Calendar of Events

September 3    Labor Day

September 4   Tuesday   State Primary Elections
7am to 8pm    Polls Open
Precinct 1 Town Hall
Precinct 2 Whitney Hall

September 9   Sunday    Grandparents’ Day
2:01 p.m.    New Harvest Moon
7:04 p.m.    Rosh Hashanah celebrating Jewish New Year 5779

September 10    Monday
Sundown     Islamic New Year 1440 –
The Hegira begins

September 15   Saturday
8 a.m.    Royalston F&G NRA 3GE 3-Gun Shoot
Royalston Country Fair on the Common

September 18   Tuesday
Sundown    Yom Kippur begins

September 21   Friday    International Day of Peace

September 22   Saturday
9:54 p.m.    Autumnal Equinox – first day of fall

Annual haz/mat collection at the Orange Transfer Station. Pre-registration is required. Call the Franklin County Solid Waste District at 413-772-2438 or online www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Free for Royalston residents until budget depleted.

September 23   Sunday
3 p.m.    LBS Annual Memorial Concert at The Maples

September 24   Monday
1 p.m.    Monty Tech’s annual Golf Tournament
10:52 p.m.    Full Harvest Moon

Save the Date:
October 4    Tuesday
7 pm Special Town Meeting at Royalston Community School to discuss guidelines for potential town marijuana establishments.

October 10    Wednesday
Annual COA Flu Clinic. Details to follow.

Royalston Country Fair
On the Common
September 15, 2018
7:30 A.M to 5:00 P.M.
Rain or Shine
All day: hay rides, farm animals, agricultural judging, tag sale, photo ops, antique tractors, games, basket and 50/50 raffles, blood pressure screening, crafts, maple syrup, honey, vendors, face painting, tag sale, wood raffle, popcorn, and more.

8 - 10:30 am    Pancake Breakfast

10 am - 1 pm    Historical Society Museum open

8:30 -10:30 am    Carl Kamp on guitar

10:30 am - 5 pm    hotdogs, hamburgers, pizza, ice cream & corn on the cob

12 noon    Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Royalston Historical Society by ringing the recently restored bell and eating free birthday cake at Old School House #1. Tours of the Common to follow.

2 pm    Sheep herding demonstration

1 - 4 pm    Live Music: The Williams Brothers

Bring home a blue ribbon: The Royalston Agricultural Commission is judging contests (largest sunflower head, best in show bouquet, vegetable with most personality...). Enter your summer produce: vegetables, eggs, fruit or flowers. (Please no home canned items.)

For more information, contact Michele LeBlanc 413-522-2756
The Select Board is at long last tackling something we have talked about: Bylaw Review – We want your ideas about our laws.

Bylaw Review – We want your ideas about our laws. The Select Board is at long last tackling something we have talked about: reviewing our bylaws to update and clarify, to amend based on experience and changing circumstances, and perhaps to delete a few.

The Select Board will host an information table at this year’s Country Fair on September 15, and member Deb D’Amico will hold a brainstorming session on Thursday, October 11 from 7-8 p.m. at Town Hall to explore ideas.

Allowable uses will be subject to a special permit from the Planning Board. The proposed bylaw also requires that establishments be located at least 500 feet from the property line of schools, churches and playgrounds and at least 200 feet from residential buildings. Applicants must also submit a security plan acceptable to the police chief and must meet all dimensional, parking, landscaping, and signage requirements of the Zoning Bylaw.

The bylaw to be submitted to voters proposes that cultivation, product manufacture, testing and transportation of marijuana be allowed in the Rural Residential and Agricultural District (RRA; most of town), that retail sales be allowed in the RRA and Residential (south village) Districts, that no establishments be allowed in the Historic District, and that no establishment offering on-site consumption of marijuana products be allowed anywhere in town.

Voters at the STM will also be asked to amend the sewer budget approved at Annual Town Meeting.

Bylaw Review – We want your ideas about our laws. The Select Board is at long last tackling something we have talked about: reviewing our bylaws to update and clarify, to amend based on experience and changing circumstances, and perhaps to delete a few.

Thank you to our first responders for controlling the fire and the sad situation when Pete and Henry’s restaurant recently burned. Residents sleep better knowing you are there.

Notes, turnout at our Annual Town Meeting this year was distressingly low. That fact, coupled with the increasing difficulty of finding volunteers for our many town committees, has us wondering: How can we increase participation in our town’s endeavors?

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Thank you to our first responders for controlling the fire and the sad situation when Pete and Henry’s restaurant recently burned. Residents sleep better knowing you are there.

Most every Wednesday morning during any given month, you can find Mr. Carl Kamp entertaining the Seniors up at the Royalston Town Hall. Mr. Kamp, a guitarist since the age of 10, plays all types of music and familiar tunes for everyone’s enjoyment. Come to the Town Hall for a sing-along or just to listen to Mr. Camp’s delightful music on a Wednesday morning 11:00 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in staying and eating lunch, call Betty Woodbury, Tuesday morning of that week for a lunch reservation. All are welcome – we look forward to seeing you there.

The dealine for submitting applications for the next grant cycle is October 15th. Go to the Massachusetts Cultural Council website to download the application. Events that include Royalston and other local residents get priority consideration. The Council will meet on Saturday, November 3rd, at 10:00 am at the Town Hall to decide on the grants.

We will have a booth at the Royalston Country Fair on the Common on Saturday, September 15th. According to the Massachusetts Cultural Council we are required from time to time to offer a survey for your input. These will be available at the Fair.

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Open Mic begins first Friday in December followed by first Fridays in January, February, March and April. The dates are: Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar 1, and April 5.

Christmas Tree lighting is always the first Wednesday in December, this year, the 5th at 6 pm. See you at the Fair.
Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair
To glass or not to glass, that is the question. Seems like some folks are having issues with the change in glass recycling. Some find it too much of an effort to separate glass into one container. Although we are not a fan of additional separations, the choice comes down to money. Since the Mass. recycling company that took glass in the past is no longer accepting it, we are now faced with this decision. Separate glass cost: $30 per ton. Include glass with cans and plastic cost: $100 per ton. Or trash glass cost: $120 per ton. You do the math. We are not trying to make money at RRATS, we are simply trying to break even and keep recycling free to the residents. It’s not as hard as it seems. If you don’t want to recycle glass, don’t buy items in glass containers. Problem solved. If you, however, are a big user of glass bottles, say NH non-returnable bottles, then simply have a separate container at home for glass. If you don’t use much glass, just separate prior to putting in roll offs. The other part of recycling is to put items in proper roll offs. Wishing something is recyclable is not recycling. Remember, all together now, “You can’t make paper out of plastic!”

Annual haz/mat collection is September 22nd at the Orange Transfer Station. Pre-registration is required. Either call the Franklin County Solid Waste District at 413-772-2438 or register online at www.franklincountysolidwastedistrict.org. It is free for Royalston residents; however, there is a budget. First come first served. With the wet summer, mosquitoes and ticks are having a field day. West Nile Virus is in our area, so use personal protection when out standing in your fields. Drain those stagnant water buckets around your house. And fix those screens. First frost not due till mid October. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Royalston Emergency Management
Director Jim Barclay
e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or phone 978-249-2904
Scam Alert! National Grid, in early August, notified central and western Mass. community officials of wide-spread e-mail scams so sophisticated, they can be difficult to identify. It was requested the following tips be shared with residential and business customers:

Watch for requests asking for a new payment method, for example, new routing info, new “ship to” address, or any other changes that vary from your routine payment method. Confirm the domain name is EXACTLY @nationalgrid.com – a single letter missing/extra or transposed means it is NOT National Grid’s mailing. ALWAYS confirm all e-mail is from a legitimate source before supplying any confidential or personal information.

Scams are now as much are a part of our everyday lives as passwords, debit cards and ATMs. Scams are designed to either take money (demand notes, requests for donations, etc.) or to “phish” for information that can be used directly (withdrawals from your bank and retirement accounts) or indirectly (by purchasing goods and services with your credit cards, and debit accounts) to access funds.

If you think you may be a victim of a scam, please contact the Royalston Police at their non-emergency number, 978-249-5838. If you’re concerned about a potential scam involving National Grid, contact the RPD or e-mail cyberresponse@nationalgrid.com.

Royalston Community Newsletter September 2018 Page 3

The Latest Broadband Internet News
Jon Hardie
Here’s the latest update on Royalston Net, our town-wide, high speed, wireless broadband network. The Town of Royalston has received and signed our final contract from the State grant for our $1,125,000 Broadband network. We have received the first disbursement of funds from the grant of $560,000.

We’ve hired WG&E (Westfield Gas & Electric) as our Owner’s Project Manager. And, a week ago, the Broadband Committee and WG&E jointly prepared and WG&E submitted, our Request for Proposal (RFP) for our Final Engineering Design for our advanced technology, high speed, townwide wireless network.

In late October and November, we’ll review the final designs and select a finalist. The approved Final Engineering Design will include a Bill of Materials, a Statement of Work, and a Buildout Schedule and Timeline, which is an itemized list of all of the equipment needed to build the network & what will happen when.

That information will help us quickly prepare an RFP, and select a Contractor, who will take the plans and get to work, boots on the ground, including tower permitting & building the project.

When will this all happen? After years of hard work, we expect to complete the entire network buildout by late fall next year. We will do everything in our power to have it done as soon as possible before then.

Fixing Our Broken DSL. A year ago, we mobilized our voices and brought our concerns to our legislators and to Verizon Senior Management. We wanted them to address the underlying Verizon DSL problems in Athol, and our horrible DSL service to 5 municipal offices, the library, 2 schools and 182 homes. Last fall, Verizon agreed to 1) Upgrade & install new high-end DSL equipment here in Royalston at the Public Safety Complex, 2) bypass the bad equipment in Athol. And 3) supply our new DSL equipment with new circuits for our network, direct from Worcester. Verizon has now completed installing the new DSL Switch Equipment at the public safety complex, and is installing & testing the new DSL circuits to Worcester. We can expect to see significant improvement in DSL stability and access.

Royalston Cemetery Commission
As summer winds down, please take time to remove boxes and decorations adorning the cemetery sites of loved ones. If, in the process, you 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.
Commissioners Sherry A. Miner, Roy A. Smith, Jr, or Roland G. Hamel, or leave a message at 978-249-4587.
Art Exhibit
During September and October Amy Newland will be exhibiting her whimsical paintings of nature. You can see more of Amy’s paintings at www.amynewland.com. A recent arrival from Texas, she is originally from the area and attended the University of Massachusetts.

eBooks Even Easier!
It’s even easier to download ebooks to your Android, IOS (iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch), and Windows 10 devise. To get started you need a valid library card and password. Next install the Libby app from your devise’s app store. Open the app and find a library network you would like to use. Our main network is SAILS Library Network. Once you select a network, tap “Sign in” with your library card, choose MassCat Library Patron, enter your library card number and password and tap “Enter the Library.” You can browse the collection, checkout materials, and place holds. For more information, stop by the library and pick up the handout, “Getting started with Libby.” In October we will be hosting a drop-in workshop to help anyone who would like to find out how to navigate the site.

Boston Bruins are Phinehas Newton Library Fans
This summer, due to our excellent summer programming, we were chosen as one of the libraries in the Commonwealth to receive a visit from the Boston Bruins Blades mascot and the Bruins ambassadors. It was a great visit and we had a huge turnout even though it rained. The Bruins group and the representatives of the Board of Library Commissioners and Massachusetts Library System were impressed with the library, the people, and the atmosphere. We all had a fantastic time and Blades let us know that in the years he had been mascot, he had never been thanked so many times. Well, we were just chosen as the favorite library visit of the summer and received an official hockey stick autographed by all of the Bruins!

The signed hockey stick is on display on the mantle in the children’s room. Stop by to see it.

Kloey LeBlanc holds the specimen her grandfather, Rick Romanson, found on the field trip to Beryl Hill Mine led by Sheila Hall. Rick just happened to hammer on a large rock sitting there and when it split open was rewarded with a large beryl crystal and a big garnet.
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**
- Atkins, Ace: *The Sinners*
- Berry, Flynn: *A Double Life*
- Brown, Sandra: *Tailspin*
- Candlish, Louise: *Our House*
- Coulter, Catherine: *Paradox*
- Delaney. J.P.: *Believe Me*
- Frear, Caz: *Sweet Little Lies*
- French, Nicci: *The Day of the Dead*
- Gordon, David: *The Bouncer*
- Healey, Emma: *A Death in Live Oak*
- Healey, Emma: *Whistle in the Dark*
- Ponsor, Michael: *The One-Eyed Judge*
- Rojas, Ingrid: *Fruit of the Drunken Tree*
- Saunders, Paula: *The Distance Home*
- Scottonline, Lisa: *Fear*
- Slaughter, Karin: *Pieces of Her*
- Steinhauer, Olen: *The Middleman*
- Walsh, Roselle: *Ghosted*
- Youngson, Anne: *Meet Me at the Museum*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Burk, John: *AMC’s Best Day Hikes Central MA*
- Greger, Michael: *How Not to Die*
- Murphy, Finn: *The Long Haul*
- Popular Mechanics: *How to Fix Anything*
- Quammen, David: *The Tangled Tree*
- Westover, Tara: *Educated: A Memoir*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Colfer, Eoin: *Illegal*

**Audiobooks**
- LaPena, Shari: *An Unwanted Guest*
- Mackintosh, Clare: *Let Me Lie*

**DVDs**
- *Annihilation, Film Stars Don’t Die in Liverpool, Goodbye Christopher Robin (DVD & Bluray), Isle of Dogs, Lego DC Super Heroes- Aquaman Rage of Atlantis, Life of the Party, Overboard (2018), Peace, Love & Misunderstanding (Bluray), Ready Player One (DVD & Bluray), Super Troopers 2, Tully, and Youth (Bluray)*

**Children’s Fiction**
- Berube, Kate: *Mae’s First Day of School*
- Brill, Calista: *Cat Wishes*
- Burris, Priscilla: *Hello School!*
- Ferri, Giuliano: *I See, I Touch…*
- Love, Jessica: *Julian is a Mermaid*
- Parker, Aura: *Twig*
- Petrik, Mike: *Sammy’s Spooktacular Halloween*
- Reul, Sarah: *Allie all Along*

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Bucholz, Dinah: *The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook*
- Burgan, Michael: *Connecticut*
- Carle, Eric: *What’s Your Favorite Bug?*
- Duke, Shirley: *Skyscrapers and Towers*
- Crane, Cody: *Massachusetts*
- Gilbert, Sara: *Great Smoky Mountains*
- Gish, Melissa: *Crabs*
- Gish, Melissa: *Iguanas*
- Gish, Melissa: *Meerkats*
- Gish, Melissa: *Raccoons*
- Gish, Melissa: *Storks*
- Kellar, Karen: *Washington, D.C.*
- Koontz, Robin: *Poop is Power!*
- Mangor, Jodie: *Really Rotten Truth about Composting*
- Nicholson, Sue: *Can you Touch a Rainbow?*
- Nolan, Helen: *How Much, How Many, How Far is 1000?*
- Uliana, Kim: *Crafting Fun for Kids of All Ages*

**Unique things to borrow from the library to usher out the summer:**
- Orion StarBlaster Telescope and tripod
- Ice cream makers (the round ball type)
- Kill-A-Watt electricity monitor
- 6’ folding tables (3)
- Kindergarten readiness kits
- State park passes

**Digital Projector, Sound System, and Screen** – You can have a movie night at home, show everyone your vacation photos, or practice your power point presentation with this equipment. It is compatible with a DVD player (which may also be borrowed) or a computer.

**Preschool Storytime**

**at the library**

10 am each Monday
Stories, socializing, songs, snacks and crafts
Free

Call the library for more information

Royalston Review of Books...
where everyone can be a critic. Read something good lately? Let us know at the RCN. Send your review by the 22nd of the month prior to publication. All ages welcome.

Flex into fall. Don’t forget yoga every Tuesday night at 7 pm at town hall, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
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. The Historical Society is a friendly, relaxed group and new members are sought. All meetings and events are open to everyone.

The Society will celebrate this big birthday at noon on Saturday September 15, the day of the Town Fair, in front of the Post Office. We will share a beautiful birthday cake in the shape of the Old School House.

The preservation of this building is a main mission of the Royalston Historical Society. Recently, the Society got the building repainted and the roof replaced. Weatherization projects this fall will include door replacement, window weatherstripping, relacing missing moldings and improving drainage. Next, the interior will benefit from serious renovations: the windows, the electrical system, the coved ceiling need attention. These upgrades are the reason for the ongoing fundraising, so please, consider making a donation.

Walk to the Old Schoolhouse for the celebration when you hear the schoolhouse bell ring. Pierre Humblet, with the expert advice of Tom Musco, has entirely restored the bell this winter and, on September 15, at noon, it will ring again for the first time since 1975 to call you to the birthday party. Come join us!

Ladies’ Benevolent Society
Patience Bundschuh will host the 15th Annual Ladies’ Benevolent Society Memorial Concert Sunday, September 23, at 3 p.m. in the Ballroom at The Maples. This year’s concert features flautist Elizabeth Ann West, pianist Deb Nunes (both of Royalston) and pianist Robert Johnson (Rindge, NH), as well as “The Maples’ Virtual Orchestra.” The event began in 2004 as a way to commemorate the passing of long-time, much-loved member Maxine Eliot Wilcox, who was the last of Royalston’s one-room schoolhouse teachers. It has continued each year as a memorial to members no longer with us. The concert is open to the public, with light refreshments served. There is no admission; free-will donations to the Society are welcomed. 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.

At the recent summer meeting, during a tour of the new Village School campus, the LBS was thanked for their ongoing support and this plaque has been placed in the foyer.

Pete and Henry’s Restaurant Burns
Mary C Barclay
There is an overwhelming emptiness in the Village of South Royalston, and a gaping hole in the hearts of many: Pete & Henry’s is no more. Gone are the pictures of kids on the bulletin board in the foyer, a tradition that began about 1991. The iconic black and white image of Pete & Henry by the jukebox and collages of nearly a half-century of fun times at the restaurant… they’re all gone, along with the Budweiser lamp and clydesdale-drawn wagon over and behind the “big round table,” and the customer-created “beer can airplanes,” sports collage, and wooden sailboat. The place we gather to eat, meet, gripe, mourn, and celebrate is history. Despite a rapid fire department response, multiple alarms and assistance from towns of Athol, Phillipston, Richmond, and Templeton, fire consumed our town’s only restaurant, where John and Terry Cloutier, their daughter Amy St. Cyr, and a cast of several other Royalston and area locals, have seemed more like family than business owners and employees.

Brothers Wilfred “Pete” & Henry Dufault began Pete & Henry’s bar in 1946. Wilfred “Bill” and Ginny Cloutier took over in 1971, and during their 41 years of ownership, created and grew a family restaurant that regularly drew customers from all over New England and New York. John and Terry purchased the business, reopening as Cloutiers’ Pete & Henry’s, Inc. in 2012, and worked to improve the property, expand the menu, and provide an exceptional dining experience for both “regulars” and “first timers.”

The personal and financial losses to the Cloutiers, their employees, their patrons, and those same losses to the Town of Royalston, will take some time to sink in, and even longer to process.

Playing for Change Day
Royalston resident Diane Lincoln is spearheading a Playing for Change Day fundraising event at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem on Saturday, September 15th, at 7:30 PM. The PFC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create positive change through music and arts education around the world. www.playingforchange.org

The show features Reggie Harris, a well-traveled performer, lecturer and cultural ambassador for positive change. Reggie has earned wide acclaim and respect from peers and audiences throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and around the world. He combines spirituals and roots music, historic inspiration, and moving original songs, often in the themes of unity and social justice. A sliding scale donation of $15 to $25 is suggested. More information is available at www.1794meetinghouse.org or by calling Diane at (978) 249-4796.
Skip Ciccarelli had a piece selected for inclusion in the 83rd annual local artist juried show from mid-June through September 2 at the Fitchburg Art Museum. His entry titled “Curves and Angles” was a sculpting/furniture piece made of hickory with a sycamore attachment.

Paintings by Gail Oswald of North Quabbin landscapes are featured at the Petersham Craft Center through September 20.

Dean’s List Fitchburg State: Katie Robinson and Rhiannon Fletcher

Congrats to Heather D. (Barclay) Johnson, who concluded her first season skating for the Brawlin’ Broads Roller Derby Team with a 226 to 123 win against the Bennington, VT Battle Cats. Perhaps more importantly, she is still alive to tell the tale… For woman interested in this fast-growing sport – sort of a cross between rugby and tackle football, while on wheels – a “new meat” class begins Sept. 12 in Leominster.

Mount Grace Movie Wins Awards

What the Land Is, the new movie for Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, has been honored by two Telly Awards. The Telly Awards are the premier award honoring video and television across all screens. Established in 1979, the Telly Awards receives over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents. Entrants are judged by an industry body of over 200 leading experts. The movie was produced and directed by Royalston’s Boyd Estus, with Mount Grace’s Leigh Youngblood as Executive Producer. It features Orange farmer John Moore, Winchendon’s Noonyard Farm, Red Fire Farm in Montague and stories of the Trust’s recent conservation partnerships. What the Land Is was “made in north central Massachusetts”: Rawn Fulton of Bernardston was the editor and Diane Lincoln, Phil Rabinowitz and Steven Schoenberg provided music. The movie includes footage of Doanes Falls, the Common, and the Royalston Eagle Reserve. The movie is available for viewing on Mount Grace’s website at https://www.mountgrace.org/themovie

Brandon and Brittany Jeffery, formerly of N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd, now living in Ashburnham, were blessed with a beautiful baby girl. Sage Everly Jeffery was born June 16, 2018 weighing 7 lb. 3.5 oz. and 20.5” long. She joins big sister Adaelyn Willow who is now 2½ years old. Proud grandparents are Claire Alix and John Jeffery.

Condolences to family and friends of Bernard J. “Benny” Gronowicz, 43, of Winchendon, formerly of Royalston, who died Saturday, July 14 from injuries sustained in a car accident. He leaves his parents, Bernard H. and Susan (Lehtomaki) Gronowicz of FL; his brother, Matthew Gronowicz and girlfriend Caroline Dawson, of Westminster; his best friends Tommy and Peter Farer; several relatives and friends. The full obituary may be seen and on-line condolences sent via www.mackfamilyfh.com; in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Benny’s memory to the charity of one’s choice.

Gordon E. Poirier, 70 , died Monday, July 23, 2018 in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home, Gardner. He was born June 25, 1948 in Gardner, the son of Ernest Poirier and Lucina Poirier. He grew up in Gardner and graduated from Gardner High School. He went on to attend Fitchburg State College. Gordon was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the U.S. Air Force Mr. Poirier worked at Digital Corporation for many years as a service manager. He also work part-time at Home Depot after his retirement. He was a member of the postcard club in Barre and the Hubbardston Historical Society. He enjoyed postcard collecting, farming, sheep, and antiquing, and he loved his animals, He was also a long time resident of Royalston. He leaves his wife, Sandra (Hayenski) Poirier of Hubbardston; a stepdaughter, Jodi Thompson – Campos and her husband Tony of Hudson, New Hampshire and a grandchild, Devin Campos of New Hampshire

Frances G. King, 77, of Royalston, died Wednesday, August 1, in her home. Frances was born September 25, 1941, in Revere, daughter of the late George and Frances (Halko) King. She grew up in Chelsea and moved to Royalston several years ago. Frances enjoyed crafting. Her extraordinary decorating for the holidays will be greatly missed. She adored her nieces, nephews, great niece, and great nephews. She leaves two sisters, Ruth Mello of Royalston, and Barbara Baggitt of Londonderry, NH; nephews and nieces, George Mello and his wife, Marie of Royalston, Kimberly Guerra and her husband, Jeff of Groton, Michael Baggitt, and Erick Baggitt, both of Londonderry, NH; great niece, Samantha Guerra and great nephews, David Guerra and Mason Mello.
Community School: Words from new principal, Beth Craven, to RCS families

This summer has flown by and there is excitement in the air. I have met individually with many teachers, and I am already impressed with their passion, dedication and enthusiasm for educating our students. This coming year promises to be an exciting and challenging one. Please know that I am committed to honoring the traditions of the past as well as encouraging new and innovative ideas that will keep our school moving forward. Our main areas of instructional focus will be integrating literacy into all curriculums, concentrating on student engagement and using data to drive our decision-making. I’m sure you’ll all agree that a strong family-school connection is an integral part of our students’ academic success. I welcome you to become involved by joining the Parent Teacher Group, volunteering to help in classrooms, or simply stopping by the office and say hello. Additionally, if you have time, I welcome the opportunity to chat with you about what you feel is working really well at RCS, as what areas might need improvement. Together, we will work together to create a safe, creative, engaging and challenging environment that meets the needs of all students. I am honored to have been appointed as principal of this warm and caring community school and I look forward to working with all of you and your children. Please email me at bcraven@arrsd.org or call me at 978.249.2400 with any questions or concerns. Nothing is ever too trivial.

Village School News

Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for New Village School building Wednesday, September 5 at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for the new Village School building, at 253 S. Royalston Rd. on the Camp Caravan campus. We’ll start promptly, as it is also the first day of school! The classrooms this year are: Pre-school, Kindergarten, 1st-2nd, 3rd-4th, and 5th-6th. We love mixed age classrooms, where students work at their own pace and level.

After-School Program for Royalston children

If you are looking for after school care, the Village School has a great After School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS school bus and get dropped off at the Village School at Camp Caravan. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting!) run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair. To sign up or for info, call the school at 249-3505.

After-School Music Program at the Village School

The Village School offers private music lessons after school throughout the year on piano with Berklee College grad Isaac Richardson, and guitar, and ukulele with Mathew Hamer, beginning mid-September. Students of all ages can learn a new instrument or work on improving their musical skills in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere. For more information please call 978 249 3505.

Dean’s Beans Coffee

You can get yours delivered, fresh, once a month to the Village School, whole beans or ground. Find the order form at www.villageschoolma.org and order online- it’s easy! You’ll pick up the coffee in the Village School hallway.

What’s happening at the Village School

Preschool and Kindergarten Orientation are on Tuesday, Sept. 4th and all classes start on Wednesday September 5th. The children are coming back to explore a new building and new grounds.

Thursday, Sept. 20 8:30 a.m. Kindergarten Curriculum Morning  Discover how the Village School kindergarten differs from other programs, and how reading and math are taught.

Kindergarten through 4th Grade openings this fall at the Village School. Young children enjoy art, music, story, immersion in nature, play and more. In small classrooms, children learn to read and write at their own pace. The combined 3rd&4th grade class is studying Ancient Egypt this year. Call 249 3505 for information. For up-to-date Village School information, go to www.villageschoolma.org

Monty Tech Updates

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

Calling all golfers for Monty Tech’s 24th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Sep. 24, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Followed by cocktails and dinner. Still room for individuals, foursomes, and sponsors! Call 978-345-9200 x 5227.

Recent statistics from Monty Tech’s Class of 2017: 28% (98) going directly into the workforce; 24% (84) to 4-yr. public college; 21%* (76) to 2-yr. public college; 13% (46) to 4-yr. private college; 6% (23) to trade/tech school; 5% (18) military; 2% (6) other/unknown; 1%* (3) 2-yr. private college (these students are generally also in the workforce).

Some interesting stats about Athol-Royalston students in Monty Tech: ARRSD students (103) make up 7% of Monty Tech’s total rural student population (64% of students vs. 36% urban students); 4.1% (67) students speak English as a second language – nine receive services as “English Language Learners”; 15% (215) are students receiving services for disabilities; 36.7% (523) are high-needs students receiving services; 26% of students are economically disadvantaged, with 170 receiving special services.

It’s also interesting to note 73% of Athol and Royalston high school students attend the Athol High School. There may be a discrepancy in percentages due to students who home school, attend private school, or choice out of ARRSD for another public school district. It is important to note our Monty Tech students are NOT “choosing out,” but choosing one of two school district options for Athol and Royalston (and 16 other communities’) students.

Enrollment numbers will not be confirmed until October 1, but at present, Royalston has two students in the freshman class, with the three remaining applicants on a wait list, who may be called to replace students who were accepted, but declined seats. We currently have 11 students in grades 10 (5 students), 11 (3 students), and 12 (3 students).
Classifieds


Help Wanted: “Experienced Shade-Tree Mechanic Wanted, to work on small-block Chevy in my driveway. Cash or Barter. Call Jim at (978) 575-1551”.

Services Available:
Saxophone/Clarinet/Piano/Contemporary Songwriting and Theory Lessons: Laura Ramsey. Experience with students on ASD and learning disability. $20/half hour session. Call Laura 774-272-0760 or email lramsey@alumni.berklee.edu

Piano and Guitar Lessons: Evan Foisy. $20 for a half hour session. Call Evan 978-249-4250, or email evan55@comcast.net

Photography Services: Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowheronstudios.com Call 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 bguiney@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

Riding Lawn Mower Lift: Used only one season. Like new. Paid $119, will sell for $80. Call 978-249-4013.

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

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.

Pigs: 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 suzannagaits@gmail.com

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

**Garden Notes**

August 20, 2018

Maybe, just maybe, there will be a respite from a summer that has been nothing short of hellish. (I hesitate to assume the hellishness has come to an end.) The seven-day forecast suggests an extended stretch of sunny weather (after another day of rain, of course). It was mid-July when we last experienced three consecutive days of sun. The numbers are staggering: over thirteen inches of rain since July 15; from some to a lot of rain on nineteen of the past twenty-nine days; persistent and pervasive heat and humidity. All of this manifested with s. and m. And m. And m. Slugs. Mice. Mildew. Matches. The slugs and mice are teaming up to inflict upon us a one-two punch (S. and m. One-two punch. Get it?), with the slugs eating the tomatoes in the garden and the mice in the house. Is there a house in Royalston that is not reeling under the influx of mice and mold? I assume the saturation of everything outdoors has driven the mice indoors.

And the mold is in mold heaven, afflicting itself to all manners of wood and leather, growing and replicating themselves to such a degree that one would be hard-pressed to distinguish the wood or the leather. Matches? Our strike-anywhere matches strike nowhere. We are obliged to ‘fire-up’ the hotplate in order to ignite the match. The snails are in snail heaven. I lost count of their numbers in the cucumber and tomato beds. Since I let both sprawl, it is as if I’ve set the dining room table for them. There was not much I could do about the cucumbers but I propped up the tomato vines on brush. (Remember the pea brush? A second life.) By and by, I do not kill the slugs; rather, I fling them as far as I can from the garden. At a slug’s pace, I figure it will be some time before they return.

I have not written in three months. Imagine meeting up with someone ninety days ago and not seeing him or her again until recently. There would be no discernable difference in appearance. Compare that to the appearance of the garden then, and now. It is as if you’ve entered an alternate universe. The only green then were peas and spinach. Both are long gone, their beds replanted to fall crops. Onion seedlings had just been set out; potatoes had just emerged. Both have been harvested. Corn and winter squash were weeks from being planted. Now? Some of the corn is ten feet tall (though we haven’t eaten any yet); the butternut squash vines are twelve feet, and growing, with another three to four weeks until harvest. Magical.

Different crops have responded to conditions in different ways: from the wretched tomato yields to the magnificent (and unprecedented) onion yields. Peppers might have been but all plants were topped sometime in late June and only now have they regrown enough to start flowering. Rotting vegetables, of course, cucumbers and beans and zucchini suffering the most. (I never imagined I’d say this: zucchini yields are embarrassing low.) I’ve always made multiple sowings of beans and cucumbers, beets and carrots, the goal being to spread out the harvest. There was an added benefit this year: it assured plantings at varying states of development. There are several later plantings that appear just fine while their older brothers and sisters are the worse for wear.

All in all, the garden performed better in the heat and humidity and rain than the gardener. Nobody suggested the gardening life style would be leisurely. Or comfortable. —Larry Siegel

**Maternity Ward**

In late May, a pair of robins built a nest over our grill. They’d made a great choice. The grill sits just outside our back door under an overhang. Tucked on a shop light that hangs just under the eaves, the nest was cozy and sheltered. The robins could spend their time watching the stone walls and blueberry bushes while they waited for their family to emerge. We, however, were not so sure. With tendrils of grass and blue tarp strings dangling inches above the grill, the nest seemed at risk of bursting into flames. Using the grill would be out of the question.

We debated our choices as the robins worked. Since the grill connects directly to our house’s propane tank, it could not be moved. Should we move the nest? Too risky. If the nest stayed, how long would the grill be out of commission? Our research told us that, once the eggs were laid, a month would pass before the young would fledge. A month.

Pondering the situation, we watched the birds’ progress. Back and forth, beaks filled with grass and twigs, they spent the long mid-summer days at work. We watched them as they shaped and smoothed the nest, tamping each deposit down before flying off for more. As the days passed, we began to see that we had been given a front row seat to something very special. Here was a rite of summer from the animal world, ancient and urgent, happening an arm’s length away. We decided a month was not too long to go without steak tips and grilled chicken. Tom covered the grill with a tarp and the maternity ward was officially opened.

Once the nest was finished and the birds settled in, the nest became a major focus of our day. We checked in with each other, asking repeatedly “Is she there?” “Have you seen any babies?” When we slid the back door open, the mother would flee the nest with a startled chirp. So, we changed our behavior, sliding the door very slowly and calling softly, “It’s okay, little one. It’s just us.” Then she would fly no further than the stone wall, returning to the nest as soon as we moved away. Eventually, when the door opened, she would eye us warily but stay put. Can a bird learn to trust? We were very flattered.

We do not know exactly when the babies hatched. We were just aware one day of a change. The mother paid more attention to what was under her, gently poking and prodding as she settled and resettled. We were sure we heard small peeps, or saw wisp-like feathers. The day we saw tiny orange beaks – five of them – wide open and waiting, we celebrated. Although our entire contribution to this endeavor had been to tarp the grill, we took great pride in this new family.

Now the real work began. Both robins toiled from dawn to dusk, bringing all manner of insects to the table. Moths and grasshoppers larger than the babies’ heads were offered and – miraculously – consumed. The babies grew at an alarming clip and we were captivated. By mid-June the five had grown true feathers and spent their days jostling each other, bright-eyed and blueberry bushes while they waited for their family to emerge. We, however, were not so sure. With tendrils of grass and blue tarp strings dangling inches above the grill, the nest seemed at risk of bursting into flames. Using the grill would be out of the question.

Then, one day, without warning, the nest was empty. Just like that. When I lamented to Tom, “They didn’t even say good-bye!” he replied with the wisdom of a seasoned parent: “Kids!” We waited several days before putting away the tarp. But the nest remains, tendrils of straw and blue tarp waving in the breeze. We like to be reminded of the four short weeks in high summer when we were transfixed by the miracle of an avian maternity ward.

—Deb D’Amico
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**Mark O’Connor**
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**The Highland Press**
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Wildlife Sightings:

A black bear, ambling along the stream on the west side of Frye Hill during a July day, caught the attention of a mason working on a home at the foot of that road. The bear was unconcerned by the man, and it continued on its way.

While not actually a “sighting,” one steamy July night, the blood-curdling screams of a Fisher (often referred to as a Fisher Cat) and sounds of frantic turkeys were heard in the woods along the west side of Frye Hill.

Royalston Fish and Game

The Royalston Fish & Game Club, on Route 68 just past the Phillipston town line, has a 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

For more information, contact or Ray Simula at 978-249-8746.

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

Citizen Participation Brainstorming Session

Are you concerned about the low turnout at town meetings? Do you have ideas about how to get more people actively involved? Are you curious to hear from your neighbors about what we can do to increase citizen participation in our town? Then Royalston needs YOU!

Our town’s strength lies in the participation of its citizens. Please come to a brainstorming session on Thursday October 11, 7-8 PM at Town Hall, On the Common. We will share ideas about citizen outreach with a goal of increasing volunteerism and participation in Royalston’s government. All are welcome.

Call Deb D’Amico 978 249-9633 or email deb.damico@royalstonma.gov to rsvp. Can’t come? Contact Deb to share ideas.

This antique broadside was recently spotted as part of the decor in a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Kodak, Tennessee by friends of the Barclay family on a cross-country motorcycle ride. Does anyone know more about this auction? Prints from glass negatives of the farm under Minnie Lemon are held at the Gardner Library.

This Newsletter is mailed out free of charge to all Royalston households as a public service provided by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library with support from the Highland Press, the Royalston Cultural Council, our sponsors and the entire community.

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