Calendar of Events

December 1  Friday
7:00 pm  First Open Mic at the town hall - music and great food. Open Mic continues the next four first Fridays of the month: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar 2, April 6

December 3  Sunday
2:00 p.m.  Holiday cookie baking workshop. Learn how to create delicious, wafer-thin, Finnish ginger cookies with Maba Cauthen at Town Hall. Free. Pre-register. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

December 4  Monday
4 pm  Friends of the Library meeting. Come help plan library support, events, and this newsletter. All welcome.

December 6  Wednesday
6 pm  Holiday Tree Lighting - tree lighting, carols, Santa, cocoa and cookies inside, choristers from RCS singing.

December 8  Friday
6 pm  Documentary premiere: What the Land Is, featuring many of the land protection projects that Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has worked on, at the Maples, 17 The Common, in Royalston.

December 10  Sunday
2 pm  Craft workshop: create a holiday roping of laurel, cinnamon sticks, and beads at the town hall. Space is limited and you must pre-register to participate.

December 13  Wednesday
First Day of Chanukah
7:30 p.m. Ladies' Benevolent Society meeting Holiday Basket packing. All welcome. Contact Theresa Quinn or Kristen West 249-5993 if you know of someone who would appreciate a basket or remembrance this holiday season.

December 21  Thursday
Winter Solstice

December 22  Friday
School Winter Break Begins

December 25  Monday
Christmas

December 26  Tuesday
Kwanzaa

2018

January 1  Monday
New Year’s Day!
9:24 p.m.
Full Wolf Moon

January 2  Tuesday
ARRSD schools & Monty Tech re-open after winter break

January 5  Friday
Twelfth Night
7 - 10 pm  Open Mic at town hall

January 15  Monday
Birthday of Reverend Martin Luther King Junior. Banks, schools and public offices are closed.

January 18  Thursday
Winter Reading Program begins at the library. Read books and win prizes. Open to all ages.

January 19  Friday
Historical Society quarterly meeting at the home of president Peter Kraniak, corner of Stone and Winchendon Roads.

January 31  Wednesday
8:27 a.m.  Full Old Moon
(If you’ve got anything you do once in a Blue Moon, today is the day.)

Save the Date:
February 3  Saturday
1 pm  Songwriting workshop for teens led by Laura Ramsey at Town Hall. Continues for 6 Saturdays. Funded by the cultural council and sponsored by the library.

The Common Committee recently installed a marble decorative finial urn atop the WWII memorial. The previous flagpole inserted in the monument was causing cracking, so the committee moved the flag a few feet west and updated the monument.
Select Board Notes
Christine Long, Chair

Budget season officially opened last month as the Select Board reminded departments that they need to put together their spending plans for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) by January 1. The Board and Director of Finance Rebecca Krause-Hardie have approved certain new forms – the actual budget request and recommendations for capital spending – that we hope will lead to strong, sensible deliberation about our course.

The December 5 Select Board meeting will include a joint session with the Finance Committee and the Capital Plan Development Committee to review these procedures and the roles of each group going forward, and to consider our recommendations for the $542,000 in free cash we reported on last month.

Of course, we’ve just celebrated a major national and family holiday as we gathered around the Thanksgiving table, whether by ourselves or with a larger circle, and now we’re approaching the next major holidays. The board hopes all our residents have a joyous and fulfilling Yuletide with a larger circle, and now we’re approaching the next major holidays. The board hopes all our residents have a joyous and fulfilling Yuletide and New Year’s!

Royalston Emergency Management
Director Jim Barclay

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

If we’ve learned nothing else from natural disasters over the past few years, it’s the fact pets are often the forgotten ones when evacuation is a sudden reality. This is no more evident than now, when hundreds of animals are being retrieved from what’s left of flooded out, wind-destroyed, burned down homes across the country. Some have been found wandering, left behind, chained to trees where they may or may not survive whatever hazard caused their humans to flee.

FEMA, in conjunction with the National Association of Veterinarians, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the American Kennel Club, and the Humane Society of the United States, has an outstanding, two-page handout on “Preparing your Pets for Emergencies.” It has a checklist of things to do to be prepared in case you’re “sheltering in place” (a distinct possibility during a severe winter storm in New England) or if you need to leave in a hurry (as in the case of flooding or some kind of man-made hazard.)

In brief, the steps are as easy as 1, 2, 3. 1) Assemble a Kit of pet emergency supplies; 2) Make a Plan for what you will do in an emergency; 3) Be Prepared for what might happen. The handout details the steps to take in each of the three categories.

Find a copy on-line at https://www.fema.gov and search for Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies. If you do not have on-line access, contact Royalston’s Emergency Management Director and copies will be provided for you.

Yessir! YOU Can Be an Assessor

If you are a resident, work well with others, and are interested in learning about taxes, you are encouraged to get involved.
Jim Richardson, chair

There has been an empty seat on the Board of Assessors for nearly 20 months. I thought I might explain to Royalston residents just what the position entails with hope of sparking an interest.

As an assessor you would need no experience in assessing, mathematics, taxation, attending public meetings, or town finances. You must be a resident of the Town of Royalston. OK, yes we assess property; this is done by collecting data (presently outsourced) and entering the data into a software program (done by assessor clerk). As for knowing the taxation laws, all of us on the board learn as we go, again and again. Our meeting is public although not usually attended by anyone other than those with wants or issues. The chairman of the board attends finance committee meetings and is a voting member, this is also a learn as you go experience. Being a town resident and having some ability to listen to fellow taxpayers is probably the only requirements.

OH YA, should you decide to sign on you would be required to attend assessors course 101 within a year of becoming an assessor. This simple course certifies you to sign a tax rate and is fully paid for by the town.We run a very informal meeting trying to keep an easy going atmosphere. We don’t work under any pressure. The job does come with some pay approximately $1,500. for a member and $2,400. for the chairperson.

Young people considering a future in town, state or federal government are encouraged to be part of this board. If I’ve sparked any interest, stop down on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday of the month and check us out.

Post Office Hours Reminder

The post office is open from 7:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Please be considerate and don’t appear at the last minute to pick up your mail and/or mail items. Remember to buy your stamps locally.

Board of Health Updates

Phil Leger, chair

A general reminder, when a holiday falls on a Saturday, RRATS will be open on the Friday of the week. We apologize to folks that didn’t get the word about that on Veterans Day.

Get ready for winter operations. Be careful around the facility to prevent slips and falls.Staff does a good job sanding etc., but be mindful when you’re there.

Reminder that RRATS is a smoke-free facility. Due to the hazardous materials collected, a recent fire we had in the demo roll off, and environmental tobacco smoke hazard, you will see signs stating “smoke-free facility”. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Still time for flu shots. See your health care provider or local pharmacy. Most insurances cover this important preventive practice. Mosquitoes are now gone but not ticks. Hunters and others should use precautions and check themselves after being outside.
New Movie to Showcase Local Land Conservation

A new movie: “What the Land Is,” featuring many of the land protection projects that Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has worked on, will have its public premiere on Friday, December 8th, at 6pm at the Maples, 17 The Common, in Royalston.

Producer/Director Boyd Estus and Leigh Youngblood, Executive Director of Mount Grace, visited local farms and conservation areas and interviewed farmers and other project partners about the land they have protected. With the help of Editor Rawn Fulton, the result is a 13-minute short film that describes conservation efforts at Moore’s Maple Grove Farm in Orange, Red Fire Farm in Montague, and Noonday Farm in Winchendon, as well as the protection of Royalston’s Eagle Reserve in 2016 and other efforts.

“The Beyond the personal stories of the landowners, two of my favorite aspects of the film are the featured local musicians and the animated maps that show the places we’ve helped protect grow across the region year by year,” said Youngblood. “The animation makes it easy to see how each special place is part of a connected landscape we call home.” The showing will benefit Mount Grace, and will include a Q&A and discussion with Estus, Youngblood, and John Moore of Moore’s Maple Grove Farm.

“The more I learned about Mount Grace, the more impressed I was about their innovative and collaborative approach to this important work,” said Estus. “Our film was an opportunity to give back to a region that I love.”

Estus has shot and directed on locations around the world, including films for the PBS series American Masters, NOVA, American Experience and Frontline, and has garnered both Emmy and Academy Awards. He lives in Royalston and Cambridge. Fulton, a Bernardston resident, is an award-winning documentarian and the director of “Root Hog or Die,” a film portrait of farming in western New England.

This event is free. Donations to support Mount Grace’s conservation work are encouraged.

Royalston Community Newsletter Dec/Jan 2018 Page 3

December Technology Updates

Jon Hardie, RoyalstonNet

The Broadband Committee sent out a RFI (request for information) inviting interested Network Engineers & Architects, Project Managers, Network Builders, Network Operators & ISPs (internet service providers) to join us in launching our Town-wide Hybrid Fiber & Wireless Network.

We had a conference call with a dozen interested groups. We’ll hear more by the due date Dec 11th. One very interesting group is producing a full LTE feasibility study based on extensive data. We’re moving along with final contract negotiations for benchmark funding thresholds, with the EOHED and MBI state funding agencies, with meetings in Westboro and site visits here.

DSL Update

After a successful PR campaign, Verizon has agreed to install a modest upgraded DSL switch at the Public Safety complex, bypassing the antiquated equipment in Athol, to fill the abyss between today and the full RoyalstonNet build-out. DSL service to town residents and offices (outside the South Village) has been a nightmare). The Selectboard just signed an easement permitting the small project that impacts 182 families and town offices, and the landscape shrubbery to hide it, to move forward.

A Serious Internet Security & Public Wi-Fi Warning

There’s a major phone / iPad / laptop vulnerability (across the globe) in Public Wi-Fi Networks, which is serious enough for you to consider not using these devices in public - until they are all upgraded.

It is also critically important to complete all of your Apple and Windows system updates - EVERY WEEK. And all of the DAILY antivirus updates. It takes less than 10 min to be infected with a virus, a trojan or a phishing scheme & lose your identity, lose your credit card & banking information and all the money in the account plus all your data -- Poof Gone! So… Please don’t open email you don’t recognize, Please don’t open free stuff. It’s that time of year, and my inbox is full of tempting offers.

Cultural Council Upcoming Events

Friday December 1, 7:00 pm  First Open Mic

Great acts, delicious dinner food and treats.

Open Mics continue on the first Fridays of January, February, March and April.

Holiday Tree Lighting is the first Wednesday, as always, December 6th at 6:00 pm. The tree is lit, we sing carols, and wait for the arrival of you-know-who, and then head for the Town Hall for cocoa, cookies, and singers from RCS. Rain or shine!

Royalston Follies 2018 is coming!

Every third year we host the Follies in place of Blues Night, and this year the event is being planned for Saturday, May 5th, with rehearsal the Friday night before, May 4th. We need your commitment of an act to make this happen. Typically we like to have about 8 acts competing for the coveted Oscarina trophies, as voted by the audience. All town organizations and committees are encouraged to start thinking about a skit or something more serious.
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!
Kathleen Pirro
Virginia Moore
John and Stephanie McClure
Benny and Susan Gronowicz

Thank you
Patience Bundschuh for sharing her lovely home for the screening of the Edgar A. Poe documentary.
Liane Brandon, Boyd Estus, and Jennifer Pearce for screening the film and giving instructive background information about what it takes to make a documentary.
To all those who baked for the Poe documentary and to the Friends of the Library for purchasing other refreshments.

December Refreshments at the Library
Escape the hustle and bustle and stop by the library to browse and have a cup of cocoa, coffee, or cider and some goodies every Saturday during December.

‘Chill Out’ Winter Reading Program
Get ready to read and win some prizes in the process. Beginning the week of January 15 and continuing until the end of February, the library winter reading program will have categories for younger kids, young adults, and adults with a variety of prizes for different reading levels. Prizes will include some great books and local honey and maple syrup. Stop by the library for more information.

Art Exhibit
Liane Brandon’s photographs documenting the making of the American Masters film Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive will be on exhibit at the library through the end of the year. The photographs in the exhibit were taken on location at Fort Independence on Castle Island in Boston, where ingenious set designs were used to evoke the harbor in Baltimore, Poe’s office in Richmond, the bedroom of his dying wife, and the parlor of his admirers.

Preschool Storytime
at the library
10 am each Monday
Stories, socializing, songs, snacks and crafts
Free
Call the library for more information

Yoga
Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Charlotte Wetzin. There is no yoga meeting on Dec. 5 due to a conflict.

Zumba
Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 at the Town Hall with instructor Erin Boucher. Wear comfortable clothes and bring soft-soled shoes.

Upcoming events:
Fragrant Workshops Coming Right Up
There are still a few spaces left in the Finnish gingerbread cookie workshop and the cinnamon roping workshop.

On Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m. at the town hall, Marita Cauffman will teach participants how to make delicious thin gingerbread cookies. Bring a rolling pin and wooden cutting board.

Sharon Harmon will help participants create a holiday roping of laurel, cinnamon sticks, and beads on Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. also at the town hall. Space is limited and you must pre-register to participate. There is no charge for the workshops but free will donations will be accepted. Light refreshments will be served at each workshop. Call the library to register.

Song-Writing Workshop with Laura Ramsey begins Feb. 3
Express Yourself’ Songwriting Workshop
Royalston resident, Laura Ramsey, founding teacher of The Meditative School of Music and band leader of the award winning band Laura Ramsey & the Groove Trane has been awarded a Cultural Council Grant to lead a six week song writing workshop. The workshop is open to young adults aged 13-18 and will be held on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. at the Town Hall beginning on February 3 through March 10. Besides songwriting the workshops will also include some music theory mechanics.

Laura has 16 years of professional performance and teaching experience on saxophone, clarinet, piano, and songwriting. At Berklee College of Music (2003-2007) she majored in professional music with an emphasis on saxophone performance and minored in music business. She was a member of the Berklee Contemporary Wind Orchestra, Gospel Choir, Contemporary Chamber Music Ensemble, and the Bob Marley touring ensemble, recording on clarinet for acclaimed artist Sydney Wayser’s debut album Silent Parade. She wrote saxophone parts, recorded, and performed live as a member of the New England band, Weight of Gravity. Laura will have an informational handout for prospective participants available at Open Mic and the library. Contact the library for more information.
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**
- Allende, Isabel: In the Midst of Winter
- Archer, Jeffrey: Tell Tale: Short Stories
- Baldacci, David: End Game
- Banville, John: Mrs. Osmond
- Berg, Elizabeth: The Story of Arthur Truluv
- Berger, John: To the Wedding
- Child, Lee: The Midnight Line
- Connelly, Michael: Two Kinds of Truth
- Erdrich, Louise: Future Home of the Living God
- Evanovich, Janet: Hardcore Twenty-Four
- Grisham, John: The Rooster Bar
- Hilderbrand, Elin: Winter Solstice
- Hill, Joe Strange: Weather: Four Short Novels
- James, P.D.: Sleep No More
- Johansen, Iris: Mind Game
- Koontz, Dean: The Whispering Room
- Landers, Kirk: Alone on the Shield
- Mankell, Henning: After the Fire
- McCall-Smith, A.: The House of Unexpected Sisters
- McKibben, Bill: Radio Free Vermont
- Patterson, James: The People vs. Alex Cross
- Roy, Arundhati: The Ministry of Umost Happiness
- Sanderson, Brandon: Oathbringer: Book Three
- Weiner, Matthew: Heather, the Totality
- Weir, Andy: Artemis

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Baldwin, Alec: The Moosewood Restaurant Table
- Bastianich, Lidia: You Can't Spell America Without Me
- Beramendi, Rolando: Lidia's Celebrate like an Italian
- Berry, Wendell: The Art of Loading Brush
- Biden, Joseph: Promise Me, Dad
- Blachor, Devorah: The Feminist’s Guide to Raising a Little Princess
- Drummond, Ree: The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Come and Get it!
- Gates, Harry: 100 Amazing Facts about the Negro
- Jacobs, A.J.: It's All Relative
- Isaacson, Walter: Leonardo da Vinci
- Lancaster, Bridget: Cooking at Home with Bridget & Julia
- Moore, Thomas: Ageless Soul
- O’Hara, Kevin: A Lucky Irish Lad
- Perelman, Deb: Smitten Kitchen Every Day: Triumphant and Unfussy New Favorites
- Rather, Dan: What Unites Us

**Children’s Fiction**
- Harris, Neil: The Magic Misfits
- Jenkins, Steve: Who am I?
- Kinney, Jeff: Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Meloy, Colin: The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid
- Osborne, Mary Pope: A Big Day for Baseball
- Patterson, James: Jacky Ha-Ha

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa: Before She Was Harriet
- Esbaum, Jill: Animal Groups
- Ford, Gilbert: How the Cookie Crumbled
- Maas, Dave: Kids’ Guide to Fishing
- Osborne, Mary Pope: Baseball
- Rustad, Martha: Northern Lights
- Wallace, Audra: Yosemite National Park

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Karp, Ruby: Earth Hates Me
- Rubin, Susan: Maya Lin
- Segel, Jason: Otherworld
- Simon, Eddy: Pele

**DVDs:**
- The Crown: Complete 1st Season
- The Dark Tower
- The Glass Castle
- The Hero
- The Nut Job 2
- Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (DVD & Blu-ray)
- Poldark Season 3
- War of the Planet of the Apes
- Westworld Season 1

Look to the Stars
This is a reminder that we have a fool-proof Orion Star Blaster Telescope and stand to loan to anyone with a valid library card. This is a great way to spend a not-too-cold evening looking at the stars, planets, and moon. And with the early sunsets, you don’t have to stay up very late to take it all in.
Royalston Historical Society

May your family gatherings this holiday be as bright as in the “olden days, happy golden days of yore” shown here from the Day/Beals family in the late 1800s.

Curious for more town history? Come to the next society-meeting on Friday, Jan 19 at 7 pm at the home of Peter Kraniak (corner of Stone and Winchendon Rds.)

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

Congratulations and Good News

Jim and Brenda Putney are grandparents for the first time! Their daughter Jessica (Putney) and son-in-law Erich Schanz of Winchendon welcomed Gunnar James Schanz, to the family on November 20, 2017 at 8:27 a.m. He weighed in at 6 lbs 10 oz, measured 20” long, and is described as “Perfect!” Paternal Grandparents are Barbra and Noel Schanz of Pismo Beach, CA. The proud great-grandparents are Shirley and David Putney as well as Helen and John Divoll of Royalston. Everyone’s doing great!

Winter Parking Ban Dec 1 - April 30

All vehicles must be set back and not parked in any “Public Way” so that the DPW can plow and treat roads. Any vehicles left on the roadway will be towed at the owners expense.

Also, for public safety, please don’t plow, push, or throw snow or ice into the public way. All mailboxes should be back from the street and secured for heavy snow coming off the plow.

Expect Hunters in the Woods

No hunting on Sundays, but the rest of the time....

Wear Orange. Watch your pets. Be safe.

Bear season
Shotgun Season
Nov. 27 – Dec. 9

Deer Hunting Seasons:
Shotgun: Nov. 27 – Dec. 9
Primitive Firearms: Dec. 11 – Dec. 30

Royalston Computer Repair

- Virus and Malware Removal 978-467-6194 Toll Free
- Tune up’s
- Laptop Screen Repair
- Internet Data Cap Consultation
- Rural Internet Service Provider Recommendations
- Custom Builds

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
Obituaries

Evelyn Louise (Meuse) Ferrara, age 98, of Wilmington, passed away on November 9, 2017 at the home of her daughter, Rene’ (Ferrara) Lake-Gagliardi. Rene’ was with her at the time of her passing, joined by her brother, Vincent Ferrara, via FaceTime.

Evelyn lived with Rene’ and her husband Peter for the past four years. She had developed relationships with many people in Royalston over the past 30 years while visiting. In the past few years she became a regular at the weekly senior citizen luncheon at the Royalston Town Hall where she made many friends. She enjoyed the luncheon on the day before she passed.

Evelyn had many jobs in her long lifetime but she most enjoyed work as a waitress at the Hill Top Steak House in Saugus where she worked for 37 years, retiring at the age of 87.

In her memoir, Evelyn said, “As I approach my 90th year, know that my journey through life has been a satisfying one. God has been good to me.” She was able to stay with us for another nine years and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Evelyn leaves her son Vincent Ferrara and his wife Dianna; her daughter Rene’ and her husband Peter Gagliardi; her granddaughter Angelina and husband Todd Sutherland; her grandson Anthony and his partner Jeanette Beaudette; and grandchildren Justin Vincent Desmarais and Vincent Noah Lake. She was predeceased by a grandson, Vincent Howard Lake, her parents, Joseph W. and Mary (Doucette) Meuse and siblings Helen Elliott, Dorothy Lineberry and Joseph Meuse.

Memorial donations in Evelyn’s name can be made to the Royalston Council on Aging, c/o Betty Woodbury, P.O. Box 128, Royalston, MA 01368

Tex Carson Sumner, 89 of Royalston, MA passed away on Sunday, October 29, 2017 at Athol Hospital. He was born in Bristol, VT on August 4, 1928; the son of the late Berley and Anna (Hall) Sumner.

Tex was raised and educated in VT before relocating to MA in 1961. He served his country in the U. S. Army during the Korean War. He was employed for 12 years as a cabinet maker for Filtrine Manufacturing Company. Tex enjoyed spending time on his farm, where he sold vegetables, took care of the horses and made maple syrup. He was a member of the Concord American Legion, Post 200.

He is predeceased by three brothers, Stuart, Stanley and Tracy Sumner and four sisters, Betty Cyr, Beatrice Downer, Barbara Manning, and Marjorie Sumner.

He is survived by five sons, Joseph Sumner of Royalston, Christopher Sumner of MA, Daniel Sumner and his wife Marge of Orange, MA; Charles Sumner of NY, and Robert Sumner and his wife Carol of MA; a daughter, Susie Gray and her husband Martin of Gardner, MA; two brothers, Sonny and Phillip Sumner both of VT; a sister, Catherine Sibley of VT; as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to USO World Headquarters, 2111 Wilson Blvd #1200, Arlington, VA 22201.

Elizabeth Farnsworth, 54, residing in Amherst, died at home unexpectedly on October 27th, 2017.

She was born in Boston on December 8th, 1962, and was predeceased by her parents, William B. and Jean G. Farnsworth. She is survived by her brother Robert L. Farnsworth and her sister-in-law Georgia N. Nigro of Greene, ME; her nephews Nathan and Tobias Farnsworth; her aunt, Alys F. MacLeod of Bristol, RI; and her cousins Libby, Rory, Tucker, and Caroline. Educated at Brown University (B.A. with honors 1984), The University of Vermont (M.S. Botany 1991), and Harvard University (PhD. Ecology 1997), Elizabeth conducted research projects in plant ecology all over the world in a vigorous and distinguished career spanning more than three decades. She dedicated her prolific scientific and artistic expertise to environmental education in a wide variety of settings, from university teaching to development of ecology education projects for children.

Elizabeth served as a scientific consultant to government agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. National Park Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency, and worked recently as the Research Ecologist and Director of Education at The New England Wild Flower Society in Framingham, MA. Her wide-ranging research was recognized and supported by numerous grant awards from such sources as the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

A memorial celebration of Elizabeth’s life is being planned for Saturday, December 9 at 1:00pm at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence 220 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060.
The family suggests that donations in memory of Elizabeth be sent to New England Wild Flower Society, Hitchcock Center for the Environment, Amandla Chorus or any other conservation organization, group, or charity of the donor’s choice.

Vickie J. (Columbus) Paine, 55, died unexpectedly at her residence in Wayland, Mass. on Friday, October 27, 2017. She was born in Natick on February 8, 1962 the daughter of Janet S. (Crowe) Columbus of Framingham and the late John R. Columbus . Besides her mother Janet, Vickie is survived by her daughter Rebecca A. Paine of Royalston and her sister Phyllis Suporn of Tempe, AZ. She was the aunt of Amy Supernor of Hebron, CT; Kimberly Oller and her husband Jamie Oller and their son Antonio Oller all of Milford. Vickie was the niece of Jo Columbus and her partner Paul Pereir of Chester, NH and Ernie Columbus and his wife Deidra Columbus of Marlborough. Also, she is survived by many cousins.

Vickie spent her formative years in Framingham and graduated from Keefe Technical School in Framingham. She had been a resident of Royalston for over 20 years and for the past 3 ½ years has resided in Wayland. Prior to her retirement, she was associated with Stop and Shop as a meat cutter. Vickie enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.
What’s happening at the Village School?
What’s happening at the Village School
The 2nd-3rd grade class visited Plimoth Plantation, to enliven their year-long study of Native Americans. The 4th-6th students visited the Worcester Art Museum and then Nine Points Woodworking in Worcester, where they made the shields on which they are painting a coat of arms, as part of their study of the Middle Ages.
Before Thanksgiving, everyone at the school pitched in to collect a mountain of food for the Orange Food Pantry. All classes begin Winter Gardens early December, beginning with rocks and sand, adding moss and then adding miniature animals. They take the gardens home for the holidays, adding a candle to honor the light in all of us. Before the break, the whole school will gather at the Town Hall to play recorders and sing for parents at the Holiday Celebration. In mid-February, the 4th-6th class goes to England and Wales, as part of a year-long study of the Middle Ages. Participants will visit lots of castles, sleep in one, and tour the London art museums.

Roots and Sprouts: Parent - Child group begins on Wednesdays, starting January 10th. 10:30 to 11:45. All parents and caregivers of children newborn to age 3 are welcome to join with Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator, and Gail Chaffee, nurse and lactation consultant.

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 and movement, celebrating the seasons and outside play. Enjoy a simple snack with your child. Pre-registration preferred, but you can always drop in. Call 978 249 3505 or email info@villageschoolma.org

Saturday Feb. 10th Village School Open House 10 a.m. to noon
10 a.m. to noon. Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the classrooms, find out about the unique curriculum and get your questions answered. Next September school opens in our new building at Camp Caravan! Find out about openings for next fall. Bring your children, they will enjoy art and science activities in the classrooms just for them. Refreshments are served.

Update on the New Village School Building Progress at Camp Caravan
The framing is complete, the roof is installed, the windows and doors are in, and insulating has begun. Everyone had their mouths open in wonder while touring the new building at the Open House in early November. These are wonderful spaces for learning to take place, airy and with lots of light. We will move into the new building in August.

For up-to-date information, go to www.villageschoolma.org

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Community School Calendar

Dec. 05 - DARE begins in Grade 5
Dec. 21 - Holiday Concert and Basket Raffle @ 6:00pm
Dec. 22 - Polar Express Grades K - 2 @ 10:00am  Half Day, Noon Dismissal, Lunch Served
Dec. 23 - January 1 - Winter Vacation
Jan. 02 - Students return - Schools Open

MONTY TECH
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston Rep.  m-barclay@montytech.net

A delegation of 50 Monty Tech Jr. ROTC Cadets are headed to Wharton, TX during February break to help rebuilt homes destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. The U.S. Marine Corp has granted $44,000 to cover travel expenses; Cadets raised well over their $30,000 goal to purchase building supplies. House Carpenter instructor teacher Peter Maxfield recently led a “Texas Mission Training Day” on installing sheet rock.

Monty Tech was featured on the evening national news as one of Massachusetts’ finest examples of schools on the cutting edge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education by NBC News “Education Nation.” Interviews were conducted in a number of trades and professions, including the new Veterinary Sciences program. Royalston’s Kevin Killay, Machine Technology Instructor, was prominently featured in the interviews aired on NBC! In addition, Monty Tech is among schools being featured on PBS News Hour’s “Making the Grade.”

Monty Tech earned medals at the 2017 Skills USA National Competition in Louisville, KY. Competing with 395,000 students from across the USA is an amazing honor in and of itself; to return with a first, second, and third place standings is epic! Bonus: Grace Kirrane, a Fitchburg senior in Health Occupations, was elected to serve as National Region I Vice President.

Monty Tech has initiated a new program supporting students in need of specialized attention after a prolonged absence due to medical/mental health issues. The short-term program is designed to re-integrate students into their regular schedules as quickly as possible by supporting their specific academic, social, and emotional needs. It is expected that STAY (Supporting Transition for At-risk Youth) will decrease instances of re-hospitalization and increase the amount of time spent in school during these situations.

The annual Golf Tournament, held each year by the Monty Tech Foundation, brought in $12,000 from this past September’s event. Funds are used to provide scholarships, grants, and tools-of-the-trade to graduating seniors.

Dec. 23 to January 1 - Winter Vacation
Half Day, Noon Dismissal, Lunch Served
Dec. 22 - Polar Express Grades K - 2 @ 10:00am
Dec. 21 - Holiday Concert and Basket Raffle @ 6:00pm
Dec. 05 - DARE begins in Grade 5

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

2 barn stalls still available; access to large outdoor arena & proximity to Birch Hill Dam trails.$375. per month. Ideal jumping off spot to join fall weekend rides. Lessons, consultation, horses for sale at Black Horse Farm in Royalston. Message Sue: (988)386.4540.

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.


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

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:
Jarvenpaa Farm Eggs. $2.50/dozen. 17 River Rd, So. Royalston. come by anytime. cooler at the bottom of the driveway next to road.

Local poet Sharon Harmon’s newest autographed poetry chapbook, Wishbone in a Lightning Jar is for sale. $10.00. Call 978-249-3040.


Several items for sale: Contact: Aaron @ 978-249-6771 or aellison@fas.harvard.edu

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.

Sprayer: Agway adjustable seed/fertilizer sprayer. Hand operated. $25


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. There will be a price increase to $8.00/pound beginning January 1, 2018

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


Royalston Community Newsletter Dec/Jan 2018 Page 9

Sam’s Canine Companions L.L.C.
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Moonstruck

On a recent Thursday, Barbara and I worked the evening shift at the library. As we closed up shop and stepped into the Royalston night, we were stopped in our tracks by the moon. It was full and had risen in a clear night sky. The house on the common glowed softly and the fields had turned silver. We gazed in silence for a moment or two. Then we spoke in hushed tones, but I don’t recall our exact words. We were moonstruck and, in that condition, words just get in the way.

As a child it was the fable, “Many Moons” by James Thurber, that first brought the moon to my attention. In it, an ailing Princess tells her father, the King, that she will be cured if she can possess the moon. The King’s wisest men could not think how the moon could be delivered to her – it was impossible. The Court Jester proves the wisest of all. He asks the Princess herself about the moon. How big is it, and how far away? “That’s easy,” she tells him. “It is no higher than the tree outside my window, where it gets caught in the branches each night. And it is no bigger than my thumbnail.” The Jester has the Court Goldsmith make a tiny round moon to hang on a chain around the Princess’s neck, and she is cured. I reread this story countless times as a child. This Princess had given a lot of thought to the moon and had come up with a very personal notion of what it was. This seemed worth my attention.

I began to notice the moon’s phases and was puzzled that a “new moon” wasn’t visible at all. This brought me to the stunning realization that the moon was always up there, whether I could see it or not! My sister and I began to refer to the slimmest crescent of the moon as “the fingernail” - thin and sharp like the clippings from our hands - and I was delighted to discover that the poet, Langston Hughes, had noted this too. “How thin and sharp the moon tonight” his poem begins.

When my sister left for college and our shared bedroom became my own, the moon was a perfect counterpoint for my dramatic adolescent moods. I noticed how it rose out of the pine trees to shine fully above my bed staring at its fullness until the moon seemed to vibrate. I sought out wall calendars that gave the moon’s phases: first quarter, full, last quarter, new. For reasons I could not explain, this information became essential. I amassed an impressive collection of moon facts. Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the month. Native Americans gave each full moon a name – Wolf Moon, Beaver Moon, Pink Moon. When time stretched long between the “now” and some anticipated future, I began to count the interval in the number of full moons that would come and go. Somehow “three full moons” seemed more bearable than “12 weeks”. Now, when the full moon shines through our bedroom skylight I cannot sleep for the dreams I have. So, I rise and close the shade with a silent apology to the moon.

As Barbara and I parted that evening at the library, I thought how lucky I was to be in that moment of moonlight on the common. Back in the city, this same moon was shining full. But, with city lights and city noises, it would not have held our attention for long. Here in our peaceful town the moon could assume its proper importance. On the Common, the silence held the moon aloft as its light drew us in - moonstruck.

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Home
A poem written by former Royalston resident, Joe Henkel (abridged)

Once I would dream of places far away.
I’d wish and think of where I’d go one day.
But now I’ve seen all I wanted to see,
I realize home is where I want to be.

Where’er I go there’s people all around,
But it’s at home the dearest ones are found.
The world around is full of hate and fear,
But home’s the greatest place of love and care.

It’s not about the house or ev’n the place,
But those who care and give love’s sweet embrace.
It sure is my favorite place to be,
‘Cause home is not a house, but family.

My dad and mom they love, care, and provide,
They serve, give joy, protect, they help, and guide.
My brothers we’ve been best friends from life’s start
And my sisters always will hold my heart.

At home there’s sounds I love so much to hear;
Like the voices of ones that are most dear.
The sounds of joyous laughter and sad cries:
These simple sounds is what has shaped our lives.

I know there’s not a perfect family
That doesn’t ever fight or disagree.
Although there were problems in each other,
My parents worked to keep us together.

I know the house was not built for rich kings,
But what will last is people not the things.
Even if this house burned to the ground,
I’d be content with just loved ones around.

Some stories made at home will be retold
Others just memories our hearts will hold.
So that’s why we must always remember
What we have now won’t be there forever.