Calendar of Events

October 1 Monday
Child Health Day

October 3 Wednesday
5-7 p.m. Trap Shoot open to all at Royalston F&G Club - repeats every Wednesday

October 4 Thursday
7 pm Special Town Meeting at Royalston Community School to discuss guidelines for potential town marijuana establishments.

October 8 Monday
Columbus Day observed – Post Office, library, schools closed.
11:47 pm New Hunter’s Moon

October 9 Tuesday
Draconid Meteor Shower late evening, with shooting stars emanating from the northwestern skies. This shower courtesy of the Giacobini-Zinner Comet, and will feature six or so shooting stars an hour.

October 10 Wednesday
10 – 11:30 a.m. Flu Clinic at the Royalston Town Hall

October 11 Thursday
5 p.m. Spaghetti Supper at the Royalston F&G Club
7 p.m. Town-wide Brainstorming on increasing community involvement at Town Hall.

October 14 Sunday
Parent Work Day Village School
Noon-6 p.m. Pats v. Chiefs Game Day at the Royalston F&G Club

October 15 Monday
8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monty Tech Tour Day, 6 - 8 pm Career Awareness Night

October 19 Friday
7 p.m. Historical Society Annual Meeting & Pot Luck at the home of president Peter Kranjak, Corner Winchendon and Stone Roads. 978-247-7625 All welcome.

October 20 Saturday
7:30 pm Candlelight Cemetery Tours at old Center Cemetery. Meet at the historical society to join a tour. Free but donations appreciated. Dress for the weather. Hot drinks served.

October 21 Sunday
Orionid Meteor Shower peak days today and tomorrow. Halley’s Comet will give a second round of shooting stars this year; about one every four minutes. Originating from southern skies.

October 24 Wednesday
United Nations Day
No School in the ARRSD - professional development
12:45 p.m. Full Hunter’s Moon
7 p.m. LBS “Craft Night” at RCS

October 26 Friday
11 a.m. Early dismissal at Monty Tech for Professional Development
7 p.m. Turkey Raffle at the Royalston F&G Club

October 27 Saturday
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Royalston F&G Club Clean-up Day

October 31 Wednesday
5 - 8 pm Halloween house-to-house Town Trick-or-Treating. Also, the police will serve hot dogs and hamburgers on the common from 5 - 7 and have “trunk or treating” from cars on the common. Library open with treats and hot mulled cider.

Save the Date:

November 6 Tuesday
Election Day
7 am - 8 pm polls open

November 9 Friday
7 pm sharp Royalston Fire & EMS Association Annual Turkey Raffle 4 spins/ $1 2 turkeys per round! Door prize, Thanksgiving Baskets and Special Rounds will be offered
Special Town Meeting: Mark your calendars for the Special Town Meeting which will be held on Thursday October 4 at 7PM at the Royalston Community School. As we noted last month, we will be asking for your vote on a new zoning bylaw that will regulate marijuana establishments in Royalston. The Board believes that such establishments, prudently managed, would provide much-needed tax revenue to our town. The town’s bylaw must strike a balance between compliance with the state’s Cannabis Law and the needs of our town. The Planning Board has spent countless hours researching, debating, and revising the proposed bylaw. You can view this proposed bylaw at Whitney Hall during regular business hours or online at www.royalston-ma.gov under Planning Board. Voters will also be asked to amend the sewer budget approved at the Annual Town Meeting.

State and National Elections: The mid-term election season is upon us and the Board reminds residents to vote on Tuesday, November 6. The deadline to register to vote is twenty (20) days prior to the election. This means, if you have not yet registered, you must do so by Wednesday, October 17. Contact Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk at 978-249-0493 or via email at townclerk@royalston-ma.gov for more information.

Please be aware that if you wish to put candidate signs on public property you must first obtain a permit from the Select Board. This is an easy process. Simply stop in at Town Hall during office hours (Tuesday-Thursday 9-5) or write to the Board (Box 125, Royalston, MA 01368) and request a permit. The Board issues permits for a two-week period, so file for your permit by October 16 to ensure that you can post signs in the days leading up to the election. The permit fee is $5. For our records, please be sure to include what your signs will be supporting.

Royalston Country Fair: The Board is grateful to the town’s Events Committee for sponsoring the Country Fair on September 15. It was a beautiful fall day and many people from Royalston and beyond turned out to visit the vendors, enjoy a bite to eat, and chat with friends and neighbors. The Select Board sponsored its first “town table” and we were pleased to see how many people stopped by to say hello and gather information about the various programs the town sponsors for its residents. It was particularly gratifying to meet several new residents who were eager to learn about the town and how they can participate in their local government. The Board encourages all residents – old and new – to become “Informed, Inspired, and Involved”!

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.
Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair

When bringing small engine items such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, and other similar type items, please drain the oil and gas from the machines. There is no charge to put these items in the metal roll off. Use the gas for other machines.

Found: a slipper (as well as plastic wrap) in the paper roll off. All together now, “You can’t make paper from slippers!”

Other news: Until killing frost, mosquitoes will be biting. West Nile Virus cases are up throughout MA. Take precautions when out and about. Ticks will still be here after frost.

A new two part shingles vaccine with better immunity is available. Flu vaccines are out and available at local pharms and health care providers.

It’s public health that keeps you smiling.

Flu Shot Clinic at the COA Luncheon
The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th from 10 AM to 11:30 AM at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free of charge and is for Royalston residents who are 18 years of age or older. Walk-ins are welcome. The vaccination is free. Health insurance is not required. If you have insurance, please bring your card. This year’s flu shot contains vaccines for the influenza A H1N1 and H3N2 and two influenza B Brisbane and Yamagata viruses. Pneumonia vaccines, Prevnar 13 (PCV13) and Pneumovax 23 (PPSV23), will also be available, and Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine for those over 65. Vaccines will be administered by pharmacists from Athol Pharmacy, 290 Main Street in Athol.

To join the Wednesday Luncheon Club for a meal (Haddock with newburg sauce, rice pilaf and glazed carrots) at noon, please call Nunes, 978-249-4000.

Children’s Halloween Party
The Halloween party for children of all ages will be held on October 31st, Halloween night. Location will be at the Town Hall on the Common from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Food will be served (hamburgers & hotdogs) from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm. If citizens wish to set up for Trunk-or-Treat, this consists of citizens offering candy from their car truck or a table. Children will still be able to trick or treat on the Common at those homes that participate. Come and enjoy the games and prizes (candy).

Town wide Halloween Trick-or-Treating will be held on October 31st from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Should you have any questions please contact the Police Department at 978-249-5838.

October Broadband RoyalstonNet & DSL News
Jon Hardie IT Dir / RoyalstonNet Project Lead

We’ve prepared and put out to bid our RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Final Engineering Design for our complete Royalston town-wide high-speed wireless internet network. We will be answering questions from bidders on September 26th and opening final bids on October 26th. This is serious stuff. RoyalstonNet is a $1.5 million-dollar project. Including a $1.125 million-dollar State Grant, plus A New $96,450 Federal CAFII Grant spread out over 10 years, and Town of Royalston borrowing of $285,000 (to be paid back over 5 years, from subscriber revenue – not from tax revenue). We are asking bidders to meet more than 20 specific technical, design, engineering, cost accounting, buildout, scheduling specifications, and competitive pricing requirements.

Two independent teams (RBBC and WG&E members: one engineering team and one financial team) will evaluate each competitive bid this fall. We’ll be asking finalists to demonstrate their engineering design, right here - on the ground - in Royalston before we select a final design in November.

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Flu vaccines are out and available at local pharms and health care providers.

Cultural Council News

Thanks to all for supporting our booth at the recent Royalston Days. Your continued support helps to fund our programs year round. October 15th is the deadline for submitting requests for the 2019 grant cycle. Go to the Massachusetts Cultural Council website to download your application. Priority is given to events that include Royalston and other local residents. The council will meet on Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 am at the Town Hall to award the grants. It’s always a fun meeting and anyone is encouraged to come see what we do.

Mark your calendars!!!! Our famous Open Mic season opens the first Friday in December, the 7th, from 7-10 pm at the Town Hall. The series continues for the next four first Fridays in 2019, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, and April 5. As always we offer delicious meals and homemade baked goods for a very reasonable price. Did you know the music is just the vehicle for the food?

Holiday Tree lighting will be the usual first Wednesday, December 5th. We had more than 100 attend last year! The fun begins at 6 pm with the tree lighting, some carol singing, and the always exciting arrival of Santa on the big red and loud fire engine! Then hot cocoa and cookies are ready in the Town Hall, singing from the RCS students, and maybe some accordion music. This event is held rain or shine and is free! For more info call Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000.

Verizon has completed installation of the new DSL switch at the Fire/Police Public Safety complex south of the Common. They have completed cutting over all of the Municipal and Town Offices (Fire & Police, Select Board Town Hall, the Library, The Dept of Public Works, and the Royalston Community School to the new more stable and robust DSL, where they will remain until we complete the town-wide RoyalstonNet buildout. Verizon now is cutting over all of the 174 existing residential DSL connections.
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!

Benny and Susan Gronowicz
Virginia Moore

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.

Help with Libby for Libraries – Free books and audiobooks!
Would you like to know how to download free audiobooks and books to your computer, iPad, tablet, or phone but don’t know where to start. Well, stop by the library on Mondays after 7 p.m. during October for personal help in setting up your account and learning how to use the system. It’s easy and free. Don’t have a library card? No problem. It takes about 2 minutes to get one and then you are ready to sign on. The statewide ebook program has been expanded and the diversity and availability of items is extensive. Ebooks are especially good for traveling, listening in your car, or reading anywhere. And the print size can be adjusted for best viewing. Take advantage of this great program.

Flex through the fall. Don’t forget yoga every Tuesday night at 7 pm at town hall, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Flash Fiction in a Flush
On Friday, November 2nd at 7 p.m. at the library, meet local authors, Diane Kane, Kathy Chencharik, Sharon A. Harmon, and Phyllis Cochran. They will talk about their journey from writers group to self-publication and marketing. Their recently released book of short stories “Flash in the Can,” is filled with murder, mischief, and mayhem. Copies will be available at a special event price of $10.00. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Upcoming Programs
Sunday, November 18, 11:00 - 3:00 Make a wooden pie/casserole basket with basket maker Sue Morello. Space is limited.

Sunday, December 9, 2:00 – Create a decorative, holiday light with Sharon Harmon. Space is limited.

Friday, January 11, 7:00 p.m. – Carla Rabinowitz will discuss her new book at the library.

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

Call the library for more information
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**

Barker, Pat  
Clark, Georgia  
Coleman, Reed  
Frey, James  
Geni, Abby  
Hannah, Sophie  
Kellerman, Faye  
Koontz, Dean  
Lies, Brian  
Logan, T.M.  
Mejia, Mindy  
Miller, Derek  
Pinborough, Sarah  
Robb, J.D.  
Ryan, Hank Phillippi  
Shteyngart, Gary  
Slaughter, Karin  
Steel, Danielle  
Tolkien, J.R.R.  
Walker, Nico  
Woods, Stuart  
Zahn, Timothy

Barker, Pat *The Silence of the Girls*  
Clark, Georgia *The Regulars*  
Coleman, Reed *Robert B. Parker’s Colorblind*  
Frey, James *Katerina*  
Geni, Abby *The Wildlands*  
Hannah, Sophie *The Mystery of Three Quarters*  
Kellerman, Faye *Walking Shadows*  
Koontz, Dean *The Forbidden Door*  
Lies, Brian *The Rough Patch*  
Logan, T.M. *Lies*  
Mejia, Mindy *Leave No Trace*  
Miller, Derek *Norwegian by Night*  
Pinborough, Sarah *Cross Her Heart*  
Robb, J.D. *Leverage in Death*  
Ryan, Hank Phillippi *Trust Me*  
Shteyngart, Gary *Lake Success*  
Slaughter, Karin *Pieces of Her*  
Steel, Danielle *In His Father’s Footsteps*  
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Fall of Gondolin*  
Walker, Nico *Cherry*  
Woods, Stuart *The Money Shot*  
Zahn, Timothy *Star Wars. Thrawn: Alliances*

**Adult Non-Fiction**

Cowan, Thomas  
Harari, Yuval  
Kabat-Zinn, Jon  
King, Maxwell  
Newman, Omarosa  
Quammen, David  
Stallworth, Ron  
Tyson, Neil deGrasse  
Wilson, Rick

Cowan, Thomas *Vaccines, Autoimmunity, and the Changing Nature of Childhood*  
Harari, Yuval *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*  
Kabat-Zinn, Jon *Falling Awake*  
King, Maxwell *The Good Neighbor*  
Newman, Omarosa *Unhinged*  
Quammen, David *The Tangled Tree*  
Stallworth, Ron *Black Klansman*  
Tyson, Neil deGrasse *Accessory to War*  
Wilson, Rick *Everything Trump Touches Dies Guinness World Records 2019*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**

Sotomayor, Sonia  
Thummler, Brenna

Sotomayor, Sonia *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor*  
Thummler, Brenna *Sheets*

**Children’s Nonfiction**

Cleveland-Peck, P.  
Eggers, Dave  
Eliopoulos, Chris  
Guglielmo, Amy  
Johanson, Carl  
Martin, Ann  
Mattern, Joanne  
Mlynowski, Sarah  
Nargi, Lela  
Nargi, Lela  
Stewart, Melissa  
Swanson, Jennifer  
Wood, Susan  
Zweig, Eric

Cleveland-Peck, P. *The Secrets of Tutankhamun*  
Eggers, Dave *What Can a Citizen Do?*  
Eliopoulos, Chris *Monster Mayhem*  
Guglielmo, Amy *How to Build a Hug*  
Johanson, Carl *All Kinds of Planes*  
Martin, Ann *Kristy’s Big Day*  
Mattern, Joanne *Tunnels*  
Mlynowski, Sarah *Weather or Not*  
Nargi, Lela *Dinosaurs*  
Nargi, Lela *Volcanoes*  
Stewart, Melissa *Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers*  
Swanson, Jennifer *Absolute Expert: Dolphins*  
Wood, Susan *Nevertheless, She Persisted*  
Zweig, Eric *Absolute Expert: Soccer*

**Audiobooks**

Castillo, Linda  
King, Maxwell  
Miller, Madeline  
Orange, Tommy  
St, Aubin, Cynthia  
Tyson, Neil deGrasse  
Ware, Ruth

Castillo, Linda *A Gathering of Secrets*  
King, Maxwell *The Good Neighbor*  
Miller, Madeline *Circe*  
Orange, Tommy *There There*  
St, Aubin, Cynthia *Private Lies*  
Tyson, Neil deGrasse *Accessory to War*  
Ware, Ruth *The Death of Mrs. Westaway*

**Borrow a Digital Projector, Sound System, and Screen from your library**—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.

**DVDs**  
Adrift, Avengers: Infinity War, Book Club, Dark River, Deadpool 2, Game Night, Gringo, Life of the Party (DVD & Blu-ray), Show Dogs, Tag, Woman Walks Ahead, Won’t You Be My Neighbor? and Youth (Blu-ray Only)
A young drummer, Yadi Torres, called everyone's attention. Then, Selectman Roland Hamel rang the freshly repaired bell of the Old Schoolhouse. It had been silent since 1975. Stephen Chase, the vice president of the Historical Society, reminded the public of the reason for the creation of the Society: to prevent the demolition of the Old Schoolhouse in order for the timber to be sold. The caring of the building remains one of the main goals of the organization. He also recognized the work of Peter Krania k as president of the Society for the past 30 years.

There was a superb cake representing the Old Schoolhouse. It was the work of a local baker, Kristen West, helped by her spouse Andy. This delicious confection was a gift of a member of the Society.

Three small exhibitions were set up on the front lawn. The first was a portrait of Dr Stephen Batcheller Jr, the second physician of Royalston (1778-1848) with his biography. The portrait will hang in the Library from now on. The second was an aerial view of the Common in 1952, a gift of Boyd Estus who was allowed to make the copy from the original owned by Ken and Andrea Lively. It showed that, in 1952, there were a lot more fields and pastures around the Common than today. And yet, it is not that long ago. The last display was by Pierre Humblet who, when he renovated the bell last winter, found that young Royalstonians, over the years, had gone up there in the cupola and carved their names on the supporting beams. He had identified the “perpetrators”, and when and where they lived. A tour of the common was well attended and had the added bonus of being able to view the old post office and store across from the town hall courtesy of the current owners. A steady trickle of visitors, some from as far as Gardner, kept arriving all afternoon both curious and knowledgeable. And they all got cake! 

Royalston Democrats Continue Their Work

Royalston Democrats are continuing their work on behalf of progressive candidates and policies, with an emphasis on both engaging with people in town as well as connecting to election campaigns in other states.

Meeting monthly under the leadership of chair Ruth Suyenaga, seven members gathered Sept. 9 at the home of Phil and Carla Rabinowitz at Athol Road.

Plans were made for an information table to be set up at the autumn fair, with various handouts prepared. One of these summarized the three questions that will appear on the ballot on Election Day, Nov. 6.

Another flyer explained the role of the committee this way: “We meet monthly to choose ways to help voters become more informed about Democratic candidates, issues and voter registration. We send postcards to help Democratic candidates in out-of-state Republican districts through PostcardsToVoters.org. We plan to do other forms of voter engagement locally and nationally. For more information, email us at RoyalstonDEMS@yahoo.com”.

The committee seeks to train and send volunteers to canvass with the New Hampshire Democratic Party for Congresswoman Annie Kuster. Postcards and an accompanying information sheet with addresses of individuals in a Texas congressional district were distributed. Members write personal messages to individuals already identified as Democrats in Texas to encourage them to vote for Adrienne Bell for Congress, part of a national effort to have Democrats regain a majority the U.S. Congress. Most agreed to write 10 postcards, similar to what was done in the past for a candidate in Arizona.

Recent events were discussed, including the election of Jo Comerford in the Democratic primary. As she has no Republican opponent in November, she will be our future state senator, replacing Stan Rosenberg. She was praised for visiting Royalston and writing about that visit in her blog, posting a photograph of our historic town hall and showing enthusiasm for our town. Democrats from Royalston and other small towns in the eastern side of this large district (which includes the more populous Amherst, Northampton and Greenfield), are making an extra effort to make her aware of our unique issues.

Allen Young reported on a demonstration in Athol objecting to local “tea party” members welcoming anti-gay pastor and Republican candidate Scott Lively to our region. Launched by independent state Rep. Susannah Whipps, this gathering, with about 100 in attendance, focused on the slogan “No Place for Hate,” and was front-page news. Allen noted that Democrats Anne Gobi, senator in the neighboring district that includes Phillipston, Athol and Petersham, as well as retired Sen. Stephen Brewer of Barre, came to Athol for the vigil.

Phil Rabinowitz and a subcommittee are working on a high school civics project to encourage young people to become early registered voters and get involved in politics. The committee is concerned about the large number of people everywhere who are not registered to vote, and urges unregistered voters take the necessary step to register by Oct. 18 for the general election Nov. 6.

More information about meetings and activities is available by emailing royalstonDEMS@yahoo.com.
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

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 2 ½ years old. Proud grandparents are Claire Alix and John Jeffery.

Gerald Marcanio of Butterworth Road recently reprised the role of Daddy Warbucks in the musical show “Annie,” staged by the Greenfield-based Arena Civic Theatre (ACT) at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Jerry has been in numerous community theater productions over the years and has served on the ACT board of directors.

Congratulations to Jessica (Putney) Schanz, soon-to-be returning to Royalston in the home she and husband Eric are building up by Putney’s Sugarhouse. She was recently named the secretary officer manager for the Village School!

Good luck to Royalston-raised Caitlin Joy Barclay on her newest adventure at SeaWorld San Antonio – she’s saying goodbye to Discovery Point and her beloved dolphins, and heading over to Pacific Point, where she will work with sea lions and otters.

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. Women’s Bible Study

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 is anyone in need or knows of anyone in need, please contact Debbie Conrad - 978-895-3505. A special thank you to all who donated to our baskets at the recent Royalston Town Fair with proceeds going to Marion’s Food Pantry. Future fundraising baskets will be going on during the next few months with proceeds going to the churches and again Marion’s Food Pantry. Please note: we are in need of empty baskets in all shapes and sizes to make up our gift baskets. If you can help us, please contact Debbie Conrad - 978-895-3505.

James Madison High School in Brooklyn and went on to attend the Art Student League in Manhattan, Academie Julian, Paris, and Academia de Belle Arte, Florence, Italy. Arthur was an avid reader and spent his life painting and creating art. His work has been on exhibit in New York, Paris, and Florence as well as shown locally. Arthur is survived by two sisters: Harriet Roth and Elaine Sachs; three nieces: Bonnie Friegood, Andrea Deutsch, and Barbara Nathanson, and one nephew: Bruce Roth.

He was predeceased by his wife Shirley Hubbards.

Arthur also leaves behind many close friends throughout the country as well as a beloved family.

Gregory Louis Peters, 30, of Westminster, MA passed away on August 23, 2018. He was born on February 15, 1988 in Fitchburg, MA the son of Lee & Joan (Chartrand) Peters. He attended Royalston and Athol schools with the Class of 2006. Greg lived and worked in the area his entire life, most recently working for Firefly Farm in Harvard, MA.

Gregory loved his family more than anything and most of all cherished his two children, Hadley Anne and Nolan Reed. He always had a playful spirit and love of the outdoors, which he shared with his children. He could be found most days playing, swimming, fishing or just goofing around with the kids.

Gregory lived every day to the fullest. He was sensitive, caring and always watching out for those around him, he was everyone’s protector. There was never a dull moment when Greg was around and those who knew him loved to spend time with him. He had a contagious excitement for life and was constantly on the go. Greg worked hard and always stayed busy. He loved the Red Sox, and anyone who watched with him felt as though they were there, the way he yelled and cheered during the games. Greg also loved music and movies and would regularly quote lines or break out into a favorite song at any moment.

Greg is survived by his children, Hadley Anne and Nolan Reed and his best friend and mother of his kids, Chelsey Stange of Westminster. He leaves his parents, Lee and Joan Peters of Royalston; brothers Eric Peters of Athol, and Ryan Peters of Royalston; grandmothers Anne Peters of Lady Lake, FL and Mary Chartrand of Leominster; lifelong friend Jordan Manjourea and several aunts, uncles and cousins.
What’s happening at the Village School?
We are settling into our lovely new building, slowly creating our new playground.

*It's outdoor time!* Classes are visiting local gardens, hiking Camp Caravan trails, going to Red Apple Farm, canoeing at Tully Lake, clearing trails with a work horse, making nature trails and doing a stream study at Lawrence Brook. On our mid-October Sunday *Parent Work Day*, we’ll all pitch in and do some outdoor landscaping, planting trees and shrubs.

**Upcoming events**
Thursday October 18.  Kindergarten Reading Morning 8:30 to 9:30. Come in for a hands-on presentation of the Kindergarten Reading and Writing Curriculum.

Open House Saturday November 10 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, tour the new building, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children, they will enjoy activities in the classrooms just for them. Preschool starts filling up for next year. For continual updates on events, go to villageschoolma.org

### Village School Programs for all of Royalston:
If you are looking for after school care, the Village School offers a fun After School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days, reasonably priced. Children can take the RCS bus and get dropped off at the Village School. 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, call the school at 249-3505.

**After School Music Lessons** Fall After School Music Lessons are now available. Lessons are open to ALL AGES – even adults! Learn ukelele & guitar with Matt Hamer, piano with Berklee College of Music grad and composer Isaac Richardson. See the brochure at villageschoolma.org/pdf/AfterSchoolMusicProgram20182019.pdf

**Roots and Sprouts Parent-Child Group for parents with infants and toddlers up to age 3**
Wednesdays, starting Oct. 3, for 6 weeks. 8:45 to 10 a.m.

Drop-ins are welcome. FREE

Led by Brooke Coleman, parent, nurse, midwife and health educator, with Sofie Vieira, preschool teacher and mother of a new baby. Come gather in the lovely Village School preschool classroom, meet other parents and deepen your connection with your child through fun activities. The morning finishes in the playground. For info, call 978 249 3505 or email info@villageschoolma.org

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The *Royalston PTG’s Welcome Back Popsicle Party* was a cool way to start the new school year! Upwards of 200 people attended! The group has hit the ground running – it’s already held a meeting, begun a *Box Tops for Education* campaign, hosted an open house bake sale, and is coordinating a “*Mums Fundraiser*” to benefit Nature’s Classroom! Volunteer, donate, and certainly support their activities. Everything raised goes right back to the children. Be sure to check out the *Royalston Community School PTG Facebook page* – but check frequently, because something’s ALWAYS going on!

### RCS Calendar
- Oct.08 - Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
- Oct 10 - Picture Day at RCS
- Oct.19 - 1:00PM *Performance at RCS “The 100 Dresses” by MWCC
- Oct.24 - NO SCHOOL - Professional Development

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

Monty Tech’s annual Tour Day on Monday, October 15th, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., is an opportunity for eighth graders to visit the school’s 21 voc-tech areas, find out about the benefits and challenges of doing double academics one week, and working in a chosen field the next, and hear about the impressive array of extra-curricular and athletic programs. Later that evening, Career Awareness Night, 6-8 p.m., allows those students to further explore the facilities and speak in greater depth with staff members, and families to explore and ask questions. Since ARRSD no longer sanctions this visit during the school day, it is up to families of students interested in exploring Monty Tech to ensure their children have this opportunity. For more details, or to schedule a visit outside of those events, contact Monty Tech at 978-345-9200.

Inquiring drivers want to know... What are the detour signs on Rt 68? The bridge over Lawrence Brook Bridge on Stockwell Road is under construction. Chickens take note: Soon it will be possible to get to the other side.
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 bbrguiney@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

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

Sadly, the annual Memorial Concert had to be cancelled due to scheduling conflicts on the part of multiple performers.

The next meeting is at the Royalston Community School, Wednesday, October 24, at 7 p.m. It’s Craft Night at the Ladies’ B. meeting this month. Attendees are invited to bring along completed, or in-progress crafts for “show and tell,” and find out about one of our area arts & crafts businesses. The program is free and open to the public. Please RSVP hostesses Laurie at lmdeveneau@msn.com or 978-249-5807, or Nancy at melbournes@verizon.net or 978-249-8917.

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Garden Notes  September 22, 2018
It is a period of transition in the garden, what with the summer crops declining and the fall crops flourishing. An early frost would have little impact; yields from the cherry tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, and summer squash are already dramatically reduced (the exception being the winter squashes, which need a couple more weeks to mature). Seems like an appropriate time to take stock of the stock. There are sufficient quantities of beans, snap peas, and corn in the freezer. There are insufficient quantities of tomatoes anywhere. There is a plethora of onions, potatoes, butternut squash and, still growing, cabbage. A winter of peasant fare, (which, truth be told, is far more desirable than no fare at all.)

There were some inexplicable events. Why did the zucchini die while their kissing cousins, the yellow squash, thrive? Similarly, the buttercups provided one squash, the butternuts many. Celery is fine; celeriac is not. Since these events were inexplicable, I am not obliged to explain them. I did expect an appleless year and an appleless year it was. (Was there an apple anywhere in Royalston this year?) I did not expect leaf drop from the apple trees in early September. Why would I? It had never occurred before. I suspect the trees were victims of fungal diseases brought on by the rains. Tomatoes (the slicers), situated in our lowest-lying garden, drowned. The buttercups provided one squash, the butternuts many. Celery is fine; celeriac is not. Since these events were inexplicable, I am not obliged to explain them. I did expect an appleless year and an appleless year it was. (Was there an apple anywhere in Royalston this year?) I did not expect leaf drop from the apple trees in early September. Why would I? It had never occurred before. I suspect the trees were victims of fungal diseases brought on by the rains. Tomatoes (the slicers), situated in our lowest-lying garden, drowned.

On the matter of flying things: for the first time in years, monarch butterflies abound, reason enough (as if there were not a multitude of other reasons) to wander around the garden. I am a bit surprised; there is not much milkweed growing hereabout, and milkweed is the only plant the monarch’s caterpillars will feed upon. It gotta be there. (Squirrels, I’ve been told, are no more than bushy-tailed rats that can climb trees.) It is virtually impossible to drive anywhere in town without encountering them, some alive, some dead. They’ve even climbed trees. For some reason (one of the reasons I did not accompany her was to avoid the dreaded Alaskan mosquitoes. (She informs me they were barely present.)

The ongoing saga of mice and men: despite trapping untold numbers, there appears to be no let-up in the number of mice. Some among you have been spared the onslaught of the mice, but none among you is unaware of a similar onslaught of squirrels, fellow rodents that they be. (Squirrels, I’ve been told, are no more than bushy-tailed rats that can climb trees.) It is virtually impossible to drive anywhere in town without encountering them, some alive, some dead. They’ve even had an impact on the garden, an event which has never previously occurred: having negotiated the electric mesh (I saw one crawl through a 2” x 3” opening), they proceeded to devastate the ripening corn. Porcupines? Yes. Raccoons? Yes, of course. But squirrels? No way.

October is a delightful time to be in the garden and I will be delighted to be in the garden. Some of it is pre-ordained: the mid-month planting of garlic and the ongoing harvest of a handful (or two) of provisions for the home and market. Some of it is make-work: pulling a weed here and there or dead leaves from growing plants. And some of it has no reason at all, other than the fact that it is the garden where I want to be.

Larry Siegel

Small Town Halloween
One of the best things about growing up in a small town is that everyone knows you. In the New Hampshire town of my childhood, my siblings and I knew that we were never far from an adult who cared about us. It was not unusual for a neighbor to bandage our skinny knees or for our mother to make a place at the table for a playmate who had stayed until dinnertime. To us, this communal generosity, repeated over and over in big and small ways, was proof that we kids were, indeed, the center of the world. Though we could not have said it in so many words, we knew we were safe. And inside that safety the town opened its doors.

At no time was this more evident than Halloween. It was as if the whole town turned its attention to the magic and mystery of the season. Preparations began in mid-October when the local business owners sponsored an art contest. Children in our elementary school would enter a drawing of a Halloween scene. Each winner, and a few lucky friends, would spend an October Saturday painting the scene on a shop window, transforming Main Street into a riot of jack-o-lanterns, ghosts, and graveyards. This was a very big deal for us kids. Winners or losers, it didn’t matter. We all became art enthusiasts and we never tired of walking past window after window, commenting on the obvious talent of our friends. But more important, it seems, was the subtle message from the grown-ups of our town: we see you, you matter to us, and we can share in your fun.

The night of Halloween was magical. For as long as I can remember, my sister and I were allowed to trick-or-treat on our own. Our parents bundled us into our make-shift costumes and handed us an empty pillow case. With a reminder to visit only the houses where the porch lights were on, they sent us into the gathering dusk. And that was it. We were on our own in the dark of autumn’s most mysterious night.

Everything about the night seemed perfect – the dark, the cold, the crunch of dead leaves, the bare branches rocking in the breeze – and we loved every bone-chilling moment. We wended our way up and down the streets of our town, encountering groups of friends out on their own quest for magic, mystery, and treats. We visited every lit house. It didn’t matter if the occupant was not known to us, for it was certain that they had ordered a coffee at our father’s soda fountain, had a prescription filled at his bench, or knew our mother from church. Almost always, they knew us. “Oh, the D’Amico children! Look at that costume! Would you like a treat?” I distinctly recall one house where all trick-or-treaters were invited in for hot cocoa, and we entered without a moment’s hesitation.

We stayed out until we were either too cold or too tired to continue. Wending our way home we were certain that the night had changed. We met fewer and fewer trick-or-treaters, the dark seemed darker, the cold colder, the shadows quieter. This was Halloween after all, and we almost wished for frights around every corner because we knew we would make it home safe. We always had.

Once home we would empty our pillowcases and survey the bounty. In the coming days we would hoard, trade and devour our takings and they would eventually disappear. But the memory of our brave journey down darkened streets, of painted shop windows, of porch doors opened wide, of our neighbors’ warm greetings is with me still. There is nothing better for children in October than a small-town Halloween.

Deb D’Amico
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Wildlife Sightings:

Kathy Barry of Warwick Rd. got this shot of this bobcat on a game camera. She reports, “The bobcat came close to the house at 5:15 pm shortly after the turkeys were here.”

On September 15 at 11 in the morning, a large bull moose with an impressive rack was spotted sauntering from the north side Priest Brook towards Winchendon Road, where it headed west.

Turkeys, squirrels, and mice - absolutely everywhere in town.

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

There’s no slowing down at the Royalston F&G this fall.

Every Wednesday through October, from 5-7 p.m., drop in for the open Trap Shoot. Skilled, occasional, or newbie shooters welcomed! $3/round (25 clay pigeons); experienced shooters are happy to get you started. Every Friday, the weekly Queen of Hearts Drawing takes place at 7:30 p.m. Tix are $1/chance, you don’t need to be there to win 50% of the pot, but if you ARE present and win, you leave with 60%! The regular Monthly Meeting begins at 7 p.m., Oct. 10. Members, potential members, and the curious are welcome to attend! If you are up for a good Spaghetti Supper, set aside Thu., Oct. 11, beginning at 5 p.m. Family-friendly prices of $7/person; the bar will be open. Call or stop by the RF&G. Also, Patriots’ Football Game Days are Sundays, the 14th and 21st. Bring along your favorite game-day dish; steamed hot dogs and, of course, liquid libation available for purchase. Join in the fun at the annual Turkey Raffle Friday, Oct. 26th, with the first spin at 7 p.m. One of our biggest fundraisers, so be there, and bring your friends! Refreshments throughout the evening. The bar will be open. Stop by or call the F&G for info, tickets, and memberships – 978-249-3004. Oh, and check out the Royalston Fish & Game Club Facebook page.