October 1  Sunday
1 pm  114th South Royalston School Reunion 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. (This photo shows its precursor).

October 9  Monday
Columbus Day observed

October 10  Tuesday
7 pm  Forum on the Stretch Code, at town hall

October 11  Wednesday
10 am - 11:30 am  Annual COA Flu Clinic at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is Royalston residents 18 years of age or older. Walk-ins are welcome. The vaccination is free. Health insurance is not required. Those with insurance, please bring your card.

October 15  Sunday
Cultural Council applications for this year’s grant funding cycle are due. Go to Mass Cultural Council website to download form.

October 16  Monday
4:30 pm  Library book group meets to discuss Last of the Donkey Pilgrims by Kevin O’Hara in anticipation of library author visit the next Sunday.

October 19  Thursday
3:12 p.m.  New Beaver Moon

October 20  Friday
6:30 pm  Royalston Historical Society Quarterly meeting at the home of president Peter Krania, corner of Stone and Winchendon Rds. Pot Luck supper followed by business meeting at 7 pm.

October 22  Sunday
2 pm  Author Kevin O’Hara discusses his book Last of the Donkey Pilgrims, which chronicles his nine month, 1,720 mile journey around the Emerald Isle with a donkey named Missy in 1979. Library Journal called his beloved travel saga, “One of the finest books about contemporary Ireland ever written”. Delicious refreshments.

October 25  Wednesday
7:30 pm  Ladies’ Benevolent Society business meeting in town hall, immediately followed by:
8 pm  presentation by Beth Gospodarek sharing slides and telling of her experiences touring China and Vietnam with the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia as well as her putterings about as a somewhat adventurous traveler in nether parts of Vietnam and Cambodia with her husband Stephen Chase.

October 27  Friday
7 pm  Special Town Meeting at town hall to consider the stretch code

October 28  Saturday
7 pm  The New England Symphony Orchestra will present “European Salon Orchestras” in the Performing Arts Center at Monty Tech. The program will represent the style and scale of orchestras used in 19th century hotels for their “salon guests”. Tickets range in price from $12 - $35. Order on-line at www.newenglandsymphony.org/tickets/ or reserve by calling 978-466-1800 between 10 a.m. – noon.

October 31  Tuesday
Halloween
5 - 8 pm  Trick or Treating hours

November 3  Friday
Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration. The public is invited: 5:00 p.m. gather in the dark at the Village School for stories and songs. Then, process on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing lanterns. Bring a lantern! 6 pm  A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall 6:30 pm  family contra dance with the No Name Band. Called dances. Children of all ages will find it easy to join in. Donations of $5 per adult, $2 per child, or $10 per family suggested.

November 4  Saturday
10 - noon  Village School Open House  Meet the teachers, parents, and alumni, see the classrooms, find out about curriculum and get questions answered. Bring your children.

7:30 pm  Yes! Improv Night with Anne Diaz at Town Hall to benefit the Athol Royalston Education Foundation. Tickets $10. Beer and wine and soft drinks available for purchase. See any AREF member, visit Kimball-Cooke Insurance or reserve tickets at chasemos2@gmail.com. Proceeds support enrichment programs and community involvement in the Athol-Royalston School District
Select Board Notes: Finally, Let’s Go Green!

by Christine Long, Member

The Energy Committee has worked for several years and countless hours to move Royalston toward becoming a Green Community and bring in upwards of $125,000 in grant money. The final step is adopting the Stretch Code – this time, let’s do it.

The Select Board urges voters to attend an information session on Tuesday, October 10 and special town meeting on Friday, October 27, both at 7 p.m. at town hall.

What is the stretch code? It’s an add-on to the state building code, imposing more stringent standards on a new building’s energy use. (The code also applies to major renovation projects, but less stringently; historic buildings are exempt.) Yes, this increases costs a bit, but those costs are recovered through lower energy bills and, sometimes, through utility company or tax incentives.

To date, 205 towns and cities in Massachusetts – almost 70 percent of them – have adopted the stretch code. Among them are Athol, Petersham, Warwick, New Salem, Erving, Gardner and Barre, all of which have also achieved Green Community status and thus earned those state grants of at least $125,000.

With the grant money, Royalston will be able to make upgrades to public buildings and facilities it otherwise could not afford to do. These upgrades will make our aging facilities more efficient and result in significant savings in operating costs.

Green for the environment, and green in the town’s wallet!

Planning for Our Future!

Nancy Monette

A small group of Royalston residents have been meeting once a month to help plan for our community needs in the coming years. Called The Capital Plan Development Committee, this group was formed at the request of the Selectboard in response to the urging of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue so that we can more effectively plan for our future.

The CPDC has been charged by the Selectboard with the development of a long-term (10 year) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the town for expenditures of over $5,000, to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting of May, 2018.

So we ask you this question….How do you want to see Royalston in the future? Struggling to maintain our roads and paint our buildings, to buy needed equipment for fire and safety needs, to keep our furnaces and water systems running OR, do we plan for our future?

By making a plan we can:
* eliminate unanticipated, poorly planned, or unnecessary capital expenditures
* ensure the timely repair and replacement of aging infrastructure
* identify how to pay for capital improvements
* set our tax rates, user fees and debt levels to cover both planned and unexpected capital improvements and still stay within our means

Since Royalston recently paid off the bond for our school, now is a good time to Plan For Our Future. The Capital Plan Development Committee invites you to join us in this effort. We need the voices of as many Royalston residents as possible to tell us what they’d like to see. As we develop our plan, we’ll reach out to the rest of the community to let you know what we’ve come up with, and to find out what you want and can support. We will keep you up to date on our progress in future newsletters, and we hope you will join us in making Royalston a great town to live in!

Royalston Country Fair Winners

Thanks to all who came to the fair to enjoy the company of their neighbors as well as pancakes, burgers, roasted pig, broncing bull, bouncy house, corn, crafts, music, history and more... Here are the winners of some of the events.

Garden produce contest: The Royalston Agriculture Commission would like to thank all who entered the garden produce contest. Thank you Nora Weaver of the Farm School for being our judge. The winners were:

Vegetables:
1st place: Emma Janowicz for heirloom tomatoes
2nd place: Tom LeRay for his basket of summer squash and cukes
3rd place: Maureen Blasco for carrots

Fruits:
Marlene Jarvenpaa for peaches

Flower arrangements:
1st place: Marjorie Bassett for sunflowers
2nd place: Emily Porrazzo for zinnias
3rd place: Beth Gospodarek for herbal arrangement

A big shout out to Agriculture Commission members Randy Divoll for the fall decorations, piglets and providing the popular hayrides and to Jenn Janowicz for setting up and registering entries. Our brochure of local farms and produce was in the September newsletter. Pleas support our local farms.

Winners of the scavenger hunt were Emma Janowicz and her sister Mikayla as well as the Siwek family. The carved eagle was donated by Steven Mac and the crocheted blanket donated by Marlene Jarvenpaa., Subway, McDonalds, and Village Pizza also donated prizes.

Gordon Morrison should have gotten a blue ribbon for “best pants”. He definitely won our admiration for his ability to fit in the same pants he wore in the 70s!
**Board of Health News**

*Phil Leger, Chair*

New RRATS hours are in effect: Saturday 7am-2pm and last bags in by 1:45. If a holiday falls on a Saturday, we will be open on Friday.

Reminder on bag stickers: One sticker for standard 33lb trash bag. Half sticker for small white kitchen bag. Two stickers for larger contractor type bag. Please pay as you throw.

Mosquitoes are still with us until hard frost. Ticks will still be with us into colder weather. Dress accordingly.

Time for your flu shots. See your local health care provider, pharmacy, or flu clinic.

Hurricane season. Be prepared. See/contact Jim Barclay.

**Royalston Cemetery Commission**

This is a great time to ensure the graves of loved ones are cleared of any planters, plant pots, or annual plantings. Cleaning up plantings will reduce chances of unwanted vermin and disease, not to mention make things look nicer. In addition, if winter winds whip things around, markers may be damaged or even worse, injure workers who inadvertently hit them with mowers in the spring. If you need some assistance or information on care of grave sites in Royalston cemeteries, contact Commissioners Roland G. Hamel,

**Royalston Emergency Management**

contact Jim Barclay

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

October marks the 14th annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and while there are many topics of cyber-concern to communities, the youngest cyberspace travelers are the topic of this preparedness message.

No matter what precautions parents take, children are going to have access to the internet in places and at times there are no adults to help them make wise decisions. The reality is, our children are using electronic media well before they are capable of understanding they can very easily put themselves in extraordinarily dangerous situations.

It is estimated that in one in four children is the subject of bullying, and 60% of those are being harassed via social media. Of particular concern to those in Emergency Management and Homeland Security, is the use of social media to befriend, then recruit children for terrorism, or to lure them into child prostitution. For these reasons, it is vital that parents – all adults – engage children in daily discussions of the internet and cyberspace (where forever, really IS forever), appropriate internet and social media behavior, and what to do if – no, WHEN they see inappropriate behavior. The Department of Homeland Security offers a number of useful resources as part of their “Stop – Think – Connect” program, including “Cyber Safety 101 for You and Your kids,” “Tips to Keep Your Kids Safe Online,” “Beware of What You Share,” and “A Parent’s Guide to Protecting Children Online.”

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Baker-Polito Administration Announces $1.125 Million for Last Mile Broadband Connectivity for Royalston

Royalston will build a hybrid wireless network, with a fiber backbone, to provide high-speed internet to over 600 homes, businesses, schools, and town offices. On September 6, 2017, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a $1.125 million Last Mile Infrastructure Grant Program award to the Town of Royalston, to assist the municipality’s efforts to close the broadband connectivity gap for unserved residences and businesses. With today’s announcement, a total of 20 towns, representing over 12,000 homes and businesses, have been awarded over $17 million in funding through this program.

“I am proud of the work our Last Mile leadership team has done to engage communities and support locally driven connectivity projects,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Access to broadband internet is helping communities meet their potential to thrive in today’s economy and address the growing needs of residents, families and small businesses.”

With the Last Mile Infrastructure grant funding and municipal funds, Royalston will build a hybrid fiber and wireless system that will be capable of bringing broadband connectivity to over 600 homes and businesses. Currently, the community has no commercial broadband offering, and the municipally owned system will allow Royalston to pursue 100 percent coverage. This effort follows a successful pilot project in South Royalston, which was previously funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, “I want to congratulate Royalston’s efforts to build a system that meets the needs of their community,” said Lt Governor Karyn Polito. “Our broadband infrastructure program is driven by our belief that good government is collaborative, and empowers our municipal leaders to pursue projects that support long-term prosperity and success.”

The Last Mile Infrastructure Grant Program now awards towns funding for both professional services and municipal construction, allocations formulated under the Last Mile Program managed by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) at MassTech. Previously, professional services funds were held back and expended directly by MBI, on behalf of unserved communities. Under the new grant program, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) combines these two allocations into a single award, giving Last Mile towns the flexibility to pursue engineering, design and construction solutions for municipally-owned networks directly, as they would with other local infrastructure projects.

**Flu Clinic in Town**

The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11th from 10 AM to 11:30 AM at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free of charge and is for Royalston residents who are 18 years of age or older. Walk-ins are welcome. The vaccination is free. Health insurance is not required. If you have insurance, please bring your card. This year’s flu shot contains vaccines for the influenza A H3N2 virus, the influenza A H1N1, the influenza B/Brisbane virus and the influenza B/Phuket virus. Pneumonia vaccines, Prevnar 13 (PCV13) and Pneumovax 23 (PPSV23), will also be available, and Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine for those over 65.Vaccines will be administered by pharmacists from Athol Pharmacy, 290 Main Street in Athol. To join the Wednesday Luncheon Club for a meal (BBQ Pork Rib with Macaroni and Cheese) at noon, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 before 10 AM on Tuesday.
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!
Anthony Ferragamo and Jean McCurdy
Patricia Stearns
Tom Musco and Deb D’Amico
Steve and Cindy Savoy

Author of an Irish Travel Tale Speaks at the Library
On Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall, Kevin O’Hara will share his images and humorous anecdotes of his timeless and extraordinary journey around Ireland. His book, Last of the Donkey Pilgrims, chronicles his nine month, 1,720 mile journey around the Emerald Isle with a donkey named Missy in 1979. Library Journal called his beloved travel saga, “One of the finest books about contemporary Ireland ever written and The Christian Science Monitor ranked “Donkey” as one of Ireland’s top ten books. In 2012, O’Hara was named the John F. Kennedy National Award winner as an outstanding Irish-American. Copies of the book are available to borrow at the library. This program is free and sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Refreshments served. For more information call the library or visit www.royalstonlibrary.org. Kevin O’Hara’s website is at www.thedonkeyman.com.

Zumba Begins in November and Yoga Continues
Once again, the Friends of the Library will sponsor Zumba at the Town Hall beginning on Wednesday, November 1 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and continuing on Wednesdays with instructor Erin Boucher. Wear comfortable clothes and bring soft-soled shoes to wear.

Yoga with instructor Janet Bettey will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 at the Town Hall for an hour plus of postures and breathing exercises. Mats, blocks, and straps are available to borrow.

Art Exhibit
Kate Collins has her watercolors and two of her mother’s paintings on exhibit through October. She draws inspiration from around the farm she shares with her husband George Northrop and lots of sheep, border collies, cattle, and chickens as well as a beautiful Royalston landscape.

Local Angle on Edgar Allan Poe
PBS’s American Masters presents the U.S. premiere of Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive starring Denis O’Hare on October 30th at 9:00 pm for Halloween (check local listings).

The local angle? There will also be a special Royalston screening on Saturday, November 18, presented by the Friends of the Library at the Maples. Royalston’s Boyd Estus is the film’s Director of Photography and Liane Brandon shot the production stills. Estus was involved over a seven year period in research, preparation and production. Ben Schnetzer, who is one of the readers, spent holidays growing up in Royalston and his mom recently repurchased the home.

Starring Tony Award-winning and Emmy-nominated actor Denis O’Hare (This Is Us, American Horror Story, Take Me Out) and narrated by Oscar- and Tony-nominated, two-time Golden Globe-winner Kathleen Turner, Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive explores the misrepresentations of Poe as a drug-addled madman akin to the narrators of his horror stories. This caricature is thanks, in large part, to a high-profile obituary filled with falsehoods, written by his literary rival Rufus W. Griswold. Determined to re-invent American literature, Poe was an influential – and brutally honest – literary critic and magazine editor, who also invented the detective protagonist with his character C. Auguste Dupin, refined the science fiction genre and popularized short stories, actually writing more comedies than horror.

After his death, writer Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) became a global icon of modern literature and a pop culture brand. Best known for his Gothic horror tales and narrative poem “The Raven,” Poe’s stories are the basis of countless films and TV episodes, and have inspired even more, as has his name and image.

Filmed in Boston Harbor’s historic Fort Independence at Castle Island, Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive combines dramatized re-enactments with O’Hare of key moments in Poe’s life, readings from Poe’s works by O’Hare, Oscar-nominated actor Chris Sarandon (The Nightmare Before Christmas, The Princess Bride, Dog Day Afternoon) and actor Ben Schnetzer (Snowden, Goat, Pride) and interviewees include director Roger Corman (Poe film cycle including House of Usher) and others to reveal how Poe tapped into what it means to be human in a modern and sometimes frightening world.
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**
- Boyne, John, *The Heart’s Invisible Furies*
- Coulter, Catherine, *Enigma*
- DeMille, Nelson, *The Cuban Affair*
- Fergus, Jim, *The Vengeance of Mothers*
- Follett, Ken, *A Column of Fire*
- Freed, Lynn, *The Last Laugh*
- Goodman, Allegra, *The Chalk Artist*
- Grafton, Sue, *Y is for Yesterday*
- Greer, Andrew, *Less*
- Kellerman, Jonathan, *Crime Scene*
- Krauss, Nicole, *Forest Dark*
- Lacey, Catherine, *The Answers*
- Lagercrantz, David, *The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye*
- Le Carre, John, *A Legacy of Spies*
- Macomber, Debbie, *Any Dream Will Do*
- Mallery, Susan, *You Say It First*
- McDermott, Alice, *The Ninth Hour*
- Messud, Claire, *The Burning Girl*
- Ng, Celeste, *Little Fires Everywhere*
- Pamuk, Orhan, *The Red-Haired Woman*
- Pearl, Nancy, *George and Lizzie*
- Penny, Louise, *Glass Houses*
- Robb, J.D., *Secrets in Death*
- Rushdie, Salman, *The Golden House*
- Scottoline, Lisa, *Exposed*
- Spindler, Erica, *The Other Girl*
- Steel, Danielle, *The Right Time*
- Stewart, Amy, *Miss Kopp’s Midnight Confessions*
- Tallent, Gabriel, *My Absolute Darling*
- Ward, Jesmyn, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*
- Wiggs, Susan, *Map of the Heart*
- Zevin, Gabrielle, *Young Jane Young*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Berenbaum, Sandra, *Korea Reborn*
- Dennis, Lori, *Lyme Madness*
- Harmon, Sharon, *Wishbone in a Lightning Jar*
- O’Reilly, Bill, *Killing England*
- Spence, Annie, *Dear Fahrenheit 451*
- Ward, Geoffrey, *The Vietnam War*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Lu, Marie, *Warcross*

**Children’s Fiction**
- Alemagna, Beatrice, *On a Magical Do-Nothing Day*
- Barnett, Mac, *I Love You Like a Pig*
- Bender, Becca, *Not Friends*
- Coleman, Reed, *Robert B. Parker’s The Hangman’s Sonnet*
- Crouse, Livingstone, *Kisses for Kindergarten*
- Davies, Nicola, *All the Way to Havana*
- Engle, Margarita, *King of the Sky*
- Fogliano, Julie, *When’s My Birthday?*
- Gonzales, Mark, *Yo Soy Muslim*
- Henkes, Kevin, *In the Middle of Fall*
- Hest, Amy, *On the Night of the Shooting Star*
- Mazer, Harry, *A Boy at War*
- Patterson, James, *Laugh Out Loud*
- Phi, Bao, *A Different Pond*
- Pierce, Lincoln, *Big Nate: A Good Old-Fashioned Wedgie*
- Poore, Michael, *Reincarnation Blues*
- Rosenthal, Amy, *Uni the Unicorn and the Dream Comes True*
- Sayre, April, *Full of Fall*
- Sheckels, Astrid, *Hector Fox and the Giant Quest*
- Slater, Dashka, *The Antlered Ship*
- Weatherford, Carole, *In Your Hands*

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Brown, Don, *Older Than Dirt*
- Bryan, Ashley, *Freedom Over Me*
- Domínguez, Angela, *Sing, Don’t Cry*
- Egle, Margarita, *Miguel’s Brave Knight*
- Going, K.L., *The Shape of the World*
- Holm, Jennifer, *Swing it, Sunny!*
- Liniers, *Goodnight, Planet*
- Mahin, Michael, *Muddy*
- Markle, Sandra, *The Great Penguin Rescue*
- McCormick, Patricia, *Sargeant Reckless*
- Pilkey, Dav, *Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties*
- Rinker, Sherri, *Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton*

**DVDs**

**Audiobooks**
- Robards, Karen, *The Ultimatum*
- Scottoline, Lisa, *One Perfect Lie*
- Slaughter, Karin, *The Good Daughter*

**Book Review**: *Noah the Narwhal: A Tale of Downs and Ups*

by Judith Klausner illustrated by Sarah Gould

reviewed by Deb D’Amico

Meet Noah. Noah the Narwhal has good days, when he is productive and social, and pain days, when he needs to rest. His friends and family can find it difficult to handle the unpredictability, but in the end, they realize that having Noah in their lives is absolutely worth it!

For the people in our lives - young and old - whose brains work a little differently Noah the Narwhal is here to remind us (and the people who love us) that being valued and loved are just as constant as any chronic condition.
Historical Society is Grateful

Thank you so much to Alan Bowers for presenting the historical scoop on the Empress Zita. Far from being the quiet dutiful widow many imagined, she was actually aggressive in trying to regain the throne for her husband and heir after WWI. Supported by monarchists, she and her husband Karl carried out several dangerous plots to reclaim a royal title, even to the point of leaving their seven children behind in their safe haven in Switzerland whilst pretending to go out to eat “in town” for their 10th anniversary, instead boarded a train to Hungary. The train was bombed on arrival; the plan was thwarted, Zita and her husband Karl were exiled to an island in the Mediterranean where they couldn’t stir up any more monarchist trouble. Karl soon died. The widow then donned black, moved to Belgium and eventually North America and got down to making the best life she could for her family. Apparently, she was financially supported by Hungarian monarchists for decades. Her young adult sons approached the Bulloughs with their story of genteel need and the Empress and her younger children began to summer in Royalston. Who knew? Alan Bowers did!

Before the talk, the community came together for a local dinner outdoors on the common under sparkly lights and lanterns in the trees.

Thank you so much for all who grew food, all who cooked food, pitched in to serve food, and all who came out to eat tasty food in support of the historical society.

In case you missed it, here is the menu:

Maureen Blasco put out fresh pickles and crudités straight from her garden. Molly Divoll made maple biscuits and Beth Gospodarek created crumbly-yet-yummy herb bread, with ingredients they each had nurtured. Deb Nunes, Nancy Melbourne, and Peter Kraniaik produced salads from their own gardens (as well as Maureen’s garden). Damon and Patience Bundshuh quickly created quiches with lo-cal veggies, Kristen West baked Bechamel lasagna from veggies in her backyard, Gina Verrelli cooked tasty colorful tomato tarts with her own (and Maureen’s) tomatoes, Kate Duffin donated delicious goat cheese and mushroom tart, Patti Stanko steamed her freshly harvested green beans to delicate emerald crunch, Ted Neale and Maureen Blasco donated potatoes which were roasted with olive oil and rosemary, Beth Gospodarek made a tarragon chicken and wild mushroom pie with an Aurora Farm chicken, roadside hen of the woods mushroom and Maureen’s amazing alliums as well as supplied a squash risotto containing Maureen’s butternut and Chettie’s bacon, and Kathy Morris of Prospect Farm braised delicious Monadnock-view raised beef. Dessert was to die for with 3 kinds of Chettie’s bacon, and Kathy Morris of Prospect Farm braised delicious Monadnock-view raised beef. Dessert was to die for with 3 kinds of apple cake (Finnish cardamom apple cake by Maba Cauthen, apple walnut tart by Gina Verrelli, apple custard tart by Marie Claire Humblet,) as well as plenty of peach pie. Teddy Bear’s whipped cream added to the dessert decadence. Local beer and wine as well as herb tea, wild grape juice, and good old Royalston well water were available to wash it all down. It was indeed a special night for community stomachs, hearts and minds.

Royalston Democrats Reach Out to Voters

At their meeting on Sept. 13, members of the Royalston Democratic Town Committee began an effort to reach out to voters and learn about their concerns.

It was noted that the town has about 150 registered Democrats and 150 registered Republicans, with more than 600 unenrolled voters.

Committee vice chair Ruth Suyenaga reported on recent communication she has had with the state office of the Democratic Party in Boston and with other Democratic committee members in the North Quabbin region. She provided details and showed a video of an effort to question voters about their views in areas such as education, housing, health care, transportation and infrastructure.

The committee will attempt to hold a public forum, as soon as possible, on proposed federal health care legislation, being called “Medicare for All,” which was introduced by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. This bill has attracted numerous co-sponsors, including Massachusetts Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey.

Ruth conducted this meeting and began by asking those in attendance to tell why they are Democrats. The answers varied, with some saying their affiliation with the Democratic Party is similar to that of their parents, while others said they were in opposition to the views their parents had. All agreed that the values expressed by the Democratic Party in its platform and by its officeholders draw them to affiliate with Democrats rather than be neutral or choose another party.

An email address was established by committee chair, Allen Young, and townspeople are welcome to express their views to the committee via email. The address is royalstonДЕmics@gmail.com. The committee is especially interested in hearing from other Democrats and unenrolled voters (sometimes called “independents”) about their concerns.

North Quabbin Garden Club

On Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, Ricky Baruc from the Seeds of Solidarity will discuss all we need to know about preparing the soil, choosing varieties, planting, tending, harvesting, and storing garlic. Ricky will also show photos of how local compost and no-till methods are used at their farm, education center and community projects.

Next meeting: October 20 6:30 pm -potluck at the home of Peter Kraniaik, corner of stone and Winchendon Rds. (business meeting begins at 7 pm)
Obituaries


She was the beloved wife of Rev. Philip C. Jacobs III; mother of Chad P. Jacobs of Brockton, Gerald A. Jacobs and Christine of Rhode Island, Rachel K. Jacobs-Hodson and her husband Jerald of Mattapoisett, Fr. Benjamin Garren of Tucson, Ariz., and Zachary Chase of Washington, D.C.; sister of William D. Allen and his wife Jennifer of Rhode Island, David B. Allen and his wife Nancy of Rhode Island, and Jane M. Bishop of Florida; sister-in-law of Dr. Eric S. Jacobs and his wife Diana of New Hampshire; grandmother of Darren, Lillian and Bentley Jacobs, and Max and Phebe Hodson; and niece of Mildred D. MacKinnon of Uxbridge.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to St. Margaret’s Convent, 50 Harden Hill Rd., Duxbury, MA 02332. For a complete obituary and guestbook, see www.dockrayandthomasfuneralhome.com.

Stanley Harrington
1938 - 2017
Stanley Harrington, of Chapel Street, Gardner, formerly of Royalston, died Saturday, September 16, 2017. He was buried in Lawrence Brook Cemetery, Royalston on September 23rd. A fellowship was held at the Second Congregational Church of Royalston. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Second Congregational Church of Royalston, 3 School St., Royalston, MA 01368.

Blue Shots Disband

After a twelve plus year run, Melanie and the Blue Shots are riding off into the sunset. Not with a bang, but a whimper...

Look for a reunion performance at PhilStock 2019. Until then, it was a good run. Formed at Open Mic by Jim Bennett to back up-and-coming lead singer Melanie Mangum, the band included Jim Mcrae on keys, Matt Hickler on bass, Jim Bennett on sax, Phil Leger on drums, and most recently Charlie Mallet on guitar.
Community School Calendar
10/09 = Columbus Day - No School
10/10 = School Picture Day
10/11 = Walk-A-Thon Money Due
10/13 = Journey Into the Universe *Portable, Inflatable Planetarium
10/18 = School Committee Mtg. @ RCS
10/20 = MWCC Presents “Pinkalicious” at RCS
10/25 = 1/2 Day, Noon Dismissal
10/26 = All School Mtg. sponsored by Grade 3
10/27 = Halloween Dance 6:00 - 7:30PM

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

Families of prospective Monty Tech students are encouraged to attend the annual Career Awareness Night, Monday, October 16, from 6-8 p.m. Learn about Monty Tech’s 20 exciting career and technical ed programs, including the brand new Veterinary Science program, and the many extracurricular activities and clubs. For more info call 978-345-9200 x5231.

Thanks to a tremendous effort by Monty Tech Superintendent-Director Dr. Sheila Harrity, Ed.D., and many generous donors, Phase I goal of $2,250,000 (Building Design & Construction) for the new Veterinary Sciences Program has not only been reached, but EXCEEDED by $61,642! In addition, there are eight donors committing nearly $200,000 over the next five years towards the other program phases!

A federal schools and libraries program to make telecommunications and information services more affordable – E-Rate – awarded $109,115 to Monty Tech which was used over the summer to make numerous improvements to technology infrastructure, further support the 1:1 Initiative that provided a Chromebook to each student, and enhance instructional technology efforts in classrooms and shops. The awards come from the Universal Service Fund (assessments to interstate, long-distance communications carriers.)

Plans to establish a Biomedical Science curriculum are going nicely. The $99,697 MLSC (MA Life Sciences Center) grant has been used to renovate one science classroom and lab. Beginning September, 2018, Monty Tech will offer “Principals of Biomedical Science,” followed by “Human Body Systems,” January, 2019.

Summer 2017 wrap up: Summer school enrolled 68 students (several taking multiple classes), including five from out-of-district. Summer Academy (MCAS) had 64 students who saw 6.8% (freshmen) and 7.2% (sophomores/juniors) improvement in English Language Arts, and a most impressive 13.7% (all grades) improvement in Math. Camps for middle schoolers, 94 of them, featured cosmetology, graphics, drama, culinary arts, automotive technology, and art themes.

MEFA (MA Educational Financing Authority) is holding a college financial aid seminar Tuesday, November 7th at 7:30 p.m. at Monty Tech. Information will be provided on the college financial aid process. Call Angie Moux at 978-345-9200.

What’s happening at the Village School?
Driving by on Rt. 68, you can see the new building at Camp Caravan growing daily. Five spacious classrooms await completion for the children next fall.

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

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

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

Upcoming events
Thursday October 12. K-1 Reading Morning 8:30 to 9:45. Come in for a hands-on presentation of the K-1 Reading and Writing Curriculum. The Reading curriculum uses interesting texts and a number of methods to guide beginning readers. The Writing curriculum is based on the Reading and Writing project from Lucy Calkins.

Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration for Families
The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 3rd. The public is invited to participate in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school with a gathering in the dark for stories and songs. Everyone then joins in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a family contra dance with the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Renowned folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmund will call the dances. And children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donation suggested: of $5 per adult, $2 per child, or $10 per family.

Open House Saturday November 4 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the classrooms, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children, they will enjoy activities in the classrooms just for them. Preschool starts filling up for next year. We’ll also be giving tours at the new building site.

For continual updates on events, go to villageschoolma.org

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After-School Program for Royalston children
If you are looking for after-school care, the Village School has a great 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.

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Wanted: Have squash, pumpkins, or apples that you are ready to get rid of? call Chet at 978 895 6327 and I will come and pick it up to feed my hogs. They will greatly appreciate it.

for sale:
2011 Kubota Tractor – Model L3800 HSD. Quick attach loader bucket, quick attach plow, auxiliary remote valve, sun shade, backhoe with 16” mechanical thumb, brush mower, disc harrow, block heater, front and rear work lights, 3 point hitch assembly, and manuals. $26,000. Call 978-249-0462.

Antique beam boring machine timber framing drill. Adjustable angle; 1 ¼ inch bit. Very good condition. Photos available by email. $150 or best offer. Tom Musco, thmusco@gmail.com

(for prices listed or best offer): Contact: Aaron @ 978-249-6771 or aclison@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

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.


Local, raw honey from Squier Davis Farm. One pound jars $7.00 Cash preferred. Call Deb/Joie 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

The calendar advises us that today is the autumnal equinox, the ‘official’ end to our summerless summer. True, we’ve had a recent stretch of warm weather and a veritable heat wave is forecast for the next several days, but, other than hastening the ripening of the tomatoes, it is a matter of too little, too late: cucumbers, beans, and summer squash yields have been dramatically lower, our first freezing frenzy for corn was but two days ago, not one winter squash has been harvested, and, most woefully, the fall raspberries exhibit not a whit of red. You’d think the harvest slack would be taken up by the root crops, less demanding they be for hot conditions. Not so; carrot, beet, potato, and onion yields are at least one-third below normal. Sweet potatoes remain underground, unseen, but, with their insistence upon hot, I suspect a modest harvest at best. The sole exception has been the garlic, but there is just so far one can go with garlic. There is an irony here: rooted as we are at Prospect Hill, we will be relatively rootless this winter. Then there is the matter of rodents. With potatoes unavailable (I dug them all), the rodents moved on to the beets. The beets range from partly eaten to entirely eaten. I suppose the carrots are next. A measure of humility, or at least stoicism, is useful in enduring the natural forces and their impact on growing crops. Otherwise, I’d be pulling out the (few remaining) hairs from my head. I’ve been known to be a bit less-than-humble when expressing my opinion on this or that, but, in respect to the garden, I am the picture of humility. I do not mean to suggest that the garden is beyond redemption. It is as fine a fall spinach crop as I’ve experienced in years. I cannot even get my hand around the first leeks. Late beans are filled with blossoms and blossoms become beans. Everything flowering a month ago is flowering still. All in all, neither the best of (garden) worlds not the worst of (garden) worlds.

I hope you have retained the attractive and informative insert provided by the Agricultural Commission in the September newsletter. For a large part of Royalston’s history, the town was predominantly agricultural. Our own home is a case in point, an operating farm until well into the twentieth century. It is a sad commentary on our agricultural earnings represent but a small portion of our household income. I speak for myself but I suspect I represent the others listed: it is a labor of love. Yes, I’d like to be compensated for that labor, but I’d probably, in some small way, be engaged in it without that compensation. One statement I can make with an absolute degree of certainty: none of us are getting rich at it. The Commission mentions among its objectives to bring to awareness the town’s agriculture and to encourage your support. The proverbial ball is in your hands, fourteen Royalston farms are awaiting your call.

Larry Siegel

Garden Notes September 22, 2017

Truce

After years of allowing city sounds to become the background of daily life, I welcome the silence surrounding our Royalston home. This silence, in turn, brings a host of sounds to the foreground of my days. I realize that, over time, I have unknowingly assigned these sounds to a variety of categories in my mind.

Some sounds are comforting. The call of a Barred Owl gives our woods depth and mystery. The rustle of wind through leafy branches in summer changes to a sharp whistle when the branches are bare. Both sounds are welcome reminders of the deep forest that surrounds our home. Some sounds inform. Spring peelers announce the end of winter. The chirp of crickets tells me midsummer has come and gone and the season is about to turn.

Other sounds can be ignored. I have long since learned to disregard the sound of acorns falling on our metal-roofed wood shed – a sound like the crack of a rifle that always causes visitors to look up in alarm. Likewise, the “chip-chip-chip” from the stone walls, once so puzzling, I now know to be the distress call of a chipmunk, and an indication of exactly where our cat is lurking.

There are some sounds, however, that always give me pause. They fall into the “sounds of unknown origin” category, and often occur in the dead of night. The 2 a.m. scurrying in the wall at the head of our bed cannot be ignored. The sound becomes even more troubling when I bang sharply on the wall and hear the scratching become tiny footsteps that travel to the far side of the room. Despite Tom’s insistence that “they can’t get in,” I continue to be unsettled. Who are “they”, exactly, and how does he know all that hard work to get in won’t succeed?

For me, the combination of unknown origin and dark of night can nudge a sound over the line from curiosity to threat. The recent snapping and yelping in our backyard just past midnight had me sitting bolt upright out of a deep sleep. As I lay awake listening I imagined what might be happening out there. These sounds seemed to announce a full take-over by creatures who, by day, kept their distance. In the dark, the boundary between forest and yard was erased.

Daylight brought no sign of what may have occurred the night before, which was oddly unsettling. So now I wonder: What else is out in our woods, waiting for nighttime? How close are they on those evenings when I come home after dark? And who really does belong out here in the woods? Whose boundary has been crossed? Whose territory invaded?

I don’t know if the sounds of night will ever become just background for me. Perhaps the best I can hope for is a truce: if you give me the woods and backyard by day, I will give them over to you at nightfall.

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Big Hollywood Hubbub in a Small Sleepy Town
Camp Caravan doubled as spooky Stephen King accommodation for the new Hulu TV series Castle Rock during the first week of September. The Town collected a well-received stipend for allowing caterers from as far away as California to set up cook outs on the Common to feed the huge number of people involved in filming a few scenes. Police details moving the traffic along Rt. 68 had encounters with genuine TV stars. The Club was used for back-up parking. Rumor has it that he TV producers wanted to use an empty field in town as well, but when they went looking, they were all too placid and not at all suitable for their horror genre.