Calendar of Events

February 2     Friday     Groundhog Day
7 - 10 pm     Open Mic at Town Hall. great music, great food, great friends!

February 3     Saturday
1 pm     Song writing workshop led by Laura Ramsey at Town Hall. Continues for 6 Saturdays. Funded by the Cultural Council and sponsored by the Library.

February 4     Sunday
6:30 p.m.     Super Bowl LII, New England Patriots v. Philadelphia Eagles airing on NBC.

February 6     Tuesday
7 pm     Royalston Democrats will meet in the Town Hall to choose a delegate to the state Democratic Party 2018 convention.

February 8     Thursday
Happy 108th Birthday, Boy Scouts!

February 11     Sunday
Random acts of kindness week begins

February 12     Monday
Lincoln’s actual birthday
“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

February 13     Tuesday
Mardi Gras- Fat Tuesday

February 14     Wednesday
Ash Wednesday
Valentine’s Day

February 15     Thursday
4:05 p.m. New Worm Moon

February 16     Friday
Lunar New Year 4716 begins, celebrating the Year of the Dog

February 19     Monday
Presidents’ Day observed – Post Office, library, schools all closed. School vacation for kids continues through Feb. 25.

February 20     Tuesday
1:30 p.m. Hooray for Herps! animal program at the Town Hall, sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library and funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

February 24     Saturday
Forget-Me-Not Day Disabled American Vets offer boutonnières for donations. This is the 92nd annual Forget-Me-Not Day.

Save the Date:
March 4     Sunday
2 pm     Ukulele lessons at town hall. sponsored by the Friends of the Library and funded by the Cultural Council. Sign up by calling the library 978-249-3572.

March 9     Friday
7 pm     An Evening with Two Local Naturalist Authors, Aaron Ellison and Dale Monette, who will each share photos and writing. Town Hall. Refreshments served.

March 17     Saturday
5 pm     Soup “R” Bowl at the Royalston Fish and Game Club to raise money for the upcoming Country Fair. Call Gabe or Marlene Jarvenpaa 249-4491 to make an entry in the chili, soup and stew competitions or to make donations of prizes. Tickets are $10.

March 31     Saturday
10 am
The Royalston Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Royalston Town Hall on the common.
Select Board Notes
Christine Long, Chair
The Town of Royalston has modestly expanded its Employee Benefits Policy, including paid vacation and sick leave, to cover non-union employees who work 15 or more hours per week but not salaried, temporary, or seasonal workers, nor employees of the Police Department. The benefits are similar to those enjoyed by the four full-time employees of the DPW, as well as the library director and the assessors’ clerk. As in the union contract, the benefits are pro-rated according to the number of hours worked per week.

The Select Board accomplished this over several months. First the board divided the former Personnel Policy, last amended in 2005, into an Employment Policy covering such issues as recruitment, probationary period, and employee records and the Employment Benefits Policy, which applied only to employees who work 19 or more hours a week. At this stage, the board made no substantive changes, though it tightened the wording and organization of both policies.

Then the board considered the expansion of benefits to the administrative assistant, the DPW clerk and a transfer station employee, each working 15 or more hours a week. (A fourth employee may also qualify, but that position needs further research.)

Our employees earn modest wages, so the financial cost to the town of extending these benefits is equally modest. But the town can now be proud of acknowledging, at least in this small way, the contribution of these employees.

During this period the board also edited and made one addition to its Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy. All three policies are available in the Public Records section of the town website.

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 reminder to cover your loads on the way to RRATS. I know it is a Saturday when I see trash that escaped from someone’s load. This is littering - not recycling.

Be aware of where you walk during the winter season. The attendants do a great job but can’t get every icy spot.

Flu season is a beast this year. Still time to get a vaccine shot. See local health care provider or local pharmacy.

Royalston Emergency Management
Director Jim Barclay
e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or phone 978-249-2904

You experienced “winter immersion” the past two months... really cold, snow, ice, no school, and stay home from work (no such thing as a no work day!) Now comes “cabin fever”, when extended periods of cold and deep snow make us feel a little more confined than normal. The solution? Get out of the cabin, but be prepared. Everything you do should focus on staying dry and trapping heat. It’s time to get dressed – and make sure everyone skips to the loo BEFORE getting dressed!

Feet – Think dry and trapping heat, so nylon socks, with wool socks over will keep your feet warm. And as much grief as we gave Mom for making us wear plastic bread bags over socks, they are quite effective at maintaining dry feet.

Torso and legs – Layers! “Base layers” (AKA: thermal underwear, long Johns, union suits) help wick moisture away from your body, and provide “nooks and crannies” to trap warm air. A loose over-shirt and pants with cuffs to keep out errant wind, is next.

Outer layer – Snow pants/water-resistant coveralls will protect legs and torso, but allow arms to move. Take advantage of double-layer cuffs, and tuck the inner layer in your boots, and pull the outer layer over to limit the snow in your boots. A hooded jacket with barriers for wind and wet, and a layer for retaining heat is best. Finishing touches – Boots must be insulated and waterproof. Ugly works as long as they keep your feet warm and dry. Stylin’ in boots that allow wet and cold feet is just stupid! Mittens and gloves need to be insulated and waterproof. Cheapie stretch gloves are great under waterproof mittens for a double layer of protection; mittens for the outer layer are warmer than gloves. Take care of your eyes and wear 100% UV protection sun glasses or goggles! Sun glaring on endless tracts of bright, white, shiny snow redirects UV light into your eyes and can, best case, cause headaches, and worst case, contribute to cataracts, and possibly macular degeneration (a major cause of blindness in elders.)

To further enhance “out of cabin” experiences, check in on neighbors who are older, have physical limitations, or who have been ill. Ensure heating and dryer vents are free of snow two feet in all directions. Make sure porches, steps and walkways are shoveled, and sand or ice melt is applied. Open up the driveway in case they need out or rescue personnel need in. In addition to being warm and dry on the outside, these activities will make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside!
Royalston Democrats to Caucus Feb. 6
Royalston Democrats will hold a caucus Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the town hall for the purpose of choosing a delegate to the state Democratic Party 2018 convention.

Delegates attending the convention June 1-2 at the DCU Center in Worcester will have an opportunity to vote for candidates for statewide office, including governor.

The caucus will be followed immediately by a committee meeting to elect officers and conduct other business, according to committee chair Allen Young.

All registered Democrats in Royalston are eligible to attend the caucus and the meeting.

Royalston Net Updates
Jon Hardie, Royalston Net
In late December, The RBBC met with its state agency funder to move the State Broadband grant contract and project disbursements forward. Together we defined the path to hire our Owners Project Manager.

The RBBC identified two successful Municipal MLP candidates, Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) and Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E, as (OPM) Owners Project Managers. Both agencies have many years of experience in managing the buildout of large, municipally owned broadband technology projects.

Our project managers team will represent Royalston (with RBBC’s collaborative input and oversight of its work) and will manage and oversee the: 1) Final engineering design and validation, 2) Procurement, 3) Network buildout, 4) Ongoing quality assurance and testing … from start to finish: from make ready through construction, testing, turnover, to full network commissioning.

In late December and early January, after several hours of pre-interview calls, we updated data for each owners project manager candidate team. Two weeks ago, the RBBC met with each candidate team – back to back - for a couple hours

Following the interviews, The RBBC had a very vigorous discussion. In the end, the RBBC voted unanimously to recommend to the Selectboard that Royalston negotiate an OPM Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), with the team from Westfield Gas & Electric.

We’ve notified the winner and received a draft IGA agreement from WG&E. We are working closely with them to shape the final agreement to reflect our specific hybrid network requirements, to send to town counsel, before it goes to the Selectboard.

This week the RBBC begins simultaneous negotiation of an OPM contract with WG&E to bring to the Selectboard, and final milestones for the state $1,125,000 broadband contract to bring to the Selectboard, so we can receive our initial $560,000 professional services and final engineering design funding, followed by the two-part construction grants and final holdback.

Together, The RBBC is making excellent progress, the OPM process took weeks less that we had anticipated, so it brings project launch that much closer.

Cultural Council News
Royalston Cultural Council is now on Facebook and Instagram.

Follies Follies Follies!
The cultural council is planning the Royalston Follies for SaturdayApril 28th at 7 pm, with a dress rehearsal on the preceeding Friday night at 7.

We need to have 7-8 acts for this to happen. All ages and acts, serious or silly, are encouraged. We need your verbal commitment by March 1st, so we can plan something else if we don’t receive enough replies. Contact Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000 or dwellsnunes@aol.com

Soup “R” Bowl/Chicken Shoot March 17, 2018 at the Royalston Fish & Game Club 5:00pm
Gabe Jarvenpaa
The Events Committee is sponsoring an all-you-can-eat soup, stews/chowders and chili’s event, called a Soup “R” Bowl, which is a cooking contest and a game. Entries of soups, stews, and chili will be judged by all attending. Tickets will be $10 each with $2 from the sale of each ticket split among the winners of each cooking category.

Immediately following we will be hosting a Chicken Shoot. The Chicken Shoot is a raffle as well as a card game. This game cost $1 per round. Winners get a Market Basket precooked chicken and a prize. We are looking for donations for prizes and also desserts.

If you would like to donate, be in the contest, purchase tickets or volunteer, please call Gabe or Marlene Jarvenpaa 249-4491, Linda Alger, Betty Woodbury, Jan St. Jean, Beth Gospodarek, Geoff Newton, Nancy Melbourne, Gordon Morrison or Alice Leonard. Please come and join the fun!
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Clarence Rabideau, Theresa Quinn
Mondays: 10:00 am - 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends - Thank you!
George Krasowski and Theresa Quinn
Grace Belmont
Jim Taylor
Donald Stanton and the Goldhirsh Foundation
Kay Schodek
Paul Montero
Norah Dooley and Robert Fairchild
Robert Hendrie and Janace Wamboldt
Christopher and Emily Santillo
Pierre and Marie Humblet
Leslie and Tom Freudenheim
The MacPhee family
William Brosnan
George H. Bodman
Marcia Flanagan

Yoga Continues, Zumba takes a break
Join instructor Charlotte Wetzin of North Orange for a relaxing hour of yoga on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. All levels are welcome. Gain flexibility, improve your balance and muscular strength, and enhance your respiratory fitness. And it’s all for free (free will donations are welcome but not necessary) thanks to the Friends of the Library. Unfortunately, Zumba classes have been suspended until further notice due to unexpected circumstances.

Hooray for Herps!
On Tuesday, February 20 at 1:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, Rae Griffiths of Teaching Creatures will present a program entitled ‘Hooray for Herps.’ Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians and participants will meet many examples and learn what makes each unique and what they have in common. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library and funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

‘Chill Out’ Winter Reading Program Continues
‘Reading is Snow Much Fun’ is the theme of this year’s winter reading program. Participants of all ages (in three categories: adults, teens, and children) read books from the library, fill out their forms, and win prizes which include Divoll maple syrup, Squire Davis Farm honey, lots of great books, delicious candy, movie passes to the Gardner Cinema, and many other cool prizes.

February is for (Book) Lovers – ‘Blind Date with a Book’
Want a little suspense and adventure in your reading? Check out our ‘Blind Date with a Book’ display. Select a wrapped book, with a small description on the wrapping, and experience a, hopefully, great date with an unknown book. It’s adventurous and maybe even the beginning of an ongoing relationship with a new author.

‘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. Contact the library for more information.

Art Exhibit
Gordon Morrison is exhibiting a series of his new acrylic paintings at the library until the end of March. Similar yet diametrically opposed to his precise botanical drawings, these works display minute details but in fantastical forms and which keep revealing more details the longer you observe them. Gordon is well known for his illustrations in many field guides, including Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide and several children’s books such as A Drop of Water, Oak Tree, and Nature in the Neighborhood.

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

**Adult Fiction**
- Crais, Robert: *The Wanted*
- Finn, A.J.: *The Woman in the Window*
- Graham-Felsen, Sam: *Green*
- Harris, Robert: *Munich*
- Luna, Louisa: *Two Girls Down*
- Willig, Lauren: *The English Wife*
- Zumas, Leni: *Red Clocks*
- Woods, Stuart: *Quick & Dry*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Kahn-Cullors, P.: *When They Call You a Terrorist*
- Krull, Kathleen: *One Fun Day with Lewis Carroll*
- Sacks, Oliver: *Revolution Song*
- Shorto, Russell: *Obama*
- Souza, Pete: *We’re Going to Need More Wine*
- Union, Gabrielle: *Reckless Daughter*

**Audiobooks**
- Boyd, Natasha: *The Indigo Girl*
- Goldman, Matt: *Gone to Dust*

**Children’s Fiction**
- Capucilli, Alyssa: *Mighty Tug*
- de la Pena, Matt: *Love*
- Donald, Alison: *The New LiBEARian*
- Joyner, Andrew: *The Pink Hat*
- Rosenthal, Amy: *Dear Girl*
- Sierra, Judy: *The Great Dictionary Caper*
- Stanton, Sue: *I Love Cats!*
- Wells, Rosemary: *Fiona’s Little Accident*

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Colombo, Luann: *Human Body*
- Giovanni, Nikki: *I Am Loved*
- Grady, Cynthia: *Write to Me*
- Hopping, Lorraine: *Egyptian Mummy*
- Markle, Sandra: *Snowy Owl Invasion!*
- Morrissey, Peter: *Figure Skating School*
- Pilkey, Dav: *Dog Man and Cat Kid*
- Pilscou, Lisa: *Brave Jane Austen*
- Spilsbury, Louise: *Poverty and Hunger*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Black, Holly: *The Cruel Prince*
- De la Cruz, Melissa: *Someone to Love*
- Lu, Marie: *Batman*
- Watterson, Bill: *The Calvin and Hobbes Lazy Sunday Book*
- Watterson, Bill: *The Calvin and Hobbes Tenth Anniversary Book*
- Watterson, Bill: *The Essential Calvin and Hobbes*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Learn to Play the Ukulele!**

Want to learn to play a musical instrument? All ages are welcomed to register for a fun-filled ukulele lesson with teacher and musician, Julie Stepanek on Sunday, March 4, at 2:00 at the Town Hall. Julie will bring 20 ukuleles and give a brief introduction before each attendee will learn a few chords and some simple songs. People are always amazed at how fast they learn and how much fun it is. If you would like to participate you can sign up by calling or emailing the library to sign up. The program is limited to 20 people aged 8 through adult and is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council and supported by the Friends of the Library.

**An Evening with Two Local Naturalist Authors, Aaron Ellison and Dale Monette, Coming in March**

On Friday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Aaron Ellison and Dale Monette will share writings and nature photos from their respective books. Aaron’s book, *Vanishing Point* is a series of complementary photographs, poetry, and prose that was part of the Ecological Reflections Program in Oregon. Dale’s book, *Secret Lives of the Quabbin Watershed*, is a series of 132 photographs with a discourse on the landscape and wildlife he has observed and photographed. Both books focus on the environment through close observation. Refreshments will be served. Copies of their books will be available for purchase. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**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

Peter Kranias, president

Two-thousand eighteen is an anniversary year for our society. In 1943, a group of Royalston citizens came together and formed The Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston. Over the 75 years since then, the society was able to purchase Old School House #1, slated for removal, and eventually transform it into a museum. This saved the south end of The Common from losing a piece of history. Out of the 12 school houses that were spread throughout Royalston in its early years, only three survive.

After 75 years the founders would be proud to see what has been accomplished. THANK YOU to all who have become members and to all who have helped in any way. Please continue to support the society. We still have a long way to go to make more improvements to the building.

Thank you to these recent donors: the Stanton Family, Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski, Sheila Griffith, Robert Hendrie, Janace Wamboldt, The Freudenheim family, Paul Montero, and Fair Alice McCormick.

Royalston’s cutest historical couple...?

These Stockwells from the early 20th century are pretty adorable. If you have a photo of a cute couple in the town’s history, send a jpg along to the newsletter, (which will pass it on to the historical society). We can publish your valentines in subsequent issues and preserve your history. Spread the love.

Recipe of the Month

After Maba Cauthen made this cake for the Local Food Supper last fall, there were several requests for the recipe. Maba shares, “The recipe comes from a Finnish baking book I bought about 20 years ago during one of my visits to my former homeland. Cardamom is a very common spice used in Finnish baked goods. The pearl sugar can be omitted as it is not easily available. Scandinavian specialty stores usually sell it.

I have lived in Royalston since 1973, and came to the US in 1968. Before I became the full-time editor of the former Finnish-American weekly newspaper Raivaaja in 1982, I worked as the librarian at the Phinehas S. Newton Library for nearly 5 years.”

APPLE CARDAMOM GINGER CAKE

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Butter and flour an 8- or 9-inch cake pan with removable sides.

Batter:
15 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
3 eggs
1 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons ground cardamom

Filling:
2 apples
2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 - 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger

Topping:
Thin slices of almond and pearl sugar

Peel the apples and cut into thin slices.

Cream the butter with the sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time. Add the dry ingredients (mixed together).

Pour half the batter onto the cake pan. It is rather thick, so spooning might be a better word.

Layer the apple slices on top and swirl the honey on top of the apples.

Mix the 2 tablespoons of sugar with the ginger and drop on top of the apples.

Top with the remaining dough and spread with a knife or spatula to cover the apples. Sprinkle with the almonds and the pearl sugar. Bake for 55 - 60 minutes.

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 owner’s 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.
Winchendon Rod and Gun
The Winchendon R&G is open Tuesdays from 5-10 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5-11 p.m.; Fridays from 5 p.m. – midnight and Saturdays from noon to midnight. It is closed Mondays. The kitchen is open until 9 p.m. Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays, serving items like hamburgers, hot dogs, deep fried chicken tenders and fries. Also at the Winchendon R&G, enjoy live music on specific Fridays; March performers and dates were not available as of press time.

New members are currently being accepted. Membership is $50/person, and for first time members who are veterans the first year’s membership fee will be waived. (Veterans must apply in person with military ID or DD214). Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m., with board members meeting at 6:30 p.m. Additional information is available by calling the Club during

Royalston Fish and Game
Roast beef suppers are being held monthly, typically third Fridays, at the Royalston Fish & Game Club. Tickets are $12, and provide family-style, all-you-can-eat bread and real butter, tossed salad, perfectly-cooked roast beef ranging from rare to well done, mashed potatoes, green beans, savory gravy, and a cup of ice cream with either chocolate or strawberry sauce for dessert. Contact Sandra Graf for tickets, 978-249-4281.

Ladies’ Benevolent Society
The Ladies’ Benevolent Society of Royalston began their 194th consecutive year of service with their December meeting and election of officers. The meeting and program were held at the home of Theresa Quinn. Baskets of goodies, and “thinking of you” goodies-filled mugs were assembled, and distributed over the next couple of days to elders, shut-ins, and several community workers. Program and Member’s Guides should be available sometime in February. All Royalston residents, regardless of gender, are invited into membership and programs are open to all interested. Contact Secretary Pat Worth at 978-249-2722, greenfyre1@gmail.com or President Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807, lmdeveneau@msn.com for additional information.

Frozen Pipes at Pete and Henry’s
Due to frozen pipes and subsequent waterline break, Pete & Henry’s did not re-open, as usual, in January, but expects to open during February. As of press time, it was advising patrons to watch the Facebook Page, listed as: Pete & Henry’s Inc for updates. Gift certificates can still be obtained by calling 978-249-8375.

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Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasesgos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS
Monty Tech seniors Cody Bassett and Bradley Ayers will be moving on to the District-wide SkillsUSA competition, March 14th, at Baypath Regional. Cody earned a bronze in CNC Milling Specialist, and Bradly, a gold in CNC Turning Specialist, in the December, 2017 local competition.

Cody Nolette, an EMT, and a volunteer on the Athol Fire department is heading off to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center this month. Following boot camp he will be heading off to Texas to train as a hospital corpsman, where he will work closely with other branches of the military to proudly serve his country.

On February 10th from 5pm to 10pm at the Royalston Rod and Game club, Cody’s parents will be proudly sending him off with a boot camp send off party. If you would like to come by and show Cody your support, all are welcome!

Caleb Chase was recently selected to participate, along with six other sound artists from around the country, in the Co-incident Festival, a gathering of experimental composer-performers hosted by Non-Event at Washington Street Gallery in Somerville, Mass. According to the festival web-site, “This project is based on an expanded view of what constitutes art, music, and the traditional concert. Following the example of the revolutionary arts community Black Mountain College, it brings together a group of radical artists operating in the boundary-zones of their practice to take part in a festival curated as ‘social sculpture.”’

ed. note: Yup, that’s my boy. Sharing news and making connections is one of the most important purposes of this newsletter. Please don’t hesitate to send your own news, kudos, milestones, wildlife sightings, and recipes. There is a reason it is called the Royalston Community Newsletter - and you are that reason.

Obituaries
Glenn Freden, resident of Tully passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Jan. 16, 2018 in Worcester, MA at the age of 63. Glenn was born in Providence, Rhode Island and summated at Matunuck Beach. He had a Masters Degree from Yale University and was an award winning forester. Glenn was a longtime resident of Royalston, and spent many years serving on the Conservation Commission. Through his dedication and stewardship, many of our natural habitats will remain in good health. He was also a wonderful father, brother, and grandfather. He will be sadly missed by his children, Alyssa Freden and Laura Edwards-Orr, their husbands, Jairam Ramanathan and Vance Edwards-Orr and his sister, Karen Kohlmeyer; his nieces, Kristin King and Janis Kohlmeyer; his former wife, Lisa Freden; and grandchildren, Maja and Henry Edwards-Orr.
Juliana

“MC Slim- Julie”

There goes my phone.

I drift off to sleep...

“Keeping Up.”

I grab milky cereal and watch

is there something good to eat?

Open the fridge, “squeak”

I've got knots in my hair.

Step, step down the stairs

I lay in bed on my head.

I crunch my feet.

My bed “zzz” I sleep.

Orange Armory 6:00 - 8:00pm

February 16 - RCS PTG Rollerskating Night @

SNOW day!

February 09 - 100th Day (unless we have another

Community School Calendar

February 09 - 100th Day (unless we have another

SNOW day!

February 16 - RCS PTG Rollerskating Night @

Orange Armory 6:00 - 8:00pm

February 10 - 23 - February Vacation

Snow Days

My bed “zzz” I sleep.

I crunch my feet.

I lay in bed on my head.

Step, step down the stairs

I've got knots in my hair.

Open the fridge, “squeak”

is there something good to eat?

I grab milky cereal and watch

“Keeping Up.”

I drift off to sleep...

“tweet. tweet”

There goes my phone.

“MC Slim- Julie”

Juliana

6th grade

poets

Snow Day

The white snow falls

on my red nose

I get my snowmobile on.

The motor growls.

The moon twinkling on the white snow.

It is too cold.

I go inside and slurp hot cocoa

and get warm around the fireplace

watching Shane Dawson

Melany Eldridge

Ivan Cardona

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 rebuild homes destroyed by Hurri-

ricane 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 Carpentry 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 (Sci-

cence, 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 Com-

petition in Louisville, KY. Competing with 395,000 students from across the

USA is an amazing honor in and of itself; to return with 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 Presi-

dent. Monty Tech has initiated a new program supporting students in need of spe-

cialized 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 aca-

demic, 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 Founda-

tion, 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.

What’s happening at the Village School?

Dance teacher Anna Hendricks, thanks to a grant from the Mass. Cultural Council, spent a week teaching dance at the Village School, as Artist in Residence in January. Children focused on four aspects of dance: level, shape, speed, and flow. Each age level was challenged in both creativity and control, and the children worked hard. It culminated in an all-school performance for parents based on Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak.

The 2nd-6th classrooms are knitting on Tuesday afternoons. On Friday afternoons until February vacation, 1st-6th graders are cross country skiing behind Royalston Common.

We are off to England! Just before school vacation week, the 4th-6th grade class (with parents and teachers!) flies off to the U.K. as part of a year-long study of the Middle Ages. Students will visit museums and tour castles in England and Wales and even get to sleep in one.

Progress on the New Village School Building at 253 S. Royalston Road Camp Caravan

It’s warm inside. Rough plumbing, wiring and heating are all completed. Now it’s sheetrocking time. We can’t wait to move in August.

Village School Open House Saturday February 10th from 10 to noon.

Come meet teachers, visit classrooms and find out about the admissions process. Bring your children—there are activities for children in all the classrooms. If you miss the Open House, go ahead and call the school to schedule a visit, at 978 249 3505. Find more info at villageschoolma.org

Parent-Child Group Continues on Wednesdays at 10:15

Spread the word—for parents with children under preschool age. Come with your young children and get out of the house and socialize with other parents. Enjoy snack time with your child. Drop in anytime. Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator, and Gail Chaffee, lactation specialist. Straggle in time is from 10:15 to 10:30. It ends at 11:30 in the playground. Last winter session is Wed. Feb. 14th. FREE.

Dean’s Beans Coffee Order You can order fresh roasted coffee once a month through the Village School, ground or whole beans, for around $10 a lb. Order online and pick it up in the hallway at the school the following Friday. Go to http://www.villageschoolma.org/coffee.htm for coffee order due dates and to order
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

for sale:

Hay - Located in Royalston - square bales delivery possible -- call Ann Vining Bedaw 603-357-3000


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.

Spreader: Agway adjustable seed/fertilizer spreader. 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 Deh/Jo Nunes at 978-249-4000. $8.00/pound

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 February 2018 Page 9

Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials

Full Breakfast

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Some are less-than-enthusiastic in regard to the ‘winter wonderland’ created by large amounts of snow. The traveler (whether by car or foot). The wood-cutter (determined to make inroads on next winter’s supply). The observer of the financial affairs of the town (think Snow and Ice). But. The gardener welcomes the snow. It covers the unfinished work of fall: the unraked leaves, the multitude of twigs, the downed fencing, the general disarray. More importantly, it provides a protective blanket for plants marginally hardy, if not assuring their survival, at least contributing to that possibility. So, it was with a fair degree of trepidation that I looked out upon the open ground, rendered snowless by the deluge ten days ago. Since frigid temperatures returned before the snow returned, I assume the survivability of those marginally hardy plants is questionable at best. I did take the opportunity to troll the garden in search of green. Surprisingly enough, I found some: the lettuce within the fish tanks; a few scallion shoots; strawberry leaves. Having unsuccessfully wintered-over spinach and parsley the past few years under a heavy mulch cover, I did not bother applying it this year. Wouldn’t you know, both, while not quite thriving, were alive. Among flowers, Johnny jump-ups were growing but I expected that; I’ve seen them flowering in January. I did not expect to discover hollyhocks with new leaves, but there they were. Hollyhocks are short-lived perennials which may or may not survive the winter. I suspect this mid-winter growth does not bode well for them. Since then, the ground was re-covered with five inches of snow which will likely disappear again with tomorrow’s forecast of rain. Thereafter….whatever.

Rest assured, we have not seen the last of frigid temperatures or heavy snow falls. So it goes.

Then there is the matter of the state of the garden that was brought indoors: the fall harvest. Simply stated, none too good. Winter squash, which generally degrade by early February began the process in early January. We consume a lot of winter squash. Just as well, the meager yields of beets and cabbage having been exhausted and two bushels of carrots having mysteriously rotted. Starting in February, it will be a rare meal that does not rely upon potatoes and onions. And that pretty much exhausts the affairs of the garden. For column filler, I introduce a new feature: Aging Notes. You know you are getting old when….

…..you grasp onto the bannister going up the stairs;
…..with several people entering a car, you are offered the front seat;
…..you are no longer required to remove your shoes at airport security;
…..hiking with a group, it is necessary for the others to wait up for you;
…..hiking with a group, it is necessary for the others to wait up for you. Again;
…..while hauling two five gallon pails of water to the critters, you give serious consideration to making two trips;
…..you’ve begun asking people to repeat themselves;
…..you forget how old you are.

Larry Siegel

Cold

I am a New Englander, born and bred. Yet it’s been a long time since I’ve experienced a stretch of intense cold like we have had in recent weeks. A cold that makes staying indoors for days on end the only option. Or, if venturing out is necessary, a cold that makes suiting up for said venture a 20-minute ordeal: long-johns, puffy coat, scarf, hat, mittens (NOT gloves), wool socks, fleece-lined boots. If a vehicle is involved in this venturing-out, the question of whether it will start is eclipsed by the question of whether, thus clothed, I will actually fit into it.

The metallic scent of a frigid winter night and the snap of snow underfoot are timeless. When I step outside on cold evenings, these sensations transport me back to childhood winters in our White Mountains town. To us, winter was a wonderland of ice and snow, and we would clamor to go outside as soon as breakfast was over. But to our mother, in those pre-Thinsulate, pre-down-filled days of winter clothing, it must have been a major chore to get the six of us ready to play in the snow. I remember unlined rubber boots – impossible to pull on without assistance, mittens that were always damp from a previous outing, and heavy cloth jackets and snow pants that became waterlogged after the first snow angel. Our mother would get us ready and send us, one by one, out the door into the frigid whiteness of our backyard. “Take deep breaths!” she advised us, as she turned to tie yet another scarf. “Breathe in that cold!”

I recall one morning of seemingly endless bestowing of hats and boots when she opened the door to finally bounce the last of us out only to find the first of us at the door ready to come in. “Get back out there!” she cried in horror.

The park across the street was a baseball diamond in the summer. But in the winter, it was transformed into a skating rink with floodlights for night skating and music for pretending you were a skating star. There was a warm-up hut with wooden benches and a stove, and a shed where you could have your skate blades sharpened. My sister and I were passionate - and entirely untrained - figure skaters. We had skating skirts, which were lovely when we twirled but did nothing to keep our legs warm, and pom-poms with tiny bells which we tied to our skates. We lived at that rink, weekends and evenings and school vacations, braving the intense cold and flying around the rink with our friends. But it was the graceful adults, who jumped and twirled as they sped past us, that stopped us in our tracks. With naïve determination, we would retreat to a corner of the rink and try to mimic their moves. It is surprising that we never seriously injured ourselves. It is not surprising that we never perfected the “lame duck” or the spinning jump.

The cold was always with us in my childhood winters – like an out of town relative with unreasonable demands. On frigid winter mornings, our mother would announce its presence with stoic acceptance: “Twenty below this morning.” she would report as she read the thermometer outside our kitchen window. The cold followed us on our walks to school when the swish-swish of our snow pants made us laugh. Later, when a bus ride brought us to high school one town over, the wait at the bus stop was something we dreaded. The cold made our eyes water and our faces hurt. Conversation was impossible because we couldn’t move our faces. “Breathe it in!” my mother would call as she shut the door behind us. I think she believed that, if we could get our inner temperature closer to the outside temperature, we would be fine.

Luckily, we are New Englanders, not Alaskans. We know that, sooner than we think, the cold will break, the snow will melt, and spring will come. “It always has,” a neighbor of ours used to say. With that assurance, I will suit up, get out there, and breathe it in.

Deb D’Amico
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The Village School
On The Common
Royalston, MA 01368
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villageschoolma.org
Wildlife Sightings

Rhea Sawicki was driving home with her brother and dad on January 20 near Bolton Rd. when “she saw a bunch of deer. While she was counting the nine that deer were there, another walked right in front of her car. There were 6 babies and 4 adults!”

Lisa Freden observed a rare Snowy Owl on North Fitzwilliam Road in late November.

Thank you to our 5th grade intern, Rhea Sawicki, who wrote the wildlife sightings and laid out several pages of the newsletter this month.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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