A Publication of the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, Royalston, Massachusetts

## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2 Saturday</td>
<td>5:30 pm <strong>Ladies’ Benevolent Society Summer Potluck</strong> at Packard Pond. Bring the family. Come to swim and kayak at 3 pm. Eat at 5 pm. Call Beth for info and directions 978-249-0358</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4 Monday</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6 Wednesday</td>
<td>Full Corn Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9 Saturday</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. ‘til night <strong>A Country Fair:</strong> bouncy house, live bands, pancakes, history, agricultural judging, mechanical bull, BBQ, free hay rides, tag sale, raffles, cotton candy, tractors, and a lot more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11 Monday</td>
<td>5 pm <strong>Friends of the Library Meeting.</strong> All welcome to come help plan library programs and scheme ways to support the library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14 Friday</td>
<td>7 pm <strong>Poetry reading with Sharon Harmon</strong> at the library. She will read from her new book of poems,, <em>Wishbone in a Lightning Jar</em>. Refreshments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18 Monday</td>
<td>3:30 pm <strong>Book Discussion Group</strong> is meeting at the library to discuss <em>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything</em> by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. Come explore questions like: Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? Why do drug dealers still live with their moms? Books at the library waiting to be checked out. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20 Wednesday</td>
<td>New Harvest Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 23 Saturday</td>
<td>5 pm <strong>Local food supper</strong> to support on-going improvements to the building of the Royalston Historical Society’s building, Old School House #1. Local soup to nuts deliciousness followed by a presentation by Alan Bowers on Empress Zita, who summered here for many years after being run out of Austria-Hungary at the start of WWI. Tickets are $20. Reserve at royalstonhistorical.org or by zapping <a href="mailto:chasemos2@gmail.org">chasemos2@gmail.org</a> or calling 978-249-0358.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24 Sunday</td>
<td>3 pm <strong>LBS Memorial Concert</strong> in the ballroom at the Maples. Free (donations for scholarship fund gratefully accepted). Delicious refreshments served.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1 Sunday</td>
<td>1 pm <strong>114th South Royalston School Reunion</strong> at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. If you attended school at Whitney Hall or RCS, you are invited to come reminisce about the “good old days”! Bring a pot luck dish to share. Program on the future of Whitney Hall to follow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11 Wednesday</td>
<td>Annual COA Flu Clinic. Details to follow.</td>
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Select Board Notes

Linda Alger

The Select Board has had a pretty quiet summer. We want to thank the voters for approving the debt exclusion votes for a new sander and our continued buildout of our wireless internet project. We anticipate the internet buildout will be self-sustaining.

Kevin Flynn has been hired as our grant consultant for the elevator project. Kevin has been instrumental in the last several years helping us obtain the MassWorks grant for Winchendon Road, the elevator and most recently writing the proposal for a grant to demolish #1 School Street.

The Select Board would like to compliment the DPW for their work on the grounds as well as the setbacks on our roadways, things are looking great.

The Country Fair is scheduled for September 9th, on the common. Come join us for a fun filled family day.

We hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and we wish the Royalston students a successful start to the new school year.

Show Me what Democracy Looks Like...

Our town has openings for volunteers on the following boards:

- Assessors
- Conservation Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Open Space and Recreation
- Board of Public Welfare
- Community Preservation Committee (at large member)

Community participation has always been the hallmark of small town government. Please consider volunteering. You will be much appreciated; you will make friends; and you will make a difference.

Call the Selectobard at 978-249-9641, Tues - Thurs 9am to 3pm, or email your interest at: bos@royalston-ma.gov

Cultural Council Grant Deadline in October

Heads up! The deadline for the next cycle of grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council is October 15, 2017. Application forms can be completed at the Mass. Cultural Council website. For more information please contact Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000.

Royalston Country Fair on September 9

Geoff Newton and Marlene Jarvenpaa

A full day of fun is planned. Show starts at 7:30 with the craft and flea market items. A pancake breakfast will be served by the members of the Second Congregational Church begins at 8 am. The Historical Society is open to the public at 9:00 a.m and will lead tours of the Common, including the old factory cellar holes, at 11 and noon. (Meet at the museum.) Beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m., get your hamburger and a hot dog from the skilled cooks from the Royalston Fish and Game Club. From 11:00 to the end of the fair, the Events Committee will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets, chances on a cord of wood, beer and wine, pizza, ice cream, cotton candy, and corn on the cob. The committee is also sponsoring a mechanical bull and bouncy house. Live entertainment will be the musical talents of The Definite Maybes, sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council along with the Events Committee. At 4:00 p.m. The Royalston Fire Department will be putting on a pig roast with all the fixings and some fine beverage to enjoy with the meal. The Royalston Agricultural Commission has asked for all who are ready for the bragging rights for the best vegetables and/or the #1 farm vehicle to come and enter it into the contest by 11:30 a.m. It also will be offering free hayrides all day long for all to enjoy.

This fair is planned to get the people of Royalston to come together and to have fun and socialize with ALL the neighbors, SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Royalston Fire & EMS Association Pig Roast

Please join your Royalston Fire and EMS Association for a Pig Roast on Saturday, September 9th at 6pm. The roast will be located at the Center Fire Station. In addition to the meal, beer will be available for purchase. Serving will begin at 6pm. Tickets are $15 for adults and $8 for kids 12 and under. Contact your local Fire and EMS personnel for tickets. Tickets will also be available at the Post Office. Please NOTE: We will not be selling tickets at the door so pre-order now!

Are you going to Royalston Fair?
Parsley, sage, veggies and flowers

Enter to win a prize at the Fair

The Royalston Agriculture Commission is hosting a vegetable judging contest at the Events Committee Day on the common September 9th. Enter your summer produce, fruit or flowers before noon at Town Hall, and if you have particularly mis-shaped or inspired looking fruit, there is a category for that! Please no canned/prepared items such as jam, pickles, etc.
Board of Health News

Phil Leger, Chair

Royalston Recycling and Transfer Station (RRATS), will have new operating hours effective September 16, 2017. They are as follows:

Saturday 7am-2pm, with last bags in 1:45pm. If in the rare instances a holiday falls on the Saturday, we will be open on the Friday prior. The change in hours is to give folks who are going to events etc. an option for earlier access. The last bag at 15 minutes before closing is to give staff time to shut the facility down prior to leaving. Showing up at closing time with a truckload of trash just as staff is trying to shut everything down is inconsiderate. Usually it’s the same folks. Plan your day accordingly.

Haz/mat collection day will be September 23, 2017 9-12 at the Orange Recycling Center E. Main St. Orange right after Pete’s Tire Barn. Pre-registration is required by the 15th and is on a first come first serve basis for residents of Royalston. Online www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or call 413-772-2438 to register or for more info.

Ticks and mosquitoes are all very active. We do have West Nile Virus positive mosquitoes in Worcester County. Until killing frost, this will be a concern. Ticks will remain active even after first frost. So, the 5’D’s are, Dress, Drain, Dawn to Dusk, and Deet. Protect yourselves.

Reminder, all vehicles using RRATS need new updated windshield stickers on their driver’s side windshield please. One (1) bag sticker equals a 33 gallon trash bag. If you are using large 55 gallon contractor bags, you need to put 2 two stickers. Small white kitchen bags are a half sticker. Please use the appropriate stickers for the right bag. Thank you.

Royalston Schools Reunion October 1st

Mary Jane Williams

Can you answer “yes” to one or more of these questions? Was Lempi Lappi your lunch lady? Was your recess milk in a glass bottle delivered daily by Peterson’s Dairy? Did you ever attend a dance or function in Whitney Hall? Did you or a family member attend the white school building in South Royalston? Did you at a dance or function in Whitney Hall? Did you or a family member tend RCS on Winchendon Road?

If you answered “yes” to at least one of these questions, you are invited to the 114th South Royalston School Reunion on October 1, 2017. Every year on the first Sunday in October, a group of former students and family members gather at the Royalston Fish and Game Club to reminisce about the “good old days” and times remembered. Photo albums are brushed off and folks try to put a name with the face. One gentleman makes the trip each year from Texas to share the afternoon. There will be a pot luck lunch at 1:00pm followed by a brief business meeting. Jim Barclay of the Royalston Building Committee will speak on the future of the South Royalston School. New items are raffled off to raise money for the annual scholarship fund. This year, there will also be a gift raffle for a member who brings a new guest. No reservation is necessary. Any questions, please contact Mary Jane Williams @ 508 479-2658

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Royalston Emergency Management

Director Jim Barclay

e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or phone 978-249-2904

It’s peak hurricane season, and while Royalston is not generally affected by these typically coastal storms, peripheral winds can wreak havoc inland. Know what the terms mean, what actions you should take – and in all cases, be sure to monitor the news, and if local officials issue directives, follow them!

Hurricane Watch – Conditions possible in next 48 hours. Review your evacuation route and make sure your “grab and go” disaster kit is ready to roll. Be sure you have what you need for your family for three days, including access/functional needs for any members with disabilities including medications, and don’t forget food and medications for pets.

Hurricane Warning – Conditions are expected within 36 hours. Check in with family and friends by whatever means you have – texting, social media, phones – and let them know where you’ll be heading if you’re ordered to evacuate, and have a mutual contact point where everyone is to check in, somewhere well away from the area of the hurricane.

Here are a few quick tips:

Know your hurricane risk

Make a family emergency and communications plan, sign up for CodeRED for Royalston emergency notifications and know your evacuation routes and shelter options.

Make or re-stock your basic disaster supplies kit

Complete information, templates and “printables” for all ages will help your entire family prepare. Questions may be directed to Royalston Emergency Management at ema@royalston-ma.org or 978-249-2904.

Cleaning up the Royalston DSL Mess

Jon Hardie IT Director

For several years, 183 DSL users, including 6 Town of Royalston Depts. (Fire Police, Emergency Management, Selectman’s Office, The Library, DPW, and the Community School) have all been experiencing less than optimal DSL service from Verizon.

That’s an understatement. Lately, it’s been a disaster. Enough is enough.

So … Royalston IT launched a massive multi-pronged public and governmental outreach effort to our State Senator (and Senate President), our local State Representative, and by filing formal complaints with the Telecommunication & Cable office, Public Utilities, and MBI. Many residents have filed formal complaints as well.

It worked. Verizon has approached us with a solution that involves: 1) improving the bandwidth from Athol where the DSL server is located. 2) Replacing the DSL server in Athol.

Last week Verizon upgraded the bandwidth available from Athol to remove congestion, low bandwidth and frequent failure & outages, and they will begin replacing the Athol DSL server with a new switch located at the public safety complex at the south end of the common. Users should already see increased stability, higher bandwidth, and dramatically reduced outages. This will provide critical DSL stability as we build out our own RoyalstonNET High Speed Broadband Network this fall and over the next 12 months.
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!
Christine Long
Institute for Cultural Exchange, Inc. matching gift for Chris Santillo
Allen Young
Buddy Dyer

Thank you
Liane Brandon for an oversize printer and Boyd Estus for ink cartridges for the printer
Royalston Academy for funding our summer reading programs
Royalston Cultural Council for funding the Royalston Shakespeare Company production and the Dance Workshops
Grace Belmont for directing the Royalston Shakespeare Company and Tayiah Neale and Brittney Brown for great dance workshops
Marsha Charest for delicious breads for the eclipse party
Bryce Johnson for bring a pinhole viewer to the eclipse party
The Friends of the Library for funding all the prizes and refreshments for the Summer Reading Programs, Shakespeare, Ice Cream Social, and eclipse party
Patti Stanko and Maureen Blasco for help at the eclipse party
Everyone who came to the eclipse party, exceeding our estimates, and so graciously sharing the viewing glasses!

Summer Reading Winners:  We had a lot of entries for our Reading Bingo for Adults and Young Adults and Reading Logs for kids. Random drawing by the participants at the Ice Cream Social determined the winners. Our adult winner was Carol Mercier, with Marsha Charest and Becky Divoll as runner up. Alexis Reynolds was the young adult winner with Big E tickets going to Madilyn Hermes and Bradley Warner. Passes to the Eric Carle Museum went to Charlotte Mercier and to the U.S.S. Constitution Museum to Kylie Charron and a wax hand print from Yankee Candle to Trent Charron. Summer Reading incentives were brought to our library by the Western Massachusetts Library Advocates and the $50 grand prizes were provided by the Friends of the Library.

Poetry Reading at the Library
Sharon Harmon will read from her new poetry, Wishbone in a Lightning Jar and discuss her writing process on Friday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Her poems have been published in Green Living, Silkworm, The Aurorean, Worcester Magazine, The Paterson Literary Review, and many other publications and in 2008 she published the chapbook, Swimming with Cats. A freelance writer, who also writes for Uniquely Quabbin and teaches writing classes, she lives in the woods of Royalston with her husband Wade and their cat. Refreshments, provided by the Friends, will be served.

Upcoming Author Visit
On Sunday, October 22, at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Kevin O’Hara author of Last of the Donkey Pilgrims: A Man’s Journey Through Ireland will discuss his book and journey around Ireland. Copies of the book are available for borrowing at the library.

Bit of Bliss Yoga Continues
Everyone is invited to a relaxing hour of yoga with certified yoga instructor, Janet Bettey, which will be continuing at the Town Hall on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. after being held outside at the library this summer. Yoga is known to improve flexibility, increase balance, fend off weight gain, supercharge your brain, soothe stress, reduce depression, protect your heart, ease back pain, promote more restful sleep, and even more. So how can you not want to try it out? Mats, straps, and blocks are available to borrow. All skill levels are welcome as Janet gives variations for each level of competency.

Art Exhibit
Kate Collins will display several of her paintings during September and October. Kate has lived in Royalston with George Northrop for over 40 years and was the first woman elected to the Select Board. Like her mother, she has been painting for much of her life. She uses the scenery around their farm and Royalston for inspiration and as subject matter.
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**
- Box, C.J.: Paradise Valley
- Brockmann, Suzanne: Some Kind of Hero
- Brown, Janelle: Watch Me Disappear
- Castillo, Linda: Down a Dark Road
- Clemmons, Zinzi: What We Lose
- Connelly, Michael: The Late Show
- Dionne, Karen: The Marsh King's Daughter
- Evanovich, Janet: Dangerous Minds
- Fairstein, Linda: Deadfall
- French, Nicci: Dark Saturday
- Garwood, Julie: Wired
- Gerritsen, Tess: I Know a Secret
- Gregory, Philippa: The Last Tudor
- Hanson, Hart: The Driver
- Kiernan, Stephen: The Baker's Secret
- Lescroart, John: Fatal
- Mizushima, Margaret: Hunting Hour
- Noonan, R.J.: The Breakdown
- Paris, B.A.: The Reason You're Alive
- Quick, Matthew: Two Nights
- Robinson, Kim: New York 2140
- Rooney, Sally: Conversations with Friends
- Schmidt, Sarah: See What I Have Done
- Silva, Daniel: House of Spies
- Slaughter, Karin: The Good Daughter
- Steiner, Susie: Persons Unknown
- Trigiani, Adriana: Kiss Carlo
- Wallace, Daniel: Extraordinary Adventures
- Ware, Ruth: The Lying Game
- Wilson, Daniel: The Clockwork Dynasty
- Woods, Stuart: Barely Legal
- Woods, Stuart: Indecent Exposure

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Bowden, Mark: Hue 1968
- Forman, James: Locking Up Our Own
- Fountain, Henry: The Great Quake
- Hanes, Stephanie: White Man's Game
- Kaplan, Fred: Lincoln and the Abolitionists
- Levin, Ted: America's Snake
- Mamane, Rachael: Mastering Stocks and Broths
- Nosrat, Samin: Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat
- O’Hara, Kevin: Last of the Donkey Pilgrims
- Scottoline, Lisa: I Need a Lifeguard Everywhere but the Pool
- White, Jonathan: Tides

**Audiobooks**
- Adichie, C.: Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions
- Connelly, Michael: The Late Show
- Dionne, Karen: The Marsh King’s Daughter
- Lescroart, John: Fatal

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- English, Karen: It All Comes Down to This
- Prince, Liz: Tomboy
- Reichardt, Marisa: Underwater
- Reynolds, Jason: Miles Morales: Spider-Man

**Children’s Fiction**
- Beatty, Robert: Serafina and the Black Cloak
- Beatty, Robert: Serafina and the Splintered Heart
- Beatty, Robert: Serafina and the Twisted Staff
- Bogan, Carmen: Where’s Rodney?
- Brook, Max: Minecraft
- Colfer, Chris: Descendants 2 Junior Novel
- Gianferrari, Maria: Someone Like Me
- Gallion, Sue: Hello Goodbye Dog
- Geron, Eric: Kid Amazing vs. the Blob
- Geron, Eric: The Scariest Book Ever
- Geron, Eric: The Only Fish in the Sea
- Geron, Eric: Darkness of Dragons
- Shear, Bob: Jack and the Beanstalk and the French Fries
- Shear, Bob: Say Zoop!

**Unique things to borrow from the library:**
- Orion StarBlaster Telescope and tripod
- ice cream makers (the round ball type)
- Kill-A-Watt electricity monitor
- 6’ folding tables (3)
- digital projector, and screen
- kindergarten readiness kits
- state park passes

**CDs: Disney**
- The Descendants 2
Local Food Supper
September 23rd to Benefit Restoration at Old School House #1.
Eat colorful, flavorful food from the garden, build community and learn about the connection between Royalston and actual royalty at the 2017 Local Foods Supper.

5 pm Outside Town Hall  $20
Get Tickets: chasegos2@gmail.com
royalstonhistorical.org
any historical society member

The aspects of the supper you have always enjoyed are the same: friends, food and fun. The menu is still evolving but includes several courses of tasty foods containing the bounty of our own lands and hands. Beer and wine will be available.

Trying something new this year, the dinner will be outside on the common (weather and bug permitting) and a little earlier to accommodate for daylight. If the weather is uncooperative, we will move indoors to the town hall. Also, there will be plenty of paper plates, but in the spirit of creating less waste in our town, feel free to bring your own “real” plate and cutlery to the event. Then, after you’ve enjoyed the meal, take it back home with you.

Following the supper, inside the town hall, Alan Bowers will give a talk and slide show on Empress Zita, the last empress of the Austria-Hungarian empire, who spent many summers in Royalston after she was deposed at the beginning of WWI.

LBS Annual Memorial Concert
This year’s LBS Memorial Concert will be held in the ballroom on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 3 pm.

Participants this year include Royalston musicians Alice and Scott Daugherty, on piano and trumpet; Rebecca Krause-Hardie with the Quatro Cor french horns; Deb Nunes, piano; and Fitzwilliam resident Elizabeth West on flute. The concert will be followed by the always delicious reception provided by the Ladies. The event is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected to support the good works of the LBS.

North Quabbin Garden Club
Why not start off the 2017-2018 club season Making Sauerkraut on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 7 pm at the Millers River Environmental Center? Fermented foods are the new superfoods! Tracy Alden from Warwick conducts this workshop using vegetables available from our gardens or local farm stands in our area. We will work in groups to create a product to take home and the skills we learn can be used later at home. Please bring cutting board, knives, grater and mixing bowl.

Fire cider will be available for purchase. Tracy will describe how this helps our immune system so we are ready for flu and cold season.

Roots and Sprouts: a parent-child group for infants and toddlers up to age 3
At the Village School on Royalston Common  FREE
Wednesdays, starting October 4th for 6 weeks. 10:15 to 11:30. 11:30 is outside time in the playground.
Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator
Come gather with other parents and their young children in the lovely Village School preschool classroom and deepen your connection with your child through singing, movement and art, celebrating the seasons and outside play. Learn more about child development, how to build a healthy parent/child relationship, and enjoy a simple snack with your child. Free. Come to the first session to try it out. Preregistration preferred. Call 978 249 3505 or email info@villageschoolma.org

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
Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos2@gmail.com or drop it at the library.

Christopher James, a former Royalston resident, was recently sworn into the Massachusetts Bar Association. Attorney James is employed at Korde and Associates in Lowell. James (on left) is shown with his brother, Heikki Ruuska.

Evelyn Alice Zinkievich was born on 6-27-17 at 1:14 p.m. weighing 8 pounds and 9.6 oz and 21 inches long. Proud parents are Adam and Shannah Zinkievich and big sister Sophia Lively Zinkievich of West Suffield, CT. Grandparents are Ken and Andrea Lively of Royalston and Paul and Cathy Zinkievich of Athol. Heather and Jason Goodhind of Hadley are aunt and uncle.

Lemonade Stand: This summer Oren Santillo and Abby Connelly with help from Isaac Santillo and Douglas Connelly and later Alex and x Hopkins set up a lemonade stand at the library and donated all the proceeds from their sales - $15.75 - to the library. Photo: Left to right: Alex Hopkins, Douglas Connelly, Andrew Hopkins, Oren Santillo, Isaac Santillo, and Abby Connelly.

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

Chris Deveneau
REALTOR®
Cell: 978-430-1151
Office: 978-630-2070 ext. 383
Email: chris.deveneau@foster-healey.com

Foster-Healey
REAL ESTATE, INC.
26 Pearson Blvd., Gardner, MA 01440
www.foster-healey.com
Community School Calendar
August 30 - First day of school for Grades 1 - 6
- Kindergarten Orientation 6:00 - 7pm in the RCS Cafe
Sept. 01 - No School
Sept. 04 - Labor Day, No School
Sept. 05 - Students return, first full day for Kindergarten
Sept. 20 - 1/2 Day all schools, professional development, 12:00 dismissal, lunch served
Sept. 27 - O’Connor Portraits - School Picture Day

Monty Tech Updates
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston’s Representative – m-barclay@mon-tytech.net

Some stats from the Class of 2017: An impressive 66% of the graduating class (232 students) plans to attend post-secondary education, in public and private two and four-year colleges and trade/technical schools. Students going directly from school to work represent 27% (70 students accepting employment in their specialty; 28 accepting employment not related to their training). Five percent (8 students) are going into the military. Two percent (six students) have either unknown plans (two students) or are seeking employment (four students.) It should also be noted Monty Tech, at the end of the last school year, hosted United Way’s “Combat Hunger Meal Packing Project,” preparing 2,200 meals. It is the first high school in MA to host this event. Other year-end charitable endeavors include Health Occupations’ “Baby Shower to benefit the Battered Women’s Resource of North Central MA.”

Royalston should be very proud – despite having just two guaranteed seats, all eight Monty Tech applicants were accepted to our regional vocational-technical school district! (There are 371 seats available. There were 616 applicants, 136 of whom did not complete the admissions process, or declined seats offered.)

CALLING ALL GOLFERS! Monty Tech Foundation’s 23rd annual Golf Tournament is slated for a “shotgun start” at 1 p.m., at the Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg. Proceeds support scholarships, grants, and program enhancements for students. Call 978-345-9200 x5227 for more information.

What’s Going on at Camp Caravan?
Castle Rock has been filming in Orange for a Hulu Stephen King TV series. Castle Rock is also filming at Camp Caravan in early September as part of an episode.

Village School New Building Update
Passing by Camp Caravan on Rt. 68, you can’t miss the ongoing construction of the new Village School building. You can count the 5 classrooms, each by its individual roof. By mid-September, the whole building will be framed. We move in next August, with room for more children!

Kindergarten and First Grade openings this fall at the Village School (on the Common). Young children enjoy art, music, story, immersion in nature, play and more. In the small classroom, children learn to read at their own pace. Openings in 2nd-3rd this fall: The 2nd-3rd class is immersed in a year-long study of Native Americans, including many field trips statewide. Call 249 3505 for more information.
Classifieds

**Services Available:**
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 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

**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. To sign up or for info, call the school at 249-3505.

Many turned out for the partial solar eclipse party at the library. While the moon “ate” the sun, the viewers compared science notes and viewing techniques and ate ice cream sundaes.

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.


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.

**Firewood**

**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 wooden 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 987-249-3040.

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

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

The view from the garden: plants at every level, the sunflowers and corn and cherry tomatoes and sweet peas reaching for the sky; the cucumbers and winter squash and sweet potatoes and non-staked tomatoes sprawling in every direction; low bushes of beans, high bushes of summer squash and very high bushes of cannabis, at last (thank you voters of Massachusetts), growing like the weed it is; beneath the ground, the carrots and beets and radishes and late potatoes. Color, diverse and plentiful: yellows and oranges prevailing, white providing accent, with the zinnias providing their unique variety of hues; the crown jewels being the sweet peas with their magnificent display of blooms and their over-the-top aroma permeating the garden.

Open beds, previously occupied by peas, spinach, garlic, and most of the potatoes and onions. Used to be, I’d immediately re-plant. I’ve come to my senses. Peas may be gone but not their brush, now supporting cherry tomatoes which have outgrown their previous support and recalcitrant flowers like cosmos, rudbeckia, and lavateras with their tendency to flop. Regretfully, row covers previously removed and packed away, have been called out of retirement to provide protection for the carrots and beets, whose tops, in the past week, have been grazed by animals unknown. Thankfully, the black plastic, laid down to warm the soil for the heat-demanding sweet potatoes, has ‘disappeared’ under the mass of vines which have developed. The view from the garden.

It has been an eventful season, weather-wise, and responses have varied from one vegetable to another. The heat-loving plants still await heat (I’ve recorded but twenty-four days with readings above 80º, with only four of them above 85º. Prospect Hill has not yet experienced a 90º day). Vegetative growth has been exuberant, harvests decidedly less so. Reasonable yields of beans and cucumbers, though, at this time, yields ought to be beyond reasonable (no deliveries to the senior luncheon yet). Only a handful or two of cherry tomatoes have been picked (and those less than fully ripe). I noted, only yesterday, the first bit of color on a slicing tomato. Nary a pepper. Fifty feet of winter squash vines with, perhaps a half-dozen fruit. I never thought I’d make this statement: I don’t have enough zucchinis.

Rain has been abundant, so I am at a loss to explain the less-than-acceptable potato yield, which evolved into a less-than-less-than acceptable yield due to an unprecedented influx of rodents on a steady diet of potatoes. Then there are the inexplicable: garlic, large to very large; onions small to very small. Last year, beets were more acceptable potato yield, which evolved into a less-than-less-than acceptable yield due to an unprecedented influx of rodents on a steady diet of potatoes. Then there are the inexplicable: garlic, large to very large; onions small to very small. Last year, beets were more.

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As our family grew we moved to the outskirts of town. The bedroom I shared with my sister was in the northwest corner of the house. From its windows, we could see a broad valley – the “Intervale” – with pastures, a river, and patches of forest that stretched north to the Presidential Range. Through the floor of this valley ran the single-track railroad that was the northern section of the line we already knew. A train came through twice daily – mid-morning and late at night. We were too far from the track to signal our engineer, but we knew he was there. As the train climbed out of the valley and approached the level crossing on Route 16 just north of our house, he sounded his horn: two longs, one short, one long. To us this was not a mere train whistle, it was a personal call in a language we knew. It was, of course, just the standard signal given at any number of level crossings all along the route. But, to us, especially late at night, tuckered into our beds, windows open to the mountain air, the call was haunting and beautiful and for us. I loved the idea that, as I drifted off to sleep, our engineer was out there in the dark night bringing his train safely home.

Larry Siegel

**Trains**

One day last week Tom and I headed out of town. Our route took us through South Royalston just in time to be waylaid by a train. We all know the drill– the bell sounds, the lights flash, and the guard-rails come down so slowly that you have a split second of foolishness thinking you might get around them just in time. Which you can’t. So, you wait. The freight train that runs through South Royalston is usually long and slow. Too often I am frustrated by the delay and spend the wait replaying the previous ten minutes in my mind: “If only I hadn’t watered the plants before I left…”

When I’m not feeling frustrated, I turn off my car, and get out to watch. Sometimes I count the boxcars and flatbeds and tankers – there are usually upwards of 50. Often, I muse about the graffiti on the boxcars and wonder where it was done and by whom. What is in all those boxcars – or are they empty? Where is this train going and where has it been? I look around and try to imagine this same spot 100 years ago, when South Royalston had factories and a train station. During the town’s 250th Celebration I learned that a passenger train brought the “summer folk” to South Royalston and, during the school year, students rode the train to high school in Athol or Gardner. There’s a lot to think about while you wait for the South Royalston train to pass by.

I am not a train aficionado. There are no scale models of trains in our basement. We don’t even have a basement. But I think trains might be in my DNA. One of the first stories I knew about my mother’s life before she became our mother was that she was a waitress in the dining car on the train from Boston to New York. She had loved that job and talked wistfully about taking the “milk train” to Boston in the wee hours of Monday mornings, to start her week of back and forth. She loved the early mornings as she made her way to South Station through sleepy city streets to begin her day. She enjoyed serving the passengers whose lives were fast paced and important. I loved the idea of my mother living a life so glamorous and free.

Eventually, my mother married my father, whom she did not meet on a train, and they began our family. Our move to the White Mountains in the late ‘50s deposited us in a small apartment at the rear of a large inn whose grounds backed up to a railroad track. Freight trains came through daily and we loved to run through the field to the edge of the track and wave to the engineer. To our astonishment, he waved back. One of our friends taught us that, if we pumped our right arm vigorously up and down, elbow bent, the engineer would blow his horn. That worked too! We were now convinced that this man knew us personally.

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Wildlife Sightings

Phil Leger reports seeing a pack of 6 coyotes in full trot on Laurel Lake Road just crossing into New Hampshire mid morning recently. He notes, “As soon as we saw each other, they disappeared. Awesome sight. Brownish red, big tails.” Also, on Rt.32 by Little Pond, he encountered a large (40-50 lbs) cat-type animal in road. “Same thing. As soon as we spotted each other, it disappeared.”

Tips for living with coyotes from MassWildlife:
* Don’t try to feed or pet coyotes.
* Don’t hesitate to scare or threaten coyotes with loud noises, bright lights, or water sprayed from a hose.
* Secure your garbage and compost.
* Use bird feeders designed to keep seed off the ground, as the seed attracts many small mammals coyotes prey upon. Remove feeders if coyotes are regularly seen around your yard.
* Close off areas under porches and sheds that coyotes use for resting and raising young.
* Cut back brushy edges which provides cover for coyotes and their prey.
* Although free roaming pets are more likely to be killed by automobiles than by wild animals, coyotes do view cats and small dogs as potential food, and larger dogs as competition. Keep pets on a leash and feed them indoors.

Help Wanted: Preschool Story Time Coordinator Needed at Library

After 5 years as preschool story time coordinator, Paula Pralinsky has left to take a full time position. We are saddened to lose her as she was a welcoming presence who always had great crafts and was known for her (really Burt’s) delicious popcorn snack. We will miss her presence every Monday morning and wish her well. We are looking for someone to fill this slot. The position is about two hours a week on non-holiday Mondays from about 9:30-11:30, with the person coordinating the craft and story, having a healthy snack for the children (paid for by the Friends), and providing a welcoming and nurturing place for parents, caregivers, and children to interact. And, if the applicant is interested, it allows you to substitute during regular hours as well. If you are interested in learning more about the position, stop by the library to discuss the specifics and fill out an application.