Calendar of Events

April 1 Saturday
6 pm Historical Society Cozy Community Supper to raise money for the needed new roof. $12 at town hall. Tickets at www.royalstonhistorical.org, from members, or at post office and library.

7 pm Wheat-weaving expert. Kathy Morris, will discuss the importance of palm hat weaving in local history. Raffles of Kathy Morris’ traditional wheat weavings. Desserts.

April 3 Monday
Town election
10 am - 8 pm Precinct 1 - Town Hall, Precinct 2 - Whitney Hall

April 6 Thursday
7 p.m. Events Committee - Volunteers needed to help plan upcoming celebrations.

April 7 Friday
This season’s final Open Mic
7-10 pm at the Town Hall. As usual, delicious food and baked goods will be provided by Cultural Council members. For more information please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000

April 10 Monday
Passover begins at sundown

April 11 Tuesday
2:08 a.m. Full Pink Moon

April 14 Friday
Good Friday

April 15 Saturday
10 am sharp Annual Easter Egg Hunt on The Common
Annual Egg Hunt on the Common. Rain or shine. Dress for the weather. Bring bag or basket to contain the eggs. Hunt followed by chocolate melting inside the Town Hall. To volunteer or for more information, contact Sara Dilg at 978-249-9828 or Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi at 978-249-4639.

April 16 Sunday
Easter
April 17 Monday
Patriot’s Day Observed – Town offices, Library and Post Office closed

April 21 Friday
6:30 pm Historical Society quarterly meeting at the home of Peter Kramiak, 43 Winchendon Road (corner of Stone Road). Pot luck supper at 6:30, meeting at 7 pm. Call Peter for details 978-249-7625.

April 22 Saturday
Earth Day/ Arbor Day
Lyrid Meteor Shower – Check the pre-dawn, southern skies for the approximately 10 shooting stars an hour.

April 23 Saturday
Roast Beef Dinner Royalston Fish & Game Club

April 24 Monday
5 pm Library Book Discussion Group meets to discuss Kindred by Octavia Butler. All welcome for tea, cookies and book chat.

April 29 Sunday
9 a.m. ATA Trap Shoot Competition Royalston F&G Club
Noon-2 p.m. Jazz in the Ballroom Brunch and music at The Maples on The Common. Reserve Tix: goodshoe@earthlink.net or leave a message at 978-249-6081

May 2 Tuesday
May Day Celebration at the Village School. The public is invited. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing.

May 5 Friday
Town Meeting
AREF’s Father Daughter Dance at ACES

May 13 Saturday
Cultural Council Blues Night

May 19 Friday
10 a.m. and 7 p.m. An Original Play, written and performed by the Village School at
Select Board Notes:
Christine Long, Chair
First, a reminder – Monday, April 3 is town election day – and an announcement – the warrant for the May 5 annual town meeting is now open, closing Tuesday, April 18.

Budget season is well under way, and with a few exceptions, departments have submitted reasonable budgets, within the overall 2½% increase state law allows.

One exception is the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, for which the Royalston assessment is up $32,000, or 6%. Last year Royalston also faced a huge increase, almost $60,000, in both cases because the state has increased our required minimum contribution. In total, our assessment over two years is up close to $90,000 – a big hit for a town like this.

The Community Compact reports predicted that our ARRSD assessments would rise by 5% over the foreseeable future.

Another exception is the Select Board itself, which is recommending a significant increase in the salaries of the administrative assistant, the town clerk, and the town custodian.

Open Burning Season
All material to be burnt must be natural and must not contain household trash or building materials. Burning of tires is strictly prohibited and burning of fields is illegal.

The process of obtaining a permit requires you to come to Fire Station # 1 on Athol Road at 7:00 pm. the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Monday of every month. You then are to call the day you intend to burn and leave your name, permit number, your street location and a call-back telephone number. The burn location must be at least 75ft. from any building. You shall provide some form of extinguisher at your burn location. Remember, burning start time is 10:00 am. AND MUST BE OUT BY 4:00 pm. No exceptions to this state law. The permit process will be suspended from time to time when dry conditions and/or windy conditions exist.

Remember Winter Parking Ban is still in effect in April.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair
Reminder that all forms of textiles are collected as long as they are not wet or moldy. There are two boxes located on either side of transfer station building. Towels, sheets, curtains, etc are all accepted.

Spring clean up underway. Once snow melts we will be able to pick windblown litter. Don’t forget Check Point Charlie’s annual roadside clean up April 29th 9-12. Crews can stop by the Bullock pavilion for some dogs and check point’s famous chili. You don’t have to wait for clean up day to pick up roadside litter.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency
Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay
e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or phone 978-249-2904
“April showers bring May flowers…” Do you have one of those cellars that ends up wet each spring? Ensure you have everything up off of the floor and give your sump pump a little test drive. Oh, no sump pump? Check at your favorite hardware store or with your plumber. Oh, and limit mold and mildew growth by opening up your bulkheads and windows on those sunny, windy days to let nature dry things out. A dehumidifier is also helpful; it will, however, increase your electric bill as it works similarly to an air conditioner by condensing humidity.

Why? Because we studied a survey published by the Franklin Regional County of Governments of what other small towns are paying municipal employees and discovered that while many of the salaries we pay are within regional range, what we pay these three employees is considerably less.

Note something else: The Trustees of the Library have conducted a similar survey, and so both last year and this, they propose a $1 plus 2½% raise for assistant library jobs, bringing them more in line with regional standards. (The director’s salary is established by union contract.)

Alert readers will note that we haven’t mentioned article spending. That’s because we don’t have that information yet. We know that we’ll have to tap the Stabilization Fund for snow-and-ice overages, but we don’t yet have the Capital Planning Committee’s report of recommended big-ticket items, and we recently learned of a potentially large expense we may face for several years (details unconfirmed at press time).

And of course, we still face long-term issues regarding our town roads, our town buildings, our town management and financial organization. So yes, the board is still considering a capital override or the adoption of a debt policy that would deliberately aim for a stable level of borrowing.
Gary Winitzer for Royalston Selectboard  
Royalston has been my home for over thirty-four years. I am proud of my service for more than twenty years on the Rescue Squad, as a Selectman. I continue to contribute by serving on the Sewer Commission, Council of Aging and volunteering for the Senior Luncheon Club every Wednesday. Four mornings each week, I volunteer for the Meals on Wheels.

I studied accounting, business management, computer programming and information systems at UMass and MWCC where I earned my Associates of Science degree in Computer Information Systems. I am a resourceful manager with proven skills to successfully direct and complete complex tasks, utilizing forty years of experience in municipal, non-profit, and corporate environments.

When elected, I promise to work with Mrs. Long and Ms. Alger to perform our responsibilities in a manner that is fair, open, and consistent with laws, regulations, by-laws, and the votes of the Town Meetings. We must show leadership by setting an example and demonstrating fiscal restraint and completing our tasks in a timely and effective manner. I believe I can provide valuable input to assist in resolving the deficiencies found in the audit and to complete the elevator project. I am aware of the time and energy required of Selectman.

Jon Hardie for Royalston Selectboard  
I’m asking for your vote for the Select Board for the Town of Royalston. Our community is amazing. Everyone comes together when the going gets tough, and when we celebrate 250 years of history. Today, our shared sense of community is more important than ever. I want to insure the Select Board supports and protects our community and everything that we share in common. This requires fiscal responsibility, compassion, understanding, good listening, as well as a commitment to insure the town has both the funds it needs, and spends it wisely...

As a selectman, with over 30 years of successful major grant writing and community services funding and advocacy experience; I will reach out, together with you, and with my other colleagues on the Select Board, to advocate aggressively with our local state and federal legislators, and other small towns, to ensure our continued funding from state & federal aid and grants for, schools, seniors, healthcare, disability, fire, police & highway, libraries and the arts.

I will bring years of experience in senior management, empathy, care, compassion, concern and boots on the ground community building, and technology, to the Select Board. I’ve spent decades working in community based geriatric senior care from state hospitals, to senior nutrition programs, assisted living, and now I am one. Together we can make it work.

There are lots of reasons folk want to be on the Select Board. Some are positive, and some of them not so much. What we do need is: fiscal responsibility, civility, common sense, working together, getting stuff done. It’s hard work, it takes mission critical thinking, facts, strategic planning, cooperation, good communication, inviting everyone to the table, and listening to each other. Tough challenges call for creative, collaborative solutions and teamwork.

I also believe that national issues have a very direct impact here at home. Healthcare, Medicare, Medicaid, Meals on Wheels and Social Security. These programs are all at risk, with potentially devastating impact on ourselves and our families. Together we must chart a course through these critical issues. The personal and family impact will be devastating. Not in some other place, in some other town ... but right here in Royalston.

I would deeply appreciate your vote for selectman. We are all in this together. All of us. Royalston has a long history of working together.

Roland H. Hamel for Selectboard  
Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am running as a write-in candidate for the two-year seat on the Royalston Selectboard, the unexpired term of our former Selectman, the late Jack Morse. I feel I am ready for the many challenges that come with this vital leadership position, and hope to demonstrate that I deserve your vote.

I am first and foremost an honest man committed to my hometown. I am self-motivated, organized and efficient. In addition, I bring the wide-ranging experiences that come from nearly a half-century of community service, including progressively responsible leadership in Town affairs. Combined with my varied work background and deep roots in Royalston, I believe I am in a unique position to help lead us through the changes that come with time whether we’re ready or not.

I welcome any opportunities to discuss your concerns or suggestions. I promise I will always listen to you, I will always give you my honest thoughts on what you have to say, and will always work my hardest for the good of OUR Town.

I would sincerely appreciate your write-in vote (I have stickers available, too) on April 3rd, and if elected, look forward to your continuing input and support.

Theresa Quinn for Library Trustee  

My name is Theresa Anne Quinn and I am running as a write-in candidate for Trustee of the Phineas S. Newton Library. During my 25 years as a Royalston resident, I have served the community in many roles. I have managed the library at Royalston Community School, a volunteer position, for 15 years, and as Library Trustee, I would be positioned to build on the strong relationship between the town and school library.

I also serve on both the Royalston Ladies’ Benevolent Society Scholarship Committee and the Grant Committee for the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation. Additionally, I assist with town elections as a poll worker. I feel my experience and background make me a qualified candidate for this position.

As a trustee, I will be a dedicated advocate for the Library and will help ensure that the Library continues to serve all members of the community with educational resources and varied programming. I believe libraries play a vital role in the community, and the Phineas S. Newton Library functions as an important community center for our town. My husband and I have two adult children who grew up visiting the Library often and I have long appreciated it as a place to learn, take out books and movies, or just connect with neighbors.

I hope that you will vote for me as a write-in candidate for Library Trustee on Election Day on Monday, April 3rd. I also hope you will visit the Library during National Library Week, April 9th through 15th; this year’s theme is “Libraries Transform.”
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Jeffrey Magnum, Clarence Rabideau
Mondays: 10:00 am - 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you
Aaron Ellison for leading the book discussion group and for donating copies of the book.

Community Reading Day Readers: Maureen Blasco, Joann Deacon, Mary Ledgard, Marie Mello, and Barbara Richardson

Donations to the Friends- Thank you!
Glenn Hastings and Beth Weaver

Polly Longsworth Celebration
After 21 years of dedicated service as library trustee, Polly Longsworth decided not to run for reelection this year. She has been an active and vocal participant in all library affairs: writing grants, securing speakers, formulating policies and the budget, attending meetings and advocating, providing guidance, and being a welcoming ear and intelligent guide. We are all going to miss her and wish to honor her years of service with a gathering at the library on Monday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us to say thank you.

MassCat Catalog Change
If you have tried recently to log into the library catalog and noticed that it didn’t get you there, it’s because there was a change to the service that occurred without our knowledge. It used to be that our identifier was croy (which stood for central Massachusetts and roy for Royalston) but that has changed to royalstonlibrary and so the correct website for our catalog is royalstonlibrary.masscat.org. And remember your login is your library card number. If you don’t remember your password (or card number) call the library and we can assist you. This is also the login for ebooks and databases.

Axis360 = Free eBooks!
Do you have an iOS device (iPad, iPhone), Android, Kindle Fire, or Windows PC? Do you buy eBooks or eAudiobooks? Did you know you can get them FREE from the Library? All you need to do is download the Axis360 app to your device, log on with your library card number and password and you’re all set to borrow up to 3 books at a time. Books check out for 14 days and automatically expire; meaning no need to worry about returning your books on time. Axis360 offers a wide selection of fiction and nonfiction titles including new bestsellers. For help downloading and setting up your device stop by the Library. Visit http://royal.axis360.baker-taylor.com/ to download the app and browse the great selection of titles available.

Art Exhibit at the Library
During April, Clarence Rabideau’s exhibit of realistic and impressionistic pastels will continue to be on display at the library. In May and June, Karen Otto will display a variety of works.

April Vacation Programs

Kite Flying: On Thursday, April 20 at 1:30 p.m. kite flying will again take place in the Bundschuh field beside and behind the library. Bring your own kite or use one of ours. Afterwards, there will be kite cake and opportunities to write a poem about kite flying and spring.

Makerspace Workshop
On Tuesday, April 18 at 2:00 p.m. at the town hall children aged 7 – 14 are invited to join Arthur and Peter Evans from Makerspace Workshops to experience makerspace technology, like 3-D printing, coding, and robotics. Each participant will create an object and while there won’t be time to print them all, they will send them to the library for pick-up. Space is limited and you must sign up at the library or by calling or emailing the library to be included in the program. The program is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

Belly Dancing Classes
The six week belly dancing classes with Tanya Allain continue on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs at the Town Hall. The program is open to all and sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Free-will donations are welcomed.

Bit of Bliss Yoga
Yoga classes with certified instructor Janet Bettey will continue each Tuesday at the Town Hall at 7 pm. Mats, straps, and blocks are available to borrow. All skill levels are welcome to attend and instructions for each pose given with variations for each level of competency. This relaxing hour helps improve flexibility and balance and focuses on breath work. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and free-will donations are welcomed.

Library Book Discussion Group meets at 5:00 the 3rd Monday of most months unless it is a holiday. Then, it meets the 4th Monday.

Library Book Group to discuss Kindred by Octavia Butler. Amazon.com describes the book as “a combination of slave memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction, Kindred is a novel of rich literary complexity.” The author, Octavia Butler, was the recipient of a MacArthur Award and a Nebula Award, and she twice won the Hugo Award. Copies of the novel are available to be checked out of the library.
### Some of the new materials at your library

#### Adult fiction
- **Attenberg, Jami**: All Grown Up  
- **Beaton, M.C.**: Death of a Ghost  
- **Coetzee, J.M.**: The Schooldays of Jesus  
- **Coulter, Catherine**: The Devil’s Triangle  
- **Cusk, Rachel**: In the Name of the Family  
- **Dunant, Sarah**: Exit West  
- **Jenoff, Pam**: The Orphan’s Tale  
- **Kellerman, Faye**: Bone Box  
- **Kellerman, Jonathan**: Heartbreak Hotel  
- **Kline, Christina**: A Piece of the World  
- **Lodato, Victor**: Edgar and Lucy  
- **Mackintosh, Clare**: I See You  
- **McKinty, Adrian**: Police at the Station and They Don’t Look Friendly  
- **Pinborough, Sarah**: Behind Her Eyes  
- **Shannon, Samantha**: The Song Rising  
- **Shepard, Sam**: The One Inside  
- **Swanson, Peter**: Her Every Fear  
- **Winspear, Jacqueline**: In this Grave Hour

#### Adult Non-Fiction
- **Hatch, Steven**: Inferno  
- **Mishra, Pankaj**: Age of Anger  
- **Noah, Trevor**: Born a Crime  
- **Passarello, Elena**: Animals Strike Curious Poses  
- **Tougias, Mike**: AMC’s Best Day Hikes Near Boston

#### Audiobooks
- **Hoffman, Alice**: Faithful  
- **Martin, Nancy**: Miss Ruffles Inherits Everything  
- **Noah, Trevor**: Born a Crime  
- **Pinborough, Sarah**: Behind Her Eyes  
- **Smith, Emily**: The Power of Meaning  
- **Tyson, Timothy**: The Blood of Emmett Till

#### Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction
- **Jenson, Kelly**: Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World  
- **Patterson, James**: Escape to Australia  
- **Thomas, A.C.**: The Hate You Give  
- **Yancey, Richard**: The Infinite Sea

#### CDs:
- **Disney**: Beauty and the Beast Soundtrack (2017), Moana Soundtrack, Sing Soundtrack, Trolls Soundtrack  
- **Krauss, Alison**: Windy City

### Children’s Fiction
- **Agee, Jon**: Life on Mars  
- **Andersen, H.C.**: The Ugly Duckling  
- **Carle, Eric**: I Love Mom with the Very Hungry Caterpillar  
- **Carroll, Emma**: In Darkling Wood  
- **Coelho, Rogerio**: Boat of Dreams  
- **Cotton, Katie**: The Road Home  
- **Del Rizzo, Suzanne**: My Beautiful Birds  
- **Grabenstein, Chris**: Home Sweet Motel  
- **Graegin, Stephanie**: Little Fox in the Forest  
- **Jackson, Richard**: All Ears, All Eyes  
- **McDonald, Megan**: April Fool’s, Mr. Todd!  
- **Mlynowski, Sarah**: Showing Off (Upside Down Magic #3)  
- **Oh, Ellen**: Mighty, Mighty Construction Site  
- **Rinker, Sherri**: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them Round  
- **Wells, Rosemary**: Grandpa’s Great Escape  
- **Smith, Emily**: Say Hello, Sophie

### Children’s Nonfiction
- **Adkins, Jan**: Moving Heavy Things  
- **Alexander, Kwame**: Out of Wonder  
- **Chin, Jason**: Grand Canyon  
- **Jackellowitch, Anne**: Kids Who are Changing the World  
- **Martin, Jacqueline**: Creekfinding  
- **McCully, Emily**: Caroline’s Comets  
- **O’Brien, Lindsay**: Chipmunks  
- **Riggs, Kate**: Stand Up and Sing!  
- **Sjonger, Rebecca**: Moles  
- **Smith, Matthew**: Robotics Engineering and Our Automated World  
- **Veness, Kimberley**: Lighter Than Air  
- **Wechsler, Doug**: Let’s Eat  
- **Wechsler, Doug**: The Hidden Life of the Toad

### DVDs:
- American Beauty, American Eagle, American Honey, American Pastoral, Collateral Beauty, Doctor Strange, The Eagle Huntress, Edge of Seventeen, Fences, Jackie, Hacksaw Ridge (DVD & BluRay), Keeping up with the Joneses, The Light Between Oceans, Loving, Manchester By the Sea (DVD & BluRay), Moana, Nocturnal Animals, Passengers

### Stop Lyme
The Natick Public Library in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Town of Natick, and health librarian Margot Malachowski with funding from the National Library of Medicine and the University of Massachusetts Medical School has created a reference handbook: STOP LYME: Information for Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Identification and Patient Care. Fourteen states, all in the northeast, account for 95% of all verified cases of Lyme disease. The book provides information on all aspects of the disease. In addition, several new books on Lyme disease dealing with conventional and alternative methods of treatment have been added to the library collection.
To fundraise for a new roof on Old School House #1, two events are bookending April:

**Benefit Dinner and Talk: Palm-leaf hats, women, and wealth century ago**

**April 1st 6 pm dinner, 7 pm talk in the town hall**

**Learn:** Did you know that the manufacture of palm leaf and straw hats employed more people than the textile industry in Massachusetts in the 19th C? Come learn about the importance of hat manufacturing in New England and Royalston with Kathy Morris, the Library Director of the Phinehas Newton Library in Royalston, a building originally funded by a local hat braid entrepreneur. The talk is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

**Eat:** Before the talk, come enjoy a dinner of homemade, cozy, comfort foods and desserts, including chicken pot pie, carmelized onion goat cheese tart, locally raised meatloaf, roasted veggies, salads, bread, cookies, pie and more. Beer and wine on sale. Tickets ($12/ adult) may be purchased at the door until sell out. You do not need to attend the dinner to attend the talk.

**Win:** There will be a chance to win one of several straw traditional weavings in a raffle to benefit the Historical Society’s effort to replace the roof on Old School House #1.

**Jazz in the Ballroom:**

**April 30 noon - 2 pm**

**Delicious brunch and an afternoon of live jazz with “Jazz Depot”, piano, upright bass, drums and trumpet, at the Maples’ ballroom, (17 on the common)**

A $25 donation per person is appreciated to benefit the Royalston Historical Society.

Reserve your ticket by April 22 at Goodshoe@earthlink.net or leave a message at 978-249-6081

**1928 Town Election a “Free for All” from the files of Milly French**

Local history is interesting, builds community and provides a context in which to view today’s news. Why not come out and support the Historical Society this month?

Get involved. In the Milly French files, there are plenty more clippings to sleuth through and preserve. So if you want to know about the 19 year-old girl “with a short bob” who asked a librarian to find her a spouse; or the 19 year old boy who shockingly climbed a newly installed electric tower looking for Little Pond; or if you are interested in the details of several golden wedding anniversaries where the couples were presented with 50 actual gold coins; or you are intrigued by past maladies like apoplexy, infantile paralysis, and accidents involving wagons, trains, or mill equipment; or perhaps you are moved by an 80-year-old editorial seeking more town assistance for Royalston’s poor. Possibly, you just want to help and meet the nice people at the Historical Society.

If any of this is appealing, join your Royalston Historical Society. The next meeting is Friday, April 18 at the home of Peter Krania at 7 pm.

Historical Society working to archive some of the newspaper clippings of long-time town reporter, Milly French.
Events Committee
The Events committee would like to ask all of you for your help. Every person, family, school, committee, church and organization. We need your ideas and help so that we can have a Country Fair every year but even if we have to stop trying to bring our town together with the Country Fair, we still need your help. Don’t you think our sons and daughters want to learn how to do some of the things that go on in town? We want to meet you, your families, and your groups at our next meeting on April 6, 2017 at the town hall 7:00pm. Our committee of 5 or 6 active members cannot do this alone!

Thank you,
Gabe & Marlene Jarvenpaa

Congrats to the Souper Bowl cooking competition people’s favorite award $50 winners: Katie Barry for chicken chowder, Carla Hartwell for cheesy cream of broccoli soup, and Matt Jarvenpaa won for his venison chili. Though the RCN tried (!) each winner said they wanted to keep recipes secret, so if you want a taste, come to the next Souper Bowl benefitting the Events Committee.

Scholarship Opportunities for Royalston Residents
Residents pursuing post-secondary school opportunities are encouraged to apply for local scholarships with deadlines of April 15. Forms are available through high school guidance counselors or the Phinehas Newton Library.

Chet Hall Scholarship: The 4th annual Chet Hall Memorial Scholarship Pancake Breakfast was held Saturday, March 25 at the Royalston Community School. Thank you, to everyone who donated time, energy, money, ideas and love to this event. It was a wonderful success in the spirit of family, friends and the community that Chet loved so much. We feel honored to be able to offer this scholarship in his honor. He made every effort to help those in need when he could and this scholarship is a gift in the true spirit of his memory.

Chet’s scholarship is available to graduating seniors, returning college students and those who plan to attend a training institute for a trade or craft. Chet recognized the value of education and it is our goal to support this dream annually for an inspired student. Scholarship applications are available at Athol High School in the guidance office, Phineas Newton Library in Royalston, Royalston Community School, and by contacting our family directly. We are excited to grant this scholarship and hearing of your educational success.

Sheila Hall
PO Box 69
Royalston, MA 01368
978-249-2183

Royalston Academy Scholarships: The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship (up to $1000) is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including college, home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs. Submit to Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Mass.

The Ladies’ Benevolent Society offers $300 scholarships to resident men and women of any age attending institutions of higher education, either as a new or returning student. Contact Theresa Quinn at PO Box 108, Royalston, Mass.
Monty Tech update
Mary C Barclay, school committee member
Raffle to win a brand new, 2017 Chevy – a Cruze LS/L sedan; a Sonic LT sedan, or a Spark FWD 5 door LT, are being raffled with 100% of the proceeds going towards Monty Tech's new Veterinary Science Training Center and Community Clinic! Raffle tickets are $50 and only 1,000 will be available. For tickets, call Monty Tech at 978-345-9200 or stop at the front office on school days.

The annual Superintendent's Dinner – a fundraising event by the non-profit Monty Tech Foundation – is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2017 from 5:30 – 9 p.m. Last year's dinner brought in more than $50,000. Profits are used for scholarships, grants and enhancements to current and future students' education. Call 978-345-9200 for tickets.

At May’s Annual Town Meeting, Royalston voters will be asked to contribute $87,072 for SY 2017-18, down $11,878 from last year. Monty Tech financial facts – The Commonwealth of Mass. has established Monty Tech’s minimum school year (SY) contribution per student at $15,565 for SY2017-18. The minimum required contribution for Royalston’s 15 Monty Tech students is $77,472, down $10,478 from last year (19 students). Monty Tech’s total budget increase from SY2016-17 is a mere 1.98%. Due to State funding formula changes, the assessment to Royalston is increased to 2.16%. Monty Tech’s budget is extremely lean. The upcoming budget just 1.1% above required net school spending. Thanks to Monty Tech’s pro-active Superintendent-Director Dr. Sheila Harrity, who has brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars by effective networking and her staff members’ grant submissions, and thanks to Monty Tech’s top-notch Business Manager Tammy Crockett, the cost of this extraordinary education is kept to a bare minimum... as a matter of fact, on a list of 306 districts reporting 2016 and 2017 budgets, Monty Tech came in number 306, with the leanest budget of all!

What’s happening at the Village School?
Rise Richardson, director
Wednesday April 5 7:00 p.m. Science Night 4th-6th children present their science experiments and conclusions. Everyone is welcome.

It’s Spring! Come to Open Visiting Days
Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Come at 8:30 a.m. to observe a class or two and then meet with our Director Rise Richardson or with Curriculum Director, Wendy Davenport. Please call in advance to schedule. 978 249 3505.

This month, classes are visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham. And if on a warm sunny day, you see a big circle of children on the front lawn of the school with teddy bears in their laps, then you have chanced upon the annual Teddy Bear picnic, when all the children bring teddy bears to school, sing Teddy Bear songs and go on a bear hunt!

On Tuesday April 25, for Biodiversity Day, each class visits a local habitat and surveys the flora and fauna in that habitat. One class will go to Lawrence Brook, another class to the Camp Caravan pond, and other classes will visit the woods. The classes visit the same habitats each year and keep a log of the species of plants and animals that they find. They record observations with drawings. Results are displayed in the hallway.

Community School Calendar
April 13 - RCS to MWCC play, “James and the Giant Peach”
April 13 - RCS Talent Show and Cake Competition and Raffle @ 6:00PM
April 17 - 21 - April Vacation
April 27 - Grades 3 & 4 Forestry Field Trip with Mount Grace

MCAS Schedule:
April 3, & 6, - ELA - Grade 3 & 6
April 4 - - Grade 4
April 7 - - Grades 3 & 5
April 10 - - Grade 5 (2 sessions)
April 11 - - Grade 4 (make-ups Grades 3 & 6)
Math - Grade 5
April 12 - - (ELA make-ups Grades 3 & 6)
April 24&25 - - Math Grades 3,4,6
April 27&28 - - Science - Grade 5
April 29&30 - - Make-ups

Royalston General Store
Mon - Wed 7am-7pm, Thurs & 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

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

RCS PTG
Royalston Community School’s extremely busy Parent-Teacher Group has a wide variety of fundraising events going on at any one time – this year’s Lottery Calendar brought in $3,650, thanks to the generosity of numerous individuals and businesses who provided more than $1,500 worth of goods and services.
Classifieds
Services Available:
Saxophone/Clarinet/Piano/Contemporary Songwriting and Theory Lessons: Laura Ramsey. Experience with students on ADS and learning disability. $20/half hour session. Call Laura 774-272-0760 or email lramsey@alumni.berklee.edu

Piano and Guitar Lessons: Evan Foisy. $20 for a half hour session. Call Evan 978-249-4250, or email evan55@comcast.net

Photography Services: Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowheronstudios.com Call at 978-249-8108 or 978-248-9454

Horse Board: Closed shed w. turnout available in Royalston at Black Horse Farm for one or two horses. $300 monthly per horse, advance pay discounts available - secure space, arena, nearby trails. Breed your mare to your stallion of choice. Call 978-249-9880 or suzannagaits@gmail.com

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

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

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


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

Recipe of the Month
The recipe this month comes from Laura Ramsey, a new resident in town. She is a musician offering saxophone, clarinet, and piano lessons as well as classes in contemporary songwriting and theory. Find out more about her expertise at: http://www.lauraramseymusic.com. Her pancake recipe came to her through her uncle.

Highlander Pancakes
1 1/2 cups milk 
1 cup uncooked oats 
1 cup sifted flour 
2 tbsp sugar 
1 tbsp baking powder 
1 tsp salt 
2 eggs, beaten 
1/4 cup melted butter

Pour milk over oats. Let stand for 5 min. Sift together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Lightly stir eggs into oats mixture. Add dry ingredients and butter. Stir until combined.

Bake on hot, lightly greased griddle until tops are covered in bubbles and edges look cooked. Serve with butter and syrup.

Mix a Pancake
By Christina Rossetti
Mix a pancake, 
Stir a pancake, 
Pop it in the pan; 
Fry the pancake, 
Toss the pancake—
Catch it if you can.

Pancake?
by Shel Silverstein
Who wants a pancake, 
Sweet and pipping hot? 
Good little Grace looks up and says, 
“I’ll take the one on top.” 
Who else wants a pancake, 
Fresh off the griddle? 
Terrible Theresa smiles and says, 
“I’ll take the one in the middle.
Garden Notes  March 22, 2017
Clocks may have moved forward but it feels like the season has moved backward. I felt closer to gardening a month ago than I do now. You think it has something to do with the fact that the garden (and most everything else) is, once again, enveloped by snow? Or that the current temperature is hovering in the mid-20s (and forecast to plummet to single numbers by tomorrow morning)? Or the fact that the winds are whipping from the northwest? So I bide my time, relying on the vase of forced forsythia stems to provide me with an illusion of spring.

Onions and leeks are up and, seemingly, thriving (until such time as one of the cats converts a flat to a bed). The peppers, celeri/celeriac, and parsley, planted ten days later, are not. Peppers, especially, require warmth to germinate. There are heat mats available, but, in my dis-inclination to avail myself of anything electrical, I opt instead for the warming oven in our wood cook-stove. Even so situated, it might take a couple of weeks for them to emerge. For those of you who limit indoor seeding to tomatoes, a word of advice: the onset of the second week in April is not too late to begin (even in our heat-deprived home). In the world of seedlings, short and stocky is favored over tall and wispy. If the roots expand beyond the confines of the container, they will be damaged during transplanting.

Returning to the matter of the forward movement of clocks: if anything is mis-named it is daylight savings time. Not one iota of daylight is saved; it is simply moved from the a.m. to the p.m. The farmer, of course, prefers the morning light. (It was agricultural interests that led the fight against daylight savings time.) Alas, we are no longer a nation of farmers (if they were furry creatures, they’d be considered an endangered species) and the preference of farmers carries little or no weight in the affairs of the nation. (Interesting notion, in light of the fact that they are providing the food on your table.) The existence of daylight savings is troublesome enough (at least for a few of us), its duration even more so. When established in 1966, clocks were moved ahead (at least for a few of us), its duration even more so. When established in 1966, clocks were moved ahead from the a.m. to the p.m. This year we turned them ahead. When established in 1966, clocks were moved ahead from the a.m. to the p.m. This year we turned them ahead. So I bide my time, relying on the vase of forced forsythia stems to provide me with an illusion of spring.

For the Birds  Deb D’Amico
I’ve been thinking about birds lately. Like many of our neighbors, we have a bank of feeders that we keep stocked from November to April. Black oil sunflower seeds are purchased by the 40-pound bag from Agway in Keene and dumped into a galvanized barrel which we cover and weigh down with a slab of stone the size of Kansas. We then wedge this entire contraption under an iron-legged table in our forno. This is meant to discourage bears. It has failed on at least one occasion. Last March we were woken in the night by a metallic clanging. We watched from darkened windows as a desperate bear rocked the can back and forth until the stone dropped free, the table tilted, and 40 pounds of bird seed spilled onto the ground. If that bear had yelled, “PARTY!” and summoned his closest friends we could not have been more surprised.

Our birdfeeders are suspended high off the ground from a cable attached to a block-and-tackle that Tom has rigged up between two trees. To fill the feeders, one simply loosens the rope and lowers the cable until the feeders can be reached. Once the feeders are filled they are hoisted high overhead where even the most acrobatic of squirrels cannot reach them.

Tom keeps the feeders well-stocked with the aforementioned seed and blocks of suet. He is faithful to his birds – chickadees and titmice along with indigo buntings, blue jays, goldfinches in their winter garb, and some red bellied woodpeckers whose bellies are NOT red – their heads are. Go figure.

Chickadees outnumber all the other birds by far. They come in droves, perching within the branches of a nearby forsythia, waiting for a vacant spot on a feeder, chattering constantly. As much as I love watching the chickadees, I love watching Tom with his chickadees. I think they know him because, when he approaches the nearly-empty feeders, the chickadees do not fly away. They may move to a nearby forsythia branch but they stay close, watching. Some even ride the feeders down as Tom lowers them, leaving reluctantly as he pops off the cover and spills in the seed. Often, when the feeders are filled and he has hoisted them high overhead, Tom will stand near the feeders, hands on hips, watching his birds. The chickadees surround him, chatting away, and I expect at any moment to see one perch on his head.

Tom has had occasion to be away from home quite a bit these past few weeks, so the cat and I decamped to my Watertown apartment, land of central heat and cable TV. Back in Royalston the feeders emptied and remained unfilled for many days. Tom consoled himself by thinking that his chickadees would fly across the road to Jon and Becky’s, where a bank of feeders is well-tended. Still, he worried. So, on the first of my weekly visits to the house, I promised to fill the feeders.

When I opened our back door the first thing that struck me was the silence. No birdcalls anywhere. As I unhooked the rope and began to lower the feeders I heard the far-off call of a chickadee. Just one. Then another. And another. As I approached the lowered feeders the chickadees began to arrive: one, three, seven – a small flock of Tom’s faithful. Where had they been? How did they know to come now? Were they out there watching? By the time I’d filled one feeder and started working on the second, the first feeder was covered with chickadees, snatching seeds and retreating to the forsythia to feed.

All this makes me wonder – are birds capable of affection and loyalty? Or is this all just instinct and the desperate hunger of late winter? I think I’ll go with the former. Loyalty and affection are nothing to sneeze at – whether human or bird.
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Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting

While it may be on Tax Day this year for their parents, Saturday, April 15 will be remembered by children of all ages as the day of the annual Royalston Egg Hunt on the Common. It is the day before Easter Sunday. In keeping with tradition, this is a rain or shine event.

The event starts from the Town Hall steps. The signal to go will be given at 10 a.m. sharp. It is best to arrive by 9:45. Volunteers will have prepared upwards of 2000 plastic eggs stuffed with wrapped candies, assisting the Easter Bunny with the task. It is rumored that Mr. Bunny himself will be make an appearance at the event. Participants are advised to dress for the weather and are asked to bring a bag or basket to contain their eggs and candy.

Wildlife sightings

Deb Nunes saw bobcats two days in a row- neither in Royalston, however. On March 18th a big bobcat crossed route 32 in Swanzey just past the horse farm, and on March 19th a smaller one on route 119 in Richmond. Says Deb, “They are becoming more numerous, but are still reclusive, so it was pretty cool to see two.”

Signs of spring?

It’s been a long sapping season. Reportedly, some maple yields are up by 50% over last year. There has been a lot of activity in town wetlands lately. A river otter is frequently seen on the ice on Norcross Rd. in the swamp nearest to New Boston Rd. The chatter of the red winged blackbirds hoping for some insects to thaw out (but settling for bittersweet, multiflora rose, and buckthorn berries) is a cheerful morning soundtrack. Turkey vultures, geese and ducks are back. A Great Blue Heron was spotted on March 28, (the same day, despite 75% snow cover and freezing night temperatures, there was already a tick attached to my dog.)

Beth Gospodarek