May 1 Tuesday
9 am sharp The Village School will host an old-fashioned May Day Celebration with traditional songs and local musicians. Millers River Morris Men will appear, unable to contain themselves, and leap and pound the earth to drive out winter and awaken the earth. The public is invited. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies.

May 4 Friday
Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower in the pre-dawn hours. Look towards the southeast to see remnants from Halley’s Comet – about ten shooting stars per hour.

May 11 Friday
7 pm A-REF’s Father-Daughter Dessert Dance at Athol Community Elementary School. Tickets ($20 per couple) available at RCS and ARMS until May 9. (£25 at the door.) Money raised provides enrichment activities in our local public schools.

7 pm Annual Town Meeting at Royalston Community School. Have some say about where your tax money goes. Democracy in your own backyard. Civics 101.

May 13 Sunday Mother’s Day
10 am - noon Youth Fishing Derby Day at the Royalston F&G Club. Children through age 14 may participate. The $5 fee entitles the entrant to fishing, food, and fun! The cookout lunch includes a hot dog and the fixings, chips and a beverage. Burgers and beverages will be available for purchase. An array of cash and prizes will be awarded for tagged fish. (Adults may fish once prizes are awarded.) For more information, contact Ray Simula at 978-249-8746.

May 15 Tuesday
7:48 a.m. New Flower Moon
7:59 p.m. Ramadan begins

May 17 and 18 Thursday and Friday
7 pm Village School original play at Town Hall. Based on year-long study of the Middle Ages, the 4th-6th grade class wrote an original humorous script, which they perform in three acts. Free. Donations are accepted to defray production costs.

May 22 Tuesday
6:30 p.m. Celebrate the accomplishments and thank donors involved in the Common Restoration Committee, on the Common, of course. (In the event of rain, the event will move into Town Hall.)

May 28 Monday
Memorial Day observed – Post Office, library, schools all closed.
2 p.m. Memorial Day Exercises The Park, South Royalston
3 p.m. LBS Memorial Day Pot Luck Luncheon

May 29 Tuesday
10:20 a.m. Full Flower Moon

Save the date:
Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
June 2
Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults $7 Children $3 Organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup
Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Auction items include original paintings, handmade furniture, crafts, gift certificates, maple syrup, organic meat, and lots of interesting items from local farms and businesses. The list of items for the auction is posted at www.villageschoolma.org The auction and breakfast will benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan. (Over the years, this event has brought in nearly $100,000 for the new school!)
The program of events on the Common includes the Millers River Morris Men, a Birds of Prey Presentation, an espresso and citrus bar, beer tasting, yard sale, a cake walk for children, face painting, live music, and lots more.

8:30 - 11:30 Friends of the Library Plant Sale at the Post Office. Dig up a few plants and pot them for the library! Perennials, annuals, veggies, herbs, houseplants available. Sound gardening advice is part of the bargain.

9 - noon Friends of the Library Used Book Sale at the library
Select Board Notes
Christine Long, Chair
May 11, 7 p.m. at the Royalston Community School – when voters will gather for the 2018 annual town meeting.

At this writing, we can’t provide all of the specifics because the Select Board and the Finance Committee are both still working on their analyses and recommendations.

Thanks to the $540,000 of free cash we finally had certified, our Stabilization Fund is stronger than usual (though after town meeting will not be up to the recommended 10% of the operating budget) and our new Capital Stabilization Fund can pay for most of this year’s capital recommendations. But going forward, we face a challenge: We are not confident that our next free cash certification is sufficient to replace what we will likely recommend spending next week.

One unavoidable recommendation will be to pay for the 2017-2018 snow-and-ice overage out of the Stabilization Fund. That overage had reached $106,000 as of the end of March – but as you know, winter this year continued too long into April. We are recommending most of the capital purchases on the warrant, previously vetted by the Capital Planning Committee. All of them can be paid for through the Capital Stabilization Fund – paying for Year 2 of the dump truck approved last year, refurbishing two pumps in the sewer system, completing an electrical upgrade at the DPW facility, beginning a five-year lease-purchase of a new loader and a four-year lease-purchase of a new police SUV, and making the bridge loan payment on the repairs to the high school approved earlier.

One shock in the operating budget came from our FY19 assessment from Montachusett Regional Technical School: a whopping 40% increase, from $87,000 this year to $122,000 next year. We also hope to fund a limited number of new or expanded town initiatives which the Select Board recommends but are still under discussion by the FinCom.

Other spending recommendations do not affect the bottom line: using Community Preservation funds to continue restoration of the School House #1 Historical Society building, build a performance stage at Bullock Park, and restore the town clock.

Non-financial issues in the warrant include a recommended amendment to the Capital Planning bylaw, a proposal from the Board of Health to apply to the state Community Septic Management Program which provides loans to homeowners to upgrade their septic systems, and changing the name of Maple Cemetery to Stewart Cemetery to honor the family who donated a significant land to the cemetery.

Green Communities Now a Reality
Royalston this winter received splendid news: After many years of effort, we have been designated a Green Community by the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Resources and awarded a grant of $129,365.

That money will be go toward making the town more efficient, on two fronts: upgrading energy-use systems in our buildings and helping residents or builders do the same to their houses.

Each project we undertake must be approved by the state, and in our initial application, submitted last month, we applied for an upgrade to the lighting systems in most town buildings, establishment of a Community Assistance program, and grant administration. The purpose of the latter strand is to help us with future applications and with meeting the reporting requirements of the Green Communities program.

Those future applications will mean upgrades to the weatherization of our buildings (including such features as insulation and windows), to the heating systems in the buildings, and possibly of pumps serving the sewer system. The specific projects to be undertaken will be ruled by a comprehensive energy audit soon to be completed by Guardian Energy.

Once we have spent our initial grant money, we can apply for additional, competitive grants.

The town owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Energy Committee, which has worked so hard over so many years to make Green Communities a reality here – long-time members Donna Caisse and Bobbi Newman, former member James MacPhee, and newest member Richard Brown.

But the Energy Committee’s work is not done. Going forward, the Select Board will be seeking their help with that Community Assistance program, with finding a way to bring solar panels to the former landfill area and part of its abutting forest, and with researching our electricity supplier and other energy-saving initiatives.

For that reason, the Board would like to expand the Energy Committee from three to five members. If these kinds of projects excite you, please contact the office at 978-249-9641 or bos@royalston-ma.gov.

Board of Health Updates, Phil Leger, chair

Thanks Eugene Kolimaga for putting his name down for another three years on the RBOH. And thanks to the voters that went to the polls. Our basic civic duty in a democracy is to vote, attend town meetings, and participate in local government. We need new blood as some of the old blood are retiring. Thanks again to those that do.

Speaking of those that do, a big shout out to Charlie Scribner and Checkpoint Charlie’s annual (for 20 years) town clean up. This is the time of year when the snow melts -and at some point it will- -and we see what humans have left us on our roads. Bud Light is still on sale in NH and it remains the most popular roadside can this year. “Dilly, dilly” to you Budweiser. Plus, there is as assortment of cars parts and fast food junk. Dunkin Donuts are everywhere and so are their cups. Roadside trash is a people problem. Remember, if you throw trash in the back of your pick up truck, it blows out. This is littering- not recycling.

New RRATS windshield stickers will be available starting in May. New stickers are due on driver’s side windshields by July 1st. This fee helps offset the cost of transporting recyclables and keeps recycling free to you.

Flu season is still about believe it or not. Also, ticks love humans, so check when coming in from outside.
RoyalstonNet Town-wide Broadband Internet Update
Jon Hardie, Project Lead
There’s lots of progress to report on our town-owned highspeed wireless broadband network.
Review:
On July 19, 2017 We submitted a combined $1,400,000 Broadband Network Grant Application to EOHED (Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development). The $1.125 million EOHED grant, will be supplemented by a $275,000 bond as voted at town meeting, which will be paid back from network subscriber revenue.
On September 6, 2017 Gov. Baker announced the $1,125,000 Broadband Network Grant to the Town of Royalston.

Seven Months of Contract Negotiations Later …
March 30, 2018 Royalston Received the final EOHED State Contract for RoyalstonNet Wireless Broadband Network Project.
April 3rd, 2018 The Selectboard approved the contract between EOHED and Royalston. and it is signed by the SB chair.
April 9th, 2018 The EOHED CFO signed the contract. That triggered our promptly receiving our first grant payment. And, Royalston can also encumber design engineering and construction funds; and can also borrow its town meeting approved $275,000 share and hire our OPM (below).
RBBC (Royalston Broadband Committee) unanimously selected WG&E (Westfield Gas & Electric) as our OPM (Owners Project Manager). WG&E will manage, procure, and build, the Royalston-Net High Speed Wireless Project for the town, to our mutually agreed upon performance specifications, from the fiber middle mile to your living room.
WG&E will also hire, with RBBC review & approval, a Network Operator and Internet Service Provider, who will operate., maintain and support the network.
April 18th, 2018 Royalston was notified that the first $560,000 EOHED grant payment, was on its way to the Town of Royalston for Professional Services. This initial grant will enable us to pay for the Final Engineering Design and Network Make Ready. A large portion of that $560,000 will roll over into the construction grant. Next comes the Construction Grant funds’ portions and the Town’s portion.

All Systems Go! We have RoyalstonNet Project Launch

If you expect to be on the network, it is important that you pre-register, so we can plan accordingly. Over 350 families have already pre-registered and signed the tech easement agreement.

Note: Do not sign up for service yet. Pre-register and we will contact you as the network rolls out in your neighborhood, and then, you can then choose your service level.

Questions: You can call Jon on his cell at 978-790-8474

Capital Planning By-law: Proposed Changes
On the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting is a proposed new Capital Planning Committee bylaw. The new bylaw grew out of discussions of the Capital Plan Development Committee, with the idea of making the capital planning process easier and more effective. In order for community members to understand the new bylaw and its differences from the old one, the Capital Planning and Capital Plan Development Committees have put together this list of comparisons between the current bylaw and the proposed new one.

Current bylaw: Three-member committee, each member appointed for three-year term at one-year intervals, maintaining two experienced members on the committee at all times. Chair elected annually by a vote of the Committee.
Proposed bylaw: Five-member committee, with one member being Town Finance Director ex officio. The other four to be appointed at large, initially two of them to three-year terms, one for two years, and one for one year, then to three year terms thereafter, maintaining at least two experienced members. Chair and Secretary elected annually by vote of the Committee.

Current bylaw: Capital expenditures defined as material goods, projects, or other items costing at least $1,000.00, not purchased at less than five-year intervals except for computers and related equipment, and having a useful life of at least five years. Department heads will give the Committee information on how their requests fit into their plans for the next six years.
Proposed bylaw: Capital expenditures defined as material goods, projects, or other items costing at least $5,000.00, not purchased at less than five-year intervals, and having a useful life of at least five years. Department heads will give the Committee information on how their requests fit into the long-term Capital Improvement Plan over the next five years or advocate for changes in that plan in order to incorporate those requests.

Current bylaw: After consulting with department heads and other town officials, Capital Planning Committee makes recommendations for capital expenditures to Select Board. Select Board then decides what should go on the ATM warrant.
Proposed bylaw: Capital Planning Committee, after consulting with department heads and other town officials, presents a capital spending budget to the Select Board for the coming fiscal year, as well as any proposed changes to the current 10-year Capital Improvement Program. After consultation and any necessary negotiation, a capital budget approved by the Selectboard – spelled out so that voters know what it contains – will go as a whole on the warrant as the Capital Planning budget. This will replace individual capital spending items on the warrant.

Current bylaw: Capital expenditures, if adopted, permit spending for surveys, architectural or engineering advice, options, or appraisals, but these expenditures must be approved by the Town through town meeting.
Proposed bylaw: [Add] “Spending cannot fund preliminary planning for projects to be undertaken more than ten years in the future unless those projects have been included in an extension of the ten-year Capital Improvement Plan.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Jennifer Basso, 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!
Mary Hoag and the Bennetts
Anne Bedow

Friends of the Library Plant Sale and Book Sale will be June 2, 8:30 - 11:30. Plant a pot for the library or dig up and surplus plant or two to add to the selection of veggies, annuals, herbs, perennials and houseplants. Drop at the library the week before the sale or bring to the post office early June 2nd. All profits go back to the library and fund purchases and programs, including this newsletter. (Gardeners ourselves, we appreciate that these plant donations involve dirt under the nails and more than a few black fly bites. We are so grateful for your annual support!)

Come, browse from beautiful books, priced to move, under the tent at the library. 9- noon.

Royalston Shakespeare Company
Get ready for the Bard! It’s that time when local kids from ages 8 through 18 come together to put on an adaptation of one of Shakespeare’s plays in two weeks of intensive theater workshops. We are looking for those who want to act, do lighting, help with props and scenery, and participate in a wide variety of theater arts. Grace Belmont will again spearhead the program. Tentatively planned dates are:

June 23 Saturday 10 - 2 Shakespeare Intro Workshop/bag lunch picnic.
June 25 Monday 9-12  June 29 Friday 9-12
June 26 Tuesday 9-12 June 30 Saturday 9-12
June 27 Wednesday 9-12 July 2 Monday 9-12 Dress Rehearsal
June 28 Thursday 9-12 July 3 Tuesday Pizza Party, Play

...Get By with a Little Help from the Friends
We all know that the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library put together and publish this newsletter without town funds but did you know that they also fund all the programs not sponsored by the Cultural Council or Royalston Academy and supply all the refreshments and prizes for summer and winter reading programs and all other programs? They also volunteer untold numbers of hours in setting up, baking, running, and helping with all the programs. The community (and I) are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and beneficent group of volunteers supporting all aspects of the library and all those whose donations make these programs and newsletter possible.

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.

Spring at the library...
At the recent Kite Flying Day, participants ran about in the muck trying to get their kites aloft with mixed success. Adults untangled strings that had wrapped around kids’ feet. Then, everyone went inside the library to have strawberry cream cake, draw impressive maps from memory, and write poems. Ahh... spring!

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE
And snow IS ‘posed to be gone!!!!! Spring is awesome (summer too). I hope you have a awesome summer ... (and spring).  

SPRING
Ba-ba-baba - I see a woodpecker
Splash- I see a car plowing through a puddle
Then... I see a cardinal flapping its wings
Stashu Sawicki, grade 3

Artist Exhibit
Lorraine Casinginho will display a sampling of her paintings at the library during May and June.

Welcome to Our Newest Trustee
The Library Board of Trustees welcomed its newest member on Monday, April 23rd when Jen Basso assumed the role of our third trustee, replacing the retiring Clarence Rabideau, after her election earlier in the month. The trustees oversee all operations of the library, including the establishment and enforcement of policies, the budget, staffing, and all other aspects that go into the governing of the library. They ensure that we meet the criteria for certification and obtaining State Aid. They generally meet the fourth or last Monday of the month and people are welcome to attend the meetings.
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**
- Baldacci, David
  - The Fallen
- Box, C.J.
  - The Disappeared
- Brynard, Karin
  - Weeping Waters
- Clark, Mary Higgins
  - I’ve Got My Eyes on You
- Coulter, Catherine
  - The Sixth Day
- Crosley, Sloane
  - Look Alive Out There
- Cussler, Clive
  - The Rising Sea
- Deaver, Jeffrey
  - The Cutting Edge
- Frazier, Charles
  - Varina
- Graham, Heather
  - A Dangerous Game
- Jewell, Lisa
  - Then She was Gone
- Joyce, Rachel
  - The Music Shop
- Hayes-McCoy, F.
  - The Library at the Edge of the World
- Kerr, Philip
  - Let Me Lie
- MacKintosh, Clare
  - Glimpses
- Maberry, Jonathan
  - How to be Safe
- McAllister, Tom
  - American by Day
- Miller, Derek
  - Macbeth
- Nesbo, Jo
  - The First Family
- Palmer, Michael
  - Bob Honey who just do Stuff
- Penn, Sean
  - Alternate Side
- Rimmer, Kelly
  - Before I Let You Go
- Scalzi, John
  - Head On
- Scattoline, Lisa
  - After Anna
- Shepard, Sara
  - The Elizas
- Shipman, Viola
  - The Recipe Box
- Thayer, Nancy
  - A Nantucket Wedding
- Winspear, Jacqueline
  - To Die But Once: A Maisie Dobbs Novel
- Wolitzer, Meg
  - The Female Persuasion
- Woods, Stuart
  - Shoot First

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- America’s Test
  - The Perfect Cake
- Hinton, Anthony
  - The Sun Does Shine
- Howell, Izzie
  - Earth’s Resources Geo Facts
- Mullett-Bowlsby, S.
  - Complete Crochet Course

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Braun, Eric
  - Protest Movements
- Carter, Ally
  - Not if I Save You First
- Reynolds, Jason
  - For Every One

**Children’s Fiction**
- Applegate, Katherine
  - Sometimes You Fly
- Blackall, Sophie
  - Hello Lighthouse
- Driscoll, Laura
  - I Want to be a Doctor
- Gidwitz, Adam
  - The Creature of the Pines
- Kelly, Erin
  - Hello, Universe
- Kensky, Jessica
  - Rescue and Jessica
- Krulik, Nancy
  - Princess Pulverizer
- McDonald, Megan
  - Hamlet and Cheese
- Nicholson, Sue
  - Can you Tickle a Tiger’s Tummy?
- Pierce, Lincoln
  - Big Nate: Silent but Deadly
- Sharmat, Marjorie
  - Nate the Great and the Wandering Word
- Stanton, Beck
  - This Book is Red
- Wheeler, Lisa
  - People Don’t Bite People
- Wiesner, David
  - I Got It!
- Yolen, Jane
  - On Gull Beach

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Diehn, Andi
  - Forces
- Diehn, Andi
  - Energy
- Elliott, David
  - In the Past
- Glenn, Sharlee
  - Library on Wheels
- Kenney, Karen
  - Super Hummingbirds
- Romero, Libby
  - Wildflowers

**Audiobooks**
- Joyce, Rachel
  - The Music Shop
- Lescroart, John
  - Poison
- Stone, Nic
  - Dear Martin (YA)

**CDS**
- Disney
  - Coco Soundtrack
- Prine, John
  - The Tree of Forgiveness

**DVDs**
- Downsizing
- The Greatest Showman (DVD & Bluray)
- Outlander Season 3
- Pitch Perfect 3

Preschool Storytime

at the library

10 am each Monday

Stories, socializing, songs, snacks and crafts

Free

Call the library for more information
Historical Society News
The society’s recent pot luck supper was well-attended and delicious. It was followed by a very informative talk by Jon Richardson and Walt Thornton about the history of High View Farm/ Camp Caravan through its many incarnations from the 1700s to next fall when the Village School moves in.
There were many intriguing photos shown that most viewers had never seen before (although the flamboyantly dressed smokers in the bathroom at the Major’s Ball in the 70s looked a bit familiar.) The kindly presenters donated a vintage Camp Caravan sweatshirt and historical pamphlets to the society. Members of the Templeton Historical Society attended and donated “before, during and after” photos from the 1938 floods.

Members and residents are asked to consider giving some assistance at the museum as we get ready to open for the “warm” season. The first Saturday in May from 9 AM to 2 PM will be the opening. All are encouraged to come view the over 2000 items in the collection .... and if you see the front door open on any day leading up to the first Saturday in May, stop in and lend some elbow grease.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency
This has been a tough winter in terms of downed trees and limbs – probably one of the worst since winter 2008-9, after the infamous ice storm. The National Fire Prevention Association and StateFarmInsurance have teamed up to promote May as a time for “Wildfire Prevention.” May 5 is the big day when everyone is asked to join in preparedness activities that make communities safer for both the residents and firefighters. Before heat and drought strike this summer, please consider doing the following:
1. Raking and removing pine needles and dry leaves at least 3-5 feet from buildings
2. Collecting downed broken branches and chipping/hauling them away
3. Partnering with neighbors to hire someone to take down dying/dead trees and/or rent a chipper to reduce piles of branches/leaves
And ALWAYS, help your neighbors stay safe. Head to www.nfpa.org for additional Wildfire Prep Day information.

Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi’s Thank You for 20 Years of Egg Hunts
We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Royalston Egg Hunt by hunting for eggs on the Common! For me, this is a special occasion, marking not only 20 years of seeing the delight in the eyes of Royalston’s children as they discover eggs and mold chocolate candies, but also marking my final year of running the event. During this period of time, hundreds of children have participated in the egg hunt. And, with the passage of time, many have returned with their own children.

As I pass the torch to Sara Dilg, I want to thank her for working with me for the past three years. It is gratifying to know that the Royalston Egg Hunt will continue and that future generations will enjoy the hunt as well.

I would like to thank the many folks who have helped with all aspects of the egg hunt over the years: all volunteers and donors and especially this years’ helpers Hailey Dilg; Becky, Ashley, and Allison Hadmack; and Carol Boudreau as well as Gordon Morrison and Gail Oswald, who made possible the visit by the Easter Bunny. And thank you to my husband, Peter Gagliardi, for helping me in all aspects of the egg hunt for the past twelve years. Thanks also to the staff at the Phineas Newton Library, the Royalston Post Office, and the Royalston General Store for collecting donations for the egg hunt year after year.

As a parting contribution to the egg hunt, I plan to create a new sign for display on the Town Hall lawn announcing the hunt each year. I am also working with artist Gordon Morrison to create special photo-op back boards.

It has been great fun for twenty years. Thank you to the community for supporting this effort, making this possible.

Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi

Royalston Memorial Day Observance
May 28th at 2:00 pm in South Royalston
Come join the community honoring all those who gave all for the freedoms we enjoy each day. This year we will once again have performances by the ACES chorus, readings from local schoolchildren, and our parade to the cemeteries. Join the parade, listen to the bugle and musket firing. Stay for a bite to eat provided by the Ladies Benevolence Society.

Ladies’ Benevolent Society
Veterans are guests of honor at the pot luck luncheon immediately following Memorial Day exercises. Families are encouraged to attend and chat with some of our veterans and their families. Contributions of paper goods, sandwiches or covered dishes, chips, beverages, or condiments all are needed – please contact either Kristen West 978-249-5993 or Nancy Melbourne 978-249-8917.

Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show
It’s not too late to donate either items or certificates for goods and services for the Annual Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show, Sunday, June 3, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Cheshire Fair Grounds in Swanzey. The open show will have Performance, Versatility, Leadline, and Games Divisions for riders, and of course, there will be something for everyone with raffles, auctions, and food! Forms are available at www.massqha.com and additional information on Facebook. Check out the “Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show” Facebook page or contact brenput@yahoo.com or 978-249-7787. Karen Brooks is in charge of donations – baileybrooksfarm@msn.com or 978-297-2102.

Congregational Churches News
PLEASE COME JOIN US
First Congregational Church of Royalston (FCCR)
15 On the Common
Service starts – 11:00 with Pastor Tim Oja
Fellowship and luncheon will be served after service

Monday – 7:00 p.m. – worship with us in prayer
Thursday – 7:00 p.m. – women’s Bible study

Second Congregational Church of Royalston (SCCR)
3 School Street
Service starts at 9:00 a.m. with Pastor Tim Oja
Fellowship and refreshments are served after service

Activity held at church
Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Bible study with Pastor Tim Oja

Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Bible study with Pastor Tim Oja
Lindsey Angione and Kevin Nunes were married recently in Waltham, Mass.

Lindsey is a graduate of Holy Cross College and is pursuing a Master of Psychology degree.

Kevin will graduate in December from Framingham State University and start a Masters program in Accounting. Kevin served 10 years of active duty with the US Army, with deployments in Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan and is a member of the Massachusetts National Guard. He is the son of Deb and Joe Nunes.

Obituary — Phyllis A. (Buis) Clark, 82, of Royalston, our beloved mother has gone to heaven to be with her beloved husband William, her two sons Eugene and John and her dog, Bitzy.

Phyllis was born on January 4, 1936 in LaHabra, CA to the late Lester E. Buis and the late Creedis (Brant) Buis.

She grew up in California and Arkansas, settling in Royalston with her husband William to raise their family. Phyllis worked for many years delivering the Athol Daily News paper to local residents. She then went on to work at the L. S. Starrett Tool Company for 23 years in the milling room. After retiring, she and Bill moved to Florida and started Clark’s Mowing, which they cooperated until his death in 2012.

Phyllis enjoyed puzzle making with Simone at the Athol Senior Center. She volunteered at the Athol Adult Daycare facility and could be found on Wednesdays doing dishes at the Royalston Meal Site. She loved doing anything outdoors, and playing spider solitaire on the computer. She loved family parties and events. She was very proud of her grandchildren and took every opportunity to tell anyone and everyone how fortunate she was to have such a great family.

Phyllis is survived by two daughters: Nancy D. Melbourne and her husband James of Royalston, Laurie M. Deveneau and her husband Curtis of Royalston; one brother: Kay Buis of West Covina, CA; five grandchildren: William Deveneau and his wife Stefanie of Bennington, VT, Jameson Melbourne and his wife Bunny of Japan, Nathan Melbourne and his wife Stephanie of Bolton, Christopher Deveneau and his wife Catey of Royalston, Mieka Melbourne and her wife Lizz of Dracut; six great grandchildren: Colden Deveneau, Benjamin Deveneau, Nomidai Melbourne, Captain Melbourne, Emerson Melbourne, Dominic Melbourne; many nieces and nephews.

She was pre-deceased by her husband of 58 years: William H. Clark who passed away in 2012, two sons: Eugene Emerson Clark who died in 1980 and John W. Clark who passed in 1957.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 6, 2018. Burial followed in Lawrence Brook Cemetery.

Milestones

Liane Brandon is delighted that her early feminist films will be shown in London and New York this spring! They have been restored by the Women’s Film Preservation Fund and are included in three different series of films. SCREENINGS: UnionDocs, Brooklyn, NY: Betty Tells Her Story, April 22, with All Women Are Equal and The Women’s Film Anything You Want To Be, May 20, with Joe and Maxiehttps://uniondocs.org/event/2018-04-22-reexamine-reclaim-redefine-the-womans-film/


Barbican Centre, London Betty Tells Her Story, June 2, with other films Anything You Want To Be, June 2, with other filmshttps://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2018/series/artists-activists-second-wave-feminist-filmmakers

Congratulations to Wilfred C. and Virginia M. (Harris) Cloutier, who celebrate 70 years of marriage this May first. The couple was married May 1, 1948 in Orange, MA, and lived in Royalston until retiring to Sebring, FL in 1987. They have six children, ten grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Bill and Ginny owned Pete & Henry’s from 1972 to 1980, when their son John and his wife Terry (Battaini) Cloutier assumed ownership.

Wilfred C. and Virginia M. (Harris) Cloutier

Congratulations to Lindsey Angione and Kevin Nunes, who celebrate 70 years of marriage this May first. The couple was married May 1, 1948 in Orange, MA, and lived in Royalston until retiring to Sebring, FL in 1987. They have six children, ten grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

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Phyllis was born on January 4, 1936 in LaHabra, CA to the late Lester E. Buis and the late Creedis (Brant) Buis.

She grew up in California and Arkansas, settling in Royalston with her husband William to raise their family. Phyllis worked for many years delivering the Athol Daily News paper to local residents. She then went on to work at the L. S. Starrett Tool Company for 23 years in the milling room. After retiring, she and Bill moved to Florida and started Clark’s Mowing, which they cooperated until his death in 2012.

Phyllis enjoyed puzzle making with Simone at the Athol Senior Center. She volunteered at the Athol Adult Daycare facility and could be found on Wednesdays doing dishes at the Royalston Meal Site. She loved doing anything outdoors, and playing spider solitaire on the computer. She loved family parties and events. She was very proud of her grandchildren and took every opportunity to tell anyone and everyone how fortunate she was to have such a great family.

Phyllis is survived by two daughters: Nancy D. Melbourne and her husband James of Royalston, Laurie M. Deveneau and her husband Curtis of Royalston; one brother: Kay Buis of West Covina, CA; five grandchildren: William Deveneau and his wife Stefanie of Bennington, VT, Jameson Melbourne and his wife Bunny of Japan, Nathan Melbourne and his wife Stephanie of Bolton, Christopher Deveneau and his wife Catey of Royalston, Mieka Melbourne and her wife Lizz of Dracut; six great grandchildren: Colden Deveneau, Benjamin Deveneau, Nomidai Melbourne, Captain Melbourne, Emerson Melbourne, Dominic Melbourne; many nieces and nephews.

She was pre-deceased by her husband of 58 years: William H. Clark who passed away in 2012, two sons: Eugene Emerson Clark who died in 1980 and John W. Clark who passed in 1957.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 6, 2018. Burial followed in Lawrence Brook Cemetery.

Lian Brandon is delighted that her early feminist films will be shown in London and New York this spring! They have been restored by the Women’s Film Preservation Fund and are included in three different series of films. SCREENINGS: UnionDocs, Brooklyn, NY: Betty Tells Her Story, April 22, with All Women Are Equal and The Women’s Film Anything You Want To Be, May 20, with Joe and Maxiehttps://uniondocs.org/event/2018-04-22-reexamine-reclaim-redefine-the-womans-film/


Barbican Centre, London Betty Tells Her Story, June 2, with other films Anything You Want To Be, June 2, with other filmshttps://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2018/series/artists-activists-second-wave-feminist-filmmakers

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Celebrate Common Restoration

It started with an elm tree. In 2012 Royalston signed up for a program initiated by the Elm Research Institute of Keene, New Hampshire, which introduced a disease-resistant American elm and offers a memorial tree to communities. An elm would again grace the Common, as old photos reveal this iconic species doing in the past. Perhaps more could be done...

After hosting a well-attended brainstorming session, the Select Board later that year appointed a Common Restoration Committee to review the 1988 work of an earlier committee and to develop a new plan. Now, six years later, the committee is about to be disbanded, returning care of the Common to the Select Board.

The committee and the Select Board will host a brief ceremony at the memorial on Tuesday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the accomplishments and thank donors. (In the event of rain, the event will move into Town Hall.)

Probably the most significant accomplishment was the restoration of the World War II memorial in front of town hall, which had deteriorated badly since its donation in 1946. The decades since then also revealed a serious design flaw: The flagpole rising from within the memorial was causing it to crack. Thus the committee applied for and won Community Preservation funds to remove the flagpole and to restore the memorial itself. With the approval of the Historic District Commission, the flagpole was cut out and replaced with a ground installation, and the marble memorial and its surrounding apron were professionally cleaned of the white paint and other impurities that had accumulated over the years.

Removing the flagpole left the memorial with a flat top, and in 2016 the committee commissioned local sculptor Thomas Kellner to create a finial from a similar marble. A note on the color of the memorial: The nature of marble is to change color over time, and other changes came from that flagpole leaching into the base.

Other accomplishments of note:

- Creation of a white chip stone surround for the memorial, the plan developed by Patience Bundschuh, with a boxwood planted at each corner and two dedicated memorial benches funded by general donations.
- Removing a number of dead trees and the planting of nine native trees: the American Liberty elm, a swamp white oak and an American linden donated by residents, four white oaks donated by National Grid, and two hackberries purchased with general donations.
- Installation of four donated park benches on the Common and one in front of School House No. 1.
- Restoration of the cupola on town hall and the old fire station, projects put forward by the Department of Public Works and funded by Community Preservation.
- Installation of a replica weight box created by Pierre Humblet in front of a former store on the Common, with photos and historical notes on display within the box.
- Refurbishing the service roads lacing through the Common in keeping with their historic “feel.”
- A plaque acknowledging certain donations of time, money, and effort, to be hung in Town Hall.

Many thanks go to committee chair Clarence Rabideau and members Patience Bundschuh, Larry Siegel, Josh Doud and Christine Long for all their efforts. Please join us in celebrating our beautiful Town Common!

Community School Calendar

5/09 - First day of after school Garden Club, Wednesday 5/9 - 6/13/18 (class is full)
5/10 - K & Future’s Community Helpers Field Trip
5/11 - Grades 3 & 4 walk to Eagle Reserve w Mt. Grace
5/12 - Miller’s River Field Trip 8:45 - 2:00pm
5/13 - Grade 1 to Southwick Zoo
5/22 - Sign ups for the RCS Talent Show
5/23 - Grade 2 to the Ecotarium
5/28 - Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL

Monty Tech

Congrats to Team Teufelhunden, Monty Tech’s “Junior Varsity,” JROTC quintet, which recently took sixth place in the all-services division at the National CyberPatriot X finals. This young team, one of more than 5,500 entrants, survived a year of multiple qualifying rounds to make it into the finals in Baltimore. The U.S. Air Force Association organizes the annual National CyberPatriot cyber security competition, a part of their National Youth Cyber Education program. Part of Teufelhunden’s success may be Monty’ Tech’s commitment to not just the hardware required for technology, but the professional development necessary to incorporate technology into teaching. All staff and students now have school-issued Chromebooks, and teachers have undergone extensive tech training. The federal government’s E-Rate Funding - $187,377 in the past two years – has gone towards updating and improving the technology infrastructure.

What’s Happening at the Village School?

Right after April vacation, the classes fanned out and identified the local floral and fauna for Biodiversity Day. One class visited Lawrence Brook, a few classes went to the Camp Caravan pond, and the preschoolers explored the vernal pool near the school. The students also illustrated the written records of their discoveries. The students will plant a garden at Camp Caravan, in anticipation of harvesting there next fall.

The month starts with a traditional May Day celebration, May Pole and all, for which all the students have learned songs and dances. On May 17th & 18th the annual Village School original play is performed at the Town Hall, the culmination of 2 months’ intensive work by the 4th-6th grade, based on their year-long study of the Middle Ages.

We are all excited about moving into our new school building at Camp Caravan this July!

Openings for the next school year at the Village School

There are openings in preschool through 4th grade. Call to set up a visit as soon as possible.

You are invited to Open Visiting Mornings You can observe classes from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tour the school, talk to staff and meet with the Director. You can find out about Financial Aid and carpools too. Call 978 249 3505 to visit.
Classifieds


Help Wanted: part time yard work cutting grass and spreading lime, etc. I will pay $10.00 per hour. (You will be on call every week). This is not a full time job! 978-249-4596 Paul or Fran. In Royalston – must have a way to get to my home. Must be at least 16 years old and dependable.

Services Available:
Local teen looking for yard work or odd jobs this summer. 978 249-3158.

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.


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:
May 12 - Moving sale @ 163 NE Fitzwilliam Road, 10am – 3pm, rain or shine! Furniture, artwork, kitchenware and small appliances, lawn & garden tools & supplies, and shop tools. Everything must go, and no reasonable offer refused!

Pasture raised whole or half hogs. 2 left for a processing date in June. Fed grain, veggies from the valley, milk, baleage, and natural feed off pasture. $2/ lb hanging weight plus processing fees to Adams farm. Call Chet 978 249 2183. Also available spring piglets. Ready to go late May-June.

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 $55. 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.

Garden Notes

April 22, 2018

There was a time, an eternity ago, when the state of the weather had as little impact on my day-to-day life as the size of the soybean harvest in Brazil. Now, an eternity later, the state of the weather has everything to do with my day-to-day life. Let’s recap. Nobody, among us, harbored any notion that February’s balm was a precursor to a (very!) early end to winter and March’s return to normalcy was anticipated (and endured). But, by month’s end, after a handful of 50° days, I was cautiously optimistic. Taps were pulled, bulkhead opened, protective blankets removed from the doors. Bam. It was eleven days (three of which included snow) before we experienced 50 temperatures again. Three glorious days from the 12th to the 14th brought an end to winter. Except it didn’t. Another week of horrific, I-think-I’ll-stay-inside, weather, where I attended to the seedlings which are progressing at a snail’s pace. Actually, that does a disservice to the snail, whose pace probably exceeds that of the seedlings. Cold. Wind. Two more coverings of snow. Today? Today, will settle out into the 50s, with 60° readings forecast for tomorrow. If this isn’t the corner that is finally turned, I will scream.

I took advantage of the late March respite to commence what are always my initial garden activities, returning the ‘fencing’ and bed markers to their upright positions, re-creating the frame within which it falls upon me to fill in the details over the next six months. The alliums, bless’em, are the first to respond to moderating temperatures. The garlics were uncovered and I was not surprised to discover they had already begun growth. (They were compromised but not killed during the ensuing cold snap.) Chives and scallions were cleaned up. And the season had begun.

But, as alluded to, it had not really begun; it was a week and a half before I returned to the tasks at hand, addressing the rhubarb and asparagus and parsnips, our first spring crops, and putting the final touches on the pea and spinach beds, in preparation for imminent planting. (They remain unplanted.) Yard work, the bane of my existence, filled out the days. I am in awe of the quantity of twigs which remove themselves from the trees during the winter, each of which require bending over, picking up, and re-locating. (I establish separate compost piles for twigs and such. Leaves break down in a year or two; twigs may endure as twigs for many years but breakdown they will.)

A Tale of Two Gardeners… I was as proud as a peacock having discovered that six lettuce and spinach plants had survived the winter. My strut came to a halt entering Maureen Blasco’s greenhouse and discovering a mass of green. She planted in late October, they germinated, began growth, and barely survived January’s cold. It turns out they were merely biding their time; by late February, Maureen was harvesting. She is still harvesting. Steve Robinson has been gardening in Royalston since he was a teenager. He decided to roll the dice and plant his peas in late March. Like Maureen’s lettuce and spinach, they germinated and began growth. Unlike Maureen’s they did not survive. It was not a good roll. The ups, and downs, of this gardening life.

Larry Siegel

In Search of Spring Peepers

Spring here in Royalston is cold, wet, and late. Mid-April saw our fields covered in an inch of snow that lingered for days in temperatures that hovered just above freezing. So, the spring peepers have not arrived. At dusk when I step out our back door and listen for their call from the woods behind our house, I hear nothing but the wind. I am told that these tiny frogs wait for a good soaking rain with the temperature above 45° before they emerge. They must be baffled by our spring.

I don’t know when I first heard the peepers’ call, but I believe that listening for it came from spring evenings at the edges of fields and woods when I was very young. Our mother loved the sound of peepers as well, so I lay this fascination at her feet. I remember long drives in New Hampshire’s cool April dusks, our mother at the wheel, seeking out ponds where the peepers were calling. She would pull to the side of the road, roll down the windows, and we would listen in silence. I remember a scenic overlook near our home where the valley floor dropped away to the west for miles and miles. We could stand at the edge of that overlook and hear the peepers in the valley below. There must have been thousands. Sometimes we marveled at how far their call could travel. Mostly we just listened in rapt silence.

Initially a passenger in the back seat with my siblings, I graduated to the front seat when my siblings’ interest waned. Then it was just my mother and me, and our drives became a cherished ritual. Years passed but our shared interest never wavered. On my spring visits home from college, my mother and I would leave the dinner dishes to their fate, and we would drive. On the way home, we would pull to the side of the road, roll down the windows, and we would listen in silence. I remember a scenic overlook near our home where the valley floor dropped away to the west for miles and miles. We could stand at the edge of that overlook and hear the peepers in the valley below. There must have been thousands. Sometimes we marveled at how far their call could travel. Mostly we just listened in rapt silence.

Those long rides created a space for us where time stood still. We talked freely of local gossip and personal news, finally finding our way to family stories and deeply-held beliefs and dreams. When our mother moved into a small apartment in a development for seniors, she was delighted to hear peepers from her back door. In her waning years, one of her great pleasures was to take a ride to find the peepers. Her stamina was diminished, so we did not cover as much ground geographically. But our conversations ranged far and wide. Even so, as time passed and the spring days grew longer I could see that time with my mother was waning. She knew it, too, so our conversations often included her hopes for us after she was gone.

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Wildlife Sightings: Happy for Harbingers

Thank goodness for the **birds**, who puffed out their chests and sang away all April despite the despiriting temperatures. Tom turkeys were in full display, posing for hens all over town.

**Lichens and moss** on stone walls (and roofs) also deserve a shout out for their deep vibrancy and reassurance that rampant green growth may eventually return.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01368

Royalston Resident
Star Route 80
Royalston MA 01368

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**ROYALSTON CEMETERY COMMISSION**

With Memorial Day fast approaching, please take “Planting and Adornment” rules into consideration when decorating graves: No trees may be planted, and shrubs only with prior consent of the Cemetery Commission. In-ground flowers may be planted no more than one foot in front of the lot monument. Planters should be heavy enough they will not be moved by wind; wire and stakes used to secure planters can be dangerous to those maintaining cemetery grounds. The Commission reserves the right to remove any adornments on graves deemed inappropriate or hazardous to visitors or groundskeepers. If you note broken or absent veteran markers, please contact Roland G. Hamel at 978-249-4587.

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**Got a Business?**

**Part of a Group that could use some more members?**

**Submit your information to the newsletter**

The Friends of the Library are working on an updated Town Directory, (the Town “Yellow Pages”), which will list everyone serving on a town board and contact information. There is also a short business section. If you have a business in town that you would like listed, please send the name, phone number and other contact information for the business.

The newsletter is also working on a flyer listing groups in town that need more members. If you would like to publicize your group, please write 2 - 3 sentences telling the name of the group, what it does, when it meets, and other pertinent information.