Calendar of Events

September 1 Monday    Labor Day

September 4 Thursday
Rules and applications for the 250th committee sponsored “Ms. Royalston Contest” will be mailed. (All applicants must be 16 years of age by January 1, 2015 and can’t be older than 20 years of age by December 31, 2015. Proof of age will be required and any applicant under age 18 must have parental endorsement. Eligible individuals that have not received this letter by September 12th, please inform the chairman of the committee, Geoffrey Newton, at 978-249-3726.

September 6 Saturday
6 pm  Local foods supper at town hall. Many homemade dishes made mainly from local garden produce and raffles to benefit the 250th committee’s efforts to raise funds for the soon-to-be-here 2015 Sestercentennial. Mushroom and fungus slide show and talk by noted mycologist Noah Siegel to follow the meal. $12!

September 7 Sunday    Grandparents’ Day

September 8 Monday    Full Harvest Moon (shine on)

September 9 Tuesday
7 a.m. – 8 p.m.    State Primaries and Elections

September 11 Thursday    Friends of the Library Meeting. All welcome. Plan library support and this newsletter and get ready for an October visit by author of 1491 and 1493, Charles Mann.

September 13 Saturday
9:00am  2nd Annual Fall Frenzy at Royalston Fish & Game Club in South Royalston. Visit the club’s facebook page for more information: https://www.facebook.com/RoyalstonFishGameClub

September 15 Monday
4:30 pm  Library book group will discuss The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert. This highly readable and informative collection of essays takes the long view of the Earth’s history and humanity’s place in the planetary timeline. Very interesting, decidedly gloomy, and at times, funny. All welcome. Copies of the selection are available to be checked out at the library. Tea and cookies served.

September 20 Saturday
8 am  Fungus Fair at Millers River Environmental Center. 100 Main St. Athol. Talks with experts, forays, and cook-ups.

7 pm  Saturday Night at the Movies    “The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific” will be shown in the ballroom in the Maples on the Common. The filmmakers, film director/cinematographer Boyd Estus and anthropologist/producer/writer Sam Low, will be present to answer questions. All welcome. Free. Desserts served. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

September 21 Sunday    International Day of Peace
4:00 pm    Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Concert in the ballroom at the Maples. Free. Donations accepted to support the LBS scholarship fund. The concert will last about an hour, followed by world famous refreshments by the Ladies. Cameron Twarog, Sandy van de Kauter, Deb Nunes and Carl Kamp featured. The concert will be preceded by a short business meeting of the Ladies, starting at 3:30. Public welcome.

September 22 Monday    Autumnal Equinox
5:57 p.m.    New Beaver Moon

September 23 Tuesday
5:57 p.m.    New Beaver Moon

September 24 Wednesday
Rosh Hashana begins at sunset – Jewish New Year 5775

September 30 Tuesday
7 p.m.    CODE-RED Test (See pg. 2)

Save the date:
Saturday October 4
Oktoberfest to benefit the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation. Funds raised support enrichment projects in the local public schools. Dinner, dancing, do-gooding and beer. See Laurie Deve- neau, Nancy Melbourne, Maureen Blasco or Beth Gospodarek for tickets.

Saturday October 18
Baked Stuffed Chicken Dinner at Town Hall at 6 pm to benefit 250th Committee’s fundraising efforts. There will be a drawing for a 120 club. Tickets are available now; ask any member of the committee. (There are only 120 tickets with 12 money prizes to be awarded.) Call Geoff Newton, 249-3726.

Saturday November 15
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.    Central Mass. Children’s Book Festival at Mount Wachusett Community College. Free admission, geared for children and parents. Come meet local authors and illustrators, enjoy storytelling and activities for children. For more information, go to centralmasschildrensbookfestival.org; facilitated by the Village School

Annual Holiday Fair at the Royalston Community School, more information to follow. Sponsored by the 250th Committee
Supplementary: ASAP.

That you install all current Windows updates on all of your devices, and correct critical security vulnerabilities. It is very important for computers using Windows operating systems Ver 7.x and Ver 8.X.


Be More Secure with the Both the Weather and your Windows Operating System:

Jon Hardie, Town of Royalston IT Sys Admin
Cell 978-790-8474
For Accurate Real-Time Royalston WX & Radar:

Be More Secure with the Both the Weather and your Windows Operating System:

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Regional Animal Control

The towns of Royalston and Orange have entered into an inter-municipal agreement with the town of Athol to create the North Quabbin Regional Animal Control Program. The Athol Animal Control Officer, Jennifer Arsenault of Royalston, will become the regional ACO.

As of now, residents needing animal control on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. should contact Arsenault at 978-249-2494 or atholanimalcontrol@yahoo.com. After hours you can leave non-emergency messages there as well; in true emergencies after hours – an injured animal or one on the attack – call Royalston police dispatch at 978-249-4211.

Working through the Athol Police Department, Arsenault will have the authority to issue citations, which she will record with the Royalston Town Clerk. She will also have the authority to take animals into custody and impound them in the regional animal shelter at 450 Thrower Rd., Athol.

Athol Animal Control has an active Friends group which raises considerable money each year, money that pays for the animals’ medical expenses, food, treats, toys, bedding, etc. We need a Royalston representative to the Friends; if you can volunteer, please contact Arsenault.

The towns were awarded a state Community Innovation Challenge grant of $100,000 to expand the current shelter at that location. The concrete floor for the 990-square-foot addition will be poured soon and the structure built this fall by Franklin County Technical School students. Even in the interim, however, Arsenault is confident she will be able to handle whatever situations arise.

In coming months the regional North Quabbin Animal Control Program Advisory Committee will meet to review and, if necessary, recommend alignment of the towns’ animal control bylaws, policies and procedures.

Royalston has entered into this agreement because regionalization of some services works very well, because it will save the town money, and because new state regulations will soon mandate that animal control officers be certified and that shelters meet much higher standards.

Police Department News

Mary C. Barclay
School’s open, so drive with extreme caution, especially in the early morning hours when students may be waiting for buses in poorly lighted areas, and in the vicinity of the Royalston Community School, where foot and motor vehicle traffic will be greatly increased. The Royalston PD will be highly visible in the area of the school as a reminder of the fact school is in session and that the speed limit drops to 20 mph from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday.
Cultural Council News

Deb Nunes

Thank you all for making this year’s MusicFest the best ever! Everything was perfect. (Well, almost everything - remember the Swamp?) It was a wonderful event and continues to be one of our best success stories.

Speaking of which, we will soon be meeting to plan our next season of Open Mic and talk about events for the upcoming 250th celebration. We will be hosting the Royalston Follies sometime in the spring and it is not too early to be thinking about what you would like to do.

Heads Up: October 15th is the deadline for those wishing to submit applications for program grants from the RCC. Please go to the Massachusetts Cultural Council website: www.massculturalcouncil.org/programs/lcgrants.asp

The RCC always welcomes your ideas. Please contact any council member: Patti Carrier, Gordon Morrison, Andrea Lively, Carla Rabinowitz, Becky Krause-Hardie, Lorraine Casinghino, Patience Bundschuh, Deb Nunes

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

Haz/mat collection day Sept. 20th at Orange Transfer Station, (1st right after Peter’s Tire Barn in Orange). You must pre-register by calling 413-772-2438 or online at www.franklincountysolidwastedistrict.org. This is the once-a-year collection for oil-based paints, pool chemicals, tainted gasoline etc. We have a budget of $500, so first come first served. Take advantage of this funded resource to safely recycle your unwanted hazardous waste. A full list of what is acceptable is on the website. Questions? Call Phil RBOH 617-584-9714.

Reminders: When dropping off a refrigerated appliance, please make sure the door is detached from the appliance prior to dropping it off. There is a fee for drop off. Please ask if not sure where to dump materials. We have been finding demo in the metal and metal in the demo. There are signs and there are attendants, so please choose one that will give you the proper information. Demo is not free. Prior to dumping check with Tony for fee assessment. Remember, if it’s in your hand, put it in the right can, please and thank you!

The compost area is closed until further notice while new plans for its use are being prepared and reviewed. Stay tuned for updates concerning this process.

Some folks still have not gotten their new stickers for the transfer station due July 1st. Please renew next time at the transfer station. See Tony for a new sticker. Also, town employees are not exempt from the stickers. This fee helps keep recycling free to all.

250th Celebration Committee

Local Foods Supper

September 6 at 6pm at town hall.

Email chasesgos2@gmail.com for firm reservation or buy a ticket in advance from Geoff Newton, Carla Rabinowitz, or Tommy Leray.

$12/ adult: includes supper, raffles, mycology slide show and community conviviality.

Expect homemade dishes from mainly local ingredients. The menu is evolving but soup to nuts is planned to include:

pickles, preserves and dilly beans
corn and bean as well as garden salads
Rose’s blueberry corn bread, Deb’s crusty herb bread, and Freudenberg’s zucchini nut bread
George’s borscht, Barbara’s butternut bisque and Moriah’s minestrone soup

main events: Allen’s veggie fritters, Beth’s wild mushroom risotto, Ted’s corn on the cob, Andrea’s Mexican tomato and kale casserole, Kristen’s Bechamel veggie lasagne,
Alyce’s garlicky lamb, Laurie’s venison stew, Phil’s pork with apples and sage, Mo’s leek quiche, Geoff and Diana’s zucchini pie, and Gina’s vegetarian curry
desserts: peach cobbler, Emma’s Grapenut custard, Marie’s apple tart, and Patti’s blackberry buckle
to drink: Sharon’s mulled grape cider and lemon balm water

Beer, wine and sodas will be on sale.

Also, there will be a raffle of local produce and garden bounty to benefit the 250th.

On top of that, there will be a silent auction of an elegant meal for six with seasonal ingredients to be served at the historic home of the Bullock family on the Common, The Lightning Rods... you know the meal will be exceptional because it will be prepared by renowned cook, Marie Humblet, on a mutually convenient date. Proceeds generate matching funds for the repairs to Old School House #1.

... but wait. There is more..., the supper will be followed by a 20-minute slide show and talk by mycologist and photographer, Noah Siegel. He is a nationally sought-after speaker with a contract to create a guide to northern California mushrooms, but his mycelium spreads right where we live, here in Royalston. Don’t be a stinkhorn; be there.
**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

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**Thank you**

To the **Royalston Academy** for funding our Summer Reading and Summer Preschool Programs

To the **Royalston Cultural Council** and many generous contributors for funding the Royalston Shakespeare Company Theater Workshop

To the **Community Partnership for Children, Frances Graziano, Director**, for funding the extended Monday hours for July and August and the Preschool Story Time for August

To **Nadia Marti** who helped with behind-the-scenes work for the Royalston Shakespeare Company

To all those who helped with the Shakespeare workshop and who led programs for the summer preschool and reading programs

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**Donations to the Friends**

Major. General R. C. Davenport

Pat Worth and Michael Young

Paul Montero

Gene and Marita Cauthen

Paul and Frances Dias

William Brosnan

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**Art Exhibit**

Tom Musco’s exhibit of Japanese woodcuts is still on display and provides a chronological look at the development of this unique and beautiful art form.

If anyone is interested in displaying his or her artwork at the library, please call or email to determine the possibility of an exhibit.

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**Author Charles Mann to Speak in October**

Charles Mann, acclaimed author of **1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus** and **1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created**, will be speaking as part of the Pat Poor Memorial Lecture series. This event will be held in the Patience Bundschuh’s ballroom at the Maples (next to the library) in October. Copies of his books will be available to borrow at the library. More details will be included in the next newsletter, on the website, or by calling the library.

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**THE NAVIGATORS: Pathfinders of the Pacific**

Coming to Royalston on Saturday, September 20th, is a presentation of the newly restored and remastered PBS film on Polynesian navigation. Originally broadcast in 1983, The Navigators has recently been making the festival rounds in Hawaii and on the East Coast. The filmmakers will be present to introduce the screening and to answer questions.

Over 1,000 years ago, the scattered islands of Polynesia were settled by an ancient seafaring people. Where did they come from? How did they navigate across the vast Pacific Ocean to settle one-third of Earth’s surface?

To find out, film director/cinematographer Boyd Estus (pictured) and anthropologist/producer/writer Sam Low (along with Associate Producer Sheila Bernard, Sound Recordist Eric Taylor and Camera Assistant Roger Haydock) visited the tiny coral atoll of Satawal in Micronesia’s remote Caroline Islands in 1982 to film navigator Mau Piailug as he guides his canoe by using subtle signs in the waves, winds and stars. In his lofty canoe house on shore he teaches the intricacies of this ancient sea science in a ceremony called “unfolding the mat” by arranging 32 lumps of coral to represent the points of his “star compass.”

In the 1940’s, ethnographer Thor Heyerdahl thought Polynesia was settled from South America by voyagers who drifted aboard primitive rafts like Kon Tiki, pushed along by prevailing winds and currents. But he was wrong. The Navigators follows archeologists working on the Tahitian island of Huahine, in Fiji and Hawaii as they prove that Polynesia’s settlers forced their way against the winds and currents from Southeast Asia aboard large seaworthy double-hulled canoes. In a dramatic demonstration, Mau Piailug guides a replica of such a vessel, Hokule’a, from Hawaii to Tahiti - 2500 miles across the ocean without benefit of sextant, compass, or any other Western navigational instrument.

The Navigators is the story of courageous seafarers who sailed across ten million square miles of empty ocean. On Satawal, we see how this ancient seafaring culture is being transformed from a vital art to proud and sometimes wistful memory. The film is also a record of a way of life that may not survive.

The screening will be in the Ballroom of The Maples (17 On the Common in Royalston), courtesy of Patience Bundschuh. Showtime is at 7 pm. More information about the making of this film can be found at: http://www.samlow.com/screeningroom/navigators-filming.html

Information about Sam Low’s new book Hawaiki Rising can be found at: http://www.samlow.com/HawaiikiRising.htm

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To **Nadia Marti** who helped with behind-the-scenes work for the Royalston Shakespeare Company

To all those who helped with the Shakespeare workshop and who led programs for the summer preschool and reading programs
All welcome at the **Library Book Discussion Group**, which meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Copies of the book are always available for check out at the library in the month prior.

On September 15, the group will discuss, *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert. This highly readable and informative collection of essays takes the long view of the Earth’s history and humanity’s place in the planetary timeline. This very recent book not only explains the ideas of 19th century scientists like Darwin, Wallace and Cuvier as they “discovered” extinction and rocked the cultural mind sets of their times but also details up-to-date research comparing ancient phenomena revealed in the geological record with similar events now. Kolbert dedicates chapters to ocean acidification, rapid climate change, globe-trotting invasive species, the fate of large mammals, Neanderthal vs. Homo sapien, “saving” species, the Future, and much more. While it is not a cheerful read, the author is funny and forthright throughout, making dense information easily digestible. Readers will definitely leave with some new “big-picture” ideas. Bring your own Prozac to go along with the tea and cookies provided. This is sure to be a lively discussion about the junction of ecology, anthropology, history, and geology. (Spoiler alert: Earth abides.)

### Some of the New Materials at Your Library

#### Adult fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atkins, Ace</td>
<td><em>The Forsaken</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>August, Noelle</td>
<td><em>Boomerang</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bausch, Richard</td>
<td><em>Before, During , After</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloom, Amy</td>
<td><em>Lucky Us</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cain, Chelsea</td>
<td><em>One Kick</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cao, Lan</td>
<td><em>The Lotus and the Storm</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter, Stephen</td>
<td><em>Back Channel</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dailey, Janet</td>
<td><em>Texas True</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis, Lindsey</td>
<td><em>Enemies at Home</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewan, Chris</td>
<td><em>Dead Line</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Garwood, Julie</td>
<td><em>Fast Track</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Genova, Lisa</td>
<td><em>Still Alice</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon, Mary</td>
<td><em>The Liar’s Wife</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelman, James</td>
<td><em>If it is your Life</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kunstler, James</td>
<td><em>History of the Future</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Macomber, Debbie</td>
<td><em>Love Letters</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moriarty, Liane</td>
<td><em>Big Little Lies</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Murakami, Haruki</td>
<td><em>Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevill, Adam</td>
<td><em>The House of Small Shadows</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preston, Douglas</td>
<td><em>The Lost Island</em></td>
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<td>Strout, Elizabeth</td>
<td><em>Olive Kitteridge</em></td>
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<td>Weston, Gabriel</td>
<td><em>Dirty Work</em></td>
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#### Young Adult

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shusterman, Neal</td>
<td><em>Everlost</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weitz, Chris</td>
<td><em>The Young World</em></td>
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#### Children’s fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey, Mini</td>
<td><em>Hermelin the Detective Mouse</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter, Sara</td>
<td><em>Every Turtle Counts</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Light, Steve</td>
<td><em>Planes Go</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish, Herman</td>
<td><em>Amelia Bedelia Means Business</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakkala, Christine</td>
<td><em>Going Green</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Riordan, Rick</td>
<td><em>Percy Jackson’s Greek Gods</em></td>
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#### Children’s Non-Fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George, Bobby</td>
<td><em>Montessori Map Work</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayes, Geoffrey</td>
<td><em>Benny and Penny in Lost and Found</em></td>
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#### DVDs:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>The Blacklist</em></td>
<td>Season 1, Divergent, Halloween Spooktacular, Molly: An American Girl, Noah, and The Other Woman*</td>
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#### Audio Books:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lee, Patrick</td>
<td><em>Runner</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roth, Veronica</td>
<td><em>Four</em></td>
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#### CDs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.amazon.com/artist/eric-clapton">Eric Clapton</a></td>
<td><em>The Breeze</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recipe of the month:

**Tiffany Lusco’s End-of-Summer Squash Saute**

A wonderful end-of-summer vegetable dish was featured at last May’s Mother’s Day supper. It was brought in by Tiffany Lusco, who cooked it in homage to her mother Carla Hartwell, who is in turn Marlene Jarvenpaa’s daughter. All are long-time residents of South Royalston. Tiffany will be a senior this year at Athol High School. She is a very good artist, (Her grandmother can attest to this!) and she is thinking of nursing as a career.

Enjoy this great way to use zucchini and summer squash:

Saute in a high sided pot using olive oil -
1 medium onion, sliced
4 small zucchiniis and 2 small summer squash, cut in circles
1 medium cabbage, chopped
Stir frequently. Add more olive oil if necessary to keep from sticking. Add spices: fresh chopped basil, oregano, garlic (salt, powder or fresh)
When squash is beginning to soften, add 4 chopped tomatoes or 2 small cans of diced tomatoes. Cook until heated through and enjoy.

Sure the SoRo Store and Pete and Henry’s will always welcome you warmly and satisfy your stomach with the classics, but if you want to venture over the border...

Crossing the line

**Take your dog out to lunch:** Looking for a really lovely outing and to tire out your frisky dog? Do you like to ride a bike? If yes, park your car at the rail trail on Rt 119 in Fitzwilliam, hop on your bike, call Fido and start pedaling north. (The trail head is just west of the Royalston Rd. junction.) Over the next 6 or so flatish miles you will pass pretty ponds mirroring Mt. Monadnock, ferny gullies, wooded causeways, and muddy railroad cuts. There are 3 sleepy road crossings which might have some odd traffic, so cross with care here, but the rest of the time, the dog can just romp along next to you on an 8 foot wide dirt track without fear of cars. When you arrive at the historic train station in Troy, restrain the beast and proceed with calm dignity to the cafe at the top of the hill. Order a sandwich and enjoy it at the picnic table in the cafe garden with your pooch. (On the pretty ride back to your car, you may notice that the trail looked flat but was slightly downhill on the way to Troy.) ed note: Years ago, my kids used to ride this trail all the way to the mini-golf in Swanzey, where as dutiful parents, we would pick them up with the car.

September 19 is the next Lions’ Club fundraising breakfast, from 7:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. at the Phillipston Center Church. Breakfasts to order are available with eggs, sausage, home fries, toast/French toast and beverage; $8 for adults nd $6 for seniors.

Try the Hometown Café at 314 Central St., in Winchendon. Owned by former “24-year veteran USN stew burner” (Navy-speak for cook!) Jessie Algarin and baker Rebecca Connor, this little place turns out a lot of well-prepared food, with impressive speed. There’s always an array of “café goodies” like brownies (in flavors such as peanut butter cup, Oreo and peppermint), Rice Krispie squares, muffins, cookies and coffee cakes. An image of the “specials board” is posted on their Facebook page, complete with the family-friendly prices. Check out the increasing number on the sign over the door; it’s the pounds of corned beef served to date! Since the opening in March, 600 lbs have been served. Hours are 5:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. except for Wednesdays (closed) and Sundays, from 6 a.m. – noon; breakfast available all day and lunches generally start being served around 11 a.m..

**LBS Memorial Concert**

The eleventh annual Ladies Benevolent Society’s Memorial Concert will be held on Sunday, September 21st at 4:00 pm in the ballroom at the Maples. The concert will last about an hour, followed by world famous refreshments by the Ladies.

This year’s concert features guest musicians Cameron Twarog and Sandy van de Kauter, both of Keene, performing a Mozart Piano Trio with Deb Nunes. Carl Kamp, classical guitarist, and Deb will be playing a quintet by Luigi Boccherini, along with a Fandango by the same composer. Some Debussy, a Bach Aria played on an unusual instrument, and perhaps a selection featuring the Maples Virtual Orchestra round out the program.

The concert will be preceded by a short business meeting of the Ladies, starting at 3:30. This concert is free and open to the public. A goodwill offering basket will be available for contributions to support the programs and scholarships of the LBS. For more information please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

One World * One Voice * One Day

PLAYING FOR CHANGE DAY unites a global community through the power of music to affect positive social change, and Royalston songwriter Diane (Linq) Lincoln is coordinating a Sing-Along at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem to help raise funds for the Playing For Change Foundation. There will be a sliding scale donation at the door. She welcomes your voices and hopes that you’ll join this global event for social change through music. Lyrics will be provided. If you can’t attend the event but would like to contribute, the direct link for donations is here: http://playingforchangeday.org/show/music-at-the-meetinghouse

**Melanie and The Blue Shots**

**Fall Tour**

Gardner Ale House Octoberfest

9/27/2014
**Butterworth Road Community Cited**

At last June’s Gay Pride Month program at Bruce’s Browser in Athol, State Representative Denise Andrews of Orange presented a legislative citation on behalf of the Massachusetts House of Representatives to the Royalston community known as Butterworth Farm “for more than 40 years of activism, leadership, courage, and love to advance respect, care, and understanding among all members of our community.” The citation was signed by Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo and offered by Andrews and State Senator Stan Rosenberg. Several current and former residents of Butterworth Farm were present, as was Bruce’s Browser owner Diane Lincoln, longtime friend of the community and composer (as “Linq”) of several songs inspired by the Butterworth community.


**Military News**

Sergeant Kevin Nunes, son of Deb and Joe Nunes, recently separated from the US Army after 10 years of active duty, including deployments to Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan. He has joined the New York State National Guard, and is starting college at State University of New York at Brockport.

**Family ties:**

Pictured: Marilla Stone’s 95th birthday; taken with Alice (Stone) Smith in town. (I’m guessing on Stone Rd.?) Marilla Stone resided in Royalston from about 1850 until her death in 1928. This photo was submitted to the library as a token of appreciation for its help with genealogy research about the Lyman Stone family. The great-great-granddaughter is seeking more information. If you know about the family, please contact the library.

Similarly, the Chase family recently visited. Members arrived from all over the country for a tour of the town and the historical society museum in order to explore its roots. Chauncey Chase was the carpenter who built town hall. Elizabeth Chase was one of its first librarians. (In fact, Elizabeth Chase would have probably known Marilla Stone and may have been at this party!)

**Department of Happy Campers:**

Marnie Anair was the 2014 recipient of the Johnstone Award at Camp Wiyaka.

Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasagos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.
Royalston Pipeline Action Group

Maureen Blasco

Everyone is invited to a working meeting in the home of Pat Worth (6 Gulf Rd) on Monday, September 15 from 7 - 9 p.m. We will be e-mailing and letter writing our legislators. Information, supplies and help will be available at the meeting. Even if you have already written a letter, it is time for more. Come, do some work, and plan for future projects, including a town warrant article. Call Maureen for more information 978-249-5138.

Royalston Fish and Game Club

2nd Annual Fall Frenzy~
Saturday, September 13 at 9:00am
Royalston Fish & Game Club in South Royalston, Massachusetts. Visit the club’s facebook page for more information: https://www.facebook.com/RoyalstonFishGameClub

Monarch Butterflies

Before I knew about kings, they taught me the word, “Monarch”. In 3rd grade, in a glass jar, striped caterpillars became jade, doted with gold, and taught me the word, “Chrysalid”.

They taught me to wait until, just as things began to look hopeless, out comes a crumpled butterfly. “Metamorphosis”.

Raised on the bitterest milk their mother could find, they had wings that shouted “Go ahead!” “Eat me!” and taught me about advertising.

In the fall, they filled the air, “flutter” manifest. But they “fluttered” like rockets - 90 miles every day to reach Michoacan, lay eggs and die.

It took five generations to make the trip back. Each generation headed north for one month and handed over, in its genes the map to a route it had never traveled.

Last fall, they didn’t arrive and I learned that “Absence makes the heart grow fonder” As if that were even possible.

Sherry Frazier

Poets! Watch for information next month on how to become the town poet laureate in its 250th year. If selected, you will be featured at the anniversary ball in February and the celebralooza next September.

Sam’s Canine Companions L.L.C.

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Fall Frenzy

Sherry Frazier
ARRSD School Committee News

Mary C. Barclay, a Royalston member

Welcome to new RCS Principal, Molly Superchi, who was enthusiastically put forward by the search committee and introduced at the last ARRSSD School Committee meeting, held in August at the RCS. She was warmly welcomed, and the hope expressed she “…will enjoy a long and stable career as Royalston Community School’s leader!”

Over the next year, the Athol-Royalston Regional School District is beginning a series of strategic planning meetings to set the direction of education for the next five years. In addition to reviewing things like the District Mission Statement, District Vision Statement and District Core Values, subcommittees are looking at District goals for student achievement, climate and culture, leadership and human resources, operations – at the technology and facilities levels, finance and funding, and community involvement. Community volunteers will be needed for the subcommittees. If Royalston is to have its interests well-represented, it will be through a dozen or so community volunteers willing to sit on these committees. If one of the above listed subcommittee interests you, please contact ARRSSD's Royalston School Committee Chairman, Nancy D. Melbourne of Royalston.

Open houses in the ARRSSD schools:
Thurs. Sept. 11 6-7:30 p.m. Athol High School
Weds. Sept. 17 6-7 p.m. Athol-Royalston Middle School (at 6:30 p.m. Athol- Royalston RSD Committee meeting runs concurrently at ARMS.)
Thurs. Sept 25 6-7 p.m. Royalston Community School

Monty Tech News

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

Shannon White-Cleveland, Royalston-raised/ARRSSD-schooled, recently accepted the position of Dean of Students at Monty Tech! She taught in ARRSSD from 1998-2003, and in 2003 accepted a position as an Early Childhood Education Teacher at Monty Tech. She quickly rose to the top, and with her enthusiasm and creativity, took the excellent program to an entirely new level. Monty Tech is indeed fortunate to enjoy Shannon – and so many other former Royalston students – as staff and faculty.

Monty Tech also enthusiastically welcomes Principal Thomas Browne, who has been with Leominster High School – first as a history teacher, then as department head, and most recently, assistant principal – for 21 years. He was loved and respected in Leominster, but he couldn’t turn down the chance to work at Monty Tech! Leominster spokesmen agreed this was an amazing opportunity for both Browne and Monty Tech. Principal Browne comes with a great deal of experience in collaborative efforts; he is seen as highly likely to create meaningful collaborations between Monty Tech and the 18 sending communities, as well as Mount Wachusett Community College and Fitchburg State University.

Monty Tech saw its best attendance year ever last school year – with a low of 94.9% (December – influenza being the likely cause) and overall average of 95.8%. The Commonwealth’s average is 94.8%!

Village School News

Rise Richardson, director

A few preschool openings this fall at the Village School. Young children enjoy art, music, story, immersion in nature, play and more. Play is work and work is play for preschoolers, and they are learning all the time. Call 249-3505 for more information.

What’s happening at the Village School?

Preschool and K-1 Orientation are on Tuesday Sept. 2nd and all classes start on Wednesday September 3rd. The children are coming back to explore the garden and find and harvest fresh vegetables.

It’s field trip time! We are taking advantage of the weather. Classes are visiting local gardens, visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham, going to Red Apple Farm, and hiking to Lawrence Brook. With this great weather, science classes are taking place outside, investigating the local flora and fauna.

This year, the 2nd-3rd is studying Colonial America and the 4th-6th is studying the Middle Ages. Both classes will immerse themselves in stories, history, art, music and craft related to their themes. There will be some great museum visits too.

Wednesday Sept. 24th Curriculum Night If you are interested in your child attending the Village School, you are invited to attend curriculum presentations in each classroom. You will get a great taste of the Village School educational experience. Here are the times: 5:45: K-1st grade 6:30: 2nd-3rd grade 7:15: 4th-6th grade

For up to date Village School information, go to www.villageeschoolma.org

After School Program for Royalston children

If you are looking for after school care, the Village School has a great After School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS school bus and get dropped off at the Village School on the common. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting!) run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair. To sign up or for info, call the school at 249-3505.
By the beginning of August, the garden had morphed into a jungle. (How could it not, given the ten plus inches of rain that fell in July?) Thankfully, weeds (partly a result of the mulch and partly a result of the shade provided by the growing plants but mostly a result of my due diligence) represented a minor portion of that jungle. Aisles no long existed between the squashes, cucumbers, and tomatoes. I created them as I harvested. The potatoes, too, grew extravagantly: the nice discreet beds of June evolving into one giant bed. Since then, the jungle has been compromised to some degree. For the second time in four years late blight has struck the tomatoes. (Prior to then, I had never seen late blight), and many (but not all) are in varying states of decline. There are tomatoes aplenty on the plants and I am hoping they might ripen a bit before succumbing to the disease. If not, we’ll have a closet-ful of green tomatoes.

On a (far) brighter note, most of the potatoes have been dug (the bare ground quickly planted to buckwheat, the seed almost as quickly scratched up by a flock of turkeys) and yields, unlike recent years, have been more-than-generous. Forthwith, I describe how I deal with that more-than-generous supply of potatoes. I have been digging potatoes, some most every day, since July 21. Eight different varieties with eight different maturity dates assures an extended harvest period. I’ll still be digging in September. The potatoes, too, are moved to more ideal storage conditions. In our case, it is the coldest-wettest corner of the basement where they are covered by blankets. Before that journey, however, the potatoes are culled one more time. In addition I select and isolate my seed potato for next year; the ideal size for me is 1.6 ounces.

The porcupines continue to raise havoc with the garden as well as my sense of well-being. Row covers remain in place, though any semi-resourceful porcupine can find its way underneath. I recently uncovered a bed of cauliflower and broccoli to discover that every plant had been topped. Electrified mesh surrounds the corn and some of the brassicas and beans. Mesh designed for trees lay here and there to discourage entry. We are obliged to cover all the melons and winter squash with milk crates. The garden is taking on the appearance of a plastic recycling center.

Perhaps, as I write, some mad scientist out there is formulating a strain of late blight, harmless to tomatoes but lethal to porcupines. In my dreams...

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

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 suzannagraits@gmail.com

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

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

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.


Wanted: Chest Freezer. It need not be pretty; it does need to freeze food. Will trade produce, beef, and even money. Call Larry at 978-249-4260.

Free: Mid-sized wood stove - Dutchwest Consolidated with catalytic converter. Needs a $200 piece. You can have it if you move it. somewhwhat heavy. Call Mauren 978-249-5138

For sale:


Companion horse. Old chestnut mare, gentle and friendly. Free to a good home. Call Maureen 978-249-5138


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.


Hay – Located in Royalston - all under cover, never wet 2012 (116 bales) @ $3.50/bale 2013 (140 bales) @ $4.25/bale 2014 (141 bales) @ $5.50/bale. Call Ann Vining Bedaw @ 603-357-3000. These are all square bales

Dean’s Beans Coffee- delivered, fresh, once a month to the Village School, whole beans or ground. Find the order form at www.villageschoolma.org and order online- it’s easy! You’ll pick up the coffee in the Village School hallway.
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Wildlife Sightings: A black bear has been spotted numerous times in the vicinity of the Royalston Common. School bus driver Jim Putney saw it at the intersection of Northeast Fitzwilliam and Frye Hill.

Swarms of Green Darner dragonflies migrated through Royalston yards in the buttery light of late afternoons in late August. Amazingly, according to the Audubon Society, “no one knows where the darners spend their winters or how they repopulate the Northeast each spring”, yet migration has been documented and commented upon for the past 150 years.

A recent New York Times post singles out dragonflies as “the most brutally effective hunters in the animal kingdom... managing to snatch their targets in midair more than 95 percent of the time, often wolishly consuming the fresh meat on the spur without bothering to alight.” It continues, “Dragonflies are magnificent aerialists, able to hover, dive, fly backward and upside down, pivot 360 degrees with three tiny wing beats, and reach speeds of 30 miles per hour, lightning for an arthropod. ... In the dragonfly, the four transparent, ultraflexible wings are attached to the thorax by separate muscles and can each be maneuvered independently. A dragonfly can be missing an entire wing and still capture prey”. According to the article, dragonflies eyes are the “largest and possibly the keenest in the insect world. ... They can see you when they’re flying toward you and still see you when they’re flying away.... Perhaps not surprisingly, much dragonfly research both here and abroad is supported by the United States military, which sees the insect as the archetypal precision drone.” All this, precision and mystery is swirling through our own backyards.

sources;
http://blog.audubonguides.com/2012/03/30/ode-to-migration/

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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