Calendar of Events

March 1    Thursday
7:51 p.m.  Full Worm Moon

March 2    Friday
9 a.m.  Community Reading Day at RCS
7 - 10 p.m.  Open Mic, local music and light fare. To play, show up early or call Jim Bennett. Sponsored by the Cultural Council. Free admission.

March 3    Saturday
11 a.m.  Friends of the Library meeting to discuss library support, programs and the newsletter. All welcome.

March 4    Sunday
2 p.m.  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 8    Thursday
International Women’s Day

March 9    Friday
7 p.m.  An Evening with Local Naturalist and Author, Aaron Ellison, who will share poems, photos and prose. Town Hall. Refreshments.

March 11    Sunday
2 a.m.  Clocks spring ahead. Check batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

March 17 - 18  Massachusetts’ Maple weekend
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  The LeRay’s sugarhouse will be open for tours (56 Brown Road, Royalston).

March 17    Saturday
9:12 a.m.  St Patrick’s Day
5 p.m.  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 20    Tuesday
12:15 p.m.  Vernal Equinox. Happy spring

March 21    Wednesday

March 24    Saturday
8:00 - 11:30 a.m.  Chet Hall Pancake Breakfast, raises money for scholarships, at RCS. Adults $8, kids $4 and children under 4 -free. Raffles, silent auction, t-shirts and community. Auction donations can be brought to RCS.

March 28    Wednesday
7 p.m.  “Talkin’ Trash” with the Ladies’ Benevolent Society. Program features Board of Health chair Phil Leger summarizing the state of trash disposal in Royalston. Refreshments.

March 31    Saturday
8:37 a.m.  Full Sap Moon, a “blue moon,” being the second in one month

10 a.m sharp  Annual Easter Egg Hunt on The Common. Rain or shine. Dress for the weather. Bring bag or basket to contain the eggs. Hunt followed by chocolate melt and more inside the Town Hall. To volunteer or for more information, contact Sara Dilg at 978-249-9828 or Rene’ Lake- Gagliardi at 978-249-4639.

April 1    Sunday  Easter

April 2    Monday
10 a.m., 8 p.m.  Polls open for Town Election
Precinct 1 – Town Hall, 13 The Common
Precinct 2 – Whitney Hall, 5 School St.
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.

Board of Health Updates

Phil Leger, chair

A reminder with spring clean up just around the corner, if you have a big load, better to come early rather than later. We can’t always guarantee that there will be room in the roll-offs.

Ice is still here, so be careful around the facility especially around the roll-offs. Keep your eyes on the kids especially around backing vehicles.

Still seeing litter on the roads on Saturday. Remember if it doesn’t make it to RRATS and ends up in the road, it’s littering not recycling.

You don’t have to wait for Checkpoint Charlie’s roadside clean up at the end of April to pickup the roadside trash.

Flu season is still hitting the nation hard. Still time to get the vaccine. Don’t forget the pneumococcal vaccine while you’re at it. Check with your local health care provider or pharmacy.

Annual Town Election

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

Monday, April 2, 2018 – Polls open at 10 a.m., close at 8 p.m.
Precinct 1 – Town Hall, 13 The Common
Precinct 2 – Whitney Hall, 5 School St.

Last day to register voters – Tues, March 13 (2-4 and 7-8 p.m. at Town Hall, 13 The Common)

As of the date of this submission, the following offices and candidates will appear on the ballot:

Selectman – 3 years – One candidate, Deborah J. D’Amico. Linda Alger currently holds this seat and is not running for re-election.
Athol-Royalston Reg. School Comm. – Royalston seat – Three years - Carla B. Rabinowitz
Athol-Royalston Reg. School Comm. – Athol seats – Two, three-year terms – Joao Baptista and Deborah Kuzmeskas; One, one-year term – Kenneth Vaidulas
Assessor – 1 year – Wade F. Harmon
Assessor – 3 years – No candidate
Board of Health – 3 years – Eugene W. Kolimaga
Board of Public Welfare – 1 year – No candidate
Board of Public Welfare – 3 years – Gary L. Winitzer
Cemetery Commission – 3 years – Roy A. Smith, Jr
Constable – 3 years – Roland G. Hamel
Library Trustee – 3 years – No candidate
Moderator – 3 years – George Northrop
Planning Board – 5 years – Thomas G. Musco
Planning Board – 3 years – No candidate
Sewer Commission – 3 years – Gary L. Winitzer
Tree Warden – 3 years – Larry Siegel
Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund – Four, one-year terms – Roy A. Smith, Jr, Gary L. Winitzer – and no candidates for the remaining open 2 seats.

Reminders

Dog Licensing - 2018

Remember to license your dogs! The deadline to license dogs is March 31, 2018. Bring a proof of rabies vaccination to the Town Clerk’s office at Whitney Hall – Mondays from 9-1 p.m. and 6p.m. – 8p.m. Licenses are still just $6.00 for an altered dog, $10.00 for an unaltered dog.

Got brush piles? Burn Permits are available from the Fire and EMS Department through May 1st. To get the required permit, go to Station #1 (4 Athol Rd) on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th Mondays of the month from 7-9 pm. On the day you intend to burn, call the non-emergency number (978-249-8138 ) and listen to the message to be sure that daily conditions are appropriate for burning. Then leave a message as instructed, including your address and permit number.

Post Office Hours

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.

Winter Parking Ban continues through April 30. On-street parking prohibited.
**Deb D’Amico – Candidate for Royalston Select Board**

I am running for the open seat on Royalston’s Select Board. I believe I have the skills and experience to serve our community well.

Although I spent many years living and working in the Greater Boston area, I was raised in a small New Hampshire town much like Royalston. So, moving to Royalston has felt like coming home. I value the strong sense of community and genuine caring for neighbors that our town has nurtured. I would be proud to serve as a member of the Select Board.

In recent years the Select Board, town department heads, and board chairs have worked together to successfully address the needs of our community. The Town Hall elevator project, the demolition of #1 School Street, and Royalston’s designation as a “Green Community” are all examples of effective collaboration across departments. There are challenges ahead of us: completing our Broadband Network, improving office space for our town departments, financing our share of the high school’s improvements, and continuing to adequately fund town services are worthy projects that will make our town an even better place to call home. We need to continue to build strong relationships at the regional and state level that will support our endeavors. I would welcome the opportunity to work on these issues, and more, with our town leaders.

During my 40-year career as a public-school teacher and administrator (now retired) I learned how to support strong, caring, and safe communities. I understand the challenge of balancing the needs of many with the needs of individuals. It is not an easy task. But I am a good listener and believe that every person has a point of view that deserves consideration. When faced with tough situations I will keep an open mind, consider all options, and make decisions based on what I believe is best for our community.

I welcome your questions, your concerns, and your suggestions. Election Day is April 2. I would appreciate your vote.

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**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!

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**Royalston Community Newsletter March 2018 Page 3**

**Royalston Emergency Management Director**

Jim Barclay, e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or 978-249-2904

Typically, March is a volatile weather month that can begin with snow, see us slogging through puddles and mud as snow melts, then worrying about brush fires as the whipping winds dry out the top layers of grass, leaves, and tree litter. March is also a time of: Basement Flooding

If your basement sees standing water nearly every spring, NOW is the time to either ensure your sump pump is in working order or to have one installed. It’s a simple pump that is plumbed into a hole in your basement floor, with a hose to the outside. The principle is that water naturally seeks the lowest level (runs into the sump hole), and the rising water in the sump hole buoys a toilet-like “float,” which kicks off the pump when the water reaches a certain level. The water is pumped outside – ideally, to a place it will not come back into your basement.

Damp/flooded basements should have systems (usually gas/oil burners), appliances (freezers, for example), and any electrical equipment (like shop tools) up on cinder blocks or cement pads, so they are not affected by any water.

Occasionally a homeowner is caught completely off-guard, and a normally-dry basement turns into a reflecting pool. For quick removal of water that is NOWHERE NEAR any systems, appliances, or electrical equipment, a wet/dry shop vacuum, or a small pump that connects to standard garden hoses, are best. If water is encroaching on anything that involves fuel or electricity, a call to 9-1-1 will turn out the immediate help and equipment needed.

Call your plumber BEFORE you need water removed, call 9-1-1 for emergencies, and remember, DIY is only appropriate if “Y” will not be injured in the effort!

**The 20th Annual Royalston Egg Hunt**

Saturday, March 31

Mr. Bunny and friends will be on hand for the 20th Annual Egg Hunt on Royalston Common. The hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31. The festivities will start promptly at 10:00 AM from the steps of the Town Hall. It will be held rain or shine; dress for the weather.

Added to the usual 2,000 eggs stuffed with candy will be surprise prizes in some of the eggs. Event volunteers are also planning to add face painting to the morning’s activities which will once again include the ever-favorite chocolate melt and candy making in the Town Hall immediately following the egg hunt. There will also be an opportunity to have photos taken with Mr. Bunny.

Youngsters should bring a bag or basket to hold their eggs during the hunt and the candy that they will be taking home. The plastic eggs will be recycled; everyone is asked to place the emptied eggs in bins set for that purpose in the Town Hall.

Donations of candy are welcome. No hard candy is allowed and all candy must be individually wrapped and small enough to fit into the plastic eggs. The Royalston General Store, the Library, and the Post Office will accept donations until March 17, allowing the time to actually stuff the 2000 eggs. Cash donations are also welcomed. _Questions can be directed to event organizer Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi at 978-249-4639 or Sara Dilg at 978 248-9828._
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Clarence Rabideau, Theresa Quinn
Mondays: 10:00 am- 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm 
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends- Thank you!
Christine Long

Tax Forms
The library has Massachusetts tax forms and many of the U.S. tax forms. If we don’t have the form, we will gladly print it for you. We just received a notice that the IRS is reviewing the Bipartisan Budget Act enacted on February 9, 2018 and some of the forms that were printed and distributed may require updating and thus you should check the IRS.gov site to determine if any updated versions of the tax forms are required.

Art Exhibit
Gordon Morrison will have his acrylic paintings on display for the next two months. Stop by to see the new direction his style has taken from his previous, precise botanical drawings.

Learn to Play the Ukulele!
There are still spaces left in the ukulele class scheduled at the Town Hall on Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. Julie Stepanek, teacher and musician, will bring 20 ukuleles and after a brief introduction, teach each attendee a few chords and some simple songs. The class is free but you must sign up by calling or emailing the library and is for people aged 8 through adult. Julie’s classes get rave reviews all around the state. It is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

Yoga
Our relaxing, flexibility-enhancing, soothing, community-based yoga classes with Charlotte Wetzin continue each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Poses are adaptable for all levels and all ages. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and is free (with free-will donations accepted). Come and try it out.

A Evening with Naturalist, Photographer, and Writer Aaron Ellison
On Friday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Aaron Ellison will discuss his book, Vanishing Point, a series of photographs, poetry, and prose that was part of the Ecological Reflections Program in Oregon. Aaron is the Senior Research Fellow in Ecology at the Harvard Forest, an Adjunct Research Professor in the Tropical Forests & People Research Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast (Australia), and an Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is also known around the library for his great summer reading program on ants and for his identification book: A Field Guide to the Ants of New England (2012). Light refreshments will be served. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

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

Royalston Computer Repair
- Virus and Malware Removal
- Tune up’s
- Laptop Screen Repair
- Internet Data Cap Consultation
- Rural Internet Service Provider Recommendations
- Custom Builds
978-467-6194 Toll Free Call or Text
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**
- Beaton, M.C. *Death of an Honest Man*
- Berenson, Alex *The Deceivers*
- Bloom, Amy *White Houses*
- Brown, Pierce *Iron Gold*
- Burke, James *Lee Robicheaux*
- Cleveland, Karen *Need to Know*
- Gardiner, Meg *Into the Black Nowhere*
- Gardiner, Lisa *Look for Me*
- Haig, Matt *How to Stop Time*
- Halliday, Lisa *Asymmetry*
- Hannah, Kristin *The Great Alone*
- Harkaway, Nick *Gnomon*
- Harper, Jane *Force of Nature*
- Hurwitz, Gregg *Hellbent*
- Kellerman, Jonathan *Night Moves*
- Kinsella, Sophie *Surprise Me*
- Lescroart, John *Poison*
- Moore, Jonathan *The Night Market*
- Mosher, Howard *Points North*
- Moyes, Jojo *Still Me*
- Mozley, Fiona *Elmet*
- Perry, Karen *Girl Unknown*
- Preston, Douglas *City of Endless Night*
- Robb, J.D. *Dark in Death*
- Salvatore, R.A. *Child of a Mad God*
- Steel, Danielle *Fall from Grace*
- Vaughan, Sarah *Anatomy of a Scandal*

**Children’s Fiction**
- Ashman, Linda *William’s Winter Nap*
- Benko, Kamilla *The Unicorn Quest*
- Coppo, Marianna *Petra*
- Cousins, Lucy *Splish, Splash, Ducky!*
- Dopirak, Kate *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Car*
- Hobbie, Holly *Elmore*
- Kuefler, Joseph *Digger and the Flower*
- Leathers, Philippa *Tiptoeing Tiger*
- Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*
- Prince, April *101 Dinosaurs*
- Pyron, Bobbie *A Pup Called Trouble*
- Selznick, Brian *Baby Monkey, Private Eye*
- Shaffer, Jody *A Chip Off the Old Block*
- Vernon, Ursula *Whiskerella*
- Weston, Robert *Sakura’s Cherry Blossoms*

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Hannigan, Kate *A Lady has the Floor*
- Heos, Bridget *From Cocoa Beans to Chocolate*
- Heos, Bridget *From Peanuts to Peanut Butter*
- Heos, Bridget *From Wheat to Bread*
- Hirsch, Rebecca *The Monarchs are Missing*
- Jagan, Alyssa *Ultimate Slime*
- Nardo, Don *Hubble Deep Field*
- Sidman, Joyce *The Girl who Drew Butterflies*
- Smith-Llera, Danielle *Double Helix*
- Van Lente, Fred *George Washington*
- Wallace, Sandra *Between the Lines*
- Wang, Jen *The Prince and the Dressmaker*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Eggers, Dave *The Monk of Mokha*
- Mann, Charles *The Wizard and the Prophet*
- Monette, Dale *Secret Lives of the Quabbin Watershed*
- Pink, Daniel *When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing*
- Wolff, Michael *Fire and Fury*

**Audiobooks**
- Finn, A.J. *The Woman in the Window*
- Hannah, Kristin *The Great Alone*
- Mann, Charles *The Wizard and the Prophet*
- Thomas, Angie *The Hate U Give (YA)*
- Tudor, C.J. *The Chalk Man*

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Hannigan, Kate *A Lady has the Floor*
- Heos, Bridget *From Cocoa Beans to Chocolate*
- Heos, Bridget *From Peanuts to Peanut Butter*
- Heos, Bridget *From Wheat to Bread*
- Hirsch, Rebecca *The Monarchs are Missing*
- Jagan, Alyssa *Ultimate Slime*
- Nardo, Don *Hubble Deep Field*
- Sidman, Joyce *The Girl who Drew Butterflies*
- Smith-Llera, Danielle *Double Helix*
- Van Lente, Fred *George Washington*
- Wallace, Sandra *Between the Lines*
- Wang, Jen *The Prince and the Dressmaker*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Anderson, Laurie *Speak*
- Kadohata, Cynthia *Checked*
- Pierce, Tamora *Tempests and Slaughter*

**DVDs:**
- *American Made (DVD & Bluray), A Bad Mom’s Christmas, The Big Sick (DVD & Bluray), Blade Runner 2049, Mother! (DVD & Bluray), Roman J. Israel, Esq., Suburbicon, Thank You for Your Service, and Wonder*

**Royalston Review of Books...**
where everyone can be a critic.  Read something good lately?  Let us know at the RCN.

*The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd
Reviewed by Deb Nunes

Historical fiction is a favorite genre of mine, as it opens up new worlds that often I had no previous awareness of.  Such is this novel, about the indigo trade in South Carolina in the mid 1700’s.  Based on historical documents and letters of Eliza Lucas, it traces the development of this industry.  Eliza Lucas is just sixteen when her father leaves her in charge of their family’s three plantations in South Carolina.  He proceeds to bleed the estates dry in pursuit of his military ambitions, while her mother only wants to go back to England.

Eliza hears how much the French pay for indigo dye, and she relentlessly pursues establishing the indigo business with the assistance of an aging horticulturalist, a lawyer and a slave who teaches her the intricate, thousand year old secret process of making indigo dye.  In return, in violation of the law, Eliza teaches the slaves to read.  She faces tribulation after tribulation, especially being a young woman resistant to her expected life of marrying and being a southern housewife.  Indigo went on to become one of the largest exports out of the colonies, laying the foundation for colonial wealth that shaped United States history.  I hope you will find this as compelling as I did.
Royalston Historical Society

The long abandoned house next to the South Royalston Store was recently demolished. Above is a postcard of Main Street before the fires and floods of the early 20th Century. The white church shown was replaced with the current brown 2nd Congregational Church after it burned in 1904. The house to the left of the white church is the one recently crushed.

Interested in town history? Come to the next Historical Society meeting on April 20 at Town Hall.

Ladies’ Benevolent Society Talking Trash
Contact President Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807, lmdeveneau@msn.com, or Secretary Pat Worth at 978-249-2722, greenfyre1@gmail.com

The Ladies’ Benevolent Society of Royalston will be “Talkin’ Trash” at its first meeting of 2018, on Wednesday, March 28, 7 p.m. at a location to be announced. The Town’s Board of Health Chair, Phil Leger will tell about The Royalston RATS (Recycling And Transfer Center), provide some stats about Royalston’s efforts regarding the “three R’s,” (Reducing, Reusing, Recycling), and offer suggestions on how we may be able to put less into the waste stream. This program will follow a brief business meeting and is free and open to the public. Light refreshments follow. Non-members are asked to RSVP with Mary Barclay at marybarclay1@gmail.com or 978-249-2598. photo: Barclay

Recipe of the Month
Stashu’s basic bread.
Stashu Sawicki of Frye Hill experimented with 4 simple ingredients and created this recipe. He was meticulous in measuring and recording the steps so that it is repeatable for other bakers. When he is not in the kitchen, Stashu is a 3rd grader who loves mountain biking and the San Francisco 49ers.

Ingredients
3  cup flour (all purpose)
1 1/4 cup very warm water
1 teaspoon salt
1 pouch yeast (2 1/4 tsp)

Steps
mix flour and salt
mix water and yeast- let sit a few minutes until it passes gas.
mix together dry and wet ingredients. Knead until combined and slightly sticky. Let rise in a covered bowl for 1 hour or so. Punch down. Put in a greased loaf pan. Let rise again.
preheat oven 350 f.
bake about 55 minutes.

Pete and Henry’s Re-opens

It wasn’t easy. It involved working in freezing cold weather, scoothing around in a crawl space under the building in wet dirt, finding pipes beneath sturdy mill floors inside, and rooting around under the hot top on Blossom Street, all to remove, replace and repair multiple ruptured pipes and damaged valves. But they did it! Pete & Henry’s managed to re-open just in time for Valentine’s Day. The restaurant is now open on its usual Thursday-Sunday schedule.
North Quabbin Garden Club

Spring is coming and it is time to think about planting again. On March 15, 2018 at 7 pm at the Millers River Environmental Center, plant ecologist Ted Elliman will present the diverse wildflowers and habitats specific to Massachusetts. After Ted’s discussion, gardeners will be able to use their habit knowledge to grow wildflowers at home. Ted’s books will be available for sale.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions. Members are currently working on a wildlife habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center. Guests and new members are welcome, so join us this month and learn something new about gardening. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a donation.

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.

Phillipston Lion’s Club Breakfasts will resume in the spring. This service organization invites Royalston residents into membership. Contact Membership Chair Marilyn Holway at mroarlions@gmail.com or 250 State Road in Phillipston.

Local Scholarship Deadlines are fast approaching!

Families navigating the sometimes-confusing world of financial aid may wish to attend Monty Tech’s annual Financial Aid Seminar on Tuesday, March 13, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., and the annual MEFA (MA Educational Financing Authority) College Planning Night on Thursday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve a seat, contact the main office at 978-345-9200.

Royalston Academy Scholarships: Deadline April 16, 2018 Forms are available through your high school guidance counselor, Royalston Library, or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, PO Box 35, Royalston, MA 01368. The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship (up to $1000) is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including college, home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs.

Ladies’ Benevolent Society Scholarships are available to all residents pursuing higher education. Applications are at local high schools and at the library. Call Theresa Quinn for more information. 978-249-3819.

Thanks Fire and EMS

Linda Alger

On February 9th, while finishing up my day at the office a frantic call came in from my home. My home was filled with smoke with no known cause. 911 was called, dispatch asked if anyone was in the house and my partner and family pet waited outside for the Fire Department to arrive. While I have always as a Select Board member been proud of our local Emergency Personnel I could not have felt more confident that the situation was in very capable hands. I was 45 minutes away but I was kept abreast via cell phone every step of the way (seemed like the longest ride home ever). I was greeted at Riverside Cemetery by Officer Plumber, who was expecting my arrival. He escorted me to the top of the hill. I was allowed to enter as the situation was under control at that time. Craig Leray, Josh Doub and Chief Keith Newton were in my home and explained the situation that they had found through thermo-imaging. They also apologized for messing up my kitchen floor with their boots, which was the least of my concerns at the time. Chief Newton wanted to make sure that we had an alternate source of heat and told me exactly what I needed to do and the type of contractor to contact to make sure that my fireplace was repaired and safe.

We always hope that we never need their services but when we do it is nice to know that we have a professional caring group to take care of us. Thank you for all you do.

D.A.R.E. Expanding

Mary C. Barclay

Royalston Police Patrol Officer and D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Instructor Sherry A. Miner has been given the green light to expand her D.A.R.E. Program to include all Royalston Community School students. While certainly true to the original mission of helping students understand drug abuse and ways to resist temptations to try drugs, the real focus of the program centers on decision making. Officer Sherry will provide an introductory program for the kindergartners and a slightly longer program for first and second grade students. She will continue to build on earlier lessons in grades three and four. The fifth-grade curriculum, complete with graduation ceremony, will remain unchanged, and sixth graders will have opportunities to explore some of the issues that interest them in greater depth.

Royalston’s D.A.R.E. program has had some support through tax dollars but derives the majority of its funding from the Royalston Police Association, individual contributors and businesses. The program has also received a number of generous grants of “drug money” from Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.

Those who wish to make donations to this program may do so through the Royalston Police Association; P.O. Box RPA; Royalston, MA 01368.
Community School Calendar
March 05 - 8 Scholastic Book Fair (P.M. hours on 2/7/18)
March 07 - Keith Michael Johnson Assembly
March 07 - 1:30 and 6:00p.m - RCS Student Performance of “Peter Pan”
March 14 - 1/2 day, Noon Dismissal, Lunch Served
March 16 - DARE GRADUATION @ 1:30
March 21 - O’Connor School Portraits - Spring Pictures
March 22 - Career Town @ 1:30pm by Grade 5 students
March 24 - CHET HALL BREAKFAST - 8:00 - 11:30am
March 29 - All School Meeting @ 2:15pm

Chet Hall Pancake Breakfast
RCS hopes to make this year’s 5th Annual Chet Hall Scholarship Breakfast even bigger than last year. Three students received $500.00 Scholarships toward their College education for this school year; congratulations to Abby Divoll, Tyler Boyd and Jessica Soucie.

5th ANNUAL CHET HALL SCHOLARSHIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST
ROYALSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH 8:00 – 11:30AM
BIKE RAFFLE, GIFT BASKETS, SILENT AUCTION, MEMORIAL T-SHIRTS, WRIST BANDS & KEY CHAINS
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR, OR IN ADVANCE AT: ROYALSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
KIMBALL COOKE INSURANCE CO.
ADULTS $8.00, KIDS $5.00, AGES 4 AND UNDER FREE!
AUCTION DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT TICKET LOCATIONS

What’s happening at the Village School?
Open Visiting Days: Ever wonder if the Village School could be a great place for your child? Come to an Open Visiting Day, just about any Tuesday and Thursday, at 8:30 a.m. You can observe the class or two of your choice, and find out if the school can serve your child and your budget. Best to call ahead, but drop-ins are welcome. 978 249 3505, ask for Risa.

Now we are heading into sugaring season, and all the classes will be making field trips to the Richardson Farm in Phillipston for sugaring and lambing. The K-6th classes swim at the YMCA on Fridays in March and April.

Science Night Wednesday evening March 21 7:00 pm
Back in January, 4th-6th grade students chose a topic to investigate, and with the help of scientist Cathy Szal, designed experiments to prove or disprove the initial hypothesis. No help from parents! Peer review is part of the process. Students will enthusiastically display their work at Science Night and be ready to explain it. Come see their work and ask questions! Everyone is welcome.

Monty Tech
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston Rep.
m-barclay@montytech.net

All Royalston students in middle school grades are encouraged to attend Monty Tech’s Open House Wednesday, March 14. The evening is designed to showcase what the school has to offer, and provides potential students with an overview of what would be expected in order to be eligible for one of Royalston’s two quota seats or unclaimed quota seats from other communities. An art exhibit will be held in the Performing Arts Center from 5-8 p.m.; the actual open house, with staff and students available to answer questions takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Monty Tech’s Veterinary Science program has begun, is fully-enrolled (22 students) and the construction completion phase of the program’s Training Center is underway! With $2.6 million in private donations and grants, and most of the labor provided by students and their instructors, from many of the building trades, this spectacular, state-of-the-art facility is already enhancing our students’ education at minimal cost to tax payers. Progress updates are posted on the Monty Tech web site; for a tour, call the school and set one up!

Monty Tech Freshmen (366 of them, seven from Royalston) have now settled into their shops. An impressive 94% of the freshmen placed in their first or second choice shops – 97% in the top three choices. The remaining three percent – a total of 10 students – placed in their fourth (4), fifth (4), and sixth (2) choices. Everyone was placed in one of the shops they elected.

Facilities Director Mike Gormley and the Monty Tech maintenance staff have been hard at work using disinfecting foggers which put out an organic, citric acid-based “fog” that kills a wide variety of bacteria, including influenza and noroviruses. There are regularly scheduled routes, but if a specific area is seeing a high rate of absenteeism, that area is targeted. It puts an area out of commission for less than 30 minutes, and leaves no odor or residue behind.

Progress on the New School Construction at 253 S. Royalston Rd at Camp Caravan
Sheetrocking is almost done, and interior painting has begun. Interior doors and wainscoting are being installed. The building is heated. Exterior siding is going up, it has a quaint village look. Saturday April 28 will be the next Open House at the new building. We start moving in July!
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.

Piglets: Call John 978-894-5109

Local poet Sharon Harmon’s newest autographed poetry chapbook, Wishbone in a Lightning Jar is for sale. $10.00. Call 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 $8.00 Cash preferred. Call Deb/Joe Nunes at 978-249-4000.

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

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

Mulch your garden - Fertilize by the load or by the bag from Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880, (413) 336-1263 or email suzannagaits@gmail.com

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


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**Garden Notes**  
*February 25, 2018*

The garden has one remaining month of inactivity. Just as well; for the past several days I have been afflicted (and bedded down) with ailments I suppose are generically referred to as the flu. Working in the garden, or anywhere else for that matter, is not high on my list of priorities. It is all I can do to put words down on paper for this month’s column. (Note the late by-line date above.)

Actually, in the past, a particularly warm March has inspired me to jump the gun with early plantings of peas and spinach. Rarely have I experienced success and I no longer engage in any gun-jumping. The same particularly warm March provides the opportunity to dig parsnips, which would be especially welcomed this year in light of the rapidly declining stores in the root cellar.

It’s been quite a winter, weather-wise. Snow. Then rain. Snow. Then rain. Snow. Then rain. (Last night it snowed. Today it is raining.) The ground, the roads, are saturated. February’s balmy stretch brought early-onset mud season, reducing speeds on Prospect Hill Road to five miles per hour. And this is but early-onset.

February temperatures, at least for the second half, were decidedly un-February like, but not totally unexpected. For those of you short of memory (I am one of you), much the same occurred last year, and records have been kept since 1850. The biggest impact, locally, is the sap run. Traditionally an early to mid-March event, the maples were tapped on the nineteenth, the same timing as the prior two years. Early runs were prodigious.

Late winter seems a desperate time for the animals who live all around us. Every day I watch the squirrels who scavenge underneath our birdfeeders. They spend hours sniffing along the ground, looking for dropped seeds that still hold kernels. Their behavior is entirely singular and focused. They never stop searching – nose to the ground, tail twitching. They pause long enough to eat a discovered morsel, then immediately resume the hunt. For several days I have watched one large squirrel dominate the cache just beneath the feeders that are suspended overhead. He guards the spot jealously, chasing away the smaller squirrels and even the blue jays. It seems that late winter hunger does not allow for sharing.

I imagine that, for these squirrels, every moment of every day is about finding food. I’ve read enough about squirrels to surmise that the females among them may already be carrying a brood. More hunger. Squirrels are famously acrobatic in their attempts to reach feeders, and ours are no exception. I have watched them scurry to the top of a blueberry bush, swinging precariously – often upside down – from the spindly top branches. They stretch their necks upward only to find that the feeders – full of seeds – are still out of reach. I’ve seen them tumble to the ground from such attempts, only to pick themselves up and continue the search. Late winter hunger is fearless.

Late winter hunger is a welcome one.

As I watched in the dim early light, my eye was caught by a lone grey squirrel. He was slowly making his way across one of the stone walls, looking as if he, too, had just woken up.

Perhaps it was the dimness of the morning light, or the fact that he was all on his own, out there in the stark late-winter. For whatever reason, this particular squirrel took on an immediate importance to me. Surrounded by tall, grey trees and stone walls that stretched into the distance, he looked small and vulnerable. I was suddenly aware that he must be hungry, and that he would likely spend all of this day looking for food.

A digression in regard to the ground and water. Number four son Joshua is having a well dug. Five hundred feet and nothing. Of course, to get to that levels the drillers had to pass through who-know-how-many-feet of ground water. We have a shallow, dug well. It rarely goes dry. Government has ordained that dug wells are now illegal. Way to go, government.

Late winter hunger is a welcome one.

I know that squirrels are often maligned. They are noisy, aggressive members of the woodland community. If they find a way into our walls, they are destructive, gnawing on wires and wreaking havoc with our stores of grain. However, on that morning as I watched a lone grey squirrel begin his day of scavenging, I felt a tenderness and concern that surprised me. His solitary setting-out transformed him from an indistinguishable member of a vast hoard into the squirell; that one individual, particular animal with a day of hard work ahead of him. I had all the advantages on this late winter morning, snug inside with a larder full of food and a kettle on the boil. As I turned to pour my tea, I silently wished my fellow early-riser - that squirrel - good luck and an abundance of seeds on this late winter day.

**Late Winter Hunger**  
*Deb D’Amico*

Just after dawn on a recent morning I found myself gazing out our kitchen window as the kettle boiled for tea. I could see that the snow had begun to recede from the base of the stone walls and small trees on the north side of our home. “There it is,” I thought. “Spring.” After the intense cold of this winter and the seemingly endless overnight deliveries of fresh snow, the thought of spring was a welcome one.

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**Yours in health.**  
*Larry Siegel*
The Royalston Community Newsletter is printed by:

Renovations R Us
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Wildlife Sightings
Signs of spring edition

The official spring equinox falls mid-March, but mid-February 2018 brought unmistakable signs that the sun’s rays are steadily creeping more directly toward the northern hemisphere. Portents included enough daylight to walk the dog after work, snow fleas, ringing sap buckets, the warmest Feb. 21st since records have been kept in Worcester county, pussy willows in bloom, pot holes, and the return of the red-winged blackbirds at the bottom of Frye Hill. The quiet presence of yellow spotted salamanders in my vernally wet basement is a gift of spring. Since we bought the house on NE Fitzwilliam Rd 23 years ago, there has been one chubby salamander, but this year, for the first time, there is a smaller more svelt companion. The salamanders get along with the family cat and will drink water from the same dish.

Cultural Council News:
Acts Needed for the Follies

This is our year for the Royalston Follies, scheduled for Saturday, April 28th, with rehearsal the night before. The Council needs 7-8 acts for this event to happen, and we need your VERBAL commitment by March 1st. Please reply to dwellsnunes@aol.com. If we don’t get enough acts, we will plan something else for that date.

Help Wanted Next Summer at Tully Campground

Looking for an overnight host at Tully Lake campground for 1-3 shifts a week (8pm-8am) with availability Thursday, Friday, or Saturday nights. Must be able to respond to emergencies, have CPR certification and be able to walk around at night. Anyone interested can please contact the campground manager Jessica Schanz at jschanz@thetrustees.org for more information.

Also, if anyone is interested in volunteering to lead any programs such as guided hikes, history talks, nature talks, etc..., please contact me as well.