Calendar of Events

June 1 Thursday
7 pm  Events committee meets at Town Hall to plan Country Fair on Sept. 9. A good chance to get involved with the town!

June 3 Saturday
Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
7:30 - 10 am Pancake Breakfast at the Town Hall. Adults $6/ Children $3 Organic blueberry pancakes
7:30 - 11 Spectacular Silent Auction - Items include original paintings, crafts, gift certificates, maple syrup, half of organic lamb, and lots of interesting brand new items from local farms and businesses. The list of items is posted at www.villageschoolma.org. The Auction and Breakfast will benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan.
Community Yard Sale - call to reserve a table! $10 The program of events also includes the Millers River Morris Men, a Birds of Prey presentation, an espresso and citrus bar, a Cake Walk for children, face painting, and live music.
9 -11:30 Friends of Library plant sale at the Post Office
9 - noon Friends of the Library book sale at the Library
9:30 - noon Historical Society Museum open
6 pm Fire and EMS BBQ at Central Fire Station

June 9 Friday
Full strawberry moon

June 17 Saturday
4 - 5:30 pm A R E F ’ s Mother/ Son Challenge : Minute to Win It at ACES. $10 per couple $5 for additional son. Benefits enrichment in the schools.

June 19 Sunday
Father’s Day

June 20 Tuesday
7 pm Special Town Meeting at Town Hall. Two articles are on the warrant. Special registration hours Friday, June 9, from 2-4 and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office at Whitney Hall.

June 22 Thursday
Royalston Shakespeare Company theater workshop for kids begins 2017 production of Midsummer Night’s Dream. Sign up now at library. See p. 4 and call Grace Belmont for more info.

June 24 Saturday
10 am - noon Information Meeting about RoyalstonNet presented by the Broadband Committee at town hall, a good chance to get your town internet questions answered.

June 27 Tuesday
noon - 8 pm Special Town Election to vote on two debt-exclusion questions. Question #1 is regarding the purchase of a 10-wheel sander for the DPW, and Question #2 is regarding the construction of a Broadband Internet System for the town. A special voter registration session for this election will be held on Wednesday, June 7, from 2-4 and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office at Whitney Hall.

Save the date
July 23 Sunday
noon to 5 pm Musicfest 2017 at Bullock Park
Select Board Notes:

Christine Long, Chair

Save the date – Tuesday, June 27, noon to 8 p.m. – it’s the special election to decide two critical questions.

The first makes possible the expansion of Royalston’s broadband network throughout the town. Voters at annual town meeting overwhelmingly approved all the technicalities, and now ballot voters must approve a legal necessity – a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion to pay for the build-out. As the Broadband Committee demonstrated, however, it is expected that loan payments will be fully paid by users themselves, with no taxpayer money at all.

The second authorizes a true debt exclusion to fund the purchase of a 10-wheel sander for the DPW, again something overwhelmingly approved at town meeting. This sander is needed immediately to replace a 23-year old vehicle that last year needed $28,000 in repairs and this year will not pass inspection.

Alert readers will notice that last month we talked of bundling two loans to pay for the sander and a one-ton dump truck. In consultation with the Finance Committee, however, the Select Board agreed to unbundle these purchases and fund the dump truck, when needed, with “regular” money.

The new sander costs $220,000, or $47,000 a year for five years – which translates to 40¢ on the tax rate, about $60 a year on a median house worth $160,000.

Alert taxpayers, however, will notice that the mortgage on Royalston Community School has been closed, last year’s $32,000 debt-excluded payment gone – meaning the actual tax bill on that median house will increase only about $15.

The Community Compact reports prepared by the state Department of Revenue recommended that Royalston adopt a stable debt policy – that is in effect what we’re doing with this plan.

Both these questions – expanding broadband and buying a sander – are critically important. The Select Board unanimously recommends a yes vote on both.

Volunteers Sought: Many new faces were at the Annual Town Meeting, young ones among them – can you help? Others who could not attend but who care about the town – can you help? There are several openings on various committees in town. No experience needed! The time commitment is not large, usually one meeting a month.

If you have questions, contact the Administrative Assistant at 978-249-9641 or melanie.mangum@royalston-ma.gov – she can get you in touch with committee chairs for more information, and refer you to the Select Board to be appointed.

Some of the openings: Open Space Committee, Events Committee, Council on Aging, Memorial Day Committee, Historic District Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals.

Town Clerk News: June 2017

Election News/Dates:

Special Town Meeting – Tuesday, June 20, 7 p.m. Town Hall. Two articles are on the warrant, which has been posted in town and is available on the web at www.mytowngovernment.org/01368, or on the royalston-ma.gov website under the Public Records tab.

A special voter registration session for this Town Meeting will be held on Friday, June 9, from 2-4 and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office at Whitney Hall.

Special Town Election – Tuesday, June 27. Polls are open from noon until 8 p.m. Voters are asked to decide yes or no on two debt-exclusion questions. Question #1 is regarding the purchase of a 10-wheel sander for the DPW, and Question #2 is regarding the construction of a Broadband Internet System for the town. The full text of the questions will be available once the warrant is posted, at www.mytowngovernment.org/01368, or on the town website as above.

A special voter registration session for this election will be held on Wednesday, June 7, from 2-4 and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office at Whitney Hall.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

When going to RRATS to recycle, please, all you truck owners with open beds, secure your load. Strewing recyclables along the road on your way is littering, not recycling.

New annual windshield stickers are in and due by July 1st. First sticker is $15, additional ones in the family household are $5. See attendant to purchase new stickers. This helps make recycling free to you.

Ticks, ticks, and more ticks. Enough said. Permethrin is an effective repellant when applied to clothing. Bag your pants in your socks or use lightweight gaiters. Check body parts after being outside. Prevention is key. If you are bitten refer to your health care provider.

Ready for Barbecue Season?

Please join your Royalston Fire and EMS Association for a Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, June 3rd. The BBQ will be located at the Center Fire Station. In addition to the meal, beer will be available for purchase. Serving will begin at 6pm, but come early and enjoy some yard games with your local friends! Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for kids. Contact your local Fire and EMS personnel for tickets. Tickets will also be available at the Post Office, DPW, and the Transfer Station.
**Important RoyalstonNet Progress Update**
*Jon Hardie for the Broadband Committee*

Thanks to everyone at town meeting, for your great turnout, and unanimous support of the four RoyalstonNet Highspeed internet Project Warrant Articles #25 through 28. The attending voters:

- Created a Broadband Enterprise Fund
- Adopted Enterprise Fund Operating Budget
- Approved a $1,400,000 Debt Exclusion with $1,125,000 coming from the state.
- Approved debt repayment on required town borrowing of net of construction cost, to be re-paid from subscriber revenue. So, no tax increases – it will be self-sustaining.

We’re almost there. There is just one more critical thing to do to move forward on the buildout of the project this summer. The **State requires that we confirm the town meeting debt exclusion vote, with a ballot vote, in order to authorize the project. The ballot vote is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon and evening, of June 27.** It’s really important for everyone to be there to vote from 12-8 pm and support the RoyalstonNet project launch.

**Information Meeting.** The Broadband Committee will be holding an information meeting at Town Hall on Saturday June 24th from 10 to 12 am with an information presentation at 10:00 am. Broadband committee members will be available after the presentation. Please stop by on your way to and from the dump to get your questions answered. We look forward to seeing you Saturday morning June 24th... and Town Hall and Whitney Hall on Tues. June 27th from 12-8.

Together, we can knock this ballot out of the park and launch RoyalstonNet this summer.

**MUSICFEST 2017!**

The date is Sunday, July 23rd from Noon to 5 pm at Bullock Park on Royalston Common (behind Historical Society Building.) The council had to change the previous announced date because the Green River Festival is on the 16th.

There will be six amazing musical acts, starting at noon, culminating with our headliner band, Wildcat O’Hallorahan, at 4 pm. The Cultural Council will offer ice cream, watermelon, and stunning T-shirts for sale, while the Fire Department will be grilling up hamburgers and hot dogs. Kids toys and games will be available. (Last year, more adults than kids played badminton.) There may even be a tortoise sighting. Some tents will be available for general use. This is a rain or shine event.

For more info call Deb Nunes 978-249-4000

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**Valuing Our Children Supports the Library, Seeks Input**

*Jennifer Aldrich, Early Childhood Coordinator*

Valuing Our Children (VOC) is a Family Center located in Athol that provides Parenting Classes, Support Groups, Playgroups, Parent/Child Events, and Family Support for families living in the North Quabbin Region. Many of these programs happen at VOC, but several of our Early Childhood programs happen in the surrounding areas. Our Early Childhood Programs are funded mainly through The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and are aimed at preparing children for kindergarten and supporting parents through this process. Through this grant, Valuing Our Children has coordinated these Parent/Child Programs as well as create Kindergarten Readiness Backpacks that are available for families to borrow and use with their children. These backpacks, which are filled with fun activities geared towards literacy and math, are available in many libraries and schools in the North Quabbin including Phinehas Newton Library and The Royalston Community School.

Currently, VOC has playgroups for children ages newborn to five at Valuing Our Children’s Family Center, Athol Community Elementary School, and at The Petersham Center School. We also have monthly events in different towns which include StoryWalks, Container Gardening, Worm Bin Making, Cookie Decorating, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Activities. We are interested in bringing more of our programming to Royalston through monthly activities at The Phinehas Newton Library on Thursday afternoons and creating more themed backpacks for families to borrow from the library.

In order to meet the interests of families with preschool-aged children and younger in Royalston, we would love for you to share with us topics and activities you and your child would be interested in partaking in at the library or borrowing from the library. Feedback is welcome from anybody and you can share this information directly to me via phone: 978-249-8467 or email: jennifer-aldrich@valuingourchildren.org. Any thoughts or suggestions are greatly welcomed and I look forward to speaking with families in the community. To learn more about Valuing Our Children find us on Facebook: Valuing Our Children, or visit our website: valuingourchildren.org. Thank you!

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**Telephone Scam**

*a warning from Leslie Freudenheim*

Someone is calling people in this area and frightening them with this message:

“You have been found to have committed tax fraud and will soon be arrested and taken to criminal court. Before that happens/or to stop this from happening call this number: 877 219 9833”

I called the number. There is a message requesting the caller’s name and number. Please know that by leaving name and number the people on the other side may assume the caller is vulnerable and pursue asking for money for their services.

Do NOT call back and do NOT be afraid of these calls. As for my experience, I will attempt to report this to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and to Elizabeth Warren.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Clarence Rabideau, Theresa Quinn
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- Thank you!
Alter and Joyce Hubbard  Dana Perkins
Bill and Kim Manser  Buddy Dyer
Elizabeth and Clarence Rabideau  Virginia Gingras
Pat Worth and Michael Young  George Sprague
Ken and Mardy Bouchard  Paul Montero
Cathy Offutt and Teddy Laakkonen
Gene and Marita Cauthen
Tom and Lynne Kellner
Chuck and Polly Longsworth

Library Plant Sale and Book Sale - June 3rd
Bargain books under the tent at the library. All genres for all ages!

Donations of plants needed. Please donate a few extra perennials, annuals, veggies, shrubs, herbs, or houseplants for the Friends! Drop at the library ahead of time or bring to the sale.

At the sale, expect a big selection from the traditional to the unusual. Every sale comes with sound advice and a community connection. Hence, get Theresa Burgess’s Sweet William, (which she got from Eldora Bowers) or Maureen’s Korean rose which Sharon Harmon shared. Come early for the best “A - Z” selection, including but not limited to:  anemone, ajuga, asters, basil, begonia, borage, broccoli, bleeding hearts, 4 kinds of berries, calendula, cosmos, cilantro, chard, double blood root, eggplant, foxglove, fern, grape vines and gold seal, horseradish, hosta, impatients, iris, false indigo, jack in the pulpit, kale, lettuce, ligularia, lupine, lots of lilies, monarda, morning glories, poppies, peonies, peppers, roses, rhubarb, raspberries, strawberries, tomato , tarragon, vinca, wild ginger, white lilacs and lavender, yarrow and zinnia.

Dana Perkins
Buddy Dyer
Virginia Gingras
George Sprague
Paul Montero

Art Exhibit
The beautiful hand-sewn fabric collages created by Karen Swan Otto will continue on display during the month of June. The works include a couple of detailed fairy tale compositions that embody the story in fabric. Stop by to view them.

Library to Join Commonwealth Catalog
Within the next month, our library will have access to the Commonwealth Catalog. This statewide catalog opens up direct borrowing from most libraries throughout the state to easily see what and where an item is available for borrowing. It eliminates the intermediary when ordering items outside our regional network.

Free Summer Kids’ Programs at Your library

Summer Reading Program starts in July
This year the theme for the summer reading program is ‘Build a Better World’ and we will be starting our summer programs in July. There will be two Animal Adventure programs – one on July 10th for preschoolers and July 13th for older kids. Of course, there will be ice cream making too! For young adults and adults there will be fun with reading bingo and great prizes. Details will be provided in next month’s newsletter.

Dance Workshop for Kids in late July
Thanks to a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council, there will be a two week dance workshop for children aged 6-12 led by Brittney Brown and Tayiah Neale. During July 24th-28th from 8:30oon there will be a program for anyone who wants to learn a solo or duet and July 31st-August 4th from 10:00oon, participants will learn the basics of dance and how to perform as part of a group. Look for more information.

Join us! 2017 MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
Royalston Shakespeare Company

What: 14th Annual Shakespeare Theatre Production
Who: Youth ages 8 – 18 (Directors ages 16 and older)
When: June 22 – July 3
Where: Royalston Town Hall, on The Common
Cost: Free/Donation

We are looking for enthusiastic actors, directors, costume makers, set builders, and inspired lighting and sound engineers. We accomplish amazing feats of theatre in less than two weeks. All levels of experience are welcome.

This year’s play, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, is one of Shakespeare’s most famous and fun comedies with plenty of opportunities to ham it up on stage: a quadrangle of confused lovers, a jester, mischievous fairies with magic love potion, kings and queens (human and fairy), a duke, a carpenter, a weaver, a tailor, a tinker, and a bellows mender.

Due to the intensive nature of our program, we ask that participants be able to attend all of the rehearsals.

Contact Grace Belmont:
belgra3@gmail.com or 978.249.3092

The RSC is sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library & funded, in part, by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

Back for its 13th performance of free summer Shakespeare for and by kids, the Royalston Shakespeare Co. is presenting A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Sign up at the library or by contacting Grace Belmont.
Some of the new materials at your

**Adult fiction**

Alyan, Hala  
Backman, Fredrik  
Cameron, W. Bruce  
Chevalier, Tracy  
Child, Lee  
Child, Lincoln  
Doctorow, Cory  
Evans, Richard Paul  
Frank, Dorothea  
Gable, Michelle  
Gordon, Mary  
Hawkins, Paula  
Honeyman, Gail  
Johansen, Iris  
Lehane, Dennis  
Lent, Jeffrey  
Ludwig, Benjamin  
Murakami, Haruki  
Nesbo, Jo  
Paretsky, Sara  
Patterson, James  
Quick, Amanda  
Russo, Richard  
Segal, Francesca  
Simsson, Graeme  
Steel, Danielle  
Strout, Elizabeth  
Theroux, Paul  
Thayer, Nancy  
Toibin, Colm  
Turow, Scott  
Unger, Lisa  
White, Karen

**Adult Non-Fiction**

Grann, David  
Kennedy, Barbara  
McCullough, David  
Pleasant, Barbara  
Tyson, Neil deGrasse

**Audiobooks**

Stabenow, Dana

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**

Downham, Jenny  
Elliott, David  
Giff, Patricia  
Yoon, Nicola

**Children’s Fiction**

Avi  
Carle, Eric  
Corr, Christopher  
Gaiman, Neil  
Goldstyn, Jacques  
Higgins, Ryan  
Luyken, Corinna  
Sanders, Rob  
Snicket, Lemony  
Snyder, Laurel  
Tildes, Phyllis

**Children’s Nonfiction**

Corey, Shana  
Davis, Jim  
Davis, Jim  
Emerson, Marcus  
Green, Jen  
Hale, Shannon  
McCarthy, Anne  
Markle, Sandra  
Nelson, S.D.  
Peabody, Erin  
Patterson, James

**CDs:** Chris Stapleton  
**From a Room: Volume 1**

**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.
The Historical Society is working to archive some of the newspaper clippings of long-time town reporter, Milly French. If you have items to share with the RHS, please contact Peter Krania.

Some things never change...
a) librarians are super-helpful
b) Wendell is quirky

Want to know more about Town history? Why not get involved with the Historical Society? The museum is open many Saturday mornings in the summer, and will be open June 3 during the hoopla on the Common. Check out the facebook page or website or just walk into the museum and ask a question (the historical method) to get involved.


She was born Feb. 14, 1921, in Royalston, daughter of the late John and Lydia (Jarvenpaa) Kirkman. Mrs. Dobson was a cook at the former Fernald School for several years. She made great pies and enjoyed bingo.

Mrs. Dobson was very active and the oldest living member of the Second Congregational Church of Royalston.

Her husband, William Dobson, died in 1973. She was also predeceased by her son, Edward Dobson, and her twin brother, Ralph Kirkman.

She leaves two daughters, Joyce Neale and her husband, Duane of Royalston, and Donna White of New Port Richey, Fla.; one son, Richard Dobson of Morganton, N.C.; nine grandchildren, Charles White, Melody Gibbons, Todd Neale, Travis Dobson, Tricia Cummings, Rod Dobson, Alex Dobson, Adrian Dobson, and Tara Dobson; nine great-grandchildren; one sister, Gertrude Parnanen of Gardner; several nieces and nephews; and her church family.

This photo of Lillie Dobson and her sister Gert Parnanen appeared in The Town Scrapbook, which was put together by the Friends of the Library in the year 2000. There is a long interview written by Kathy Chencharik. The sisters tell about their school years growing up in South Royalston, including how their Finnish names were changed by their teacher, Mrs. Neale, when they entered school. Mrs. Dobson was a fixture in town and will be missed by many.

June Weddings:
Married when the year is new, he’ll be loving, kind and true. When February birds do mate, you wed, not dread your fate. If you wed when March winds blow, joy and sorrow both you’ll know. Marry in April when you can, joy for Maiden and for Man. Marry in the month of May, and you’ll surely rue the day. Marry when June roses grow, over land and sea you’ll go. Those who in July do wed, must labor for their daily bread. Whoever wed in August be, many a change is sure to see. Marry in September’s shrine, your living will be rich and fine. If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry. If you wed in bleak November, only joys will come, remember. When December snows fall fast, marry and true love will last.

—Anonymous

The month of June derives its name from Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage. It was thought that couples who married in June would be blessed with prosperity and happiness.

Stephen Chase Contracting
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26 Pearson Blvd., Gardner, MA 01440
www.foster-healey.com
Allen Young of Butterworth Road traveled to Toronto in May to receive a “youth role model international award” from the Canadian Center For Gender and Sexual Diversity. The award acknowledged Allen’s work in the gay liberation movement, especially his early involvement in the New York Gay Liberation Front and co-editing (with Karla Jay) of three groundbreaking anthologies, including “Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation.”

Allen received an expense-paid trip and a stipend. He spoke about his experiences to two high school classes and to a group of employees of Norton Rose, a large law firm with a diversity awareness program. He also was a guest at a breakfast hosted by Toronto mayor John Tory.

The award was presented at a gala with dinner and entertainment, as well as other award presentations, held at the Toronto Public Library with about 200 people in attendance.

photo: Allen in downtown Toronto with Kayla de Jourdan, a staff member of the Canadian Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity.

Recipe of the Month: Graduation Picnic Potato Salad

This is an old-school potato salad, and it is not particularly healthy. Still, it is consistently a crowd pleaser. I really never measure so feel free to play around with the proportions. The secret is to add a little more chopped red onion than you think you should. Makes a pot-luck sized portion.

Ingredients
3 pounds red or yellow potato with skins on
6 eggs, hard boiled and sliced
1 large red onion, chopped pretty fine
4 stalks celery, chopped
1 cup uncooked frozen peas (still frozen) or chopped snow peas
1 cup or more mayonaise
1 tsp salt, dab mustard, (and maybe some fresh dill) to taste

Boil a big pot of water. Cut potatoes into quarters (or other similarly sized pieces. It is important that the size be similar so that the potatoes are done at the same time.) Add potato pieces to boiling water. Cover. Return to boil and turn down. Simmer for 10 minutes and start periodically poking with a fork until soft enough to stab easily but not soft enough to mash. Drain in a colander. Put back in pot, cover with cold water and drain again. Put back in pot again. Mix all the ingredients, taste, make additions as necessary until delicious.

Congratulations to Ashley Javier “magna cum laude” on her baccalaureate degree in legal studies and academic excellence “Best of the Best” award on May 6, 2017. She made Dean's List every semester of college, despite missing a month of college first semester d/t an automobile accident that resulted in her spending some time in trauma center with brain injury.)

Twin sister, Alexis Javier, survived her first year of Pharmacy school, grades pending!

Marnie Anair is a graduating senior from Monty Tech’s Early Childhood Education program. Over this summer, she will be attending the SkillsUSA National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, and will be attending as a Voting Delegate. At this conference she will be voting on national business for the organization, as well as next year’s national officers. In the fall she will be attending Keene State College, and double majoring in Political Science and Journalism.

Caleb Chase was recently awarded a Bachelors in Fine Arts degree with a concentration in Integrated Media from the Massachusetts School of Arts and Design. Massachusetts is the only state to have a publicly-funded free-standing art school. MassArt is over 130 years old. Thanks Bay State!

Alyssa Bergquist was named to the Dean’s List at UMass Amherst.

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

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

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
June 3rd from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults $7 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, organic lamb, a patio set, a Minecraft set, museum passes and lots of interesting brand new items from local farms and businesses. The whole list of items for the auction is posted at www.villageeschoolma.org. The Auction and Breakfast 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 2017
There are openings in kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 3rd grade. Call the school for more information and to set up a visit.

What’s happening:
Congratulations to the 4th-6th class on performing an engaging and delightful play, In Pursuit of the Loot, at the Royalston Town Hall. The video will be shown on AOTV. The K-1 is climbing Tully Mtn. The 2nd-3rd graders finish the year with a Theme Share Celebration, including singing, playing recorder and sharing their writing. On Wednesday June 7, the 4th-6th class shares their artwork portfolios at 6:15, followed by graduation at 7:00 p.m.

The new school is being built at Camp Caravan! We started building in May and will have it up and enclosed before the ground freezes. We plan to move in during the summer of 2018.

Hello to our Royalston Community from the PTG
Help needed expanding playground
As of Columbus Day, October 9, 2017, RCS will be 21 years old. Our students have learned to utilize the grounds for soccer, football, tag, four square and various social interactive games. Our PTG officers have been researching different options for the purchase of playground equipment and have found prices to be exorbitant. We have very limited funds however; recently, members of our community have reached out and offered financial help. With the help of a playground committee to plan fundraising activities, find sponsors and donations, our dream of a new playground could come to fruition.

We are looking for:
*members of the RCS and Royalston Community to be an active part of the playground planning committee
*volunteers to help plan, build, excavate, during our building stage
*donations in kind or donations of any amount to help us with our fundraising goals

Please let us know if you would like to help!
Call RCS @ 978-249-2900 or email jwilliams@arrsd.org or mla-joie@arrsd.org
Call PTG President Ashley Charron @ 978-249-9242 or email royalstoncommunityschoolptg@gmail.com

RCS Calendar
June 1- Evening with the Arts and RCS concert 6:00-7:30
June 2 - WALK-A-THON
June 6 - Grade 2 Field Trip to the Ecotarium
June 7-Math K-2 Coaching at ACES
June 8 - Davis Farmland field trip K and futures
June 9 - Connecticut Museum of Science
Science of Suds 10:00-10:45 (K-2), 12:30 (3-6)
June 12-Field Trip to Boston Science Museum All school
June 13 Kindergarten Celebration 6:00-7:00
June 16 Grades 3 and 4 to Sturbridge Village
June 19 FIELD DAY - Afternoon Concert with “Deedle Deedle Dee Band”
June 21 6th grade Barbecue & Recognition night 6:00pm
June 22 CURRENT LAST DAY

June 1- Evening with the Arts and RCS concert 6:00-7:30
June 2 - WALK-A-THON
June 6 - Grade 2 Field Trip to the Ecotarium
June 7-Math K-2 Coaching at ACES
June 8 - ARRSD Multi-Cultural Festival 6:00 - 8:30pm
June 9- Connecticut Museum of Science
Science of Suds 10:00-10:45 (K-2), 12:30 (3-6)
June 12-Field Trip to Boston Science Museum All school
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June 3rd from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults $7 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, organic lamb, a patio set, a Minecraft set, museum passes and lots of interesting brand new items from local farms and businesses. The whole list of items for the auction is posted at www.villageeschoolma.org. The Auction and Breakfast 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 2017
There are openings in kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 3rd grade. Call the school for more information and to set up a visit.

What’s happening:
Congratulations to the 4th-6th class on performing an engaging and delightful play, In Pursuit of the Loot, at the Royalston Town Hall. The video will be shown on AOTV. The K-1 is climbing Tully Mtn. The 2nd-3rd graders finish the year with a Theme Share Celebration, including singing, playing recorder and sharing their writing. On Wednesday June 7, the 4th-6th class shares their artwork portfolios at 6:15, followed by graduation at 7:00 p.m.

The new school is being built at Camp Caravan! We started building in May and will have it up and enclosed before the ground freezes. We plan to move in during the summer of 2018.
Classifieds

Help Wanted:  Lawn Mowing/Trimming needed for 2017 season: Weekly, all equipment and fuel provided. Job takes 3 to 4 hours, will pay $15.00 an hour. Can provide transportation if needed. Great summer job for young person wanting some spending money. Must be reliable and commit to the job through September. Other odd job work available as well. Contact Gary @ 978-575-0124.

Services Available:

- **Lawn Mowing/Trimming**: Needed for 2017 season: Weekly, all equipment and fuel provided. Job takes 3 to 4 hours, will pay $15.00 an hour. Can provide transportation if needed. Great summer job for young person wanting some spending money. Must be reliable and commit to the job through September. Other odd job work available as well. Contact Gary @ 978-575-0124.

- **Saxophone/Clarinet/Piano/Contemporary Songwriting and Theory Lessons**: Laura Ramsey. Experience with students on ASD 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 brguiney@wildblue.net

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

- **Justice of the Peace and notary public**: Mariah Mallet 249-9410.

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

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

- **One Less Thing to Worry about ...**

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**for sale:**

(for prices listed or best offer): Contact: Aaron @ 978-249-6771 or ael-lison@fas.harvard.edu

- **House & Garden**
  - **Generator**: Onan Pro-4000E 4-kW Genset plus 50-foot, 20-Amp cable with twist-loc connectors and 12-V battery charger connector: $500.
  - **Weed Whacker**: Stihl FSE-60 electric edge trimmer $50
  - **Rain barrels**: Spruce Creek 55-gallon capacity. Two available. $30 each or $50 for the pair.
  - **Spreader**: Agway adjustable seed/fertilizer spreader. Hand operated. $25

- **Home brewing supplies**
  - **Primary fermenter**: 6.5-gallon plastic True Brew pail with venting lid: $10
  - **Glass carboys**: 5-gallon capacity: $25 each or $40 for the pair

- **Miscellaneous supplies**:
  - **mesh straining bag**, **air-locks (2)**, **carboy brush**, **beer-bottle capper**, **beer-bottle caps**, **wine-bottle corker**, **wine-bottle corks**: $25 for the lot

- **Firewood for sale**. 6 cords cut and dry, 20”-24”.$175/cord or $900 for all 6 cords. You pick up. Tony Cooper 978-249-9776

- **1) Antique wooden hand operated grain thrasher. 2)Large old wood book case with removable shelves. 3) Large old wooden top load ice chest. 4) Large oak 4-drawer slant top desk. 5) Small oak 4-drawer desk. 6) Cherry color electric heater fireplace.** Must see to appreciate! Please call 978-249-6814 for measurements and prices.

- **Mosquito Magnet** advanced mosquito defense system. ½ acre range. Used one season only. Ideal for small yards and patios. $100.00 firm. Call Sharon 978-249-3040.

- **Royalston Maple Syrup from Divoll’s sugar house. Prices pints $10, quarts $17, half gallons $30 and gallons $52. Call John 978-894-5109

- **Sweetwater Sugar House at the LeRays has syrup available. Call 978-249-3464.**

- **Nature books and prints.** Commissions accepted. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

- **Local, raw honey from Squier Davis Farm. One pound jars $7.00 Cash preferred. Call Deb/Joe Nunes at 978-249-4000

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

- **15ft x 15ft EPDM 45 mil pond liner.** Brand new still in box. $125.00 or best offer. Call Tom at 978-249-9633.

- **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

- **Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale, ** Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062

- **Firewood-** No more dry firewood. Green firewood $195/ 170 cu feet. or $380/340 cu feet. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.
Garden Notes

May 22, 2017

The first two weeks in May were as wretched a stretch of weather as I can recall for that period. Moments of sun, yes, but only one day I might refer to as sunny. Cold, wet, windy more accurately reflect the conditions prevailing. Deb D’Amico engagingly addressed the matter of black flies a month ago but it remains foremost on my mind (and my face). The one upside to the foul weather was the absence of black flies. It was a trade-off: garden during adverse conditions (without black flies) or await sunnier moment (with black flies). For me, it was a no-brainer: onion and leeks were set out, chard and beets and additional peas, spinach, and radishes seeded, early spinach thinned, plants moved around, soil tilled, weeds kept at bay. It was a fortuitous decision. Sun returned on the sixteenth, and with it a brutal onslaught of black flies that has been nothing less than fearsome. Horrific would be too slight a term to describe it. I’ve been known to tough it out: no netting, no sprays, no nothing, but my toughness factor seems to be declining (in my declining years) and I’m beginning to wonder whether being tough is all that important. In the meantime, my face is the poster child for the ravishment of the black fly.

Gardening, of course, does not await the presence of fine weather or the absence of black flies. There is a timeliness of activities which cannot be avoided. The procrastinating gardener is the unsuccessful gardener. That being said, I take advantage of some wiggle room. Transplanting is best undertaken under cloudy (better yet, wet) conditions. There is a bit more flexibility in regard to direct seeding, but it is important to be mindful of maturity dates (provided on all seed packets). Timeliness is just as important in respect to weeding. If I have one overriding bit of gardening advice, it is to weed early and weed often. You are provided a choice: hack away at weeds which are overwhelming the plantings or run your hoe through soil in which weeds are barely visible. Another no-brainer. Thinning, too, is critically important. Painful though it may be to pull up scores of carrots, beets, spinach, etc. so that it may be to pull up scores of carrots, beets, spinach, etc. so that the recommended spacing is achieved (seed packet again), it is the only way to encourage proper growth. (There will be all sorts of natural events [weather, weeds, varmints, insects, disease] that may discourage proper growth so you might as well get the spacing correct.)

Bits and pieces from here and there: apples trees in full bloom and there is no reason to doubt they will be fully-fruited. The ultimate quality of the fruit is another story, depending as it does on the presence or absence of a host of predators and pathogens. The commercial grower takes no chances: the trees are sprayed fifteen to twenty times over the course of the season. The non-commercial grower (that’s me, folks) sprays zero times and keeps his fingers crossed. Peach blossoms have dropped and the tiniest of peaches are visible. First strawberry flowers. Hooray for that. A bigger hooray when the first strawberry matures.

While I’ve been at this gardening game for six weeks now, June (early June at any rate) is time enough for the practicing procrastinators among you to de-procrastinate. Transplants are readily available (plant sale on the common: June 3), potatoes can be dropped into the ground, and all but a handful of vegetables direct seeded. There is the added advantage that black fly season will, mercifully, be closing down. (If it hasn’t, there will be screaming from atop Prospect Hill). Go for it.

Car Talk

Deb D’Amico

I recently witnessed my teenage nephew acquire his first car. It is nothing fancy: a 14-year-old Camry handed down by his uncle, my youngest brother. It was not a gift outright. Money did change hands. His parents insisted that their son save his money and pay for a portion of the car’s worth, a life lesson we all applauded and a type of gift after all. The car runs well, has reasonable mileage, and just enough dings to the outside and stains to the upholstery to fire up a 16-year-old eager to make this car his own. With a new CD player, some exterior paint, significant elbow grease, and a keychain from Barcelona’s Camp Nou souvenir shop this young man is ready to cruise.

Watching this all unfold brought waves of nostalgia. I vividly recall my teenage self, newly licensed, behind the wheel of the family car for the first time on my own. The simple act of driving off without an adult in tow felt life-changing. I could point this car in a direction of my choosing and go. However, this freedom was a trust I could not betray. My family expected that I return with the car unscathed, that I not attempt anything foolish in the interim. This was not explicitly stated, but the message was clear: you are one step closer to adulthood where freedom brings responsibility.

Those first exhilarating bursts of freedom soon morphed into the utilitarian nature of car ownership. Focusing on the best deal, the financing, the maintenance all dimmed the excitement over time. Cars came and went. The last vehicle I owned, an unprepossessing ’98 Toyota Corolla – 5 speed, tape player, beige – I’d purchased brand new, right off the lot. I remember being happy with the color – so chic at the time – the wonderful pep of the standard transmission, and the amazing gas mileage. I said to family and friends, “If I play my cards right, I’ll drive this car to my retirement party!”

After a while, the wonder-car, so affordable, so reliable, slipped quietly into the background of my life. Soon it was simply the means of getting from A to B. There were, of course, those sub-zero winter mornings when the car turned over without a hitch, and those blistering August days when the AC worked flawlessly and the radiator refused to overheat. At those moments, the car became “The Car!” Take a bow, oh faithful, reliable, amazing car. You are the best! But most of the time the car simply hummed along unnoticed.

Alas, even amazing cars have a life span. I am not usually given to sentimentality where inanimate objects are concerned, but my recent decision to donate my car to charity engendered waves of affection that surprised me. It had taken me months to come to the decision, which was hastened by yet another major repair needed to my now-19-year-old car. Worse, I had begun to lose faith in its reliability, which felt like heartless disloyalty. But it is hard to argue with a steering wheel that refused to turn just as I arrived at our driveway, having driven on Route 2 for over an hour. The “what if…” scenario was more than I cared to consider. The time had come.

Turns out it is easier to donate a car than to purchase one. A helpful person at the other end of an 800-number instructed me: clean it out, sign the title and leave it, and the keys, on the front seat. No need to be present. The tow truck driver will leave your receipt in the mailbox. Done.

After preparing the car for its final journey I could not stop looking at it waiting in the driveway. I felt almost guilty getting into our spiffy new Subaru and driving off. It felt like a terrible betrayal. When I shared these thoughts with my brother – father of the teenage car owner – he understood. “A car is something that is counted on almost to the point of becoming a living being,” he told me. “I look at your car and feel the same way. It has given me so much.”

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For the record, 15 years after purchasing it, I did in fact drive that car to my retirement party. Take a bow, oh faithful, reliable, amazing car.
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Wildlife Sightings
Oriels, hummingbirds, kits, newts, tent caterpillars, goslings, and eagles were all cheerily about in May.

This summer, look in local bogs for Royalston’s two varieties of carnivorous plants: sun dews and pitcher plants.

The round-leaf sun dew uses glistening odiferous sticky hairs to attract its insect prey. The hairs then bind and suffocate the bug, whose protein is converted by plant enzymes into nitrogen and other plant nutrients.

Similarly, pitcher plants lure insects by producing a funky smell housed in a lurid rotten- flesh-colored bowl or “pitcher”.

When the bug buzzes by, it falls in a reservoir of liquid that dissolves its body into plant nutrients.