Calendar of Events

May 1  Sunday  May Day/ Orthodox Easter  Fishing Derby  Royalston Fish and Game Club
10 am - noon

May 3  Tuesday  May Day Celebration
9:00 a.m. the Village School hosts an old-fashioned May Day celebration. The public is invited. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing. Rain date: Friday, May 6.

May 6  Friday
7 pm  Annual Town Meeting at Royalston Community School
7 - 8:30 pm  Athol Royalston Education Foundation’s father daughter dance at Athol Town Hall. Tickets available at RCS through May 4 or at the door.

May 7  Saturday  National Wildfire Preparedness Day
May 8  Sunday  Mother’s Day

May 14  Saturday
2 - 4 pm  Celebrate Royalston Eagle Reserve at Royalston Community School. Music, nature walks, raffles, food and projects for kids. Sponsored by Mt. Grace Land Trust.

May 16  Monday
4:30 pm  Library Book Group. All welcome.

May 20  Friday  Village School Annual Play
10 a.m. and 7 p.m

May 21  Saturday
5:15 p.m.  Full Flower Moon
7 - 10 pm  Cultural Council Blues Night

May 30  Monday  Memorial Day
Post Office, Library, schools all closed.
2 p.m.  Memorial Day exercises in South Royalston
3 p.m.  Town-wide potluck luncheon

Save the date
June 4  Saturday Morning on the Common
7:30 a.m.  Organic pancakes, spectacular silent auction, book sale, plant sale, tag sale and more!

June 12  Sunday  Jazz Brunch to benefit The Royalston Historical Society at “The Maples” on the Common. $25. To reserve your spot, contact Patience Bundshuh. (This is a new date.)

June 20 - July 1  Royalston Shakespeare Company, theater workshop for kids ages 5 - 20 present MacBeth. Sign up at the library.

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Spring poetry from the library kite flying day

Spring
Sunny sky
Playing outside
Rainy days
Itchy eyes
New nests
Growing gardens
Fragrant flowers
Lovely lilacs
Opening oaks
Wind whispers
Easter eggs
Rivers rushing
Seeds for planting

A Kite
by Adriana Gaulzetti
Sky
Flying high in the sky
Pansies
Soaring like a butterfly
Rain
Coming down like a comet
Insects
Better catch it before it tumbles down.
Nests
Grass

Spring poetry from the library kite flying day

A kite was high in the sky on a hot spring day.
It was so high in the sky.
It was higher than the trees.
It stayed in the air for one hour.
Then, it got stuck in a tree!
The end.

Bailey Lefsky
Select Board Notes:

Linda Alger

At the May 6th Annual Town Meeting the Board will present a balanced budget of over two million dollars. The operating, or line item, budget totals $1,970,503. In addition $60,000 is recommended for various articles out of raise and appropriate, such as the final cruiser payment, sewer capital, grant writing, audit, and the tri-annual evaluation (list not all-inclusive). The school district budget had a large unexpected increase due to state above-minimum requirements. The increase totaled $59,000, approximately 12% more than last year; we will fund a portion of this increase ($25,000) from our mortgage reduction account. Our last payment on RCS will be January 2018.

We are recommending $150,000 out of stabilization to pay for snow and ice overage ($20,000), purchase of a used dump truck to replace an old antiquated truck that has required thousands of dollars in repairs, a body for the sander, painting of Whitney Hall and a software package for the financial departments. Our current stabilization balance is nearly $180,000 and in general at the Special Town Meeting at the reconvened Annual Town Meeting we add between $40-50,000, closing out the year around $70,000. Lastly, the post office revolving account stands at $38,000 and includes a surplus, which we want to tap for $15,000 to fund a tax title revolving account and the town hall ramp and window repair; two of the three will generate savings or revenue for the town.

The warrant includes a citizens’ petition to repeal the Community Preservation Act, as well as an article to set up an enterprise fund for financial operation of the sewer system. The Board does not support either of these articles.

This is a brief summary; the actual warrant will be posted on line as well as at the required posting stations.

STOPped the Pipeline!

On April 11, Kinder Morgan Inc. pulled the plug on its controversial natural gas pipeline proposed through parts of Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, after failing to sign up enough utility customers and facing stiff consumer and political opposition. This pipeline was originally planned to go through parts of South Royalston and in the Birch Hill Conservation Area. Many Royalston residents worked hard to oppose the project. Despite financial need, the selectboard and townspeople were not swayed by promises of some money coming back to the town from the project. Many opponents wanted to see infrastructure created for cleaner solutions rather than increasing capacity for fossil fuels projected to last 50 years into the future.

Community Preservation at Work

The fence and gate restoration at Riverside Cemetery is an example of the many projects funded by the Community Preservation Act, which has been working for our town for the last 7 years.

State-wide Senior Art Competition

The Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, William Galvin, invites entries to the 20th Annual Senior Art Exhibit. Sponsored by the Secretary’s office, the theme for 2016 is “Paint Your Favorite Memory” and is open to all citizens age 62 or older.

All entries will be accepted from both amateur and professional artists and will be displayed at the Commonwealth Museum. All media of art is acceptable (oils, watercolor, ink, pastels, etc.). The artwork should represent personal interpretations of this year’s theme.

Deadline for entries is July 1, 2016. An Award Ceremony will be held at the Commonwealth Museum at a date to be announced.

To obtain a copy of the invitation letter with information on the requirements and a copy of the authorization form to be filled out, contact Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

Daisy Duke’s Country Salon

Waterville Plaza, 10 Main Street
Winchendon, MA
Hair, Nails, Tanning Services & Hydro Massage
Hair Stylists
Lisa Martin & Emma LeGrand
Call for an appointment: 978-297-1200
**Board of Health News**

*Phil Leger, chair*

The compactor is now operational. The control panel on the unit had to be replaced too. Thanks to Travis Neale Electric and Monadnock Disposal for their prompt response throughout this process. Travis will be following up with National Grid to see about upgrading the transformer into the building.

We will be starting to work on the compost area this season. RDPW has a lot on their plate with their new building project. The woodchips that have been transferred to the site can be used in the development of the compost area. So, if you see activity downstairs, that will mean the project is progressing. Stay tuned.

With spring in full swing, so are ticks and soon mosquitoes and other biting insects. Take precautions when outside. Check yourselves when you come in. Lyme disease is prevalent across our state. Pulling your socks over your pant legs keep the little critters from crawling up your legs. Check your animals on a regular basis. Most vets and pet stores sell tick twisters. They look like little hockey sticks with a split in them. They are very effective in getting ticks off humans and pets. The twisting actions make the ticks release their bite and they can be removed without leaving body parts behind. Cost is $5-6. Well worth having.

Also, empty stagnant water vessels around the house such as 5-gallon pails, tires, rain gutters, and baby swimming pools are excellent breeding areas for mosquitoes. Check your screens in your house for openings. And as our former postmistress Arline Vining used to say, “Shut the door!”

That being said have a fun spring.

**Fire Department**

May 1 marks the end of the “2016 Open Burning” season in the town of Royalston. As Fire Chief, I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who participated with our controlled burning process. You have demonstrated once again that with careful planning we can safely clean up our garden residue and unwanted brush.

I ask that you continue your diligence for safety and remember a few simple rules regarding care when having outside cooking fires and backyard activities. First, you still are required to have a permit for any cooking fires. Cooking fires must be away from any buildings or vehicles. Please have a garden hose near by, keep all combustible material cleared from the fire place or pit (12 ft. diameter). When calling for the permit to have a cooking fire, please state your name, the same permit number that you used for brush burning, your street address and a call back number at which you can be reached.

Remember, when the Commonwealth has “RED FLAG” warnings there will be NO burning allowed. Please keep all cooking fires small and contained. Have a great and safe summer.

Thank you all for your full cooperation.

Royalston Fire Chief,  
*Keith R. Newton*

Keep all cooking fires safe and contained

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**Royalston Broadband Update**

*Jon Hardie*

Amazing! Over 250 Royalston residents have already completed the Homeowner Tech Easement Form, either on paper (it was included in your last tax bill), or online at our new Royalston Broadband Network Signup or Pre-Register website: at http://royalston-ma.gov/RMLPBBN/.

This form allows you … with your prior permission and with you present … to have a network tech visit your home. We need to evaluate the very best location for your network receiver before we actually get you connected. This is not a contract for service, just network engineering boots on the ground before we begin construction later this fall.

If you and your neighbors want high speed internet at your home. …If you want to be a part of the new Royalston owned, town-wide high speed network buildout, beginning later this fall … you can do two things which will really help us wrap up our design and engineering, and help fund prep of the final grant application, legal paperwork and send out bids. And … (really important) you are also telling our funding agency who is contributing over $600,000, that you are really serious about getting town owned high speed internet in Royalston.

1. If you have already completed the homeowner easement form, you can skip that, and you can complete your pre-registration (far right on the “choose your package” page) for the network …AND get your First Month of Service Free … with a $49 dollar donation to the Royalston Broadband Network launch. (When you pre-register, we’ll send you an invoice for the $49 donation. You are good to go. We’ll notify you in advance when we are building out the network in your neighborhood, and you can choose your sign-up package in advance of installation.

2. Or, you can complete the required Homeowner easement form online … needed to do any network installation planning at your home. To get service, you will need to register, complete the necessary forms, and select your package before we can begin the installation at your home. Suggestion...It is easier when you pre-register because all of that paperwork is already completed ...

The Royalston /High Speed Broadband Network Train has completed its first stop in the south village, folks are signed up and getting high speed service. TODAY. Are you onboard? We are all in this town-wide network project together …

Did you know that the more people who signup, the more sustainable the network, and the less we can charge. We’re not Verizon. We, you and I, our families and neighbors are the customers … we will own our network together.

With your help and pre-registration support, we will launch the town-wide network this fall … serving everyone - everywhere in town… Again … Thanks for your help. Together we’ll get it built. Questions call Jon Hardie 978-790-8474 8AM to 10 PM or 24/7 for emergencies.

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**Royalston Computer Repair**

- Virus and Malware Removal  
- Tune up’s  
- Laptop Screen Repair  
- Internet Data Cap Consultation  
- Rural Internet Service Provider Recomendations  
- Custom Builds
**Donations to the Friends**

Shirley Anderson  
Vyto and Pat Andreliunas  
Grace Belmont  
Patience Bundschuh  
Bob and Lorraine Casinghino  
John and Kathy Chencharik  
Deb D’Amico and Tom Musco  
Walt Thornton and Nannji Davison  
Sara, Hailey, and Michael Dilg  
Charles and Polly Longsworth  
Kathleen Corbett and Richard Weiner  
Richard and Rose Lawrence

Aaron Ellison  
Boyd Estus  
Virginia Gingras  
Jeff and Brenda Hopkins  
Joan Katz  
Diane Lincoln  
Gordon Morrison  
Kathleen Pirro  
Allen Young  
Jim and Pat Kelley  
Ken and Andrea Lively  
Steve and Cindy Savoy

**Story Walk at Preschool Story Time**

Jen Aldrich from Valuing our Children will lead a story walk around the common for preschool children on Monday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. This event is free and open to all preschool-aged children and their caregivers. Activities will focus around the story being read to the children as they walk. Snacks will be served at the library.

**Library Book Discussion Group** meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months and will gather on May 16 to discuss *Finding George Orwell in Burma* by Emma Larkin. All welcome for cozy literary chat and a cuppa with a couple of cookies. Copies of the selection are at the library waiting to be checked out.

**Art Exhibit**

Tom Musco’s Japanese prints from the classical period (mid-18th century) will continue on display through the month of June. During July and August, the photos of Sam Jaffe of The Caterpillar Lab will be on display. Sam will be bringing his caterpillars to a summer program. Stay tuned.

**Genealogy Information Available at the Library**

Throughout the years, people have called and written with various inquiries about events and people who were born, lived, married, and/or died in Royalston. Many of these times, the queries have provided valuable insights and led to the discovery of facts that most of the residents were unaware of and which have enhanced the historical record of the town. Recently, I gave a talk in Princeton where I met a member of the Bullock family, Rick Bullock, who has been transcribing Brigham Newton Bullock’s 1500 page journal giving insights into his daily life during the mid-1800’s and he gave me a copy of what he has completed to date which also includes extensive genealogical information. A few months ago I had a telephone call from Elizabeth Posser in Oklahoma researching the Tozer family. She was seeking information on the Frye family, specifically Captain John Frye. I sent her information on the Frye family and from that she was able to verify that her relative, John Tozer, had married Mary Frye, the daughter of Captain John Frye and Elizabeth Woodbury Frye. I asked her if she would share a copy of her research and she graciously sent a copy of her book, ‘The Family of Eber Tozer and Jemima Palmer and Her Birth Family’ for inclusion into our historical collection. Both of these items are now available for perusal. If you have letters, postcard, diaries, newspaper articles, or memorabilia that provide some tidbits of knowledge of the families, the town, and everyday life in Royalston, we would be appreciative if you would let us scan and copy the information. Each item, no matter how small, can lead to other findings, which together can enhance our knowledge of the town’s past.

**Computer Winner**

In an effort to conserve space and to provide desk space for those who bring a laptop to the library we are sequentially converting our desktops to laptops, with the Friends of the Library purchasing approximately one new laptop each year. The laptops will be at the circulation desk and may be ‘checked out’ for in library use for one hour. As the desktop tower we are replacing is only three years old we decided to have a drawing for the complete desktop computer system. Over 50 people entered the drawing and the winner was Brittany Hermes.

**Yoga and Zumba Classes**

*Spring wrap up:* Zumba will continue on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. through May 9 and Tuesday morning 10:00 a.m. yoga will continue through May 10. Blissful Evening Yoga will be on May 5, 12 and 26 at 7:00 p.m.

*Summer yoga planned:* We are delighted that Janet Bettey has agreed to continue Yoga classes – ‘Bit of Bliss’ - during the summer. Programs will be held outdoors at 7:00 p.m. unless the weather (and/or insects) force us inside. We are tentatively planning on having them on Sundays beginning on June 5, but Janet is open to having classes occur on another evening and will ask her class whichever evening people prefer. For those of you who would like to take a summer class, please call the library to let us know if Sunday works for you or if you prefer another evening. These classes are free but donations are accepted. Janet has been working toward certification and donating her time to give these classes and we are very appreciative.

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Some of the New Materials at Your Library

**Adult fiction**
- Berry, Steve: *The 14th Colony*
- Beverly, Bill: *Dodgers*
- Bock, Charles: *Alice & Oliver*
- Carr, Robyn: *What We Find*
- Clark, Mary Higgins: *As Time Goes By*
- Colen, Harlan: *Fool Me Once*
- Harrison, Jim: *The Ancient Minstrel*
- James, Bill: *First Fix Your Aibi*
- James, Marlon: *A Brief History of Seven Killings*
- King, Laurie: *The Murder of Mary Russell*
- Meacham, Leila: *Titans*
- Mitchell, Jacquelyn: *Two if by Sea*
- O’Brien, Edna: *The Little Red Chairs*
- O’Connor, Stephen: *Thomas Jefferson Dreams of Sally Hemings*
- Patterson, James: *PrivateParis*
- Quindlen, Anna: *Miller’s Valley*
- Quirk, Matthew: *Cold Barrel Zero*
- Roberts, Nora: *The Obsession*
- Scottline, Lisa: *Most Wanted*
- Thomas, Rosie: *Iris and Ruby*
- Toibin, Colm: *Brooklyn*
- Tolkien, J.R.R.: *The Story of Kullervo*
- Vestal, Shawn: *Daredevils*
- Vidich, Paul: *An Honorable Man*
- Winspear, Jacqueline: *Journey to Munich*

**Adult nonfiction**
- Amato: *The Pregnancy Encyclopedia*
- Birkhead, T.R.: *The Most Perfect Thing*
- Blount, Roy: *Save Room for Pie*
- Brinkley, Douglas: *Rightful Heritage*
- Burroughs, Augusten: *Lust & Wonder*
- Cooper, Anderson: *The Rainbow Comes and Goes*
- Jahren, Hope: *Lab Girl*
- Logan, Beth: *The Voter’s Guide to Tax Policy*
- McBride, James: *Kill ‘Em and Leave*
- Taib, James: *John Quincy Adams*
- Zichefoose, Julie: *Baby Birds*

**Book Review - Dark Money**

*by Jane Mayer, prize-winning staff writer for The New Yorker*

This book recounts the personal, business and political histories of the Koch brothers, and their billionaire associates, especially Richard Scaife, and the Olin and Bradley families, all of whom established huge tax-sheltered foundations, with the purpose of limiting government to the sole areas of security and protection of private property. It lays out a detailed account of how they and their vast network of organizations have overwhelmed our public affairs, with individual chapters of the parts they played in the Tea Party and in Citizens United, and a whole section on the relentless war they have waged against the Obama Administration. There are many other names and events that jolted me into the recognition, “So that’s what that was all about!”

If you want to understand polarized politics, this is the book.

Mary Hoag

*ed. note: Read/experienced any good media lately? Write a review; leave it at the library; and most likely it will be published in the RCN!*

Young Adult Fiction/Nonfiction

- Alexander, Kwame: *Booked*
- Clare, Cassandra: *Lady Midnight*
- Hunter, Erin: *The Apprentice’s Quest*
- Stine, R.L.: *Can You Keep a Secret?*

**Children’s Fiction**

- Ahlberg, Jessica: *Fairy Tales for Mr. Barker*
- Brown, Margaret: *The Dead Bird*
- Buckley, Michael: *The Fairy Tale Detectives*
- DelaPina, Matt: *Last Stop on Market Street*
- Gottesfeld, Jeff: *The Tree in the Courtyard*
- Hale, Shannon: *The Princess in Black and the Hungry Bunny Horde*
- Henkes, Kevin: *When Spring Comes*
- Hunter, Anne: *The Land of Forgotten Girls*
- Kelly, Erin: *Super Happy Magic Forest*
- Martin, Bill: *Listen to our World*
- McClintock, Barbara: *Emma and Julia Love Ballet*
- Neri, Greg: *Tru and Nelle*
- Park, Linda Sue: *Yaks Yak*
- Peirce, Lincoln: *Big Nate Blasts Off*
- Pinfold, Levi: *Greenling*
- Stiefvater, Maggie: *Ideas are all Around*
- Vernon, Ursula: *Hunted*
- Yolen, Jane: *Hamster Princess 2*

**Children’s nonfiction**

- Becker, Helaine: *Worms for Breakfast: How to Feed a Zoo*
- Jamieson, Victoria: *Roller Girl*
- Nandi: *Everything You Need to Know About Birds*
- North, Ryan: *The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl*
- Sayre, April: *The Slowest Book Ever*

**Children’s Audiobooks**

- Thompson, Kay: *The Eloise Collection*

Audio Books:

- Beverly, Bill: *Dodgers*
- Harris, Robert: *Dictator*
- Quindlen, Anna: *Miller’s Valley*
- Quirk, Matthew: *Cold Barrel Zero*
- Sykes, Lucy: *The Knockoff*
- Turkle, Sherry: *Reclaiming Conversation*
- Winchester, Simon: *Pacific*

**DVDs**

- Alvin and the Chipmunks: *The Road Chip, The Big Short, Concussion, Daddy’s Home, Game of Thrones Season 5, Grandma, The Hateful Eight (DVD & Blu-Ray), The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (DVD & Blu-Ray), In the Heart of the Sea (DVD & Blu-Ray)*
- *Irrational Man, Pain & Gain*
Lillie’s husband died of cancer while she was a cook at the school. Not wanting to be on the farm alone, she had a smaller house built and lived there with her brother. Later on, Lillie got breast cancer but was a survivor. Lillie says that God has blessed her with so many things as well as good health.

One day, Lillie had her mother over for coffee. Her mother wanted to sit on the porch, but Lillie refused as it was too hot. As they were looking outside the window, all the pines started to sway and a loud whistling sound. A few minutes later, a neighbor called to tell her that a small plane had crashed on her land. She couldn’t believe it but was not willing to see it.

There has been many a change in Royalston. It used to be a bustling town full of life. There was a mill, boarding house, a school house, many large houses and a train depot. Apparently, Royalston caught a fire bug because many of the buildings burned down. Lillie has memories of what it used to be that can never be forgotten.

Lillie Dobson still resides in Royalston, after all these years. She is a member of the church down the street, where she has been active for 62 years and counting. Lillie enjoys being with people and cooking. She believes God has directed her in all of these different places to be where she is now. Lillie is 95 years old and sharp as a tack!

The hubbub of Royalston’s 250th celebration has wound down, but the effort to document our roots goes on. Jessica Trask is plugging away collecting oral histories and there is talk of a guided story slam next winter to pull together stories as well. The Lillie Dobson family didn’t wait. They independently wrote down her story from 1921 to now and have shared it with the Historical Society during the 250th celebration. This is the last installment in a series.

The Story of Lillie Dobson (continued)

According to Lillie, she was never a teenager. At 16, she was offered a job in New York City to take care of three children. After careful and meticulous consideration, her parents let her go.

Off Lillie went to New York City, along with her brother who was hired as a butler. Lillie eventually became cook and powder room maid. One night, she even got to serve Mrs. Sarah Delano Roosevelt! Even though she enjoyed her job, Lillie felt like she needed to go home. When she was back at home, Lillie’s father died in 1938.

At a dinner party, she met her husband to be. Her husband was an airplane mechanic in the Air Force. Lillie’s twin brother, Ralph, was also in the military. In fact, Ralph was in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombed it. He survived. Lillie and her husband were married in Kansas and then eventually moved on to Texas, where they were treated as if they could still be Yankees. Eventually, the Dobsons moved back to New York City.

Amazingly enough, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was staying in the exact same building. Over time, it was arranged that Lillie could meet her.

They moved back to Royalston and bought a farm. She cooked for families on the Common. One day, she was told not to be alarmed if she saw police cars as a very important person was coming to Royalston. That night, as she brought out a tray of food in a dinner party, she met the Empress Zita of Austria. Lillie often saw the Empress and her children walking the roads in the daytime, and Lillie got to know her some.

Cultural Council News

Deb Nunes
Blues Night is Here!
The Cultural Council is sponsoring Blues Night at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 21st from 7-10 pm. This popular event features opening act the Definite Maybes, followed by headliner Ben Knight Band. Tickets are $10.00 and you need to reserve a ticket as this event always sells out. Please call Lorraine Casinghino at 978-249-5151.
Royalston Historical Society
At our annual meeting on April 15 the membership reviewed the progress on our museum restoration project and discussed various fundraising proposals. Pierre Humblet gave a presentation of his research into the early days of Royalston Center. Unlike the sleepy, unchanged scene we have around the common today, the early 1800’s saw a bustling community with churches, stores, doctors of offices, houses being built, torn down and moved. With the decline of farming after the Civil War, the coming of the railroad and large mill buildings to South Royalston, the center of commerce shifted.

The annual Jazz Brunch at the Maples ballroom is scheduled for June 12 at 12 PM. $25 reserve early.

A fall auction is being planned. Donations of valuable items are tax deductible. Call Stephanie McClure or leave a note at the post office.

Members Boyd Estus, Pierre Humblet, Sue Smith and Stephen Chase have volunteered to do a survey of all the old houses in town from the 1800s maps. This will be entered into a database and be available to all. If you see someone taking photos of your house from the road, don’t be alarmed. Indeed, greet them and help fill in the history.

Congratulations Polly! Library Trustee Polly Longsworth Honored. On Thursday, April 28, at a gala celebration at the Mead Art Museum on the campus of Amherst College, Polly Longsworth was awarded the ‘Sammy’ award by the Jones Library for Local Literary Achievement. The ‘Sammy’ is named in honor of Samuel Minot Jones the Amherst Library’s first benefactor and namesake, who contributed the initial funding for the endowment that continues to provide a portion of the library budget annually. Polly is an Emily Dickinson scholar and has authored and co-authored several books on her life and is currently penning another about her. Her first book was actually a book on caving. She has been actively involved as a board member of the Emily Dickinson Museum and worked on the committee to add ‘The Evergreens,’ the home next to the Dickinson homestead where Emily’s brother and sister-in-law resided, to the museum property and in many other aspects of fundraising and planning for the museum. In Royalston she has been the Chairperson of the Library Trustees for many years and takes an active role in all aspects of our library.

Congratulations Alexis Javier on being inducted into Tau Sigma National Honor Society. The 33 students that were inducted at East Stroudsburg University, PA are in the top 20th percentile academically in the US. Ashley Javier attends Gannon University in PA and both girls have been on Dean’s List their entire college career.

Royalston Historical Society

Peter Kraniaik’s brother-in-law, LTC(r) Richard E. Crotty, passed away March 4, 2016 in Virginia. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joan (Kraniaik) Crotty. 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. He served two tours in Vietnam and among the medals awarded him was the Bronze Star with V for Valor and the Purple Heart. His burial at Arlington National Cemetery will take place on June 21, 2016.

Vyto Andrelionas’ brother, Col. Francis C. Andrelionas, died on April 11, 2016. He was born May 28, 1928 in Athol. He attended Athol schools graduating with the class of 1946 and playing football, hockey, and baseball. Upon graduation he enlisted in the Marine Corps, and attended Brown University. He married his high school sweetheart, Anna Salkaus, and the two embarked on a worldwide journey which included postings in Spain, Okinawa, and Vietnam. Upon retirement, they settled in Poquoson Virginia, where they were active members of the community. Francis served as an artillery officer in Korea and a battalion commander in Danang during the Tet Offensive. Later, he was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Office at the Pentagon, where he earned commendation for his logistical skills for the evacuation of Vietnam and also for his contributions during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He is survived by his three children and their families and many other close family members.

Baby Finn Ellis Shon Lefsyk was born March 28th in Greenfield. Weighing in at 7 lbs.5oz. and 20 inches. He is the son of Jason and Brandy Lefsyk and the grandson of Sharon and Wade Harmon of Butterworth Rd. He is a delightful little one with large eyes, a dimple in his chin and straight dark hair. He has two siblings: Sawyer and Bailey.

Recently Joshua Morris-Siegel, owner of Siegel Saddlery, attended the Saddlery Training Centre in Salisbury, UK and completed the Qualified Saddler Certification. After passing this certification, he is now a Society of Master Saddlers(SMS) Qualified Saddler and member of the organization.

Condolences
What’s happening at the Village School?
Rise Richardson, director

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

The students are planting the garden, looking towards the fall harvest. Potatoes go in first, followed later by squash, pumpkin and Indian flint corn. All the students love being in the garden – with the extra bonus of finding all kinds of interesting bugs.

The month starts with a traditional May Day celebration, May Pole and all, for which all the students have learned songs and dances. On May 20th, the annual Village School original play is performed at the Town Hall, the culmination of 2 months intensive work by the 4th-6th grade, based on their year-long study of the Middle Ages.

There are openings for the next school year at the Village School in most classes. Call to set up a visit as soon as possible.

You are invited to Open Visiting Mornings in April and May on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Call ahead to sign up. You can observe classes, talk to staff and meet with the Director. You can find out about Financial Aid and carpools too. 978 249 3505

Tuesday May 3  May Day Celebration

On Tuesday May 3, at 9:00 a.m. sharp, the Village School will host an old fashioned May Day celebration. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing. There will be singing of traditional songs, and rounds, and local musicians. Rumor has it that the aging Millers River Morris Men will appear, unable to contain themselves, and leap and pound the earth to drive out winter and awaken the earth, and bring fertility to the crops, the fields, the animals and the people! Young and old will join in the uplifting “Shepherds Hay” to complete the event. The public is invited. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies. Rain date is Friday May 6.

The Village School Annual Original Play  May 20
2 performances  10:00 a.m. and  7 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall

Based on their year-long study of ancient Greece, the 4th-6th grade class write an original humorous script, which they produce and perform, in three acts. The characters range from gods to slaves to philosophers. The set is created by the students, and the young actors also sing and play music. Everyone is welcome. Free, and donations are accepted to defray production costs. Best seats are available at the morning performance.

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
June 4th  from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults $6 Children $3 Organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup
Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Auction and Breakfast will benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan. Friends of the Library have goodies and plants for sale at the Post Office.

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School
Go to www.villageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from June 27 to July 23, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, Science, Art and Nature, ages 7 and up, and Woodworking with Kids, ages 7 and up. Royalston families are subsidized, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

Monty Tech
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston’s Representative – royalston_community_news@yahoo.com

Six Monty Tech JROTC students recently traveled to Inner Harbor, Maryland for CyberPatriot VIII, the Air Force Association’s national competition where teams of students fend off attacks by professional computer hackers who thwart computer operations at every turn. Unfortunately, they were not able to retain last year’s status as National Champions, but that does not diminish the positive attention and honor they have earned this year for Monty Tech with their stellar technical performance and impeccable behavior.

New articulations between Monty Tech’s Health Occupations program and two Mount Wachusett Community College degrees have been agreed upon! Monty Tech students will earn nine credits towards Associate in Science of Medical Assisting during high school, which will result in a savings of $2,193. Students who pass the Red Cross Certified Nursing Assistant course will be granted an additional five credits in two electives and save $1,010 towards Associate in Science of Allied Health.

Congrats to the three Royalston Monty Tech- ers who earned their way (along with 33 classmates) into the state-level SkillsUSA competition, held at the end of last month, in Marlborough. Marnie Anair (gr. 11; Job Skill Demonstration); Derek Bates (gr. 12; Web Design) and Rhiannon Fletcher (gr. 12; Voting Delegate) have the opportunity to advance to the National competition this June in Louisville, KY.

Congrats also to Pam Pothier, wife of Royalston Police Officer Paul Pothier, who was recently named Monty Tech’s Director of Technology.

EMS Pancake Breakfast a Success

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Town Hall for the Annual Royalston Fire and EMS Association breakfast. A special thank you to everyone who made donations that made the breakfast such a success.

Special Thanks to Robert aka Teddy Bear Laakkonen for heavenly half & half and milk, Tom Leray for sublime maple syrup, Dean’s Beans for brilliant coffee beans, and Country Hen for a case of excellent eggs, and YOU for coming and making the day so fun and pleasant.
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Photography Services: Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowheronstudios.com Call at 978-249-8108 or 978-248-9454

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 bguiney@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.

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public, Mariah Mallet 249-9410.

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

DTM Landscaping. spring cleanup, snowplowing. Call Theresa Gates 413-336-1850 or David Plourde 413-336-1593

Free:

For sale:
Recumbent Bike - EDGE 595r top quality for fitness workout program or rehab. AC monitor charts your progress. Excellent condition. $200. Call Pat at 978-249-2722.

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

Hand-knitted baby sweater sets, etc. Call 978-249-4013.

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale, 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


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

North Quabbin Garden Club
Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m.
100 Main Street, Athol

Container Gardening
Genevieve Stillman of Stillman’s Farm, New Braintree and Lunenburg, (stillmansfarm.com) will talk to us about “Container Gardening” and the wide choices of common and unusual plants that work well in containers. We will each create a container. Bring an appropriate pot, no larger than 14” across the top. Potting soil and plants will be provided. Cost to members is $10; $20 for non-members.

10th Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
**Garden Travel Notes**

April 14, 2016

I’ve just returned from a foray to Olympic National Park in far northwestern Washington. (If you plan on traveling any further west in the lower forty-eight, you’ll need a rowboat.) The trip was doubly fortuitous, at least in respect to weather. First, we escaped from a particularly foul stretch in Royalston: cold, damp, sunless. Had I remained, I imagine little in the way of gardening would have occurred. And, second, our trip was rain-free until the last day. To put that in perspective, our last stop-over experienced 146 inches of rain last year and 69 inches in the first three months of this year. The Olympic National Park is a rain forest, after all.

The ongoing saga of air travel….remember when you dealt with a human being during check-in? Now you are shuttled to a bank of computers. Do-it-yourself. You are now the labor once provided by the airline. It, of course, is elated: staff is reduced, profits increased. I plead stupidity (legitimately so) and a person actually materializes to see me through the task. On my way to security, I’m obliged to dodge an armada of wheelies. Does anybody carry walk-on luggage anymore? I stare in befuddlement at some strapping 6’2”, 220 pounder wheeling his twenty-pound bag to the gate. Then there is the matter of airport ‘security’. For the third time, I have triggered the x-ray machine, requiring a pair of hands travelling about my person. This time I demurred. Actually, I seethed, flinging obscenities while questioning the accuracy of the machine. Passengers piled up behind me and the third T.S.A. agent approached. Realizing that I was one step away from being shackled, I retreated to the role of subservience they demanded. Much to their dismay, no weapons of mass-destruction were discovered on my body.

I’ve made it to the plane. Everything is set to go. Well….no. It was announced that one passenger was allergic to peanuts. No peanuts would be served. We were advised, no, ordered, not to extract from our carry-ons such lethal weapons as peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. At which point, a second passenger objected: he had some condition which required the consumption of protein and his source of protein was mixed nuts. So we were obliged to wait while an airline representative fetched (from the terminal) an alternative for the protein-deprived traveler. I AM NOT MAKING THIS UP.

April 22

Wouldn’t you know, the weather has improved dramatically since my return; it is now gardening-friendly. Oh, yes, the garden. One would be hard-pressed to note any difference from a month ago. The alliums are taller, the rhubarb more apparent, parsnips have begun re-growth, so, too, the strawberries. It is time to put to bed the notion that peas can be planted ‘as soon as the soil can be worked.’ The soil was eminently workable on March 12. Forty-five feet of peas were dutifully planted. At twelve to a foot that works out to 540 peas. I count twelve plants. The spinach, planted the same day, fared much better, germinating after three weeks and surviving the 12 degree morning on the sixth. Potatoes are in the ground but have not emerged from the ground. The early apple trees are showing some green, but all other fruit trees remain in tight bud. That’s a good thing: early flowering followed by late frost translates to no fruit.

A month hence? One would be hard-pressed not to notice a significant difference in the appearance of the garden.

*Larry Siegel*

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**Recipe of the Month:**

**Emily Dickinson’s Ginger Snap Recipe**

Library Trustee and Dickinson scholar Polly Longsworth brought these tasty cookies to the recent author event at the Maples. Participants enjoyed hearing Susan Snively read from her assiduously researched (but fictional) bodice ripper about Emily Dickinson’s possible romance with her father’s friend Judge Otis Lord. Polly brought these cookies, made from the poet’s own recipe, which calmed the palpitating crowd.

Polly says, “Here is Emily Dickinson’s ginger snap recipe, which actually came down through the family of Emily’s good friend and age mate Abby Wood (later Bliss). Abby was a member of the Samuel Sweetser family of Athol, but was raised by her uncle, Luke Sweetser, keeper of Amherst’s principal general store.

According to the accompanying directions, “The Ginger Snap recipe makes 7 dozen cookies, which keep indefinitely!” However, they’re pretty addictive, and never last long. It’s also a recipe that’s easily cut in half.”

Mix Together:

1 1/2 c. sugar  1 Tbs cinnamon
1 Tbs. ginger  1 tsp. cloves

Add: 3 tsp. baking soda dissolved in 1/2 c. tepid water
Cream in: 1 1/2 c. butter
Add: 1 c. molasses
Stir in: about 7 c. flour
Mould dough into about 6 balls. Refrigerate for a while if desired for better handling. Then roll balls out one at a time on floured surface (I use a pastry cloth) to a 1/8 inch depth. For crisper cookies, roll thinner. Cut cookies (traditionally by placing a glass upside down on the dough, for a circle shape) and place on baking sheet about 1/2 inch apart. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes (1 prefer 9 min) until just done.

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**June 4 - Miller’s River Clean Up Day**

Bobby Curley of Athol, president of the North Quabbin Trails Association, urges Royalston residents to “save the date,” Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a special tribute to the cleanup of the Millers River. He said:

“The river runs through South Royalston, where there are trail heads for great hiking, and your town’s wastewater treatment plant is part of the story we are calling ‘Miracle on the Millers’ – A 40-year Success Story.”

“Mark your calendar now, and come celebrate what makes our region so special!” Curley said, adding: “This will be a day long, indoor / outdoor event that highlights the organizations and individuals that were responsible for the transformation of the Millers River from an industrial wasteland to its present day of clean running waters.” It will be held at OIC (Orange Innovation Center) 131 West Main St in Orange.

“Participants include Millers River Watershed Council, Millers River Fishermen’s Association and Trout Unlimited, legislators, town officials and businesses among others are being invited to tell this unfolding story, hosted by North Quabbin Trails Association.

“Details of the scheduled events will be following in community and social media. So mark the day of fun, celebration and education and join us for this free event open to all!”

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**Out of Town Subscriptions**

Out of Town Subscriptions are available for $25/calendar year (10 issues) by mailing a check to: Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

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**Book Worms with Green Thumbs?**

**Library plant and book sale is June 4, 8:30 - 11:30.**

Three ways to help:

- Donations of plants needed! Pot up your extras to support library purchases, programs and projects, including this newsletter. Donations can be dropped at the library the week prior to the sale.

- Save some spots in your garden for the perrenials, herbs, annuals, fruits and veggies available at this once a year sale. Most come with an in-town heritage and all come with advice.

- Clear some space on your bookshelves for the used book bargains available at the library.