Calendar of Events

November 1 Sunday
2 am  Daylight Savings Time ends. Clocks fall back one hour.

November 2 Monday
6 pm  Zumba returns at the town hall. Free but donations welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Please change into sneakers at town hall so as not to track sand.

November 3 Tuesday
7:30 pm  Hearing in Select Board’s office at Town Hall to get public input on projects Royalston residents would like to see enacted and prioritized in the near future.

November 6 Friday
5 pm  Village School Lantern Walk

November 7 Saturday
8 am - 2 pm  Fire and EMS Basket Raffle tix available at transfer station.

10 am - 2 pm  Instructional “Winsert Making Workshop” at the Royalston Town Hall. Winserts are clear interior window panels that typically double the R value of old drafty windows. Attendees will help produce and install winsert at the Town Hall. Participants will learn how to make winserts for their own windows. Winsert making materials will be available at cost for folks who want to take some home and make their own.

November 9 Monday
3:30 pm  Friends of the Library meeting. Plan winter events and ways to support the library. All welcome.

7 pm  Telescope training and sky gawking session at the library with a member of the Aldrich Astronomical Society to show how to use the library’s Orion Night Blaster Telescope, modified for easy use and available to check out. Bring binoculars if easy.

November 11 Wednesday  Veteran’s Day
12:47 pm  New Beaver Moon

November 13 Friday
7 pm  Fire and EMS Turkey Raffle at uptown fire station.

November 14 Saturday

November 16 Monday
4:30 pm  Library Book Discussion Group meets to chat about The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters. Copies available to be checked out at the library.

November 17 Tuesday
after 9 pm  Leonids Meteor Shower. Look to southern skies. Expect a shooting star every six seconds or so.

November 18 Wednesday
12 noon  The Royalston Council on Aging Thanksgiving meal at the Town Hall. All ages welcome. To reserve a meal, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 before 11 AM on Tuesday. A suggested voluntary confidential donation is $2.50 for seniors and $3.00 for others.

6 - 7 pm  The town choir resurrected for the holidays practices at town hall. It will continue to practice Weds 6 - 7 on some Wednesdays before events. All ages. Interested? Call 978-249-0358 or just show up.

November 19 Thursday
6 pm  Last meeting of the 250th committee at Town Hall.

November 21 Saturday
9 am to sell out  Drive by pie, on the Village School lawn on the way to the transfer station. Homemade apple, pumpkin ($10) as well as blueberry and mince pies ($14) and pecan pie ($18). Pre-orders by calling Maureen is the best way to get the pie you want and the pie you need; 978-249-5138. Proceeds benefit LBS scholarship fund.

10 am - noon  Village School Open House Meet teachers, parents, alumni, and get your questions answered! Openings in preschool for this year. Bring kids for art and science activities. Refreshments

November 25 Wednesday
half day  local schools dismissed early
5:44 pm  Full Beaver Moon

November 26 Thursday  Thanksgiving
December 2 Wednesday  6 pm  Town tree lighting.
Select Board Notes:

Linda Alger

The Board would like to invite everyone to a public hearing to be held during the Select Board meeting on November 3rd at 7:30pm. Historically, we do not get great attendance at public hearings, but this hearing really is to receive your input regarding what projects in Town you would like us to pursue. Many projects can be fully or partially funded through grants. We have several shovel ready projects but we want to hear from you. All input will be appreciated.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant is substantially complete although there remains a couple of items that need attention. We are hopeful that we will have some sort of ribbon cutting ceremony in the near future.

The south village wireless pilot project is operational and additional residents have signed up for installation. It continues to be our hope that we can further build onto this system. The good news is the financial forecast as a user based system will not cost the town through taxation.

An appreciation potluck dinner was held for Geoffrey Newton on October 17th for his spearheading the 250th celebration. The Board would like to thank all those who contributed to the event, a special thank you to the Fish and Game Club who donated the use of the hall.

We are gearing up for budget time which generally starts at the first of the year. Department heads please start thinking about what your needs might be for the next fiscal year.

Fire Department

Keith R. Newton - RFD

As the heating season approaches residents should prepare a check list of items to help reduce accidental mishaps. The methods we choose to heat our homes should be carefully thought over and reviewed before cold winter weather sets in.

Careful inspection of wood burning equipment such as fire places, wood and pellet stoves should be completed now before the cold weather prevents us from doing a thorough review. Don’t forget your chimney inspections and cleaning. You may have to repeat these inspections through the winter if your wood is green or wet. Temperature fluctuations can lead to creosote buildup in your chimney. Residents can reduce problems significantly by burning seasoned wood and cleaning chimneys and pipes on a regular basis.

Electrical systems (base board and space heaters) are also a concern if units are not cleaned and inspected for damage or used too close with furniture or other household items.

LPG heating is also subject to review for annual inspection and service by gas company technicians. Please keep your vents clear of snow and vegetation.

Check homes for extension cord use and overloading of electrical circuits. An electrician should be sought to help in providing a safe wiring system in your home. Be careful not to run cords room to room or under rugs.

If you have any questions please stop by the FireStation, (4 Athol Road) on our Monday night meetings and ask for assistance. Remember, Burn Clean and Be Safe.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

Cooler weather is upon us, which means mosquitoes are less of a threat for the season. Ticks will remain a threat into the cooler weather, so dress accordingly and check yourselves after being out in the fields and woods. Same goes for your pets.

Still plenty of time for your flu shot. Contact your local health care provider (formerly known as your doctor) or check the local pharmanies for times to get this important vaccine.

The transfer station will be transitioning into winter operations so when using the facility please be aware of icy spots and act accordingly. Be especially careful around the roll off containers as there could be spaces between them. Keep an eye on your children when using the facility. Cars backing up can’t always see the wee ones.

Annual windshield stickers are available. Please see attendant so you can be all you can be in the army of recyclers.

Which brings us to our Municipal Recycling Incentive Program points award for the year. The town has received another $2300 to be used in our efforts to construct and operate the compost area. Last year we purchased blue recycling containers for bottle and cans. These were used with great success during the 250th celebration and will be available for future events.

And finally, Royalston participated in the annual hazardous waste collection held at the Orange Recycling Center. Chettie Hall was our rep there, working the lines.

Department of Public Works

Keith R. Newton

Winter will be with us soon enough and we in Royalston seem to get our share of snow and cold weather. Having done this before, we should have a good idea what it takes to survive until Larry Siegel’s Spring Garden Report.

All mailboxes should be back from the street edge and secured for heavy snow coming off the plow. Parking is a problem at times and we ask that all vehicles be set back and not parked in any “Public Way”. Don’t plow, push or throw snow or ice into the public way as well. These above mentioned items will carry a violation that may result in fines charged to the owner. Please cooperate!! Thank you to those who help make it a safe and enjoyable winter season.

Cultural Council News

The Annual Tree Lighting will take place on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm. As always there will be carols, Santa, cocoa and cookies, and singing with students from the Royalston Community School. See you there!

Our world famous Open Mic series will commence on Friday, December 4th at 7:00 pm. As always delicious food will be available. Dates for the rest of the series are January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, and April 1st.
Is it Soup Yet? An update on our own High Speed Wireless Internet Pilot Project in the South Village

John Hardie

1. Check out the new (almost complete except for testing, tweaking and upgrades) high speed wireless network in the South Village at the Country Store. The test speed is 20Mbps down and 5Mbps up. Bring in your smart phone, iPad Tablet or laptop. It’s free. Reminder, the South Village wireless network pilot is just our first step, of our town-wide wireless network - next year.

2. Please be sure to get your homeowner tech access form (included in your tax bill) filled in and returned ASAP in order to get in on the final engineering plan NOW as it’s time for the final grant application.

Note: This homeowner form is NOT a contract for internet services. However, getting the signed form back ASAP, confirms to us, and our funders, your strong desire to be included in the Royalston Broadband Network project, and your strong desire to request service when available, next year. If you want to make sure you can connect, and we can engineer, design & build the network to serve your location, then, WE REALLY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU NOW, ASAP.

Be assured, as we build out the network, we will only come to your home with you, and ONLY with your prior explicit approval & arrangement.

3. The South Village Pilot Network, whose purpose is to get people connected and learn what works and what doesn’t, has signed up and connected about 50 South Village residents. It is in the test, upgrade equipment, and network tweaking phase. The committee is focusing on your “Customer User Experience”. What we learn from the pilot will shape the engineering, design, and customer experience of the final grant application and the town wide build-out next year.

A huge thank you to the first folks. They are helping the committee to get it right, putting up with short term outages, initial lower speeds, new radios, and other weird stuff. The initial 30 day free test period is wrapping-up soon. We will be e-mailing sign up forms and packages to choose from. Residents can pay the town directly online by credit card or electronic check or drop off a check to the Royalston MLP Broadband Utility at the tax office in Whitney Hall. This is our wireless network. We own it.

We are determined to listen, to hear from you - all of it: good, not so good. We refuse to act like Verizon, “take it or leave it” … The buck stops here. Call me, Jon Hardie on my cell 978-790-8474 or email me at Jon.Hardie@royalston-ma.gov It’s your network.

Save Energy, Save Money, Save the Planet
Winset making workshop at Town Hall
Donna Caisse, Royalston Energy Committee

On Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 10:00 - 2:00pm, there will be an instructional “Winset Making Workshop” at the Royalston Town Hall. Winsets are clear interior window panels that typically double the R value of old drafty windows. Mr. Buddy Dyer of Royalston, in collaboration with North Quabbin Energy, will construct the frames off site, and volunteers will apply the film and foam and install them at the Town Hall. This is for the benefit of our Town residents - by not only saving money and energy in a Town building, folks will also learn how to make winsets for their own windows. Winsets have already made a substantial difference in many public buildings in other towns in our area. They will also improve the comfort of every home, even those with double-pane windows. We have plenty of old windows in our town buildings. Winset making materials will be available at cost for folks who want to take some home and make their own.

We are looking for as many volunteers from Royalston as possible to help complete the Town Hall windows during and after the initial winset workshop. While you are out on your Saturday transfer station trip, stop by and help us wrap some winsets. Members of North Quabbin Energy will be on hand to lead the workshop.

This is being funded in part by a grant from the 2015 Garlic and Arts Festival Community Grants Program. In past years, the towns of Athol, Orange, Barre, Petersham and Warwick have also been recipients of other weatherization grants, such as that from National Grid. If you can’t make it on the 7th, there will be another winset instructional workshop on Saturday 14, 2015 1:00-4:00 at the Orange Armory. Full winset making instructions are available at North Quabbin Energy’s web site: http://northquabbinenergy.org/wordpress/?page_id=13 Please call 978-249-4497 to register for the Royalston workshop.

Luncheon Club News: Thanksgiving Dinner
The Royalston Council on Aging is inviting all those who are interested to join the Wednesday Luncheon Club for a Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 18th at the Town Hall at noon.

The meal includes turkey with herb gravy, stuffing, mashed potato, green bean casserole, a whole wheat dinner roll and cranberry sauce. Dessert will be pumpkin pudding.

To reserve a meal, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 before 11 am on Tuesday. A suggested voluntary confidential donation is $2.50 for seniors and $3.00 for others.

Royalston Agricultural Commission
Kate Collins
Hey Royalston farmers, the Ag Commission is putting together a brochure for the Town of Royalston listing our farms and their products. We think this will be of great value to the townspeople and all of us farmers. PLEASE, email us your farm name, location, contact info and the products you have available. We look forward to hearing from you! Email either Kate Collins, katecollins64@gmail.com or Brenda Putney, brenput@yahoo.com
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Clarence Rabideau
Mondays: 10:00 am - 8:30 pm, Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572  www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends
Cathy Offutt and Teddy Laakkonen
Lian Cutting
Royce and Jennifer Johnson
Thank You to: John Jeffery for the cheerful pumpkins which magically appeared on the library steps.

Astronomy Program at the Library
On Monday at 7:00 p.m. on November 9, Jim Zebrowsi, a member of the Aldrich Astronomical Society, will be on hand to show people how to use the library’s telescope, an Orion Night Blaster Telescope that has been modified for easy use. He will also point out interesting objects in the night sky. Bring your own telescope or binoculars to learn how to search the sky. After the program (or any day the library is open), the library telescope is available to be checked out by anyone with a library card in good standing.

Upcoming Craft Program
String together some creative gifts and Tie up some holiday loose ends
Holiday Ornament and Wreath-making Workshop with Johanna Telepciak will be held on Sunday, November 22nd at 2 pm. Bring a $5 materials fee for everything you need to proudly go home with a handmade ornament and a string wreath.

Library Book Discussion 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 of cookies. The month’s selection is available to be checked out. The next book chat is November 16 when the group probes The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters.

Yoga is Back and Zumba starts on Monday, Nov pending approval for town hall use
Beginning October 6, yoga will be held on Tuesday mornings through December. It will break for the cold months and return March - May.
Zumba with Christine Rouleau will run on Mondays from 6 - 7 pm starting on November 2nd and continuing until April.

MassCat Log in Reminder
If you want to log in to your MassCat account or download ebooks, all log in names are now your library card number. So if you haven’t been able to get into your account using your regular login that is the reason. Can’t find your card and don’t remember your card number, give us a call at the library or email us and we will let you know your 14 digit number. The resources available through the Commonwealth eBook Collection are extensive and diverse; check them out!

Art Exhibit:
The diverse collection of paintings, drawings, and prints in a variety of media created by Molly Divoll are on exhibit through the month of November. All are invited to view the work of this talented young woman.

Relive the 250th Hoopla and Check out Some History
A DVD of the Royalston 250th Anniversary Friday evening pageant, “In their Own Words” is at the library and available to be checked out or for purchase for $15. A DVD of the parade will also be at the library by mid November. Thank you to Michael Young for his efforts filming these events and preserving town history.

Also, the Historical Society keepsake photobook is available for per-order at the library for $50. This is a great gift, and the profits go towards restoring Old School house #1.
**Some of the New Materials at Your Library**

### Adult fiction
- Acampora, Lauren: *Wonder Garden*
- Atwood, Margaret: *The Heart Goes Last*
- Beaton, M.C.: *Dishing the Dirt*
- Brooks, Geraldine: *The Secret Chord*
- Butcher, Jim: *The Aeronaut’s Windlass*
- Campbell, Bonnie: *Mothers, Tell Your Daughters*
- Cook, Robin: *Host*
- DeWitt, Patrick: *Undermajordomo Minor*
- Dodd, Christina: *Obsession Falls*
- Dobyns, Stephen: *Is Fat Bob Dead Yet?*
- Evanovich, Janet: *The Scam*
- Flynn, Vince: *The Survivor*
- Gaiman, Neil: *Rogue Lawyer*
- Harkup, Kathryn: *A is for Arsenic*
- Katzenbach, John: *The Dead Student*
- Koryta, Michael: *Last Words*
- Martin, George R.R.: *A Knight in the Seven Kingdoms*
- Mayle, Peter: *The Company She Kept*
- Moyes, Jojo: *After You*
- Oe, Kenzaburo: *Death by Water*
- Ostlund, Lori: *After the Parade*
- Patterson, James: *The Murder House*
- Sandford, John: *Saturn Run*
- Smiley, Jane: *Golden Age*
- Sparks, Nicholas: *See Me*
- Stewart, Amy: *Girl Waits with Gun*
- Tolz, Steve: *Quicksand*
- Wingate, Lisa: *The Sea Keeper’s Daughters*
- Woods, Stuart: *Foreign Affairs*

### Adult nonfiction
- Bowen, James: *The 50 Greatest Players in New England Patriots Football History*
- Gilbert, Elizabeth: *Big Magic*
- Kondo, Marie: *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*
- Ottolenghi, Yotam: *Ottolenghi: The Cookbook*
- Ottolenghi, Yotam: *Plenty More: Vibrant Vegetable Cooking*
- Reichl, Ruth: *My Kitchen Year*
- Russkoff, Dale: *A Gift from Bob*
- Smith, Patti: *The Prize*
- Theroux, Paul: *M Train*

### Audiobooks
- Gilbert, Elizabeth: *Big Magic*

### CDs:
- Love, Darlene: *Introducing Darlene Love*

### Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction
- Gaiman, Neil: *The Sleeper and the Spindle*
- Melchior-Durand, S.: *The Golden Compass (graphic novel)*
- Nix, Garth: *Newt’s Emerald*
- Oppel, Kenneth: *The Nest*
- Paulsen, Gary: *This Side of Wild*
- Riordan, Rick: *The Sword of Summer*

### Children’s Fiction
- Austin, Mike: *Fire Engine no. 9*
- Bang, Molly: *When Sophie’s Feeling are Really, Really Hurt*
- Boynton, Sandra: *Spooky Pookie*
- Byrne, Richard: *This Book just ate my Dog!*
- Carle, Eric: *The Nonsense Show*
- Chernesky, Felicia: *From Apple Trees to Cider, Please!*
- Colfer, Eoin: *Imaginary Fred*
- Cronin, Doreen: *Click, Clack, Ho Ho Ho!*
- Detlefsen, Lis: *Time for Cranberries*
- Jenkins, Emily: *Toys Meet Snow*
- Manzano, Sonia: *Miracle on 133rd Street*
- McDonnell, Patrick: *Thank You and Good Night*
- Meadows, Daisy: *Angelica the Angel Fairy*
- Meadows, Daisy: *Carly the School Fairy*
- Muncaster, Harriet: *Happy Halloween, Witch’s Cat!*
- Newman, Leslea: *Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed*
- Osborne, Mary Pope: *Shadow of the Shark*
- Otoshi, Kathryn: *Beautiful Hands*
- Pastis, Stephen: *Timmy Failure: Sanitized for your Protection*
- Polacco, Patricia: *A is for Miss Keller*
- Robertson, Robbie: *Hiawatha and the Peacemaker*
- Rosenthal, Amy: *Friendshape*
- Rowling, J. K.: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone (illustrated)*
- Simon, Richard: *Oskar and the Eight Blessings*
- Stead, Philip: *Lenny & Lucy*
- Willems, Mo: *The Story of Diva and Flea*
- Zagarensji, Pamela: *The Whisper*

### Children’s Non-Fiction
- Barton, Chris: *The Nutcracker Comes to America*
- Buchanan, Shelly: *Animal Senses*
- Buuchanan, Shelly: *Plant Reproduction*
- Coy, John: *Game Changer*
- Jenkins, Steve: *How to Swallow a Pig*
- Liniers: *Written and Drawn by Henrietta*
- Lynch, P.J.: *The Boy Who Fell off the Mayflower*
- Wicks, Maris: *Human Body Theater*
- Wilcox, Merrie-Ellen: *What’s the Buzz?*
- Winterberg, Jenna: *Light and It’s Effects*

### DVDs:
- *The Age of Adaline, Dark Places, Furious 7, Mad Max Fury Road, Magic Mike XXL, Marvel’s The Avengers- Age of Ultron, Mickey Mouse Clubhouse: Mickey’s Monster Musical, Outlander: Season 1, Volume 2, Pitch Perfect 2, San Andreas, Spy, Tomorrowland, and When Marnie was There*
Creative Royalston 250th Exhibit
To those who made the exhibit a resounding success, a belated, but no less sincere, thank you . . .

Tom Kellner was the first to offer help in putting an exhibit together, and formulated the design of the display panels. Renee Lake stepped up when brush wielders were needed at panel painting time. Jim Taylor painted, lugged, transported and helped re-construct the panels. Patience Bundschuh, painted, touched up the display panels (once in place at Town Hall), provided food and drink for the opening, and more. Lorraine Cassinghino made her treasure trove of antiques and artifacts available; then worked tirelessly and creatively to couple them with the participants work, making a most pleasurable and memorable exhibit. A tip of the hat to Bob Cassinghino for his support as well. Geoff Newton supported this effort from its inception, including: purchasing materials for the display panels, constructing the panels, dismantling them, transporting them and reassembling them at the Town Hall. Geoff did this and more, while juggling dozens of 250th Celebration activities.

A thank you goes out to those who attended. For what is exhibiting if not connecting, one person to another. Without those who attend there is no connection. You helped make the exhibit the great success it was.

And to the exhibitors who entrusted me and the aforementioned with your precious works, and had the courage to share a part of who you are, exposing yourself to compliment and criticism alike, a heart felt thank you does not seem sufficient enough for the gratitude I feel. Through your creativity, imagination, talent, sensitivity, skill and passion, you made the Creative Royalston 250th Exhibit a memorable experience.

Sincerely,
Gordon Morrison

Recipe of the Month
This month’s recipe comes from Grace Belmont, a director at the Royalston Shakespeare Co. and Bliss Hill resident. She says, “This tasty, nontraditional recipe is for all of us who typically don’t like sweet potatoes or yams, courtesy of the Belmont brothers (Koya, Yuta, Nathaniel, Theo, and Cyrus) on the western side of Royalston, passed down from their Aunt Beth in Lexington, Virginia”:

Crustless Sweet Potato Pie
Serves 10 to 12

ingredients:
- 1 cup (packed) golden brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) cold butter, cut into 1/4 inch pieces
- 5 pounds red skin sweet potatoes, peeled, cut into 1 1/2 inch pieces
- 4 large eggs
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons salt

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix sugar, pecans and butter in small bowl using fork until well combined. Cover and chill until ready to use. Pecan mixture (can be made up to two days ahead. Keep refrigerated.)

Butter 13 x 9 x 2” glass baking dish. Cook sweet potatoes in large pot of boiling salted water until very tender, about 12 minutes. Drain. Let stand in colander 15 minutes. Purée sweet potatoes in food processor.

Beat eggs, syrup, vanilla, lemon juice and salt in large bowl. Mix in puréed sweet potatoes. Transfer sweet potato mixture to prepared dish. Sprinkle pecan topping evenly over mixture.

Bake until sweet potato mixture is set and pecan topping bubbles and appears done all the way across the top, about one hour. Let stand 15 minutes and serve.

Fire and EMS:
Putting the fun in fundraiser!

Thousands of your donated dollars – more than $100,000 in the last decade, helped purchase (for $75,000) the Town’s very first brand new Emergency Rescue Vehicle, all-terrain vehicles, a boat specifically designed to navigate Royalston’s variety of waterways, not to mention specialty equipment and training. And remember, these purchases enhanced services to YOU, without increasing your taxes! It is worth a spin at the turkey raffle.
Give Keepsakes of the 250th Anniversary for the Holidays

Buy the book: The Royalston Historical Society has produced a beautiful keepsake 8x11 inch hardcover book with 20 pages featuring approx 90 color photos taken by fabulous photographers, including Boyd Estus, Liane Brandon, Barbara Stowell, Susan Smith and Benjamin Morris Siegel. Susan Smith compiled the photos. The price is $50. Pre-order for early December delivery at the library or on-line at www.royalstonhistorical.org. Technologies come and go, but a book is steady as far as accessing its content. A copy of the book is available for previewing at the post office.

Watch the History and Hoopla on video: Pageant dvd for sale. Parade will be on sale soon.
A DVD of the Royalston 250th Anniversary Friday evening pageant” In their Own Words” is available for purchase at the library for $15. Thank you to Michael Young for preserving our history with his work videoing the event. This DVD is already at the library and available for check out. Similarly, a DVD of the parade will be available for purchase through the library by mid-November.

Classifieds

Living Situation wanted: Certified Home Health Aid, Former EMT, Non-smoker, Mature Single Female, BS degree, Specialist in plant-based nutrition. Seeking a studio or a 1 bedroom apartment. Willing to rent, share a house, housesit, or swap services towards rent: companion, accounting, handyperson. References: Sally at 978-249-0000 Sally@USA.net.

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. Breed your mare to your stallion of choice. Call 978-249-9880 or suzannagaits@gmail.com

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

Graphic digital artist. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, etc. Also photo and slide scanning offered. Barbara 508.364.3339 or bgruiney@wildblue.net.

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

Need help cleaning your house, outdoor work, or other odd jobs? $16/hr. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.


Affordable horseback riding lessons. C + R Ranch on the Royalston border in Winchendon. All ages; beginner and up. Call Cindy 978-894-5611

For sale:
Hay - located in Royalston - square bales Going fast - have only 29 left. Call Ann Vining Bedaw - 603-357-3000.

Air Hockey and Table Tennis Combo: Volt 60” Paid $175, Hardly ever used, Suitable for kids up to age 12, Must pick up $75 Call Erin at 978-790-6549

Two Space Heaters: 1 upright and 1 quartz, $15 and $18. Hardly used. Call 978-249-4013.

3-drawer dark-green steel filing cabinet in good condition free to a good home. Call Aaron at 249-6771 or email aellison@fas.harvard.edu to arrange to pick it up.

MEC Sizemaster Reloader: 12 Gauge, E-Z auto primer feed, Universal charge bar, Can convert to load steel shot. Instructions. $75 Firm 249-5099

Computer Armoire: Lt. cherry finish, 38” wide X 23” deep X 54 1/2 high. Slide out printer shelf, slide out keyboard shelf and other storage. Excellent condition-$250. Call 978-249-7691

Royalston-raised Pork Sausage: $4.00 per pound. Packaged in 1 lb. packages. Breakfast, Hot and Sweet Italian available. Please call Chet 978-249-2183

Squire Davis Farm honey is back! $7.00 lb. Available in 1 and 2 lb jars. Call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000. Cash only.

Three barn stalls available. Some tack available Companion mare available. Call Suzanne at Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880 or cell: (413) 336-1263.

Mulch your garden this fall. Fertilize by the load or by the bag from Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880, (413) 336-1263 or email suzannagaits@gmail.com

HP OfficeJet v40 all in one printer/fax/scanner/copier Model C8413A (great condition) $40.00. And a Sylvania 13 inch colored TV mint cond. $25.00. Great for college dorm. Call 978-249-3040

Hand knitted baby sweater sets (limited colors), etc. Call 978-249-4013.

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 pints $10, quarts $17, half gallons $30 and gallons $52. Call John 978-894-5109


1967 Massey Ferguson 175 diesel tractor. 4x2 2WD, power assist steering. Cab, 8ft hydraulic plow, chains, PTO front and rear, shop manual. Very good condition, always garaged. engine block heater $6,500 or best offer. Call Tom 978-249-9633

DR field and brush mower: 13 HP Briggs & Stratton Intek OHV engine, Cast iron cylinder sleeve, Cutting width 26”, Cutting capacity 1-1/2”. All manuals. Like new. $900 Firm 978-249-5099
Community School News
Adam Rogers, 6th grade correspondent
Hello, I’m back with more news about R.C.S. First, in Mrs. Grutchfield’s Futures class kids are working on strategies to find a problem. They also made jack-o-lanterns. The kindergartners just went on a trip to Red Apple Farm. They have a jug that Mrs. Willhite fills with pom-poms when kids behave especially well. They recently filled it up and had an ice cream party. In first grade, they have been working on the science of leaves. They also have been producing raisins from grapes. They have also started on the road to learning addition and subtraction. Fossils are the focus in second grade. They’ve made fossils by molding plaster. They are also making timelines about themselves. Third grade is figuring out how to read clocks. Students have picked individual cities and are writing about their weather patterns and time zones. Fourth grade is focusing on nouns and adjectives. In math, it’s multiplication and division, perimeter and area for them. Fifth grade is dividing decimals and comparing and contrasting states of matter: solids, gasses, and liquids. Finally, in 6th, they have been working on ratios and fractions. They are also painting trees (painting paintings of trees, not painting actual trees). The Halloween dance was the 23rd. I hope you didn’t miss it.

RCS Calendar
Nov 03 - Community Reading Day
Nov 11 - Veteran’s Day, No School
Nov 18 - School Picture Retakes
Nov 25 - 1/2 Day, No Lunch served, Noon Release
Nov 26 - Thanksgiving, No School
Nov 27 - No School, Day after Thanksgiving
Dec 02 - 1/2 Day, Lunch Served, Noon Release
Winter Concert @ Athol High School - 6-7:00pm
Dec 23 - 1/2 Day
Dec 24 - Jan 4 - No School - Winter Break
Jan 04 - Students return to school
RCS would graciously accept any donations from our community for our “Adopt A Family” food baskets. We run this program for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

RCS PTG
Next meeting: Thursday, November 5 at 6 pm in the cafeteria
A fundraising “lottery calendar” is for sale throughout the month of November. A $10 donation provides opportunities to win items, gift cards and gift certificates for goods and services. The proceeds support activities such as performers, field trips, upgrades to the library or playground and classroom resources. Visit the Royalston PTG Facebook page for more information or stop by the office to get your calendar.

Village School News
After School Program for Royalston children: If you are looking for after school care, the Village School offers a fun After School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS 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, call the school at 249-3505.

After School Music Lessons: Fall Music Lessons run for 10 weeks starting the week of October 5, 2015. Lessons are open to ALL AGES – even adults! Students may begin cello, violin and piano at age 4, guitar and ukulele at age 7, and flute at age 9. See the brochure at villageschoolma.org

Openings in Preschool
There are a few openings in preschool for this current school year. Call the school to set up a visit with your child.

Village School Open House Saturday November 21st
The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 6th and everyone is welcome to join in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school with a gathering in the dark for stories, and songs. Everyone then joins in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. is followed by a family contra dance with the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Renown folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will call the dances. All over Europe, children participate in lantern walks to mark the seasonal transition in nature from light and warmth to darkness and dormancy. The Village School has adopted this custom with songs, stories, and homemade lanterns that bring light into the darkness. The contra dance will be called, and children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations are suggested of $5 per adult, $2 per child, or $10 per family.

Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration for Families Friday November 6
The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 6th and everyone is welcome to join in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school with a gathering in the dark for stories, and songs. Everyone then joins in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. is followed by a family contra dance with the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Renown folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will call the dances. All over Europe, children participate in lantern walks to mark the seasonal transition in nature from light and warmth to darkness and dormancy. The Village School has adopted this custom with songs, stories, and handmade lanterns that bring light into the darkness. The contra dance will be called, and children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations are suggested of $5 per adult, $2 per child, or $10 per family.

Central Massachusetts Children’s Book Festival
Saturday, November 14th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Dining Commons, Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner
FREE For more information, see centralmasschildrensbookfestival.org
This is a daylong celebration of books and reading. Meet over 25 local authors and illustrators who are signing books, giving presentations, and reading their work. A wonderful selection of children’s books ranging from picture books to young adult novels will be available for purchase. Bring your entire family for kid-friendly activities, music, storytelling and fun. Refreshments will be available for purchase.
Hotel California
Deb D’Amico

We have mice. Not exactly a news flash given where we live. Like most of us here, our home is surrounded by woods with piles of leaves, ancient stone walls, and fallen trees. Perfect homes for mice. While the weather is warm, they are happy to live outside. But the weather has turned, and with it come the signs that our neighborhood mice are looking for warmer digs.

We began to notice their droppings - which my mother euphemistically called “mouse tracks” - around our cat Clack’s dry food bowl, which seemed to be emptying at an alarming rate. Clack has done her best over the years to keep the mice at bay. However, at 15, she is slowing down, and we only occasionally find her dead-mouse offering in front of the bedroom door. The situation seemed more than she could handle.

Then, one evening in mid-September when Taj was home visiting, we saw a small grey mouse lurking at the edges of the living room. We watched it appear and disappear until it scooted out from under Taj’s chair and raced across the room to the cat’s bowl. It grabbed some dry food and disappeared into our pantry. Cheeky devil. Time for serious action.

We are either too soft-hearted or too squeamish for conventional measures. Poison is out of the question. Sticky traps seem like unnecessary torture, and disposing with a snap trap and the resulting mangled corpse was not even an option. We needed something humane but effective.

Tom’s research online found what seemed the perfect mousetrap. Imagine a dome of wire mounted on a square of wood. The top of the dome has a round opening. Wire prongs sticking from the edge of that opening down into the dome make it one-way. A mouse can easily travel down into the dome but cannot get out. A tiny hinged door on one side allows the mouse to be released back into the wild - preferably far away from the scene of the crime. Within days the trap arrived and we set to work.

Success! The next morning we found a small brown mouse, full-bellied but confused, sitting in the trap. Tom took the trap up Loomis Road, about 1000 feet from our driveway, and set the mouse free in the field. Next morning, another mouse. Again, a trip to Loomis Road. Third morning, third mouse. We congratulated ourselves on our cleverness and released this third mouse on Loomis Road.

Giddy with success, we christened the mouse trap “Hotel California” after the Eagle’s song whose lyrics tell us, You can check in any time you like, but you can never leave.

The fourth morning, Tom came upstairs and said, “Well, the hotel is having a mouse convention.” There were three mice in the trap, and we wondered - were they the same three mice we’d caught and released? How strong is a mouse’s homing instinct anyway? We considered marking the hapless rodents with a dab of paint on the tail, but opted instead for a release site further away.

If mice in the house is a fact of life out here, we think we’ve found a solution we can live with. After three weeks, the Hotel California has become a popular place with the rodent set. Nearly every morning finds at least one hapless critter whose taken up residence, and one more trip to a release site far, far away.

Tom printed a picture of the trap and has taped it to the inside of a kitchen cabinet door. We are keeping track. Last count: trap - 11, Clack - 2.

Monty Tech News
Mary C. Barclay

A major review of Monty Tech’s Safety Plan was held in September and, in conjunction, the Safety Committee is reviewing and ensuring the school’s safety manual is up to date. Police and fire chiefs from Westminster and Fitchburg, JROTC First Sgt. Jornet, School Resource Officer Dean Romano of the Fitchburg PD and Westminster Detective Ralph LeBlanc conducted ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training for incoming freshmen.

Some 20 Monty Tech seniors will be enrolled in MWCC’s EMT training course beginning February, 2016. They will earn college credit and be eligible for licensure through the Commonwealth.

The Commanding General of the Marine Corps Training and Education Command recently designated Monty Tech’s Marine JROTC program an “MCJROTC Honor School,” specifically citing their civic commitment and student achievement. This comes with the ability to nominate extra students for seats in military academies, not to mention a high level of prestige.

Superintendent-Director Harrity announced receipt of a $25,000 donation by the Hermann Foundation for a late February/early March motivational day, similar to last year’s program with Liz Murray, subject of the movie and author of the book titled, “From Homeless to Harvard.”

Monty Tech is testing the waters for a Veterinary Tech program. Superintendent-Director Sheila Harrity met recently with MWCC’s President Dan Asquino and James Samels of U-Mass Stockbridge to discuss potential partnerships.
I look forward to at least one more month of gardening. The frost opened up twenty-five more beds, beds that will require the removal of what remains and renewal with what is available. That which is removed begins its journey toward compost. In spite of the mid-20s temperatures, the bean plants retained an element of green and were fed out to the animals. Renewal utilizes an assortment of ingredients: compost, wood ashes, and an eclectic mix of local aged manure: from our own animals, of course, but supplemented mightily by the sheep of Kate Collins and George Northrop, the horses of Maureen Blasco, and the chickens of Country Hen in Hubbardston, courtesy of Ray Sawyer. The operative word here is ‘aged.’ It requires about a year (even longer for chicken) for the manure to be mellow enough to incorporate into the soil. When one consumes ten cord of wood each year, there is no shortage of ashes, and all beds, excepting those in which the potatoes will be planted, receive a healthy dusting, a couple of gallons per one hundred square feet. (Potatoes do not respond well to ashes, the tubers often disfigured by scab.) If you have at your disposal wood ashes, limestone becomes unnecessary, the ashes providing the same benefit, sweetening the soil.

In spite of the overwhelming success of the garden season, there were disappointments. The aforementioned tomatoes and basil succumbed far too early. Pepper plants were magnificent, yields less so. Carrots never reached the dimensions I would have preferred. Finally there was the matter of the bounty-less beets. Two hundred forty feet were planted and I am hard-pressed to discover one beet that was not gnawed by rodents. Those that retain enough beet to make it worthwhile will find their way into the root cellar; the far larger number will serve as cattle feed.

The apple avalanche continues, though there is a light at the end of the orchard. The Golden Delicious continues to yield and I’ve begun to turn my attention to the Northern Spy, the last of our trees to mature its fruit and the only one that has never been pruned. Its majesty cannot be overstated, nor can the difficulty of picking. (One of the objectives of pruning is to minimize that difficulty.) The finest of the hand-picked are stored in the basement (thirty bushels, and counting). The best of the drops are piled high in the barn, awaiting the apple press. All the others (and there are many) are fed out, by design or neglect, to an assortment of grateful critters. (Deer have joined menagerie). The apple avalanche continues, though there is a light at the end of the orchard. The Golden Delicious continues to yield and I’ve begun to turn my attention to the Northern Spy, the last of our trees to mature its fruit and the only one that has never been pruned. Its majesty cannot be overstated, nor can the difficulty of picking. (One of the objectives of pruning is to minimize that difficulty.) The finest of the hand-picked are stored in the basement (thirty bushels, and counting). The best of the drops are piled high in the barn, awaiting the apple press. All the others (and there are many) are fed out, by design or neglect, to an assortment of grateful critters. (Deer have joined menagerie).

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I look forward to at least one more month of gardening.

Larry Siegel

Emergency Management in Winter Storms
EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904
It’s that time of year – when we can expect the first of about a dozen or so “major winter events” which includes not just snow, but freezing rain and extended periods of cold. The Federal and State Emergency Management Agencies (FEMA/MEMA) have begun a campaign encouraging everyone to “Protect Yourself Before, During, and After a Winter Storm.”

BEFORE: PREPARE! Ensure you have sufficient supplies for at least three days – water, food and medications for you and any pets. Re-battery any flashlights and radios. Update your family plan, including contact information. Make sure your generator is working, that there’s a long enough cord to get it at least 20 feet away from any door, window or vent. It’s not a bad idea to have a few “old school” games and books for entertainment. Make sure your vehicles are fueled, have survival gear and charging cords for mobile phones. And make contact with neighbors – especially if they are elderly or have health/mobility issues. Help them be ready!

DURING: SURVIVE! Stay out of the elements and off the roads as much as possible – reducing your chances of injury from cold, falling or being hit by something like ice-laden branches, or of being stranded. If the power goes out, move everyone to the most comfortable location and close off unused rooms to conserve heat. Wear layered clothing and use blankets or sleeping bags to stay warm. No matter what, DO NOT use generators, propane devices like grills or stoves or gas/diesel heaters inside! Check on those neighbors.

AFTER: RECOVER! Stay put – driving only if absolutely necessary. If power has been out for more than a couple of days, shelters will be established for warming or temporary housing. Try to remember community resources will be stretched thin after a major winter event. The more you can do for yourself, and your neighbors, the less strain on limited resources.

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Wildlife Sightings
Gene and Joan Trask of Bliss Hill Rd. report, “On Saturday morning, October 3, 2015 a bull moose walked through our yard. He walked from our back yard, around our barn and crossed the street into the woods across from us. We live on Bliss Hill Road. He was huge. I whistled and he turned his head and my husband took the pictures.”

Jon Hardie also observed a moose amble through his yard in October.

ed note: Not exactly wildlife, more like wild-death (at least for the chloroplast). 2015 was an unusually beautiful and prolonged foliage season. In every tree and under every shoe was vibrant color, satisfying crunch, and a nostalgic fragrance made up of just the right mix of dusky joie de vivre and moldering decay. (There were hints of oak and plums as well.)

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