp. unsalted butter.

Trim fat off beef and cut into very thin small pieces. Mix with veg. Roll out pastry to 1/4 inch thick, and using a large saucer as a guide cut out 4 circles. Pile the filling into the center of each circle and season with salt and pepper and top with a knob of butter. Dampen the pastry edges with cold water and carefully draw up the edges to meet at the top. Pinch and twist the pastry edges together to form a neat fluted pattern. Cut a small air vent in the side of each pasty. Brush pasties with a lightly beaten egg and place on greased baking tray.

Bake in center of pre heated oven at 425 F for 10 mins. Reduce heat to 350 F for 30 mins.

Royalston Fish and Game

Junior Conservation Camp

It’s official! The Royalston Fish & Game Club is sending THREE young men to Junior Conservation Camp in August. The lucky winners are Jake Wright of Athol, and Dominic Luciani and Graeme Richard, both from Phillilipston. All three will enjoy two full weeks of camp, paid in full by the club. Funds were provided by raffles that were held during the club’s Fall Frenzy last September. Congratulations go out to the winners, and we look forward to next year’s applications!

VENDORS WANTED!
The club is now accepting applications for vendors (food, crafts, agriculture) for its second annual FALL FRENZY to be held on Saturday, September 13th from 9 am - 7 pm......Spaces are only $25......special considerations are given to nonprofit organizations and to any agriculture spaces (farm produce, etc). For an application, please contact Marie Mello at 978-249-2836, or Luann Simula at 978-249-8746. Proceeds from the fair support sending kids to conservation camp.

Navigators USA -- Youth Ages 7-18

You are invited to an informational and planning meeting for a Navigator’s chapter serving the Warwick/Royalston area! This is an inclusive scouting organization for boys and girls. Volunteers of all ages welcome. For more information: www.navigatorsusa.org; contact Claudia in Warwick at allonedream@gmail.com or Grace in Royalston at 617.413.7145

Local Arts Scene

June Music Series at the 1794 MEETINGHOUSE in New Salem
Saturday 7th: Lil Bee Dee & the Doo-Rites – rockabilly, rhythm & blues to do ya right
Sunday 8th: Sarah Clay – lyrical, soulful, playful jazz
Thursday 12th: Barrett Anderson – hypno boogie blues
Saturday 14th: Heather Maloney – multi-dimensional adventurous folk
Sunday 15th: Elizabeth Chang – marathon Bach solo violin sonatas and partitas
Thursday 19th: Brother Sun – explosion of musical diversity and harmony
Saturday 21st: Winterpills – lush, haunting pop/indie rock
Sunday 22nd: Quabbin Valley Pro Musica – classical/choral group
Thursday 26th: Tumbling Bones – gritty traditional American music
Saturday 28th: Ashley Jordan – sweet & sultry country/Americana
Sunday 29th: Nicol Wander – puppetry – The Princess and the Pea - bring the kids!

More information is available at www.1794meetinghouse.org

Melanie and The Blue Shots Summer Tour

June 14th Fitzwilliam Inn
June 23rd Gardner Ale House
August 2nd Philstock 40
August 25th Gardner Ale House
**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS**

*Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasesgos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.*

**Graduates!** It takes a village and this village is particularly proud and inquisitive... Send your graduation information and photo to the RCN for publication in the summer issue. Congratulations.

3rd quarter academic honor rolls:

*Royalston honor roll students at Athol Royalston Middle School:*

Gold Honor Roll: Gr 8 MacKenzie Mastaler, Gr 7 Molly Divoll, Silver: Gr 8 Haylie Baker, Emily Davis, Sarah Demboske Gr 7 Tayiah Neale Abigail Roberts

*RCS Grade 6: Gold Sadie Wright, Silver Isabella Cooke, Krystal McCulley, Bronze Ashley Hadmack*

Grade 5 gold: Mariah Valliere, Anthony Divoll Silver Aliyah Neale

*Monty Tech: Marnie Anair, Melissa Persson, Colleen Demboske*

**Congratulations to recent Students of the Month at Athol High School: Zach Roberts, Katie Robinson, and Beau Guimond**

**Wed**

*Aimee Elizabeth Newton and Bryan Thomas Melanson were married on May 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. The wedding took place at the Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield. The couple have a son named Bryce, who served as their best man, and all of them share family here in Royalston, headed by Geoffrey Newton and Diana Newton. They chose the island of St. Lucia for their honeymoon. From start to finish, it was a great wedding!!!!**

*Barbara Denis (1934 - 2014) Barbara was born in Gardner on Nov. 12, 1934, the daughter of the late Alfred J. and Alice (Nyman) Bush.*

Barbara attended Gardner High School, Gardner. She was a very involved member of the Second Congregational Church of South Royalston.

Barbara spent her life as a homemaker; she loved spending time with her family and grandchildren. She enjoyed crafts, gardening and shopping with her daughters.

She leaves her husband of 59 years, Robert A. Denis of South Royalston; one son, Allen R. Denis and his wife Sheila of South Royalston; five daughters, Elizabeth A. Sproul and her husband Jack of Galax, Va., Karen M. Proulx and her husband David of Franklin, N.H., Sandra A. Plante and her husband Albert of Gaffney, S.C., Sheila L. Griffith and her significant other Steve Boccari of Royalston and Robin S. Recos and her husband Ronald of Phillifston; four sisters, Eleanor Donivan and her husband George of Mississippi, Benita Jones of Mississippi, Florence Towle of California and Linda Beland and her husband Henry of Kansas; 11 grandchildren; Justin, Jen, Tom, Melissa, Jeremiah, Adam, Stacy, Joshua, Nicole, Dana and Candace; 14 great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and cousins; one brother-in-law, Francis Denis; one sister-in-law, Betty Denis; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Ronald and Theresa Denis, Gene and Phyllis Denis and Jerry and Sue Denis.

Barbara was predeceased by two brothers, Carl and Warren Bush; one sister, Bernice Beauregard; brother and sister-in-law Philena and Fred Duda; sister-in-law, Betty Denis; and by one brother-in-law, Richard Denis.

Burial will be at a later date in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallen St., Winchendon. Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kan. 66675 or to the Second Congregational Church, 2 School St., So. Royalston, Mass. 01331 or to a charity of the donor’s choice.*
Thinking about Barns

Deb D’Amico

Barns are among the oldest buildings in New England, yet, so common a part of our scenery, they are easily overlooked. Barns of various shapes and sizes are on our property or the property next door. We pass them when we drive around Royalston and beyond. Some are ancient and in need of repair. Others are lovingly maintained and serve to shelter animals, equipment, or supplies. Whatever their size or condition, most barns in New England have a common ancestry and a history that make them worth a second look. To do so, we need to travel back in time to Medieval England.

At that time, barns were designed to store barley and other grains. Animals were not kept in barns because winters in England were mild. In fact, the word “barn” comes from the words “barley” and “place.” It’s an old English word meaning “a place where one stores barley.”

Barns were also used for threshing wheat. The ‘threshing floor’ was in the center of the barn. The farmer used this area to process the wheat. Once the grain was separated from the stalk, the farmer opened the main entrance doors, which were along both eaves walls on opposite sides of the threshing floor. This allowed the wind to blow through the shortest dimension of the barn, taking the dry light stalks with it and leaving the heavier grain behind. In fact, the term "threshold" is taken directly from barn history. The threshold was an actual board that "held" the heavier wheat that fell to the floor while the wind carried the lighter chaff away. This basic design was typical of the English barns of the time.

When English farmers began to settle in New England, the barns they built were smaller copies of the great barns of their homeland. Our New England barns trace their ancestry and construction techniques directly from the barns of the English who settled here. We call them, “English barns”.

To build their barns, the English settlers used the same timber framing methods that had been used since medieval times. The barn’s frame was made of large timbers, which were connected with mortise and tenon joints and secured with wooden pegs. This allowed the entire frame to be constructed without the use of nails, which were very expensive and hard to come by. Each timber was shaped by hand with axes in the forest, as the trees were cut down. These hand-hewn timbers were uneven and varied in shape and size. To build a frame with tight joints and correct dimensions the timber framer used a system called “scribe rule framing”. In scribe rule framing, each connection between timbers is unique. The timber framer laying out joints in the frame used a pair of dividers and a marking device to transfer the irregularities of one timber to its mate.

This process, known as scribing, gives the technique its name. The timber framer then marked each joint with a Roman numeral. These were called “marriage marks”. Following these marks was very important so that the frame would come together exactly as it had been laid out.

As time went on, however, New England farmers realized that the barn’s design was not perfectly suited to the harsh New England climate. Doors on English barns typically swung outwards on hinges. This was a problem during the long New England winters when snow had to be shoveled to keep the doorways clear. To solve this problem, barn doors were mounted on rails so that, rather than swinging open, they slid from side to side. With main entrances along the eaves wall, snow and rain dumped off the roof, eroded the entranceway and soaked the farmer as he entered and left his barn.

The English barn’s center aisle, going across the building rather than parallel to its ridge, was a useful design for the grain farmers in England. However, it was a problem for the New England farmer. If he wanted to enlarge his barn, the New England farmer built additions on each gable end. However, these new sections were further and further away from the main entrance. Reaching all parts of the barn with a horse and wagon became more difficult as there was no room to turn the horses around to exit. New England farmers began to rethink the design of their traditional English barn.

A clever Yankee farmer thought to put the main entry door on the gable end of the barn. A center aisle running the length of the building with another set of doors at the far end allowed the horse and wagon to exit without having to turn around. A farmer could easily service all parts of the building. Expansion was as easy as adding to the rear, which made the barn longer without changing its original shape. With the doors safely tucked under each gable end, snow and rain drained away without impeding the farmer as he went about his work. Rolling doors, entrance and exit at the gable end, long aisle running along the length of the barn beneath its ridge - this is the barn style most of us are familiar with today.

The next time you look at a barn near you, look again. Perhaps you can pick out the details that hint at its proud ancestry.
What's Happening at the Village School:
Openings in the Village School for fall 2014
There are openings in preschool and 3rd grade. Call the school to set up visits.

Congratulations to the 4th-6th class students on performing an engaging and delightful play at the Royalston Town Hall, which was followed with their trip via train to Washington D.C. The K-1 has been making fairy houses in the woods. They will be climbing Tully Mtn. before the end of the year. Everyone participates in Jackson Pollock Day, outside in the driveway, throwing paint on big sheets of paper. The 2nd-3rd grade finishes the year with a Theme (Native Americans) Share Celebration, including singing, playing recorder and sharing their writing. On Wednesday June 4, the 4th-6th shares their portfolios at 6:15, followed by graduation at 7:00 p.m.

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School
Go to www.villageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs. Discounts are given to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy. Brochures are at the Post Office and the library.

Community School News
6th Grade View
Noah Michelson
Over the months I have been writing these articles about the month at hand, but now I’d like to focus on the entire school and what classes have done specially throughout the school year.

First off is Kindergarten, who have truly surpassed standards for their grade. Some students in this grade have read their very first book this year, and I would like to give credit to the teachers, Mrs. Willhite and Mrs. Hopkins, for a great year at R.C.S. for our brand new students.

Next is 1st graders, who have been doing so much this year it has been hard to keep track of it all... So I would like to give a big thanks to our 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Drouin, who has helped out so much...

2nd grade has been working especially on poetry with Mrs. Carrie, who over the 2 years I’ve been at R.C.S, has really taught me a lot about cinquain, diamante and other forms of poetry. I will always remember those things.

3rd grade: I have really enjoyed all of the art pieces from each student on the wall outside of the classroom, and for that, we thank you 3rd grade. You have truly helped our school over the school year. Again, we thank you Ms Stimson.

In 4th grade, the students have been doing a lot of writing. From what they post outside their classroom, every writing seems to get better and better. To 4th grade and their teacher Mr. Hains, we thank you...

Not to be forgotten is 5th grade, which currently is doing writing based on black and white drawings or pictures. We thank you for that and for giving us something to read after we came back from Natures Classroom. Thank you Mrs Knetchel.

And finally, I will remember my 6th grade class and teacher Mr. Snell for being so nice and being my friend even though I had not been at the school as long. Throughout the rest of my life, I will remember my 6th grade teacher for being an inspiration to me...

And that is all I want to say as this is my last year at R.C.S. (P.S. If I didn’t mention you in this that means I will thank you in person) Everyone have a great summer!

ed. note: To Noah Michelson for having written an informative upbeat column for this newsletter, we thank you. Throughout the school year, for 8 issues, he submitted cheerfully, responsibly and punctually, informing the greater community about the positive people and events in his school. He wrote with a signature generosity of spirit towards his peers and teachers. His awareness of the benevolence around him will serve him well as he embarks on the transition to 7th grade and life’s other endeavors.

RCS Calendar:
6/3 - Spring Concert @ RCS
6/11 6th grade completion ceremony
6/16 - Field Day; rain day 6/17
6/17 - Kindergarten Celebration Night
6/18 - 5th grade living wax museum
6/19 - retirement reception for Mrs. Carnie

Summer Music Program at the Village School
Summer instrumental music lessons will take place at the Village School from July 7th through August 22nd. Lessons are open to ALL AGES – even adults! Students may begin cello, violin and piano at age 4, recorder, guitar and ukulele at age 6, and flute at age 9. Group and private lessons are available.

Flexible schedule: Just sign up for the weeks when you’re home – you won’t be charged for lessons when you’re on vacation!
Why sign up for summer lessons?
Try out a new instrument
Continue to build skills or take on new challenges
Flexible schedule
Explore music from different time periods & places!
Private lessons help students to build confidence and deepen their love of music
Summer lessons are fun!
For more information, and for a registration form, go to www.villageschoolma.org
Garden Notes  May 22, 2014

Chicken shit. You gotta love it. Or hate it. In its favor, no common barnyard manure is as rich in essential soil nutrients. Pound for pound, it provides up to twice as much nitrogen and phosphorus (and an equal amount of potassium) as cow, sheep, or horse. In its disfavor, a pile of chicken manure smells like…..a pile of chicken manure. Last spring, Ray Sawyer gifted me a truck load of the stuff. It was dumped 200 feet from the house; it smelled like it was dumped outside the back door. I sprinkled it with wood ashes, covered it with leaves, and, ultimately, chicken wire (as a barrier to our dog Hunter, who developed an abiding interest in chicken manure). It was dumped outside the back door. I sprinkled it with wood ashes, covered it with leaves, and, ultimately, chicken wire (as a barrier to our dog Hunter, who developed an abiding interest in using the pile as his personal playground). A year later, it has melted, some, though a passerby would quickly become aware that someone (me) was disassembling a pile of chicken manure. I’ve begun incorporating it into the garden soil, no easy task since the manure is wet and clumpy. I drop it where I want it and chop away (another use for the multi-talented hoe) with varying degrees of success. The results are too rough for the germination requirements of small-seeded vegetables (think carrots), but my master plan is to set transplants in these beds and hope they will thrive.

Spring scrambles to catch up (and so do I); we best quicken the pace since summer is but a month away. Every harbinger of spring has been delayed. Forsythia blossoms were late. Daffodils were late. Two years ago I was picking lilacs on May 11; they are just emerging (at least, up here astride Prospect Hill). First apple blossoms last year, May 9; first apple blossoms this year, May 19. What few we have. Apples are notorious for having high-yielding years followed by off years. Yes, last year was high-yielding, but this year will be unimaginably off. One tree, the Summer Rambo, is fully flowering. Another, the Golden Russet, sports a few here and there. The remaining five are totally devoid of flowers. There is no guarantee one will obtain an apple from a blossom. There is every guarantee that one will not obtain an apple from a non-blossom. An off year.

My personal catch-up is proceeding apace. I’ve cut some corners (not all leaves were raked, not all perennial beds weeded), but the vegetable garden is orderly. (Nothing is more orderly than my May vegetable garden.) Radishes and asparagus and scallions and wintered-over parsnips are being consumed. First spinach have been thinned to a final spacing of four inches, roomy enough for me to harvest individual leaves rather than the entire plant. First sugar snap peas have begun their climb to six-foot (or beyond). Potatoes, planted April 29, took their time emerging, but some are up, and, in a week’s time, I expect all will be. Onions and leeks were transplanted on May 6 but seem dis-inclined to do much in the way of growing. The rest of the garden, the lion’s share, remains under a hay cover, awaiting the warmth necessary to seed beans, cucumbers, squash, and corn and to transplant the tomatoes, peppers, and basil.

This is the final wake-up call for those of you entertaining the notion of engaging in some gardening this summer. A couple of tomato plants, a row of beans, whatever. I can imagine lesser ways to spend idle June days.

Larry Siegel

Classifieds

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.

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 brguiney@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 249.3092 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.

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Wildlife Sightings
Ernest Amidon of South Royalston spotted this black squirrel in his back yard. It came back for several days to feed on the acorns. Sometimes it was accompanied by a grey squirrel. Only black squirrels can produce another black squirrel. Black squirrels are not native to central Massachusetts. They were introduced to the western part of Massachusetts.

Royalston Common Restoration Committee’s Work and Progress
Clarence Rabideau, Chair RCRC
We have received the money sought toward the restoration/preservation of the WW II monument and the new flagpole with support from the CPC, seconded by a majority of voters at last Town Meeting. We are still hoping for private contributions for trees, a second small monument to thank all veterans of wars from town, and general contributions. We hope to be able to top the monument with a suitable decorative element and contributions will help greatly toward this effort.

On a positive note, we have received several generous contributions but we are not anywhere near our final goals. We look for continued support from Royalston residents. “Thank you” to those who have given generously to date. Names of contributors will be placed on a plaque in the Town Hall. Make checks out to Town of Royalston, with “Common Restoration” on the memo line; add what the donation category is for; and send to: Town of Royalston, PO Box 1, Royalston MA 01368

Out of Town Subscriptions
are available for $25/calendar year (10 issues)
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Submission deadline for Jul/Aug issue is: June 22