Calendar of Events

October 1    Saturday    Hegira
7 - 10 pm  Athol-Royalston Education Foundation’s Octoberfest. Good homemade food and Germanic fun to benefit enrichment programs and community connections in the local public schools. Call Beth for tix. $20  249-0358

October 2    Sunday
noon South Royalston School Reunion at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Social hour followed by potluck at 1 pm. sundown Rosh Hashanah begins

October 3    Monday
Child Health Day

October 10   Monday
Columbus Day

October 11   Wednesday
Yom Kippur begins

October 12   Wednesday
10 - 11:30 am Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic at the Town Hall. The free clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is for Royalston residents who are 18 years of age or older. Walk-ins welcome. Health insurance is not required. If you have insurance, please bring your card.

Deadline for submitting grant requests to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for 2017. Grant forms are available on-line at www.mass-culture.org. The council will meet November 15th to award the grants.

October 15   Saturday

October 16   Sunday
12:24 a.m. Full Hunter’s Moon

October 17   Monday
4:30 pm Library book group meets to discuss Sarah Orne Jewett’s Country of the Pointed Firs. All welcome for tea and book chat. Copies of the book can be checked out at the library. sundown Sukkoth

October 19   Wednesday
2-4 pm and 7-8 pm. Last chance for unregistered voters to register to vote in the presidential election.

October 21   Friday
6:30 pm Royalston Historical Society pot luck supper
7 pm Annual meeting of the Royalston Historical Society: Plan upcoming events and elect new officers.

October 23   Sunday
4 pm Carl Kamp and Deb Nunes will be performing a concert in the ballroom at the Maples (Patience Bundschuh’s) Refreshments will follow the hour-long concert. A free will donation to benefit the Phinehas S. Newton Library will be gratefully accepted.

October 24   Monday
9 am - 1 pm and 6 - 8 pm Early voting in the presidential election at the Town Clerk’s office in Whitney Hall.

October 29   Saturday
3 – 8 p.m. Halloween Bash for kids in the Royalston Town Hall. All free to participants:
3:00 p.m. Halloween Costume Parade
3:15 p.m. Halloween Magic Show with Eddie Raymond
3:45 p.m. Pumpkin decorating, scarecrow making and games
5:30 p.m. Halloween Cookout
6 – 8 p.m. Halloween Movie & Dance

October 31   Monday
Halloween
5 - 8 pm Trick or Treating

November 4 Friday
Annual Village School Lantern Walk

November 8  Tuesday
Presidential Election Day

*(Interestingly, although bats have a vampire association with Halloween, the bats around here go into hibernation around October 3rd according to the Athol Bird and Nature Club calendar.)*
Select Board Notes:
Christine Long, Chair
This board has been telling residents for some time now that Royalston is facing serious financial questions. Well, the chickens are coming home to roost.

The most crucial issue is a demand by the state Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, that we reconcile our accounting and treasury records, something we have not accomplished for some years and the lack of which prevents completion of our audit. We have taken three steps to resolve this issue: We have accepted the resignation of Gene Ferrari as Town Accountant, appointed Karen Shree Barrett as Interim Town Accountant, and invited DLS officials to work with us. The first working meeting will be held this month.

Because the board has long recognized some of the problems within our financial services department, we signed up last winter for a state program called Community Compact, through which state and local officials work cooperatively to analyze some aspect of local government activity and develop a plan to move toward best practices. We signed up for an analysis of our financial services and also of our capital planning efforts.

Some key findings of the report on Royalston’s Financial Management Structure, which also identified the need for reconciliation:

- Not setting the tax rate in a timely fashion, thus creating cash flow problems.
- Very high outstanding property taxes, indicating a weak financial position.
- A budget process with the potential for ending up with an unbalanced budget when setting the tax rate.
- Inadequate capital planning and odd funding of capital projects.
- Lack of centralized town offices and consistent office hours.

The report also makes two recommendations that have financial implications:

To elevate the position of part-time Administrative Assistant into that of full-time or almost full-time Town Coordinator, with more responsibility for directing town-wide operations, managing community finances, and advising policymakers.

To reorganize the financial services department with an appointed Finance Director who also handles accounting and an appointed Treasurer/Tax Collector. Currently, Treasurer and Tax Collector are separate offices in Royalston.

In consultation with the financial team and the Finance Committee, the board will be exploring these recommendations in the coming months.

Note: On the Royalston website (royalston-ma.gov), you can find a statement about the blue ribbons adopted by the Select Board on September 13. Because of press deadlines, it does not include any subsequent information.

Town Clerk News
Melanie A. Mangum, Town Clerk
978-249-0493  P.O. Box 127
www.royalston-ma.gov

Information below can also be found on the Town Clerk’s page at royalston-ma.gov, under the pages “Voting information” and “2016 Election Information”. At the Voting Information page, you will find links to check your voter registration status online, and options to register to vote online.

Presidential Election – Important Dates.
Last day for unregistered voters to register to vote – Wed, October 19
Early Voting Days: Monday, October 24, Monday, October 31 – see below
Polls open on Nov 8. From 7 a.m.- 8p.m.
Precinct 1 – Town Hall – 13 The Common
Precinct 2 – Whitney Hall – 5 School St.

NEW!! EARLY VOTING FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
This year the state passed legislation to enact early voting, and an early voting period will be active for the Presidential Election that will be held on November 8. It will work similar to Absentee Voting (which is still in effect) with a few differences.

All registered voters have the option of early voting during regular town clerk business hours, two business weeks prior to election day. This means that early voting days will be held on Monday October 24 and Monday, October 31, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and 6-8 p.m at the Town Clerk’s Office at Whitney Hall. No application is required if you are voting in person on those two days. However, if you would like an early ballot mailed to you, an application is required and must be received by Friday, Nov. 4, before noon.

Absentee voting is also still available, for those voters who will be absent on election day or have a physical disability or religious belief that prevents them from voting at their polling place. You may submit a signed absentee ballot application, and have a ballot mailed to you, or vote in person at the Town Clerk’s Office during normal business hours. Absentee ballots will be available prior to the early voting period.

Stephen Chase Contracting
Restoration and Preservation Services
Royalston
978-249-0358

MA Construction Supervisor #044817
EPA Lead Safe Certified #NAT-58592-2
Board of Health News  Phil Leger, chair
RBOH has received $2500 from MADEP for recycling efforts at RRATS. This is an incentive grant based on tonnage diverted and services offered. This helps keep recycling free for all. Thanks to all who take the time to recycle and repurpose.

Haz/mat collection Oct. 1st at the Orange recycling center 9am-noon. You must pre-register by calling or emailing Franklin Country Solid Waste Management District at 413-772-3786 or go to their website www.franklincountysolidwastedistrict.org. There is no charge for this service but we do have a town cap. First come first served.

Mosquitoes are still active and we have had West Nile positive mosquitoes in Massachusetts and 2 human cases also. Even though the drought has hurt their numbers, ticks are still active. Use personal protection when outside and shut that door.

Speaking of drought, our area is in the midst of extreme drought. Some wells, especially dug wells, are going dry. If someone needs a well permit in order to drill a new well, please contact Phil Leger @617-584-9714 (texts okay) for help with the details. In the meantime, those of you who have not had water issues, don’t assume you’re all set. Practicing water conservation will help you and your neighbors. Water saving flow devices are easy to install on all your faucets. And, one does not need 5 gallons of water to flush a toilet. Consider upgrading to water efficient toilets.

Flu vaccine season is upon us. Please check with your local health provider, pharmacy, or Council on Aging in order to get vaccinated for this year.

Flu Vaccination Clinic at Town Hall  Gary Winitzer
The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th from 10 am to 11:30 am at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free of charge and is for Royalston residents who are 18 years of age or older. Walk-ins are welcome. The vaccination is free. Health insurance is not required. If you have insurance, please bring your card. This year’s flu shot contains vaccines for the influenza A H3N2 virus, the influenza B virus and the influenza A H1N1. Pneumonia vaccine will also be available, and Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine for those over 65.

If you cannot attend the clinic, vouchers for Rite Aid Pharmacy will be available at the Selectboard’s office until Tuesday, October 20th.

Vaccines will be administered by pharmacists from Rite Aid Pharmacy from Clinton.

To join the Wednesday Luncheon Club for a meal at noon, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 before 10 am on Tuesday.

Royalston MLP Town-wide Broadband Network Update #8  Jon Hardie
The Royalston Broadband Committee, MLP Team, and Select-board, have been working together over the summer to complete Royalston’s MBI Broadband Network Readiness Assessment Documents. These enable us to move forward with the final Town-wide Network grant application to obtain DOR and MBI funding approval. Then, expect a Special Town Meeting to approve funding for our self-sustaining network. There will be no need to come back to Town meeting for money every year, like what might have been required, if we had run fiber to every home.

We’ve completed our network coverage & engineering as well as capital and operating budgets to serve more than 350 households. There will be seven 90-120’ towers broadcasting to our own 28 (55ft) neighborhood telephone pole Access Points, and then to small wireless receivers on each home. We have nearly 300 families who have signed the Tech Access Easement Form. Dozens and dozens of folks have donated $49 to help defray start-up costs and get their first month free. You can too!

Want affordable high speed internet in your home? it’s not too late to pre-register & be ready when we’re in your area.
1) Go to the Royalston town website at www.royalston-ma.gov
2) and (over on the right) click on the Broadband signup.
3) Complete the Tech Easement Form, then
4) Read and click the Terms and Conditions, and
5) Pre-Register (over on the right). We’ll confirm via e-mail.

We’ll notify you when we are installing in your neighborhood to set up a site visit - with you - to select the best antenna location for your home.

We will begin the build-out of our town-owned High Speed Wireless network with a fiber backbone - this fall. Our network will serve everyone everywhere in town, with wireless high speed internet. This is a big deal and has required years of hard work and advocacy. Twenty months ago we began the South Village High Speed Wireless Pilot Grant application. Eight hundred e-mails and dozens of conference calls and documents later, we received (on August 1, 2015) a total of $50,248 for two grants to prove the concept. We began building our pilot network in September 2015, serving about 40 residents across the South Village.

We learned a lot from the South Village pilot as folks in the pilot program were incredibly helpful, supportive and responsive. We used every bit of data and customer feedback to design and engineer the town-wide network.

In September we launched the monthly Royalston Network E-Newsletter to give you detailed build-out progress, including specific goals for which areas we will serve each month and answers to frequently asked questions. If you pre-register, you are signed up for the newsletter.

Again ... Thanks for your help. Together we’ll get it built. If you have any questions, please call Jon Hardie Project Lead on his cell 978-790-8474 from 8 am to 10 pm or 24/7 for emergencies.
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
Ruth Suyenaga
Village School
Kristen and Andy West

Thank you
John Jeffrey, who has the fruit and vegetable stand in Fitzwilliam, for donating the delicious apples so that all the patrons of the library could have a snack.

Artist Exhibit at the Library
Currently we have on exhibit, some beautiful works from three Royalston artists: Sonja Vaccari with an oil painting of Royalston Falls; Kate Collins with a watercolor of Mount Monadnock; and Gordon Morrison with a pencil and ink tropical rainforest and a watercolor of Blue Flags and a Darner dragonfly. There is still room for a few more paintings, so if you would like to exhibit one, please call the library.

Sunday Afternoon Piano and Classical Guitar Concert
On Sunday, October 23rd, at 4:00 pm Carl Kamp and Deb Nunes will present a concert in the historic ballroom of The Maples on Royalston Common of classical guitar and piano music. The concert will last about an hour, followed by refreshments. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library. For more info call Deb at 978-249-4000

Yoga on Tuesday Evenings
Every one, of all abilities, is welcome to attend a wonderful, relaxing evening of yoga with Janet Bethey on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Janet is a certified yoga instructor who tailors the postures to each person’s ability and gives alternatives for each move based on that ability. There is an emphasis on breath work and learning to know your body’s strengths and weaknesses and working with each part. This program is sponsored by the Friends and free will donations are accepted.

Zumba on Mondays?? Let us know if you want it....
For the past several years, Zumba classes have rocked the upstairs of the Town Hall on Mondays from 6 - 7 pm, and the only charge to participants was a free will donation. The Friends are potentially interested in running more Zumba in-town at the same time, venue and cost, but want to guage interest. Do you think you would come? Then, call the library 978-249-3572. With a good response, we will round up an instructor and try to start classes in November.

Royalston General Store
Mon - Wed 7am-7pm, Thur & Fri 7am - 8pm
Sat 8am -8pm, Sun 9am - 6pm
Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials
Full Breakfast
978-249-9798
Subs • Pizza • Pasta • Beer • Wine
Liquor • Lottery • Groceries • Hardware
Eat In or Take Out
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult fiction**
Abbott, Megan  *You Will Know Me*
Alcott, Kathleen  *Infinite Home*
Berry, Flynn  *Under the Harrow*
Brown, Sandra  *Sting*
Burke, James Lee  *The Jealous Kind*
Burton, Jessie  *The Muse*
Cotterill, Colin  *I Shot the Buddha*
Criden, Bill  *Survivors Will Be Shot Again*
Dodd, Christina  *Because I’m Watching*
Evanovich, Janet  *Curious Minds*
Fellows, Julian  *Belgravia*
Foer, Jonathan  *Here I Am*
Forman, Gayle  *Leave Me*
Gross, Andrew  *The One Man*
Hannah, Sophie  *Closed Casket*
Hiaasen, Carl  *Razor Girl*
Hill, Nathan  *The Nix*
Keller, Julia  *Sorrow Road*
Konar, Affinity  *Mischling*
Macomber, Debbie  *Sweet Tomorrows*
McEwan, Ian  *Nutsell*
Mizushima, Margaret  *Stalking Ground*
Moore, Alan  *Jerusalem*
Patchett, Ann  *Commonwealth*
Penny, Louise  *A Great Reckoning*
Robb, J.D.  *Apprentice in Death*
Steiner, Susie  *Missing, Presumed*
Stewart, Amy  *Lady Cop Makes Trouble*
Weinstein, Alexander  *Children of the New World*
Whitehead, Colson  *The Underground Railroad*

**Adult Audiobook**
Brooks, Kim  *The Houseguest*

**CDs**
Neko Case  *Case, Long, Veirs*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
Haynes, Chris  *Off Grid Power*
King, Ross  *Mad Enchantment*
Le Carre, John  *The Pigeon Tunnel*
Minter, Adam  *Junkyard Planet*
Wolfe, Tom  *The Kingdom of Speech*

**Children’s Fiction**
Beaton, Kate  *King Baby*
Curato, Mike  *Little Elliot, Big Fun*
Gall, Chris  *NanoBots*
GrandPre, Mary  *Cleonardo, the Little Inventor*
Guilman, Dan  *Talent Show Mix-up*
Haddox, Margaret  *Children of Exile*
Holm, Jennifer  *Full of Beans*
Kuhlman, Evan  *Hank’s Big Day*
Litwin, Eric  *Ice Cream and Dinosaurs*
Plourde, Lynn  *Bella’s Fall Coat*

**Children’s Non-Fiction**
DeRubertis, Barbara  *Let’s Celebrate Labor Day*
Guiberson, Brenda  *The Deadliest Creature in the World*
Hague, Bradley  *Rise of the Lioness*
Jakobsen, Kathy  *My Washington, DC*
Pikey, Dav  *Dog Man*
Robbins, Dean  *Miss Paul and the President*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
Riggs, Ransom  *Tales of the Peculiar*
Telgemeier, Raina  *Ghosts*

**DVDs:**
*Blacklist Season 3, The Duel, Genius, Huntsman, The Winter’s War (DVD & Bluray), The Jungle Book (DVD & Bluray), Maggie’s Plan and Me Before You*

---

**Library Book Discussion Group**

meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months. It will meet October 16 to discuss Sarah Orne Jewett’s *Country of the Pointed Firs*. All welcome. Copies of the selection are available at the library.

---

**Royalston Computer Repair**
- Virus and Malware Removal  978-467-6194 Toll Free
- Tune ups
- Laptop Screen Repair
- Internet Data Cap Consultation
- Rural Internet Service Provider Recommendations
- Custom Builds

**Dowsing**
*Sine 1965*

Jon Hardie  978-790-8474  jhh@moonroad.com
Recipe of the Month
Butternut Bisque

Despite the drought, it has been a good butternut year. As my uncle said, “I don’t even remember planting butternut and I’ve got more than I can handle.” The following is a delicious and easy soup to celebrate that cucurbitus spirit of generosity and volunteerism.

Ingredients
- 1 squash
- 1 onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 apple (or pear), cut into pieces
- 1 tsp curry powder
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 2 tbsp flour
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 tomato or 1 tbsp tomato paste
- 1/2 cup milk or half and half

Bake 1 medium butternut squash until soft. In a large soup pot, melt 1 tbsp butter. Saute chopped onion, garlic and apple on low heat until soft. Add curry, nutmeg and flour. Stir. With a food processor or food mill, puree the onion mixture with the squash and 1 cup of broth. Return to pot. Add tomato paste and remaining 3 cups of broth. Stir. Heat until just beginning to boil. Add milk. Season with salt and pepper. Voila! Autumn in a bowl.

Tree ID 101 at the Millers River Garden Club
On Thursday, October 20, 2016, 7 pm, C.J. Lammers, a Certified Arborist, will present Tree Identification 101. Come to this hands-on workshop to learn the basics of woody plant identification. Participants will use samples of branches to become familiar with the identification features of woody plants and sort them by their common characteristics. Dichotomous keys will be discussed and used in this exercise.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions. Members are currently working on a wildlife habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center. Guests and new members are always welcome, so join us this month and learn something new about gardening. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a donation.

The Royalston Historical Society
The Annual Meeting takes place at 7PM on Friday October 21 at Peter Kraniak’s house at the corner of Winchendon and Brown Rds. There is an optional pot luck dinner at 6:30. All members (and prospective members) are urged to attend. We will be electing officers for the coming year. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Curator. The current Treasurer and Secretary plan to step down as they are moving away. There will be a presentation by Stephen Chase on the preservation and restoration of historic buildings.

The recent Local Foods Supper fundraiser was a gastronomic and social success. Thanks to:
- Beth Gospodarek and Marie Claire Humblet for their enthusiasm, effort and thoughtful execution.
- The numerous and generous growers and cooks, who cheerfully and skillfully consolidated the labors of a growing season into one very delicious meal.
- Carl Kamp for his classy and thirst-inducing guitar playing.
- Boyd Estus and Caleb Chase for sharing a version of Minnie Lemon’s home movies from the 1930s.
- John Jeffrey for donating corn on the cob.
- Raeann and Roger O’Donnell, Molly Divoll, Kathy Piro, Patti Stanko, Sheila Hall, and Bella Cooke, as well as the many others who kindly jumped in as the serving and scullery crew.
- The Duffins for making the first ever on-line purchase for a ticket to a public supper in Royalston.
- Everyone who came, savored and enjoyed a lovely night while supporting the Historical Society.

The proceeds go toward the ongoing restoration work on Old Schoolhouse No. 1 which houses our museum and the town post office.

For more info see our webpage: royalstonhistorical.org, visit us on Facebook or call Pres. Peter Kraniak, 978-249-7625 or Vice Pres. Stephen Chase 978-249-0358

Sam’s Canine Companions L.L.C.
Sherry A. Miner
71 Athol Road
PO Box 123
Royalston MA 01368
508-873-0629 call or text
Professional all breed grooming and obedience training

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
The rapid development of technologies like wireless communications and cloud computing has granted us the ability to communicate and transact business anywhere, anytime, at an amazing rate of speed. Our world becomes smaller and smaller with devices like smartphones to make contact with people rooted out via social media networking sites. Advertisers fine tune special offers based on what we’ve “liked.” We snap an image and deposit traditional checks as we sit in pajamas eating breakfast. Singles find love; lonelies join on-line communities. Isn’t it grand?!

Well, yes, but the ability to communicate and transact speed-of-light business 24/7, on devices as small as watches, also means MANY opportunities for “sticky-fingered” thieves to grab and go, for the “bad guys” to access our personal and financial information, and for thoughtless and mean people to make life miserable for their intended – and often UN-intended targets.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and the perfect time to consider the security of devices and accounts. It’s never a bad idea to check out the latest and greatest on-line scams. And of course, it is our responsibility to do all we can to prevent cyberbullying, and when that’s not possible, to respond swiftly and firmly in protection of those being victimized. The Department of Homeland Security is promoting the slogan “Stop. Think. Connect.” and via their campaign blog, offers a different cyber security concern each month, and easily accomplished action items designed to reduce risk of theft, security breaches, and victimization of our youths and elders.

If you’re connected, be sure to stop and think about what you’re doing. For some help, check out https://www.dhs.gov/stophinkconnect and ensure you’re taking steps to protect your privacy, your family members and your finances.

Obituary
Helen E. (Guiney) Feleciano, 94, formerly of 30 Morse Road, Royalston, died peacefully Friday afternoon, September 9, 2016 in Gardner Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

She was born in Somerville, Massachusetts on July 3, 1922, daughter of the late John J. and Helen B. (Robinson) Guiney and lived in Royalston for many years. Helen was a 1946 graduate of Emmanuel College.

Helen had worked as a social worker for the City of Waltham, MA School Department for 30 years until her retirement in 1986. She was a member of the former Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel in Royalston and the Royalston Ladies Benevolent Society. She was a member of National Association of Social Workers, Waltham Teachers Association and National Educations Association. Helen was an avid gardener and knitter. She also enjoyed bird watching, painting and watching sporting events, especially Red Sox baseball.

Her husband, Ralph F. Feleciano, died in 1969. She leaves three nephews, William P. Guiney Jr of Chatham, Mass, John J. Guiney 3rd of Royalston and Philip L. Mickey of New Mexico; a niece, Paula Guiney Fish of North Reading; a sister in law Betty Guiney of Andover, Mass. and several grandnieces, grandnephews, and two great grandnephews. Helen was preceded in death by her brothers, William P. Guiney and Rev. John E. Guiney and a sister, Catherine Bernice Guiney.

She is buried in in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of one’s choice. The Guiney family wishes to thank the members of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society for what the group did in providing food after the funeral. Mass for Helen. Thanks also to Deacon Bob for coming from Worcester to assist at the Mass. Both were greatly appreciated.

Condolences to Sharon Harmon for the passing of her father. Leicester - John Edward Nugent, 92, died peacefully Monday, September 19th at Saint Vincent’s Hospital with his family present. John was born 13 Jun 1924 in Worcester, MA and was the son of Patrick Francis Nugent and Anastasia Teresa O’Dwyer. He leaves his wife of 50 years, Ann Marie (Kleiza) Nugent; his children, Sharon A. Harmon of Andover, Mass. and several grandnieces, grandnephews, and two great grandnieces. Helen was preceded in death by her brothers, William P. Guiney and Rev. John E. Guiney and a sister, Catherine Bernice Guiney.

Mr. Nugent was a veteran of the United States Army serving during World War II. He was a very generous family man who loved his dogs and always took interest in his children and what was going on in their lives. He was a lifetime Red Sox fan who loved to tell jokes. John’s favorite pastime was when the circus came to town. Mr. Nugent worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works for many years until he retired.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.
**PTG News- Halloween Bash for Kids for Free!**

*Mary C. Barclay*

The Royalston Community School Parent-Teacher Group and the Royalston Police Association are combining their annual Halloween activities! The big event takes place Saturday, October 29, between 3 – 8 p.m. in the Royalston Town Hall. The fun begins with a 3 p.m. Halloween costume parade, followed by a Royalston Cultural Council-funded magic show by Eddie Raymond. Pumpkin decorating and scarecrow making will happen thanks to financial support from both the PTG and Royalston Cultural Council. The PTG will conduct all manner of loud and fun games, like sack races, donuts on a string and egg relay races. From 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. the RPA will serve up an annual, free-to-participants burgers and dogs cookout. The PTG will wrap up the evening with an annual, family-friendly Halloween Dance, with a kid-priced concession stand with beverages and munchies, proceeds benefitting the sixth grade Nature’s Classroom trip.

All students are invited – and of course brave parents and siblings may also attend! 

NEEDS - Contact Laurie (978-249-5807) if you can donate: Used clothing, old sheets/pillowcases for scarecrows

Donations of a bag of candy is appreciated for the children’s goodie bags

Baked goods and individual beverages for the concession stand welcome

**Save those Boxtops**

The PTG earns hundreds of dollars each year by turning in Box Tops for Education. They’re found on a wide array of products found in most homes. Check out http://www.boxtops4education.com which has links to lists of products, an app that’ll earn even MORE $$$ for RCS, and collection sheets that make saving the coupons a snap!

**Who are the people in your Community School? Interviews by 6th graders**

*Mr Scott is the janitor. His job is to keep the building safe and clean. He says RCS “is a good place to work because the kids are wonderful.” Something special about him is that he loves his granddaughter very much, and he is thankful for his family.*

*By Elora and Emilie*

*Ms. D. is the cafeteria manager. Her job is to make food that kids like so they feel happy. She appreciates the friendliness at RCS. Something special about Ms. D is that she has a son with a disability.*

*By Connor P. and Julia*

*Ms. Williams is the principal, which means she gets to do everything else the teachers and the staff don’t do. She likes everything about RCS. She has two elderly Jack Russel Terriers. Spud is 18 years-old and Teddy B is 13 years-old. When she was a science teacher, she raised endangered baby sea turtles with her class.*

*By Anya and Lilly*

*Mrs. Schwab is the guidance counselor. This means she listens and helps children be successful in school, including setting career goals and building strong relationships with peers. She gives classroom presentations. She notices that at RCS, families and the community are a team creating a positive learning environment. She loves her son Ben, who is in 8th grade, and in the summer, she loves to go to the beach on Cape Cod.*

*By Xia*

**What’s happening at the Village School**

We had our annual Harvest Day, harvesting the Village School garden that was planted by the students last spring. Older students helped their younger Reading Buddies find potatoes, mainly. The groundhog got to the rest first. The whole school enjoyed eating the roast potatoes that were dug up by the students.

It’s still field trip time! Classes are visiting local gardens, visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham, going to Red Apple Farm, hiking to Lawrence Brook, climbing Jacobs Hill and visiting the Harvard Forest Museum.

On our mid-October Sunday Parent Work Day, we’ll all pitch in and spruce up the inside and outside of the school.

**Upcoming events**

The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 4th. The public is invited to participate 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. Every 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. will be 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. 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.

Open House Saturday November 19 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the classrooms, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children, they will enjoy activities in the classrooms just for them. Preschool starts filling up for next year.

**Monty Tech News**

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

Monty Tech has the pleasure of 13 Royalston students for the 2016-2017 school year, including one male and two female freshmen, one over our quota! District-wide, declining student enrollment has helped relieve the pressure on Monty Tech somewhat: 138 students are currently wait-listed and hoping someone decides to give up a seat before October 1, the latest date a new freshman is accepted.

Chromebooks have been distributed to all Monty Tech students. Staff and faculty completed their professional development in August; students attended various class assemblies in “Digital Citizenship” during September.

FY 17 allocation grants have been awarded - $857,340 – which includes voc-tech equipment purchases of lathes for Machine Technology; a TIG welder for Welding and Metal Fabrication; and a pocket hole machine for Cabinetmaking.

At long last, the gymnasium has undergone a desperately-needed re-do including new floors, new bleachers, a fresh coat of pain for the walls, new curtain wall and new wall pads!
Classifieds

Free:

Services

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 brguiney@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

Looking for housing: 64 year old woman on Social Security, non-smoking, non-drinking, no drugs, one elderly housecat, and one itty-bitty dog. Prefer washer and dryer hook-up. 413-326-0369

Help Wanted:
Child care: Looking for adult woman in Royalston or Athol to care for friendly 10-year-old girl after school 2 days/wk. Call Sara: 248-9828

For sale:
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables from Ted’s Neale Farm, 1 Neale Place, 978-249-6872

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 Marsha 508-735-4447

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 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


Roots and Sprouts: A parent-child group for infants and toddlers up to age 3 at the Village School on Royalston Common FREE. Meets Wednesdays, starting September 28 for 6 weeks. 10:15 to 11:30. Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator. Gather with other parents and their young children in the lovely preschool classroom for singing, movement and art, and outside play. Learn more about child development, how to build a healthy parent/child relationship, and enjoy a simple snack with your child. Come to the first session to try it out. Preregistration preferred. Call or email info@villageschoolma.org

Music Lessons in Town: The Village School offers private and group music lessons after school throughout the year on piano, guitar, flute, and ukulele, with a new session beginning the week of September 26th. Students of all ages can learn a new instrument or work on improving their musical skills in an encouraging atmosphere. Call or email Jocelyn at jocelyn@villageschoolma.org.

After-School Program for Royalston children
If you are looking for after-school care, the Village School has a great After-School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS school bus and get dropped off at the Village School on the common. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting!) run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair.

Community Programs at the Village School
To sign up or get more information about these programs, call 978-249-3505 or visit the school website: www.villageschoolma.org

Looking for housing:

Looking for housing: 64 year old woman on Social Security, non-smoking, non-drinking, no drugs, one elderly housecat, and one itty-bitty dog. Prefer washer and dryer hook-up. 413-326-0369
September (need I remind you?) is the calling-in-the-chips month, payback for having endured the cold rains of April, the black flies of May, the drought of June and July, the dog-days of August. One thing or another is harvested on a daily basis. Cucumbers and squash are winding down (sorry, attendees of the senior luncheon) but have not wound down. Tomatoes are in full production. Spared the deprivations of the hornworms, the cherry tomatoes have reached the top of their six- foot fencing and are working their way back down. The slicing tomatoes are provided no support at all, sprawling as nature intended. Alas, nature is awash in slugs, which means the tomatoes are awash in slugs. Fortunately, there are tomatoes aplenty, more than enough to satisfy the cravings of the slugs as well as us. It does, however, require picking at the first sign of color; no vine-ripened tomatoes this year. Beans require bi-weekly harvesting, which presents its own problem. Only the Friday picking is hauled to market; Tuesday’s thirty or so pounds must find a home. There are just so many beans two adults can consume in the course of a week and our winter needs (by virtue, of freezing) have long since been provided for. So, they are gifted, though I suspect the giftees have had enough as well. There is corn, still, glory be.

I close with a corny matter. From the stalk to the freezer, the journey of an ear of corn. The ear is snapped from the stalk and husked. The husk is fed out to the steer. (In fact, the entire stalk is fed out. Others purvey corn-fed beef; we offer corn-plant-fed beef.) After blanching (a necessary step when freezing vegetables), the corn is removed from the cob. I tend to shy away from devises, but there is an eminently handy one called into play at this time: the corn cutter, a round, handy, and another bird would take advantage of the lull. But mostly her chases were more for the sheer fun of it. The change of feeding behavior must have been triggered by an avian instinct that the time to leave was here. Just like that. The change of feeding behavior must have been triggered by an avian instinct that the time to leave was near. It was then that we realized what we had witnessed: yet another sign that the year had turned.

For Grapes Sake

“For the grapes’ sake, if they be all,” the poet Robert Frost says in his poem “October”. “Whose leaves are already burnt with frost/Whose clustered fruit would else be lost.” He is asking the month to move slowly toward the colder, darker time ahead. “For the grapes’ sake along the wall.”

The Equinox is behind us and we turn toward the dark of the year. Slowly, to be sure. There are many sunny, light-filled days left in autumn. But, like the poet, we see the signs.

My mother used to point to the deepening shadows as early as August - a bit too early for my taste! However, here in Royalston there are maples that begin to turn scarlet by late August, so perhaps her observations had not been so far off. This year we have a new indication that the year has turned. It’s about our hummingbirds.

We have always had one or two that feed at our sage blossoms in the kitchen garden. This summer we decided to see what would happen if we put out a feeder. We bought a fancy one - a swirling glass globe with a single spout. We hung it in our kitchen garden and waited.

Within a day we had a regular visitor - a male ruby throat. Soon he brought a couple of friends: a female and what we assumed was a juvenile - smaller, which is unthinkable in a bird so small. They came one at a time and fed from the feeder’s single spout. As the days went by they seemed to know us - or at least not fear us. As we gathered basil from the garden we would hear the whirring of wings. A bird would hover briefly, looking at us with a side-long glance before proceeding to the feeder.

We decided to put out a second feeder with several feeding stations, and opted this time for a less expensive, plastic and glass model with tiny perches near each feeding port. Now they came in multiples, often perching next to each other as they fed. We spent an astonishing amount of time just watching the feeder activity - which might say as much about our age as it does about the birds!

In late August we increased the ratio of sugar to water to help the birds prepare for migration. The effect surprised us. Overnight their dining behavior changed from the staid decorum of the Ritz to a raucous cafeteria food-fight. One bird perched herself at the top of a nearby blueberry bush. When another bird approached, she chirped loudly, swoop in, and chase the bird away. This continued all day. She wasn’t interested in actually feeding, just guarding. Fiercely. Sometimes her chase sent her far from the feeder, and another bird would take advantage of the lull. But mostly the food source was off-limits. She even chased away the bees.

One morning in late September we noticed that the birds were gone. Just like that. The change of feeding behavior must have been triggered by an avian instinct that the time to leave was near. It was then that we realized what we had witnessed: yet another sign that the year had turned.

Larry Siegel

Deb D’Amico
Royalston Community Newsletter October 2016 Page 11

The Royalston Community Newsletter is printed by:

Performance Press
Owners- Sandy and Dick Creamer
Winchendon
978-297-0433  Fax: 978-297-1719
e-mail: perf4man@aol.com
color copies .50  wedding invitations
soup to nuts printing

Paul A. Montero, P.L.S.
Professional Land Surveyor
101 Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd - PO Box 20
Royalston, Massachusetts 01368
Telephone: (978) 249-5879

union music
New & Used Musical Instruments
Sales, Service, Rentals
Sheet Music, Accessories, Amps, PA’s
Lessons, Rehearsal Space, Events
www.unionmusic.com
142 Southbridge Street, Worcester, 508-753-3702
Carl Kamp, Royalston, 978-249-9675

Cloutiers’ Pete & Henry’s
18 Main St. (Rt. 68) in South Royalston, MA 01368
Thu. 4-9; Fri. 4-10; Sat. 3-10; Sun. 1-8 p.m.
Closing December 1, 2016 ~ Reopening in January, 2017
978-249-9845 ~ Gift Certificates Available ~ 978-249-8375

Pearson Rubbish
978-249-5125
127 Bliss Hill Road, Royalston
Full Service Disposal
Weekly Pick Up in Royalston
Prompt Courteous Service  Call Russ
Wildlife Sightings
On one of those mid-September days that started in the 40s but rose to the 80s, Paula Pralinsky went outside her Frye Hill home in late morning and noticed the ground was dappled in shadows. When she looked up, she was humbled by a kettle of hundreds and hundreds of broad winged hawks finding the hot rising air and riding the thermal updraft on their migration south. It is called a kettle because the movement of the hawks - a large spiral of circling birds- swirls like the liquid in a pot being stirred. When the hawks are going up, they soar tightly to stay inside the thermal. At the top, where the air stops rising, they start their glide. At the end of the glide, they find another thermal and start again. Paula’s cats huddled in close to her ankles as she craned her neck and openly gaped in wonder.

Maureen Blasco and Kathy Chencharik were but two of the people who saw the two Great Egrets that spent a couple of days in late July feeding in the swamp on Nocross Road. Kathy took the photo.

Royalston Resident
Star Route 80
Royalston MA 01368

Congratulations and Good News

Alexis Javier had her white coat ceremony (induction into Pharmacy school) on Sept 11th.