Calendar of Events

June 2    Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
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.  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.

Program of events on the Common includes the Millers River Morris Men, Birds of Prey, an espresso and citrus bar, beer tasting, yard sale, a cake walk, face painting, live music, and lots more.

8:30 - 11:30  Friends of the Library Plant Sale at the Post Office.  Perennials, annuals, veggies, herbs, native and medicinal plants, and houseplants available.  Sound gardening advice is part of the bargain.

9 - noon  Friends of the Library Used Book Sale at the library

June 5    Tuesday  World Environment Day

June 7    Thursday  Village School’s last day of classes (11:30 am pot luck)

June 13    Wednesday  3:43 p.m.  New Strawberry Moon

June 14    Thursday  Flag Day

June 17    Sunday  Father’s Day 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Antique & Classic Auto Meet at Monty Tech

June 20    Wednesday  Monty Tech’s last day of school

June 21    Thursday  6:07 a.m.  Summer Solstice  ARRSD’s last day of school

June 23    Saturday  10 am - 2 pm  Royalston Shakespeare Company’s 2018 theater workshop begins.  Performance July 3 at 7 pm.

7:30 pm  Outdoor movie at the library, Shrek

June 27    Wednesday  7 pm  “It Takes a Village” LBS meeting.  Program with Rise Richardson about the history of the school. Meeting held at the new campus.  All welcome.

June 28    Thursday  12:53 a.m.  Full Strawberry Moon

July 2    Monday  10 am  Libraries Rock Preschool Summer Programs begin and continue most Mondays in July. Today,  sing and create a small wind instrument with Diana Shomstein in the library garden.

July 3    Tuesday  Dog Days of Summer begin

July 4    Wednesday  Independence Day

July 6    Friday  Earth at Aphelion the farthest the sun will be from the earth this year, at approximately 94,507,885 miles.

July 8    Sunday  noon to 5 pm.  MusicFest 2018, featuring a headliner band, Mamma’s Marmalade, at 4 pm, preceded by six local musical acts. Burgers, beer, MusicFest 2018 t-shirts, ice cream, watermelon, pound cake, and popcorn. Reptile petting zoo, kids games, badminton, raffles, face painting, and fortune telling. Vendor space is available for $10.00. Please contact Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000 if you wish to rent space.

July 12    Thursday  1:30 pm  Springfield Symphony Orchestra Petting Zoo- at the Town Hall kicks off the Summer Reading Program for all ages. Continues Thursdays at 1:30 for 4 weeks.

10:48 p.m.  New Buck Moon

July 20    Friday  7 p.m.  Historical Society Meets in the museum.  All welcome.
Select Board Notes
by Deborah D’Amico, Select Board Clerk

Our Annual Town Meeting took place on Friday, May 11 at the Royalston Community School. Before the meeting began, Select Board Chair Christine Long acknowledged the receipt of the town’s Green Communities Grant money in the amount of $129,365. This is a welcome addition to the town’s resources and will enable us to pursue projects that will reduce our energy consumption, including small grants to homeowners who wish to make their homes more energy efficient.

Town Moderator George Northrup began the meeting with a formal proclamation in honor of retired Select Board member Linda Alger, declaring May 11, 2018 as “Linda Alger Day.” Linda has devoted over 18 years in service to the town through her tenure on the Select Board and other groups and will continue to work on various committees. Her tireless commitment to the town has inspired many of us to step up and do our part.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to voice opinions and vote on over 30 articles which addressed how the town will spend taxpayers’ money. They approved a budget of $2,195,300 to fund such town services as police and fire, the Department of Public Works, the Health Department, public education, and general government. Other spending decisions included these:

- Purchase of a new loader and an electrical upgrade for the DPW and a new utility vehicle for the Police Department
- Approval of Community Preservation Funds to continue work on the restoration of Schoolhouse #1, the construction of a performance stage at Bullock Park, and the restoration of the Town Clock on the First Congregational Church on Royalston Common
- Repairs to two pumps for the South Royalston sewer system and the brick work at the library

The Select Board urges all residents to read the “FY19 Spending Analysis” included in this newsletter. Approved unanimously by both the Select Board and the Finance Committee, it describes both changes and challenges in the coming year.

Voters acted on several articles that did not involve spending money. They included the following:

- Accepting a gift of a temporary easement on privately-owned land on North Fitzwilliam Road, allowing for the reconstruction of the bridge over Lawrence Brook
- Renaming Maple Cemetery to “Stewart Maple Cemetery” to acknowledge a substantial donation of land from the Stewart family
- Changing the town’s by-laws to allow the Capital Planning process to better meet the financial needs of the town
- Accepting a state program that will allow the Board of Health to offer loans to residents seeking to upgrade their septic systems

Royalston’s population of under 6,000 requires us to conduct the town’s business through an Open Town Meeting. This is a great advantage. It provides every registered voter with the opportunity to have a direct say in how we spend our taxes. However, of the town’s 888 registered voters, only 34 voters were present to make decisions on our behalf – a terribly disappointing turn-out. When the business of the meeting was over, Moderator George Northrup expressed his concern, and asked those present to comment on what might be done to increase participation. Voters had lots of good ideas, which included changing the day from a Friday evening, providing child care, and holding a pot luck supper before the meeting. The Select Board will be considering these suggestions, and more, in the coming months. We are committed to increasing both interest and participation in the business of our town.
**Board of Health News**  
*Phil Leger*

Some important changes are coming to recycling. Several events, one worldwide and the other regional, will prompt some changes to our recycling collection program. The first is regional and will start fairly soon. A major glass company in Massachusetts is no longer accepting glass containers. So, starting July 1st, we will continue to accept glass, but will have to deposit in a separate container. Glass should not be broken, and we will only take container glass such as beverage and food. Please, no light bulbs, no drinking glasses, ceramic, window glass, and/or other non-beverage containers. Glass because it is heavy costs more to truck and the market for its use, especially if it’s broken, is limited. We will have signage to indicate where to put glass coming soon. Stay tuned.

The other change involves China. Many don’t realize that the major market for our recyclable material is China, where our recyclables are taken and made into stuff to sell back to us. The Chinese government has recently tightened the amount of waste, such as plastic bags (there they are again), that can be in these materials. This has sent shock waves across the recycling commodities market worldwide. So, what does that mean to us. YOU CAN’T MAKE PAPER OUT OF PLASTIC! Yep, there it is. PLEASE, PLEASE, and PLEASE AGAIN! No plastic, styrofoam, plastic ties, non paper items in the paper roll off.

Also, we may have to only accept #1 and #2 plastic come July 1st. That’s the soda and milk containers. This is also because the market for the other #’s is being restricted. We will have signage on this once we know exactly what will be accepted. There is no magic to recycling. If you give them junk, it’s still junk. If you don’t buy recyclable content products, there is no market. Close the loop, buy recycled content products.

A reminder that new windshield stickers are due July 1st. Fifteen dollars($15) for first, and five dollars($5) for next vehicle in same household. See attendant to purchase. This fee helps keep recycling free to you. It helps offset the trucking cost. Thank you to those that do!!! Remember, recyclables that blow out of your truck on the way to RRATS is litter - not recycling.

Ticks, ticks, and more ticks!! Need we say more? Black flies will be gone soon, but mosquitoes are out to take their place. Remember to hydrate when doing outside activities and use sunblock as needed.

Have a great fun summer. See you in the fall.

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**Royalston Cemetery Commision**

Cemetery visitations increase during the summer months. If you’re concerned about conditions that may cause damage, find damaged head stones, or notice broken/absent veteran markers, please contact Roland G. Hamel at 978-249-4587. If you suspect someone is in the act of damaging headstones or removing markers, dial 9-1-1. 

**From the offices of the Select Board and the Town Clerk:**

Are you interested in serving in your community? There are a few town committees – both elected and appointed – that have vacancies and could use your help! Please contact the Select Board at bos@royalston-ma.gov, the Administrative Assistant at Melanie. Mangum@royalston-ma.gov (she’s also the Town Clerk) – and in the case of an elected board’s vacancy, you will also be referred to that board’s chairperson for more information on appointment. Please note that elected boards require you to be a registered voter in Royalston to serve and run for election. The following is a list of those committees with official vacancies; however, most appointed committees in town could use additional help and would welcome new members!

**Appointed Board vacancies:**

- Memorial Day Committee – 1 vacancy
- Historic District Commission – 3 alternate member positions vacant
- Open Space Committee – 3 vacancies

**Elected Board vacancies:**

- Board of Public Welfare – 1 vacancy
- Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund – 2 vacancies, terms are 1 year each.
- Planning Board – 1 vacancy to fill a remaining term (terms are normally 5 years)

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**The Royalston Agricultural Committee** reminds readers that it will be organizing the judging of vegetables and flowers at the Country Fair on the Common on September 15. Plant accordingly!
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!
Shadow
Sara, Hailey, and Michael Dilg
Elizabeth and Clarence Rabideau
Pat and Jim Kelley
The Village School
Frances and Paul Dias
Gerald Marcantio and Rob Jalbert
Virginia Gingras
Walt Thornton and Nanji Davison
Donald and Marlene Jarvenpaa
Gordon Morrison
Bill and Kim Manser
Caroly Shumway
Liane Brandon
Boyd Estus
Walt and Joyce Hubbard
Shirley Anderson
James and Connie Worcester
Barbara and James Richardson
Alyce Mayo
In Memory of Werner Bundschuh: Institute for Cultural Exchange and Chris and Emily Santillo

Thank you
Allen Young for an entertaining and enlightening program and for donating a portion of the proceeds from his book sales.

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.

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 26 Tuesday 9-12
June 27 Wednesday 9-12
June 28 Thursday 9-12
June 29 Friday 9-12
June 30 Saturday 9-12
July 2 Monday 9-12 Dress Rehearsal
July 3 Tuesday Pizza Party, Play

Summer Movie Theater
This year we purchased a license that allows us to show movies and we are going to be having three outdoor (weather permitting – Town Hall if it’s raining) movies. Check out the poster for more information. Enjoy popcorn and community comradery.

Friends of the Library Plant Sale and Book Sale will be June 2 8:30 - 11:30. Browse the selection of veggies, annuals, herbs, perennials, medicinal plants, native plants, shrubs, and houseplants. Included in the bounty will be tomatoes, basil, bleeding hearts, begonias, peppers, parsley, rhubarb, roses, strawberries, raspberries, leeks, lilacs, lilies, zinnias, marigolds, mayapples, sage, tarragon, bloodroot, iris, bee balm, fancy hostas, hollyhocks and so much more. Kind donors can drop at the library the week before the sale or bring plants 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 beautiful books, priced to move, under the tent at the library. 9- noon.

Free Dance Workshop
For the third year, Tayiah Neale and Brittney Brown will be offering dance classes during the last week of July and first week of August. The first week will be for individual lessons to create a dance to perform at the Friday performance, and the second week will be group lessons where the basics will be taught and a group dance created to be performed at noon on Friday. Classes will be held each day the first week from 9 to noon except Wednesday which will be 9 to 11 and there will be individual times for each participant. The second week, the classes will be 10 to noon except Wednesday, which will be 9 to 11. Both Tayiah and Brittney have been dancing for over 10 years in a variety of styles. They have won several competitions and enjoy teaching others to dance. The program is free and sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. Registration forms are available at the library.
Some of the new materials at your library

**Children’s Fiction**
- Hall, Kristen *The Honeybee*
- Kerascoet *Walk with Vanessa*
- McDonald, Megan *Not-So-Lucky Lefty*
- Miller, Pat *Be Kind*
- Reynolds, Aaron *Dude!*
- Watson, Tom *Stick Dog Crashes a Party*
- Wenzel, Brendan *Hello Hello*
- Yeomans, Ellen *The Other Ducks*

**Adult Fiction**
- Barnes, Julian *The Only Story*
- Brandon, Jay *Against the Law*
- Griffiths, Elly *The Dark Angel*
- Johansen, Iris *Shattered Mirror*
- McCarthy, Rob *A Handful of Ashes*
- Mayes, Frances *Women in Sunlight*
- Miller, Madeline *Circe*
- Moore, Christopher *Noir*
- Patterson, James *The 17th Suspect*
- Powers, Richard *The Overstory*
- Sandford, John *Twisted Prey*
- Sittenfeld, Curtis *You Think It, I’ll Say It*
- Steel, Danielle *Accidental Heroes*
- Trevor, William *Last Stories*
- Wagamese, Richard *Indian Horse*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Albright, Madeleine *Fascism*
- Berry, Wendell *The World-Ending Fire*
- Brooks, Lisa *Our Beloved Kin*
- Comey, James *A Higher Loyalty*
- Ehrenreich, Barbara *Natural Causes*
- Eizenstat, Stuart *President Carter*
- McNamara, Michelle *I’ll Be Gone in the Dark*
- Pollan, Michael *How to Change Your Mind*
- Winchester, Simon *The Perfectionists*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Hunter, Erin *River of Fire*
- Riordan, Rick *The Burning Maze*

**Summer Reading Lists** – The library will have copies of the summer reading lists for all area schools and books to borrow.

**Metcalf/Small Genealogy Donated to the Library**
Several years ago, a man walked into the library and said he had an unusual question. He produced a photograph and asked if I knew where the house in the 1904 photo was located. I told him it was on Prospect Hill and the woman in the photo was Edith Metcalf. He was rather surprised and then I told him I lived in that house. He perused the town histories and then I took him home to visit the house during the dinner break. He made copies of the photos he had brought with him for us, thanked us for allowing him to look around at his relative’s former home, and left to view the oldest house in Royalston, the first house on Falls Road, and built by his first ancestor in town, Peletiah Metcalf. Two weeks ago, Peter Small came to the library again, this time with a donation of his book: *The Metcalf and Small Families: Some Descendants of Metcalf of Dedham, Massachusetts and Edward Small of Kittery, Maine.* It is of historical interest not only for the history of this family but also through real estate and land transactions and the marriage and business dealings with other prominent Royalston families in the late 1700s through the early 1900s.

Free Giveaway: **Photocopy machine**
**Copystar GS1820**
Call the library: 978-249-3572
*If multiple people are interested, we will have a drawing to select a winner.*

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**Preschool Storytime**
_at the library_
10 am each Monday
Stories, socializing, songs, snacks and crafts Free

Call the library for more information
Historical Society 75th Anniversary
This is the 75th anniversary of the Royalston Historical Society marking the work started by residents who began the society to rescue the deteriorating school building at the head of the Common and then went on to build a collection of records and artifacts documenting the history of our town.

This project continues today. Plans in the near future for the building include updating the electrical system, cataloging and organizing the collection and perhaps setting up some online tours. The historical society is a friendly, relaxed group and new members are sought. All meetings and events are open to everyone.

Join the celebration this summer!
Pierre Humblet has been restoring the bell in the museum’s cupola and it is should be ready to ring in the anniversary at some of these upcoming events.

The museum in Old School House #1 will be open for drop-in visits most Saturdays from 10 a.m. - noon. To mark the moving of the Village School to Camp Caravan, the society will highlight the camp’s tradition of “Christmas in July” with an exhibition of historical toys and holiday artifacts, including President Peter Kramarić’s toy train collection.

Night at the Museum: The quarterly meeting will be held in Old School House #1 on July 20 at 7 p.m. Come for didactic discussion and delicious desserts as well as a night time tour.

On September 9 at 2 p.m., we will be putting the “society” into the Historical Society at a tea party on the lawn of “The Columns”, the former home of Katherine Cole, one of the founders of the Society. For many years, Mrs. Cole threw annual bashes for all townspeople in this spot. Royalstonians of a certain age remember the elephant rides and live brass bands well. Step into the tradition. Put on your showiest hat and come out for elegant refreshments and live music.

During the Royalston Country Fair on September 15, the museum will be open with its toy trains humming and bell ringing. Guided tours of the Common will be offered.

Congregational Churches News
PLEASE COME JOIN US
First Congregational Church of Royalston (FCCR)
15 On the Common
Services start at 11:00 with Pastor Tim Oja
Fellowship and refreshments served after service.

Activities held at 3 On the Common
Monday – 7:00 p.m. Worship with us in prayer
Thursday – 7:00 p.m. Woman’s Bible study

Ladies’ Benevolent Society
The Ladies’ Benevolent Society meets Wed., June 27, 7 p.m. at the new Village School building for a history and tour; the LBS has naming rights to the foyer. There is no July meeting. August 31, 4 p.m., is the annual Summer Splash, hosted by Beth Gospodarek, with a 5 p.m. pot luck. For additional information, Contact President Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807, lmdeveneau@msn.com, or Secretary Pat Worth at 978-249-2722, greenfyre1@gmail.com

Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show
Stop by the Sixth Annual Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show, Sunday, June 3, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Cheshire Fair Grounds in Swanzey, NH. In addition to the expected horse shows, enjoy raffles, auctions, and food! Check out the “Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show” Facebook page or contact brenput@yahoo.com or 978-249-7787.

Royalston Fish and Game
Support your local Fish & Game and enjoy 3D Archery League on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., through August 7th. Also on Tuesdays, through August 28th, is Luck of the Draw Partners Horseshoes at 6 p.m. TRAP Shooting, open to all, is on Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

The Royalston Fish & Game Club, on Route 68 just past the Phillipston town line, has a beautifully groomed facility that includes a club house, function hall with complete kitchen, dining pavilion, covered barbecue area, firing and archery ranges, horseshoe pit, well-groomed ball field with back stop, and a fishing pond.

Club members open their club for a number of public events, including the Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby each Mother’s Day. Memberships are $50 and available at the Club and the Royalston General Store. Call RF&G at 978-249-3004

Second Congregational Church of Royalston
3 School Street
Services start at 9:00 a.m. with Pastor Tim Oja
Fellowship and refreshments served after service.

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

MARION’S FOOD PANTRY
This food pantry is to reach out to our community. If there’s anyone in need or knows of anyone in need, please contact Debbie Conrad – 978-895-3505.
MAY GOD BLESS OUR COMMUNITY WITH LOVE, PEACE, AND JOY.
Congratulations Graduates
Mount Wachusett Community College
Colleen Demboske, Heidi Warren, Michael Young, and Wendy Kallel

Congratulations to Alexis Javier on her BA degree in chemistry cum laude from East Stroudsburg University. Alexis is enrolled in dual colleges and presently just completed her first year of Pharmacy School at Wilkes University.

Congratulations to Isabelle O’Connor on her graduation from Oakmont High School and acceptance into University College Dublin, Ireland where she will study Law and Politics. We want to thank the LBS for the scholarship, her teachers at RCS and all who supported her and inspired her to follow her dreams through the years. Friends are welcome to stop by and wish Isabelle goodbye and good luck. We will be having her going away/graduation party at home on August 11th. Please call 978 618 4950 for further details.

In her Freshman year at Keene State College, Marnie Anair has accomplished a variety of things. Both semesters she was on the Dean’s List, and was hired to be a Resident Assistant for the 2018-2019 school year. Marnie has also served as her class Secretary, and was re-elected to the position for the upcoming school year. Finally, Marnie was inducted to the Phi Psi chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon at the end of March. Overall this was an amazing year for her, and she is very excited for what is to come in her Sophomore year!”

Tully Campground- Fun right here

Boat Rentals (Canoe, Kayak, and Paddle-board) $25 for 2 hour, $40 for 4 hours, $60 a day.

Bike rentals $20 a day.

Twilight Paddle Saturday and Sundays in June 5pm -8 pm $20 members, $26 non-members.

After Work Paddle: Monday -Thursday 3pm - 8 pm $12 members, $21 non-member.

June 28th Join us for a full moon paddle on Tully Lake. 7:30pm -10pm. $24 a boat for members, $30 a boat for non-members.

Not a Trustees member? Sign up at Tully Lake Campground and receive a free 4 hour boat rental and free bag of Deans Beans Coffee!

Owl Prowl Night Walk Saturday June 30, Saturday July 7, $5 for adult member, $2 child member, $10 adult non-member, $5 child non-member. 8:15pm - 9:30 pm Join us for a fun evening of exploring a wooded trail as darkness settles and our nocturnal wildlife friends are waking up! We will walk without flashlights for as long as we can, and call for owls. Please dress in layers, bring a flashlight with a red light or red cloth cover, insect repellent, water and a light snack.

Tuesday July 3rd 12pm-4pm Join us and the Caterpillar Lab From Keene, NH Exploring the wonderful world of Caterpillars. The program ends with a caterpillar hike at 3pm. Member pricing $9 adult, $6 child, $24 family. Non-Member pricing $15 adult, $10 child, $30 Family.
Community School Calendar

- 01 - 9:00 - 10:00 Fire/Crisis Evacuation Drill/Crisis Team & School (Walking to gathering location)
- 03 - Athol High School Graduation
- 04 - 1:00 Superintendent Visit
- 05 - 10:00 - 11:30 Staff Focus Group w Supt. Fernandes
- 06 - 9:00 - 2:30 Grades 3 & 4 to Mt. Grace
- 06 - 3:00 - 4:15 - Block Ed - after school program, last class
- 06 - 3:00 - 4:15 - Garden Club - after school program
- 08 - Grades 3 & 4 walk to Eagle Reserve
- 08 - Grades 5 & 6 Boston Field Trip
- 11 - 6:00 - 7:00 Kindergarten Celebration
- 11 - 8:00 - Superintendent Visit
- 12 - 9:00 - Kindergarten DARE Program w Officer Sherry Miner
- 13 - 10:30 - Kindergarten Field Trip to Davis Farmland
- 13 - 3:00 - 4:15 - Garden Club - after school program, last class
- 13 - RAIN DATE FOR 6/6 FT TO MT. GRACE
- 14 - 6:00 - Spring Concert
- 15 - FIELD DAY
- 18 - 6:00 - Grade Six Completion Ceremony
- 19 - Principal's Barbecue w Grade 6
- 19 - ARMS GRADE 8 STEP-UP CEREMONY
- 20 - 9:00 - Grade 6 Field Trip to Harvard Forest
- 20 - 6:30 - School Committee Meeting
- 21 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!  1/2 DAY, LUNCH SERVED

8 29 - First day of school
8/31 - NO SCHOOL
9/03 - LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL
9/19 - NO SCHOOL, Professional Development

Royalston residents who missed Allen Young’s well-attended reading in Royalston from his new book, “Left, Gay & Green: A Writer’s Life,” are welcome to attend a similar event taking place in the Warwick Public Library on Thursday June 7 at 7 p.m. The book is now in the collection of the P.S. Newton Library, and copies can be purchased on amazon.com and at Haley’s in Athol.

Village School News

Openings in the Village School for Fall 2018 in the new building at Camp Caravan

There are openings in preschool, kindergarten and grades 1-4. Call the school for more information asap.

What’s happening:

Congratulations to the 4th-6th graders on writing and performing an engaging and delightful play, The Perils of Power, at the Royalston Town Hall. The video will be shown on AOTV. The K-1 is climbing Tully Mtn. The 2nd-3rd class spends a day at the Pequot Museum. Classes continue to work at Sweetwater Farm. The K-1 and 2nd-3rd graders finish the year with a Theme Share Celebration, including singing, playing recorder and sharing their writing. On Wednesday June 6, the 4th-6th grade class shares their artwork portfolios at 6:15, followed by graduation at 7:00 p.m.

Our vision has come to life - WE MOVE INTO OUR NEW HOME IN LATE JULY!! Our big moving weekend is July 28 & 29th- bring your truck and/or your muscles and join in this historic event!

Monty Tech Updates

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

Monty Tech will again host the Mid-State Antique Auto Club Antique & Classic Auto Meet Sunday, June 17, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (rain date-June 24th). This 39th annual Father’s Day event features a huge car show, aisles of auto parts, memorabilia, and other vendors, goodie bags, dash plaques, and attendance prizes all day long. Go to www.midstateaac.org or call Dave 978-423-8878 or John 508-829-5516 for details.

Monty Tech’s School of Continuing Education will soon list summer offerings. Increase your earning power, learn something new and useful, or just go have some fun at one of the coming courses! Options include on-line course searches, web registration, and in-person registration. Go to www.montytech.net or call (978) 345-9200 x5220.

Four Monty Tech students (of 11) will be speaking at the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education in Washington, D.C. the end of June. Students will present the findings from their Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, “The effects of microgravity on Alcanivorax Borkumensis,” one of the experiments launched aboard the spaceXFalcon 9 rocket last August, for further testing on the international space station. Students are $195 short of their $2,000 fundraising goal, which will cover all costs. To help them out: www.gofundme.com/spaceflight-experiment-convention.
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

Photography Services: Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowheronstudios.com Call 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:
Nigerian Dwarf Goat kids for sale: Athol; 2 wethers left; will be ready to pick up after June 30th. Registered sire; sire and dams test negative for CAE. Please call Evelyn or Dave at 978-830-4311
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.

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 suszannagaits@gmail.com

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

Finally, finally….a modicum of garden activity, though every event lags ten to fourteen days from the norm. One thousand onion and leek seedlings set out. Black flies, untypically, were but a minor distraction. Four hundred fifty potatoes ‘dropped’ into the ground. If only it were that easy. Four hundred fifty potatoes require four hundred fifty feet of furrows, four to six inches deep. Negotiating these furrow is one of my litmus tests: to see if the body is still up to the task. (In this, my seventy-fifth year, I am delighted to report it is.) Almost every potato has emerged. When six inches tall, the soil will be returned to the furrow, being careful not to cover the entire plant. When they have grown an additional six to eight inches, surrounding soil is hoed onto the plants, creating a hill. Coincidentally enough, this is referred to as hilling up your potatoes.

But, mostly, it’s a wait-and-see attitude. I generally find something to do to keep the ball rolling, but it would be a stretch to suggest that it is a critically important thing to do. I weed when a casual observer would be hard-pressed to see any weeds. I tidy up when the same casual observer cannot recognize any untidiness. I water transplants when the soil is not particularly dry. The plethora of free time does provide me the opportunity to observe spring unfolding. Only the least-observant among you would have failed to notice the invasion of the red maple seedlings. Throughout the garden, throughout the yard, throughout. Almost as plentiful, and far more colorful, the violets have covered large tracts of the landscape. The lilac display, ongoing as I write, is the finest in years. On the other hand, apples persist as an unpredictable and unreliable lot. Of our seven trees, only three have enough flowers to suggest an apple crop this fall. Some of life’s mysteries. The mysteries unfold, the explanations for the mysteries do not.

I like most everything about sugar snap peas. Easy to grow, they are not subject to disease or insect predation. Four-legged creatures show no interest. Planted early, they yield early with an extended harvest period. Most important, they are delicious, either raw in salads or quickly stir-fried. With few other vegetables to compete with, sugar snap peas will be consumed on an almost-daily basis through the month of July.

But. Sugar snap peas will grow five to seven feet and some sort of support is essential. I have always used brush, despite the fact that its cutting, hauling, and placement are some of my least favorite garden activities. Notwithstanding my best efforts to assure their stability in the ground, some will topple. Repairs and reinforcements are inevitable. The brush has a one-year life span, after which it is hauled off to an ever-expanding pile. For forty-eight bucks, I could acquire 120 feet of trellis netting. Carefully handled, it would last for years. But a combination of miserliness and my compulsion to make use of materials-at-hand assures an ongoing commitment to the dreaded pea brush. I am what I am; I ain’t what I ain’t. Larry Siegel

Dark Skies

As I write, Tom and I are in the American southwest. We have come to see the Milky Way. This is our galaxy, our astronomical neighborhood. We are in it and surrounded by it. Indeed, every star we see is part of the Milky Way. But what we were hoping to see is our galaxy’s vast, cloud-like band of stars that spans the sky from the southeast to the southwest.

When I told my brother of our plans to travel this far to look at stars he was puzzled. “Don’t you live where the sky is dark?” I see his point. On clear Royalston nights, when I return from an evening out and walk the path to our door, the sky is full of stars. The sight always stops me in my tracks. After years of living near Boston I had forgotten what a night sky could be. Yet even in Royalston our night views are at the mercy of “light pollution”. On the darkest nights our northeast horizon glows faintly with the lights of Winchendon. As impossible as it may seem, there is more to see up there than our Royalston sky might suggest. If we wanted to see the Milky Way we would need to find a truly dark sky.

This is not a simple quest as there is much to consider. Time of year matters. From October through March the richest part of the galaxy is too low in the sky. By mid-summer the Milky Way has risen higher, but the nights are shorter, and the heat of summer brings storms and clouds. Phase of the moon matters. The light from even a first-quarter moon will interfere with the view. Darkness matters. In Royalston, it is easy to forget that we live in the northeast corridor of the country where dense population centers lighten our skies.

So, we have come to Flagstaff, Arizona. The citizens here are proud stewards of darkness. They light their streets and parks with fixtures that minimize “sky-glow”, and the outside lighting of their homes is planned to reduce glare. Their efforts have been rewarded. In 2001 Flagstaff was named an official “Dark Sky Community” by the International Dark Sky Association, the first community in the world to receive this designation. Even so, our viewing strategy would take us even farther afield.

Our plan was set. The moon, a slim crescent that would set just past midnight, would not interfere. However, the Milky Way would not rise in the southeastern sky until the wee hours of the morning. So, on our second night, when jet-lag was still in our favor, we left our lodgings at 2AM and drove 40 minutes outside the city. At the end of a narrow road we turned off the car and stepped out into the desert’s chill darkness. And there it was – the Milky Way. Its immense band of stars stretched above us from the southeast. As our eyes became accustomed to the darkness, the stars that form its milky cloud became more distinct. Shooting stars caught the corners of our eyes. This was everything we had hoped to see. In the darkness of a southwest sky, we had found our astronomical home. Deb D’Amico

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

Make preparedness a family affair this summer, and let the kids take the lead. Turn basic preparedness – being informed, making a plan, building a kit – into entertaining, educational activities that come in handy when “there’s nothing to do!” The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a kids webpage, with a long list of drop-downs featuring kid-friendly info on everything from droughts to wildfires, including timely topics like volcanoes, extreme heat, and summer storms. Kids can test their knowledge with games like Disaster Master. A parent page provides ideas on how families can work together to be better prepared for any and all hazards.
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The Royalston Community Newsletter is printed by: The Highland Press
59 Marble Street
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-6588
www.highlandpress.biz
Offset, Digital and Letterpress Printing and Copy services
Wildlife Sightings:

Fox: Phil Leger spotted three red fox kits playing in the road near the top of Doane’s Fall Rd. “When I approached in the car, they ran into the drainage structure nearby. Probably have a time share condo in there,” Phil mused. Also, Mary Barclay saw a fox chase a rabbit into the woods near Frye Hill. Three curious kits and their unafraid mom stared at Tobey Chase on South Royalston Road and a fox went out on a recent chilly night across Athol Road into the Rabinowitz’s yard. Last year, Royalston seemed to have an unusually high population of rabbits and now foxes. What will follow?

Skip Ciccarelli was surprised to see a **very black, black squirrel** at the top of Jacob’s Ladder. Black squirrels are a melanistic subgroup of our common gray squirrel and are common in Amherst. Skip has also been pleased to have an **indigo bunting** in his yard this spring.

**Bald Eagles** are taking advantage of their eponymous Reserve on Winchendon Road. There is a nest with at least two eaglets and the parents are both keeping close.

**Yellow Eastern Tiger Swallowtail** butterflies are in fluttery abundance right now- thanks to clever adaptations. According to the USDA, “Young caterpillars are brown and white and resemble bird droppings. As they mature, the caterpillars turn bright green and have two black, yellow, and blue false eyespots on the thorax above and behind their true eyes, mimicking a snake’s head while the true head of the caterpillar is inconspicuous and tucked under the body... If touched or pecked, the larvae evert a set of bright orange glands from the neck region, producing a foul-smelling blend of defensive acid secretions that are wiped onto the attacking animal.”

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

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Boston Bruins Blades to Visit Royalston Library

Because of our excellence in summer programming, we were selected to be one of the libraries to receive a visit from Blades, the Mascot of the Boston Bruins. There will be a story and interview and photos with Blades and a gift bag for each participant. Stay tuned for more information on our website and Facebook page.

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Royalston Resident
Star Route 80
Royalston MA 01368

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