Calendar of Events

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

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  Miller’s River Clean-up Day at Orange Innovation Center.

11 a.m.  New Strawberry Moon

June 5  Sunday
7 pm  Yoga classes in the library garden with Janet Bettey.  Free but donations accepted.  Continues throughout June.

June 6  Monday  First Day of Ramadan

June 12  Sunday
12 - 2 pm  Jazz Brunch to benefit The Royalston Historical Society at “The Maples” on the Common.  $25.  To reserve your spot, contact Patience Bundshuh.

June 14  Tuesday  Flag Day
half day schedule  School’s out for summer in the ARRS

7 pm  at Town Hall, the Conservation Commission will discuss the terms of the conservation restrictions on the newly established Eagle Reserve area.  The public is welcome to attend.

June 18  Saturday
11 am  Friends of the Library Annual Meeting, which means rhubarb squares will be served.  All welcome to discuss library funding, programs, plans and purchases.

June 19  Sunday  Father’s Day

June 20  Monday  Full Strawberry Moon

3:45 pm  Library Book Group meets  All welcome.  Books at the library.

6:34 p.m.  Summer Solstice

June 20 - July 1
9:30 - 12 noon  Royalston Shakespeare Company, theater workshop for kids ages 5 - 20 presents Macbeth.  Sign up at the library.  Thanks to a grant from the Cultural Council and support from the Friends, there is no charge to participants.  Celebrating over a decade of in-town Bard.

June 23  Thursday
7 pm  Special Town Meeting in the town hall dining room.  This meeting addresses the transfer of any un-used funds from FY 2016 into stabilization account.

June 24  Friday  Midsummer’s Day, Celtic fire festival representing the middle of summer, and the shortening of the days on their gradual march to winter.

June 23  Thursday
7 pm  Special Town Meeting in the town hall dining room.  This meeting allows us to transfer any un-used funds from FY 2016 back into our stabilization account.

Save the Date
July 1  Friday
7 pm  The Royalston Shakespeare Co. presents a workshop performance of Macbeth at Town Hall.

July 7  Thursday
1:30 pm  Summer Reading Program begins at the Phinehas Newton Library.  It continues on Thursdays at 1:30 for older kids and Mondays at 10 am for pre-schoolers.

July 15  Friday
7 pm  Historical Society Annual Meeting in the museum (aka Post Office)

July 16 - 17  Swanzey NH’s last performance of The Old Homestead, a bonafied 19th C melodrama in nearly continuous production since it made its local playwright, Denman Thompson, quite wealthy and famous back in 1886. Features barbershop quartet, cunning sets, and live oxen. Authentic Americana unlike anything else you will see this summer (or probably ever).  Freewill donation.  Snacks sold.  Rt 32.

July 17  Sunday  Royalston Musicfest
Royalston Emergency Management Agency

It seems we go from one emergency preparedness extreme to another – for example, from concerns of flooding from March melting and April showers, to fires that skitter along dried grasses and winter debris thanks to warm, summer winds. There are a number of things every property owner can do to lessen chances that a wildfire (formerly called forest fires) will threaten homes.

Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.

Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within ten feet of your house.

Screen or box in areas with fencing or wire mesh to prevent combustible materials from accumulating.

Remove any flammable materials – like firewood, brush piles, etc. – within 30 feet of your house.

Prune trees so lowest branches are six-ten feet off the ground and immediately dispose of any cuttings to reduce fire intensity.

Inspect shingles and replace or repair any that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration in the event of fire.

Cover exterior attic vents and enclose under-eave and soffit vents with “hardware cloth” with openings no larger than 1/8th of an inch to prevent embers from blowing into the house.

There are plenty more ideas about protecting your home and property at www.firewise.org, the National Fire Prevention Association’s site www.nfpa.org, and many helpful articles and printouts to help you with preparedness at www.Ready.gov.

If you have questions on wildfire preparedness, speak with members of the Royalston Fire Department, or contact Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay at e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or phone 978-249-2904.

Royalston in the British News - 1963

Thanks to Pat Jackson, who came across this article about the December 6 train crash in South Royalston while cleaning out some old magazines. She has more copies of the London Illustrated News (although not with a local connection). If anyone would like them, contact the newsletter.

The Royalston Historical Society is planning to write a walking tour of South Royalston this summer. If you would like to be involved in creating the tour, please contact the Royalston Historical Society on its Facebook page or through its web-site: www.royalstonhistorical.org

Also, a 250th Celebration 2.0 photo book will be constructed with more names and even more photos. If you have excellent digital photos to share, please contact the historical society or this newsletter.

Select Board Notes:

Linda Alger

Helen Divoll, Administrative Assistant to the Board, has announced her retirement at the end of June. She has served in this role since the late 1990s, so finding a replacement will be a daunting task. I am sure the Board will find a fitting way to honor Helen and her years of commitment to the Town. She will be missed but we wish her well.

The Town was awarded a grant in the amount of $183,000 toward the Town Hall elevator project, the grant effort was spearheaded by the Board Chair, Christine Long. Now our hope is that we receive additional grant funds from the Community Block grant, which we have applied for in a joint application with Phillipston.

The Board will be making annual appointments during the month of June. If you are interested in learning what committees may need your assistance and talents, please contact the Administrative Assistant.

The Annual Town Meeting approved approximately two million dollars in spending for fiscal Year 2017. Thank you to the voters who participated. The approved final warrant will be posted on the Town web site. We will be having our usual clean up Special Town Meeting on June 23rd at 7pm in the Town Hall dining room. This meeting addresses the transferal of any un-used funds from FY 2016 into our stabilization account.

The Board would like to offer its congratulations to all of our local graduates.
**Board of Health News**

**Phil Leger, chair**

Royalston Recycling and Transfer Station (RRATS) new FY2016/17 annual windshield stickers are in and available from attendants. They are $15 for 1st one and $5 for subsequent family stickers. Current stickers expire June 30th. They are to be displayed on the lower driver’s side windshield on all vehicles entering and using the facility. Town workers are not exempt. This fee helps defer the cost of free recycling at RRATS. Although, there are transport cost for recyclables, there is no charge to you. Help keep this service free and do your part by purchasing your sticker.

There is still time for spring cleaning. We take all types of textiles, curtains, sheets, clothes etc. as long as they are not wet or soaked with oil, gas, etc. Keep this resource out of the trash and onto a new life by depositing in one of the clothing bins located in front of the reusable building.

Practice the 5 D’s in preparation for mosquito borne virus season:
* Dress with long pants and shirts.
* Deet repellent to keep them away.
* Drain stagnant water around your house, such as buckets, kiddie pools, old tires, clean gutters etc. Check your screen windows and doors. And, “Shut the door.”
* Although the Zika mosquito is not in our area, other mosquitoes that can carry other viruses are.
* Personal protection is the best protection.

This goes for ticks also, Bag those pants, and check yourselves when walking outside. Lyme disease is in Massachusetts.

Other than that, we hope you enjoy our NE summer. It’s supposed to be hot and dry. As Larry Siegel would say, “good for some plants, not so good for others.”

**National Grid Donates Trees for Royalston Common**

Royalston was selected as one of the towns in Massachusetts to receive four white oak trees from National Grid to plant on the common. Shown in the photo are Patience Bundschuh, a member of the Common Restoration Committee; Billy Quinones, Bigelow Nursery; Lance Wade, Western District Forestry Advisor for National Grid; Rob Herrick, Contract Utility Forester for National Grid; and Larry Siegel, Tree Warden and member of the Common Restoration Committee.

**Time to Sign up for your Royalston Internet**

**Jon Hardie**

Amazing! Over 250 Royalston residents have already completed the Homeowner Tech Easement Form, either on paper (it was included in you 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 us ... only with your prior permission & 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 isn’t a contract for service, just network engineering boots on the ground, before we begin construction this fall.

We Need Your Help! 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, that 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 serious about getting town owned high speed internet in Royalston.

1. If you have already completed the homeowner easement form, skip that step. Now, 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 for service, all complete the necessary forms, and select your package, before we can begin the installation at your home. Suggestion...when you pre register, all of that paperwork is already completed ,, you just need to choose your package at install.

The Royalston/High-Speed Broadband internet train has completed its first stop in the South Village, where folks are already 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 sign-up, the more sustainable the network, the less we can charge: above our operating cost, capital expense, breakeven. We’re not Verizon. We, you and I, our families and neighbors are the customers ... we will own our network together.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Jeffrey Magnum, 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
Kate Duffin
Rev. Philip and Phebe Jacobs
Jim Taylor
Pat Worth and Michael Young
Mary Hoag
Rick and Patti Carrier
Tom Montagno
Cathy Offutt and Teddy Laakkonen
Paul Montero
Chris Long
Cheryl and Dan Mahoney
Elizabeth and Clarence Rabideau
THANK YOU!!

Summer Yoga Classes
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. in the library garden beginnning on June 5. 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.

Library Book Discussion Group
meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months and will gather on 20 June to discuss Finding George Orwell in Burma by Emma Larkin. (This book was heldover from last month). 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.

Register Now
Royalston Shakespeare Co.
Summer Theater Workshop for kids
June 20 - July 1
Actors, dancers, prop makers, set designers, lighting technicians and musicians needed.
Venue: Royalston Town Hall
Times: Mostly mornings 9:30 - noon. Wednesdays end at 11 am. (Small group extra times as needed with prior arrangements.)
This production consists of a series of workshops culminating in a big production. It should be a fun and rewarding experience. Participation is free (forsooth!) but a commitment to attend every rehearsal, work hard and cooperate with all the cast and directors is required.
Prior theater experience is not necessary. Everyone who wants to be on stage will be cast.

Summer Reading Programs Coming in July
The theme for this year’s Collaborative Summer Reading Program is “On Your Mark, Get Set…. READ! Programs for older kids will be held on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the library. We are excited to be offering a program on martial arts with Marie and Mason Mello, as well as hosting “The Caterpillar Lab” from Keene, New Hampshire, and creating fairy houses with Sharon Harmon. Preschoolers will meet on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. for a yoga program, making beaded sun spirals, and listening to storyteller Norah Dooley.

Art Exhibit
Tom Musco will continue to have his Japanese prints from the classical period (mid-18th century) on display through the month of June. In conjunction with the summer reading program, Sam Jaffe of The Caterpillar Lab (which will present a two hour program on caterpillars on July 21) will display his stunning close-up photographs of caterpillars: eating, pupating, and emerging as butterflies or moths.

Meet your School’s Summer Reading Requirements by using the resources at the Library
Get an early start on summer reading. The library has the lists and books for the summer reading requirements for Athol-Royalston schools and Monty Tech. For other schools, we can access those lists and if we don’t own the books (or you want other books), we can borrow them from other libraries. Come in and check out the books. Readers can enter drawings for prizes - even for required reading!

Produced by the Friends of the Library with funding from the Royalston Cultural Council
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

**Adult fiction**
- Baldacci, David: The Last Mile
- Barnes, Julian: The Noise of Time
- Barnett, Laura: The Versions of Us
- Cleave, Chris: Everyone Brave is Forgiven
- DeLillo, Don: Zero K
- Deveraux, Jude: The Girl from Summer Hill
- Divakaruni, Chitra: Before We Visit the Goddess
- Erdrich, Louise: LaRose
- Haddon, Mark: The Pier Falls
- Haigh, Jennifer: Heat and Light
- Hamilton, Jane: The Excellent Larambos
- Hart, John: Redemption Road
- Haslett, Adam: Imagine Me Gone
- Hill, Joe: The Fireman
- Hilton, L.S.: Maestra
- Johansen, Iris: Hide Away
- Kelly, Martha: Lilac Girls
- Kubic, Mary: Don’t You Cry
- Lent, Jeffrey: A Slant of Light
- Lippman, Laura: Wilde Lake
- Lynch, Jim: Before the Wind
- Mackintosh, Clare: I Let You Go
- Ogden, Jenni: A Drop in the Ocean
- O’Nan, Stewart: City of Secrets
- Patterson, James: 15th Affair
- Russo, Richard: Everyone’s Fool
- Sandford, John: Extreme Prey
- Simonson, Helen: The Summer Before the War
- Sittenfeld, Curtis: Eligible
- Smith, Dominic: The Last Painting of Sara De Vos
- Spiotta, Dana: Innocents and Others
- Steel, Danielle: The Apartment
- Sweeney, Cynthia: The Nest
- Woods, Stuart: Family Jewels

**Adult nonfiction**
- America’s Test: Master of the Grill
- Berry, Wendell: Our Only World
- Hammer, Joshua: The Bas-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu
- Kurlansky, Mark: Paper
- Mukherje, Siddhartha: The Gene
- Philbrick, Nathaniel: Valiant Ambition
- Rovelli, Carlo: Seven Brief Lessons on Physics
- Shaheen, Stefany: Elle & Coach

**Audio Books:**
- Harman, Claire: Charlotte Bronte
- Hart, John: Redemption Road
- Philbrick, Nathaniel: Valiant Ambition

**Young Adult Fiction/Nonfiction**
- Hardinage, Frances: The Lie Tree
- McCreight, Kimberly: The Outliers
- Riordan, Rick: The Hidden Oracle
- Stiefvater, Maggie: The Raven King

**Children’s Fiction**
- Alexie, Sherman: Thunder Boy Jr.
- Avi: The Most Important Thing
- Barry, Dave: The Worst Night Ever
- Bedard, Michael: Emily
- Bernstrom, Daniel: One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree
- Dickson, Irene: Blocks
- Ehler, Lois: Rain Fish
- Mack, Jeff: Playtime?
- McKay, Sindy: Can You Find?
- Mlynowski, Sarah: Genie in a Bottle
- Myracle, Lauren: Wishing Day
- Panec, D.J.: How Many?
- Santat, Dan: Are we There Yet?
- Sayres, Brianna: Where do Diggers Sleep at Night?
- Smith, Lane: There is a Tribe of Kids
- Teague, Mark: The Pirate Jamboree
- Willems, Mo: The Thank You Book
- Yolen, Jane: My Uncle Emily
- Zimmer, Yuval: One Hundred Bones Later
- Vernon, Ursula: Hamster Princess 2
- Yolen, Jane: What to do with a Box

**Children’s nonfiction**
- Bacher, Lindsay: Alia Muhammad Baker
- Coudray, Jean-Luc: A Goofy Guide to Penguins
- Farndon, John: Stickmen’s Guide to Watercraft
- Herrington, Lisa: Remarkable Reptiles
- Holm, Jennifer: Babymouse goes for the Gold
- Jenkins, Steve: Flying Frogs and Walking Fish
- Limentani, Alison: How Much Does a Ladybug Weigh?
- Marsico, Katie: Drones
- Mattern, Joanne: Bridges
- Otfinoski, Steven: Quicksand
- Reed, M.K.: Dinosaurs
- Rockliff, Mara: Anything but Ordinary Addie: True Story of Adelaide Herrman

**Children’s Audiobooks**
- Thompson, Kay: The Eloise Collection

**DVDs:** The Choice, Deadpool (DVD & BluRay), Joy, The Lady in the Van, Norm of the North, Revenant, Son of Saul, Star Wars: The Force Awakens (DVD & BluRay) and War & Peace (the complete miniseries)
Royalston Historical Society

The first phase of the restoration work on Old Schoolhouse No.1 is nearing completion with a new paint job, window restoration and general exterior repairs. Fundraising is ongoing as we still need a new roof, structural repairs and many interior improvements.

The annual Jazz Brunch at the Maples ballroom is scheduled for June 12 at 12 PM. $25 reserve early. Call Patience Bundschuh 978-249-6081.

A fall auction is being planned. Donations of items are tax deductible. Call Stephanie McClure 978-249-8675 or leave a note at the post office.

Please visit our museum, open many Saturdays throughout the summer. Consider joining us as we could use help with many upcoming projects: fundraising, old house surveys, walking tours of South Royalston, a new edition of the 250th celebration book, refurbishing museum exhibits, building improvements and more.

The annual Jazz Brunch at the Maples ballroom is scheduled for June 12 at 12 PM. $25 reserve early. Call Patience Bundschuh 978-249-6081.

JUNE SCHEDULE at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem from Ling (Program Committee chair)

Saturday 6/11 at 7:30 PM: Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry are an audience favorite playing post-modern, mythic American folk. Grand Opening Champagne Reception at 6:45 PM. Come early!

Sunday 6/12 at 4 PM: Florence Camerata Trio – Classical pianist Gregory Hayes presents chamber music with Joe Jewett on violin and Richard Mickey on cello.

Saturday 6/18 at 7:30 PM: The Mark Fisher Trio from Gardner presents a diverse mix of comedic, personal and socio-political songs topped off with effortless harmony and genial storytelling.

Sunday 6/19 at 4 PM: Jay Mankita presents a wonderfully upbeat, crazy Father’s Day treat for the whole family. Be prepared for plenty of smiles and belly-laughes. Hint: Kids, this is a GREAT present for Dad!

Thursday 6/23 at 7:30 PM: Bluegrass fans won’t want to miss Mile Twelve, a fresh, hard driving young Boston-based band beautifully walking the line between original and traditional bluegrass.

Saturday 6/25 at 7:30 PM: The Pangeans are back. They’re a seven-piece World Music Ensemble performing Latin Jazz, Samba, Reggae, Calypso, Soca, Funk, Afro Beat and more. Dancing in the aisles!

On the web: royalstonhistorical.org
Email: royalstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Phone: Peter Kraniak 978-249-7625
Visit us on Facebook
**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS**

**Graduates:** Let your light shine! Send your info to the Royalston Community Newsletter (chagesos2@gmail.com) for publication next month.

Congratulations to Abby Divoll, graduating from Athol High School June 4. She will be attending Franklin Pierce in the fall to study special education. Her family couldn’t be prouder of the caring, compassionate and competent person she has become.

Stacy Baker graduated from Fitchburg State College with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Royalston Junior Honor Society inductees to the Athol Royalston Middle School group are Anthony Divoll, Aliyah Neale, and Maria Valliere.

**Dream Job**

Royalston-raised Caitlin J. Barclay, a marine mammal trainer and animal care specialist at SeaWorld San Antonio is fully “immersed” in her new position conducting dolphin interaction programs at Discovery Point, which opened May 21st. SeaWorld S.A.’s Discovery Point is one of the few places in the United States where you can swim with dolphins, belugas, and sea lions, and even have professional images made to remember the amazing experience. There’s an underwater viewing area, Explorer’s Reef with five species of sharks, hundreds of species of fish, invertebrates and amphibians; and thousands of native and tropical plants to give that exotic feel. If you’re looking for a really cool place to vacation, check out San Antonio, and be sure to include SeaWorld. Caitlin would love to introduce you to some of “her” 21 bottle nose dolphins, and tell you about her adventures with SeaWorld Rescue. Go to www.SeaWorldCares.com for more pictures and details!

**Obituary**

Robert A. Denis, 86, of South Royalston, died peacefully in his home Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Born in Gardner on Feb. 4, 1930, he was the son of the late Philibert and Vergenia (Larondeau) Denis.

Robert was a United States Korean War Navy veteran, and received the National Defense Service Medal, Battle “E” China Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal with European Clasp and Korean Service Medal.

Robert was employed for many years by Fontaine Brothers of Gardner as a laborer. He was a former member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church of Royalston. Robert enjoyed spending time snowshoeing, playing cribbage, gardening and metal detecting. Hunting was his passion and he also loved blueberry picking. He was a member of the Royalston Fish and Game, South Royalston Improvement Corporation and was a former captain of the Royalston Fire Department for 16 years.

Robert was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Barbara A. (Bush) Denis, who died May 10, 2014. He leaves one son, Allen R. Denis and his wife Sheila of South Royalston; five daughters, Elizabeth A. Sproul and her husband Jack of Galax, Va., Karen M. Proulx and her husband David of Franklin, N.H., Sandra A. Plante and her husband Albert of Gaffney, S.C., Sheila L. Griffith and her significant other, Steve Boccardi of Royalston, and Robin S. Recos and her husband Ronald of Phillipston; four brothers, Francis Denis of Leominster, Ronald Denis and his wife Theresa of Florida, Eugene Denis and his wife Phyllis of Baldwinville and Gerald Denis and his wife Susan of Florida; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Denis of Leominster; 11 grandchildren, Justin, Jen, Tom, Melissa, Jeremiah, Adam, Stacy, Joshua, Nicole, Dana and Candace; 16 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Robert was predeceased by one brother, Richard Denis; and by one sister, Philena Duda.

Burial will be in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallen St., Winchendon, at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Royalston Fire Department and EMS, Athol Road, Royalston, MA 01368.

To leave an online condolence, visit www.boucherfuneral.com.

Abby Divoll

Stacy Baker

Abby Divoll
What’s happening at the Village School?

Rise Richardson, director

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
June 4th from 7:30 to 11:30 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 11:30 a.m. Auction items include original paintings, crafts, gift certificates, maple syrup, a half organic lamb, a garden cart, aged manure, museum passes and lots of interesting new items from local farms and businesses. The whole list of items for the auction is posted at www.vilageschoolma.org. The Auction and Breakfast will benefit the Village School building project at Camp Caravan. Friends of the Library have plants for sale at the Post Office and a book sale at the library. The program of events includes a Red Sox ticket raffle, a giant yard sale, the Millers River Morris Men, a Live Birds of Prey Presentation, A Cake Walk for Children, a children’s obstacle course and face painting. Yard Sale tables are $10 each, call 249 3505 to reserve.

Openings in the Village School for Fall 2016
There are openings in preschool, kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade. Call the school for more information and to set up a visit.

What’s happening:
The K-1 is climbing Tully Mtn. The 2nd-3rd grade finishes the year with a Theme Share Celebration, including singing, playing recorder and sharing writing. On Wednesday June 8, the 4th-6th class shares artwork portfolios at 6:15, followed by graduation at 7:00 p.m.

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School
Go to www.vilageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs for children ages 4 to 14. Programs are: Nature Arts and Play (for younger children), Woodworking for Kids, and the Science and Art Experience. Discounts are given to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy. Brochures are at the Post Office and the library.

Summer Music Program at the Village School
Summer instrumental music lessons will take place at the Village School from July 6th through August 26th. Lessons are open to ALL AGES – even adults! Students may begin piano at age 4, recorder, guitar and ukulele at age 6, and flute at age 9. Group and private lessons are available. Flexible schedule: Just sign up for the weeks when you’re home – you won’t be charged for lessons when you’re on vacation! For more information, and for a registration form, go to www.vilageschoolma.org and click on Summer Programs.

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

The exciting plans for the new Veterinarian Technician program are beginning to firm up! A May 18th update was held with Michael Pagano and Bill Sencal of Lamoureux, Pagano & Associates, who offered a presentation of the slightly-less-than 7,500 square foot floor plan and elevations showing the building that will house approximately 50 students, instructors and a number of furry, four-footed “patients.” Site work for the structure begins mid-July so in September, 2016, LP&A can begin working on construction with students in Monty Tech’s building trades. The company is enthusiastic about the construction phase of the masonry building, which will sport a metal roof and solar panels, and was designed in concert with the building trade instructors. Inside will be a classroom, laboratory, and three general triage rooms, as well as radiology, surgical, dental and pharmacology suites large enough to accommodate four or five student participants. A grooming shop with three stations will be just inside the main entrance. There will also be storage, laundry and mechanical systems rooms.

Tully Trail Improvements

Allen Young

Improvements of a section of the Tully Trail in Royalston have recently been completed by the North Quabbin Trails Association (NQTA), a local nonprofit, and the Trustees of Reservations, owner of the Jacobs Hill Reservation.

Since the 22-mile loop trail was created in 2002 -- with most of it in Royalston -- a section along transmission lines has been disappointing and confusing to hikers. Now that section has been relocated, with the work done by NQTA president Bobby Curley of Athol and South Royalston resident Don Shambroom of Blossom Street. The relocation passes through forestland roughly parallel to Route 68 and the transmission lines. Curley expressed appreciation for the cooperation of Royalston landowner Dave Williams. The work includes new blazes, a rustic bench and a sign marking the newly-named “Snaky Vista.” The view from that spot features a meandering section of the Tully River (East Branch). The custom-made sign was created by Royalston resident Buddy Dyer of Butterworth Road. The word “snaky” refers to the appearance of the river, not to any actual vipers.

Improved signage and yellow blazes heading north from Jacobs Hill are improvements completed by the Trustees.

Royalston residents Don Shambroom, left, and Allen Young, take a rest at the Snaky Vista after helping install the new sign. Celtz, the collie in the photo, is the companion of NQTA president Bobby Curley, who took the photo and organized the trail relocation.
Classifieds


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.


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:

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For sale:
Electric Brake Control & cable for a Chevrolet. $25 Call Fred 978-249-3879

Baby Einstein Pack N Play w/carrying bag, 2 sheets & some toddler toys. $25. Call Marsh 508-735-4447

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 $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 call: (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


Garden Notes

May 22, 2016

A downside to living in New England is the absence of green from the landscape for one-third the year. Not entirely, there being a handful of shrubs and ground covers, two ferns even, which retain their green cast. And the evergreen trees, of course (white pine and hemlock the predominant species in town). Currently, I am witnessing the sweet-green-of-youth stage, a freshness and vibrancy which will persist only a short time longer. Venture out after a spring rain (though we've experienced precious few)…. everything green sparkles. (Not sharing in this evolving state are the peach trees. We have four, ranging in age from elderly to youngerly, and all four took a beating last winter, barely leafing out. My observation of others in town suggests that this turn of events is not unique to Prospect Hill.)

Forsythia: a tale of woe and intrigue. The mass of yellow flowers on forsythia in early May is a given, as sure as taxes being due in mid-April. Taxes were still due in mid-April. Forsythias did not flower. Actually, some did, but in early March when a week of springish weather ‘forced’ blooms outdoor. The rest of us did without; it is the first forsythia-free spring I have experienced in Royalston. To the rescue come the lilacs, bless ‘em, which, in decidedly un-forsythia-like fashion are currently awash in color. I cannot recollect a finer display of flowers. (Notwithstanding the fact that my power of collection is declining.)

As predicted (though I would have been more than pleased to have been incorrect), apple trees have been miserly in their blossoms. Only one of seven trees is blooming in what I consider to be an appropriate applely fashion. Flowers on the other six range from scant to none. Fortunately, the freezer is well-stocked with cider and applesauce.

Gardening activities continue apace, though, admittedly (and gratefully), the pace is leisurely, a situation I owe to the fact that, the lion’s share (what is a lion’s share? I guess if you’re a lion, it is as much as you want) of spring work was conducted last fall. The presence of generous amounts of mulch keeps weeding to a minimum. Between now and when this missive is being read, a lot more will have transpired. Several days hence celery, celeriac, and parsley will be transplanted; several days thereafter, tomatoes. Assuming we experience a couple of really warm days (like 80º), I’ll jump-start seedings of beans and cucumbers. Awaiting a longer stretch of warm weather: corn, peppers, winter squash. By mid-June the fall garden requires my attention: carrots and beets planting, brassicas transplanting.

Current harvests are scant, but harvests there are. Ten or so days ago we ate our first salad. The leaves of lettuce and spinach were miniscule but bits of scallions and asparagus bulked up the bowl. At Prospect Hill Farm, that is an EVENT, our first fresh greens since last fall.

Onward.

Larry Siegel

Survival of the Clueless

Deb D’Amico

When I was 8 years old my dream was to be a pioneer. Not as in “a pioneer in medicine” or “a political visionary” but, literally, a pioneer. Calico dress. Deeply-brimmed bonnet (white). Rustic apron. Perched at the front of a Conestoga wagon – no - commanding a team of oxen at the front of said wagon. Westward bound. The fact that this dream was about 100 years too late never occurred to me. It didn’t matter. The image was irresistible, and I spent hours perched at the foot of my twin bed, calling to my ox team, practicing the moves I’d need to steer my family westward.

I don’t know where this image came from. I had not yet read the Laura Ingalls Wilder books about Ma and Pa and their impossibly plucky lives on the prairie, so that was not the source. Perhaps it was all those wild west TV shows of the ’50s – “The Rifleman”, “Bonanza”, and “Wagon Train”. Nonetheless, the images were strong and they fueled my play for a long time – the first in a series of childhood ambitions charged with high drama.

I have been thinking about this a lot lately. Retirement has provided me ample time to pursue new interests. I have tried my hand at knitting, gardening, fermenting my own vegetables, and putting food by. It would appear that, 60 years on, I am still preparing for life on the prairie. However, given my success rate thus far with these essential survival skills, I shudder to think what would have happened to my family as I dragged them across the Kansas plains.

My pickles and sauerkraut are only sometimes edible and my first attempt at grape jam produced a solid mass. What would my family have eaten as we trudged westward? My knitting has so many dropped stitches that it takes me months to finish a simple scarf. My pioneer family would have had to clothe themselves in canvas off the wagon as they waited for me to complete their outfits. Despite weeks of study and hours of careful sowing and weeding, my carrots and parsnips are either enormous or thin and leggy. My green bean crop is so out of control that my family would have abandoned the homestead before eating one more bean! And don’t even get me started on the mysteries of composting.

Recently, I lamented to two of my accomplished gardener-friends that I cannot get cilantro to grow. “Cilantro?! It’s a weed! I can’t get rid of it,” was the astonished reply. Oh dear! I guess the jig is up.

Dreams have a way of asserting themselves, but not always in their original form. With my relocation from Watertown to Royalston, my husband points out that I have indeed “moved west”. It is fortunate that this move did not involve a team of oxen and homespun cloth.
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Recipe of the month: Stinging Nettles Soup

Most people think of stinging nettles as a problematic weed – don’t touch them because your skin will sting afterward. Patti Stanko, teacher, Friend of the Library, and long-time lover of plants, says – “think again, you can eat stinging nettles!” Patti collects the nettles carefully (with gloves, scissors, and a pot to snip them into) in May and June when they first appear. If you find nettles that are very large, or have already set flowers, they are too far gone. Patti then adds the young greens to the soup. As soon as they touch the water their sting is gone – really!

Cream of Stinging Nettle Soup
Chop these veggies, cover with water, simmer until tender, puree.

- 1 onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 lb. stinging nettles - steam in 1 cup water until wilted. Puree.
- 1 potato
- 1 carrot
- 1 potato

Make a roux: whisk 1/3 cup flour into 1/3 cup melted butter. Whisk in 2 cups milk and cook over low heat, stirring until thickened. Add pureed nettles and veggies to the roux. Season to taste. Add more milk if too thick.

Patti also suggests using nettles anywhere you would use steamed spinach or other greens: Steam nettles thoroughly and add to some sautéed onions and garlic for a side dish. Add to chicken or miso broth. Go ahead – try them (but be careful).

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01368

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 perennials, 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.