## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>Friday 7:00 p.m. Authors Diane Kane, Kathy Chencharik, Sharon Harmon, and Phyllis Cochran will discuss their new book of short stories, <em>Flash in the Can</em> at the library. Participants will learn how they went from writers group, to self-publishing and marketing. Copies available for $10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Saturday 10 a.m. Cultural Council Meets to choose grant recipients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Sunday Clocks fall back Take a moment to replace batteries in all smoke, carbon monoxide, and radon detectors – test all hard-wired ones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Tuesday Election Day 7 am - 8 pm Polls open LBS bake sales at each precinct Precinct 1 - Town Hall Precinct 2 - Whitney Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Friday 7 pm sharp Royalston Fire &amp; EMS Association Annual Turkey Raffle 4 spins/ $1 2 turkeys per round! Door prize, Thanksgiving Baskets and Special Rounds will be offered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Saturday 10 am - noon Village School Open House to meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the new building and classrooms, find out about the unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children to enjoy art and science activities in the classrooms. Refreshments are served.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>Sunday An armistice with Germany was signed to end WWI on the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month in 1918, 100 years ago.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Monday Veterans’ Day, observed Post Office, P.S.N. Library and all schools closed today in observance of Veterans’ Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Saturday Pre-dawn, southern skies Leonid Meteor Shower peak days today and tomorrow. Potential to see a shooting star every three minutes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Sunday 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. Basket-making workshop at the Town Hall with Sue Morello. Materials cost of the basket is $10 and everyone is guaranteed to take home a great casserole/pie basket. Possible second workshop on Sunday, November 25 from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Sign up now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>Wednesday No Village School Classes for Thanksgiving break Noon Dismissal for Monty Tech and ARRSD for Thanksgiving break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Thursday Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23</td>
<td>Friday 12:39 a.m. Full Beaver Moon</td>
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### Drive by Pie!

- **Saturday, November 17**
  - 9:00 am to sell-out
  - Across from P.O., Royalston Common
- **Pre-Orders are Best!!**
  - Pumpkin $10
  - Apple, frozen or fresh $12
  - Mince $12
  - Blueberry, frozen or fresh $14
  - Pecan $16.

You can also drive buy and purchase what is available that day, but to ensure you get your favorite, pre-order by calling:

**Maureen 249-5138** (Please leave name, order and call back number.)

Pies available freshly baked or frozen and ready to bake in your own oven!

All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund Ladies’ Benevolent Society of Royalston
Select Board Notes

Deb D’Amico – Select Board Clerk

Marijuana Bylaw Accepted: Forty-two voters were present at the Special Town Meeting on October 4. The first two articles, concerning funding of the sewer system in South Royalston, were addressed and passed fairly quickly. The third article, asking for a vote on a marijuana bylaw for the town, was the subject of several questions and a lively discussion. In the end, the marijuana bylaw passed by a vote of 30-4. Whether we agree or disagree with the law that has legalized the manufacture, sale, and use of marijuana in Massachusetts, our town is legally bound to comply with the law. This new bylaw gives Royalston control over how, where and what type of marijuana businesses can be established in our town. The Board is grateful to the Planning Board and our finance team for the hours spent crafting this bylaw.

Royalston’s town meeting form of government is a great advantage for all of us. It allows voters the opportunity to voice support, concerns, questions, and recommendations about how our town is governed. And it allows for all in attendance to hear different points of view, consider other options, and make a more informed decision when the votes are cast. The Select Board looks forward to an increased attendance at future Town Meetings.

Congratulations! We learned this week that Royalston has been awarded a $1,000,000 grant through the MassWorks Infrastructure Grants Program. The program provides funding for road repairs in small towns of under 7,000 residents. The money will be used for a full-depth reclamation on Athol and Bolton Roads. This program is highly-competitive and gives priority to projects that are “shovel-ready,” providing the highest impact on local infrastructure. We are grateful to our grants consultant, Kevin Flynn, and DPW Superintendent Keith Newton for working together to make this happen.

Late-breaking Raymond School News: A serious problem with the Raymond School roof has emerged, definitely related to our goal of developing a ten-year capital plan. If we need a special town meeting in November to deal with it, we will get word out by as many means as possible. We urge residents to check the website (royalston-ma.gov) from time to time for updates on important issues, such as this one with the Raymond School.

It was a dark and stormy night…yet 14 people came to Town Hall on the evening of October 11 to talk about how to encourage greater participation in our town’s government. The conversation was wide-ranging and considered both what might be getting in the way of people participating and what the town might do to address some of those issues. While there were many familiar faces in the group, we were joined by several new residents who are happy to be in Royalston and are interested in participating. Awesome! We had coffee and cookies and shared our thoughts for over an hour. We came away with some good ideas. Please watch for more opportunities for you to participate in these community discussions.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6!

Election News:
Please note that election results can be found on the Public Relations page of the town website (www.royalston-ma.gov).

State Election Day: Tuesday, Nov 6.
Polls open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair
Wishing and hoping or thinking something is recyclable is not recycling. Since magic is not part of materials management, what you deposit in the containers is the key to actually recycling. So, if it’s in your hand, put it in the right can. Right now the non-recyclable item of the month is slippers in the paper roll off. Check those boxes and bags before you toss it in.

Mosquito season is thankfully coming to an end with frost now here. Massachusetts had a record year with West Nile virus positives in humans. It also had been a big year for all forms of rodents. Mice are abundant everywhere. Ticks are still about. So as hunting season gets into full swing, check yourselves when coming in from outdoors.
Flu shots are available at most pharmacies and health care providers. As the song goes, “protect yourselves”!

Energy Committee:

Did you know that you could qualify for up to $500 by participating in the Royalston’s Home Energy Conservation program, which is funded through our Green Communities grant?

All you have to do is request a free Mass Save home energy assessment from National Grid (866-527-7283) then complete the application http://www.royalston-ma.gov/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Green-Communities-Community-Outreach-Application-only.docx, the instructions and address are indicated on the ‘instructions for applicant form’. If you do not have reliable internet, copies of the application are at the library.

This is open to any household in Royalston and can only be used for residential properties. This is a great incentive for you, the homeowner, to get energy conservation work done on your residence and save money now and in the future by reducing energy consumption. Keep Royalston going greener!

Cultural Council News

The Cultural Council meets Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 am at the Town Hall to award the grants for 2019. All are welcome. Holiday Tree Lighting is Wednesday, December 5th beginning at 6:00 pm with tree lighting, carols, and arrival of you know who. Then we go into the Town Hall for hot chocolate, cookies, and singing with the RCS students. Rain or shine. Last year more than 100 attended!

First Open Mic is Friday, December 7th from 7-10. The Council will offer its usual yummy food. Oh yeah, then there is the always amazing music! For more info call Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000
Where do your Royalston Property Taxes Go?

Phil Rabinowitz

Everyone complains about taxes, but do you really know what your taxes do? They pay for the services – police, fire protection, road and building maintenance, schools, etc. – we expect from the town. In Royalston, as in the rest of the state, we are limited by Proposition 2½ to raising taxes by 2½% or less a year. Because we are such a small town, and because our property values are relatively low, we operate on a very tight budget. That budget is funded overwhelmingly out of the taxes and fees paid to the town.

Those of you who come to Town Meeting know that there are two kinds of spending that need to be approved by the voters. The town’s annual budget – the money that each town department needs to operate throughout the year – is one item. It is separated into specific items (for example, police salaries, DPW vehicle maintenance, Royalston’s share of the Athol-Royalston school budget) that voters can approve or not. Once the specifics have been hashed out, a single figure is then voted on as the budget for the town in the coming year. Just about all of that money comes from taxes.

The other type of spending at Town Meeting is in the form of line items. These are separate items on the warrant, each of which represents a single expense. It might be a piece of equipment, a payment to an architect for a building renovation plan, a repair to a town facility – pretty much anything that isn’t covered by the regular budget. Most of the funding for any of these items that are approved comes from taxes also.

So what does all that mean for where your taxes go? The percentages vary slightly from year to year, depending on things like how much the snow-and-ice budget needs to be (obviously more in a hard winter), but in general, it looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Government Salaries</td>
<td>$96,954.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Government Expenses</td>
<td>$89,749.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety Police &amp; Fire &amp; Bldg Inspectors</td>
<td>$260,177.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>$680,645.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer Plant Payment</td>
<td>$52,172.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Truck Payment</td>
<td>$65,295.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Capital Equipment Payments</td>
<td>$96,787.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Halls</td>
<td>$77,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Dept Salaries</td>
<td>$293,618.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Dept Expenses</td>
<td>$117,915.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow and Ice Removal</td>
<td>$334,124.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill, Sewer &amp; Other Public Services</td>
<td>$81,083.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Human Services &amp; Library</td>
<td>$81,321.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$129,238.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Insurances and Misc</td>
<td>$86,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,543,179.83</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

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

The main function of Emergency Management is advance planning, which, when done properly, makes most situations less of an emergency. Planning is most effective when done at all levels. The most important level is YOU!

Royalston residents are invited to become CERTs – Community Emergency Response Team members. CERTs receive free training, and upon successful completion, receive a free backpack of equipment and supplies. There is no commitment afterwards, but if you’re willing and able, there are opportunities to help in a variety of both emergency and non-emergency scenarios. The premise is that CERTs are going to be better off during emergencies, need less (if any) assistance for their families in various circumstances, and need assistance later than people who are not well prepared. This level of preparedness reduces the immediate burden on first responders, who are often stretched thin during times of crisis.

CERT training takes 12-14 hours, is done evenings or weekends, in blocks of two-four hours. Topics include Disaster Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, Psychology and Team Operations, and concludes with a simulated disaster. Royalston has teamed up with the Templeton Emergency Management Agency, which oversees CERTs from area communities. Templeton’s EMD Rich Curtis is currently pulling together a list of potential CERTs. If you’re interested, give him a call at 978-580-6620.

Royalston Broadband: Wherefore art Thou?

Broadband Committee Updates

Jon Hardie IT Dir / RoyalstonNet Project Lead

On Sept 26th, we were presented with a number of questions in an online conference call from companies interested in responding to our RFP (Request for Proposal). We subsequently provided a written response to all 25 companies that had received our RFP invitation.

On October 26, Last week, at 11 AM we opened the final bids for the final engineering design for our Royalston town-wide high-speed wireless internet network. Now the 4 members of the Tech Team and the 4 members of the Financial Team are independently evaluating and scoring each bid submitted proposal. As we complete our two-part evaluation, we may be asking specific companies to successfully demonstrate the efficacy and viability of their engineering design, right here on the ground, in Royalston in the next 30 days before we make our final decision.

After deciding on finalist, the next steps are to put the construction RFP out to bid with the data received in the final engineering design, begin permitting, and start to work building out the network.

We are looking at late next fall to complete the network. If we get it right, we may complete it earlier, in the fall. We will soon send you short bi-weekly email updates. If you want to be notified, email Jon at royalstonetech@gmail.com to opt-in, and give us permission to send the bi-weekly RoyalstonNet Progress reports to you.

DSL NEWS

Verizon has completed installing the new DSL switch ... Now they are connecting the remaining 174 customers. If you are on the new system be sure to select your speed. Verizon is discovering lots of problems with the very old phone lines and connections. Please be patient, it’s better to get it right. These upgraded connections will remain until we complete the town-wide RoyalstonNet buildout.
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!
The Cornwall Trust, James H. Ferry III
Ann Bedow

Get cozy with a new book/ film discussion group. The
Friends of the Library would like feedback around the idea of cre-
at ing a new “literary” discussion group based around a theme.
January would read a fiction book, February would read a nonfic-
tion book on the same topic and then in March, participants would
watch a related film. Would you be interested in such a group?
Do you have ideas we should consider for themes or books/films?
What times work for you? Tell us at the library. If there is interest,
we will start the group in early 2019.

Holiday Craft Workshops
Space in these workshops is limited and you must pre-register by
stopping by, calling, or emailing the library. They are funded by
and refreshments provided by the Friends.
Basket Making – The workshop on November 18 has only one
opening left but Sue Morello who will be teaching the workshop
has offered to do a second workshop on Sunday, November 25
from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Materials cost of the
basket is $10 and everyone is guaranteed to take home a great cas-
serole/pie basket.

Mason Jar Holiday Light – Sharon Harmon will lead this work-
shop on Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Partic-
ipants will create a decorative light in a mason jar. This program is
free and there are a few spaces left.

Art Exhibit and Benefit for the Library
Gail Osgood, who has just recently moved from Royalston and
who recently had an exhibit at the Petersham Craft Center, has
generously donated many of her pastels to the library to be sold to
benefit the Friends. These beautifully rendered and framed paint-
ings are scenes from the North Quabbin region, many in Royalston,
and are on display in the children’s room of the library. Suggested
prices are listed and reasonable offers will be accepted. They will
be on display until the end of February but if you purchase one we
will remove it from the display whenever you want. Stop by to
view the paintings. We are very grateful to Gail for her generosity.

Murder, Mischief, and May-
hem at the Library
On Friday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.
at the library authors Diane Kane,
Kathy Chencharik, Sharon Harmon,
and Phyllis Cochran will discuss their
new book of short stories, Flash in
the Can. Participants will learn how
they went from writers group, to self-
publishing and marketing. Copies of
the book will be available for $10.
Refreshments will be provided by the
Friends of the Library.

Carla Rabinowitz will be reading from her new book, Bor-
derers: Becoming Americans on the Southern Frontier,
at the Phinehas Newton Library at 7:00 on Friday, January 11.
The book tells a story of race, class, religion and community at
the dawn of America. Based on seventeen years of research and
writing, it traces the four-generation journeys of two families of
southern backwoodsmen from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. In
the course of those journeys they encountered Anglicans, Quakers,
radical Baptists, enslaved African-Americans, free people of color,
rebellious Regulators, Highland Scots, Freemasons, Long Hunt-
ers, the French colonists of the Mississippi valley, and the Indian
nations driven from their homelands over the Trail of Tears. They
survived wars, rebellions, lawsuits, political and religious battles,
and two or three murders. Some of their descendants are white,
some black. Their stories take place against the background of a
country in the process of creation, and help to illuminate some of
the forces that formed that country.
Borderers can be purchased directly from Carla, or from the pub-
lisher, Haley’s, 488 South Main St., Athol, MA 01331, for $29.95.
After January 1 it will also be available on amazon.com. For ques-
tions, email haley.antique@verizon.net, or call 978-249-9400.
Brief essays on many of the topics covered in the book can be
found on Carla’s blog, at www.carlarabinowitz.com.

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

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

#### Adult Fiction
- Albom, Mitch: *The Next Person You Meet in Heaven*
- Atkinson, Kate: *Transcription*
- Berney, Lou: *November Road*
- Coelho, Paulo: *Hippie*
- Elden, Roxanna: *Adequate Yearly Progress*
- French, Tana: *The Witch Elm*
- Green, Hank: *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing*
- Hilderbrand, Elin: *Winter in Paradise*
- Hubbard, Sue: *Depth of Winter*
- Johnson, Craig: *The Darkness*
- Jonasson, Ragnar: *Unsheltered*
- Kingsolver, Barbara: *When the Lights Go Out*
- Kubica, Mary: *Crazy Rich Asians*
- Mayor, Archer: *Bury the Lead*
- Mills, Kyle: *Red War*
- Mizushima, Margaret: * Burning Ridge*
- Murakami, Haruki: *Killing Commendatore*
- Olshan, Joseph: *Black Diamond Fall*
- Picoult, Jodi: *A Spark of Light*
- Reid, Iain: *Foe*
- Rice, Anne: *Blood Communion*
- Rosenfelt, David: *Deck the Hounds*
- Sandford, John: *Holy Ghost*

#### Adult Non-Fiction
- America’s Test: *The New Essentials Cookbook*
- Beranbaum, Rose: *Rose’s Baking Basics*
- Bredesen, Dale: *The End of Alzheimer’s*
- Carter, Stephen: *Invisible*
- De Hart, Jane: *Ruth Bader Ginsburg*
- Donaldson, Danielle: *Art of Creative Watercolor*
- Ellis, Joseph: *American Dialogue*
- Field, Sally: *In Pieces*
- Francis, Pope: *God is Young*
- Gerald, Casey: *There Will Be No Miracles Here: A Memoir Leadership in Turbulent Times*
- Goodwin, Doris: *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*
- Hawking, Stephen: *Every Day is Extra*
- Kerry, John: *Make Time*
- Knapp, Jake: *Almost Everything*
- Lamott, Anne: *These Truths*
- Lepore, Jill: *The Spy and the Traitor*
- Montgomery, Sy: *How to be a Good Creature*
- Nesbit, Jeffrey: *This is the Way the World Ends*
- Orlean, Susan: *The Library Book*
- Philbrick, Nathaniel: *In the Hurricane’s Eye*
- Souza, Pete: *Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents*
- Turner, Tina: *My Love Story*
- Vargas, Jose: *Dear America*
- Woodward, Bob: *Fear: Trump in the White House*

#### Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction
- Anderson, M.T.: *The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*
- Hunter, Erin: *Crowfeather's Trial*
- Riordan, Rick: *9 From the Nine Worlds*

#### Children's Fiction
- Agee, Jon: *The Wall in the Middle of the Book*
- Almond, David: *The Dam*
- Boynton, Sandra: *But Not the Armadillo*
- Boynton, Sandra: *Merry Christmas, Little Pookie*
- Castree, Genevieve: *A Bubble*
- Davis, Viola: *Corduroy Takes a Bow*
- Daywalt, Drew: *Sleepy, the Goodnight Buddy*
- DePaola, Tomie: *Quiet*
- DiCamillo, Kate: *Louisiana’s Way Home*
- Feder, Sandra: *Bitter and Sweet*
- Harris, Neil Patrick: *Magic Misfits*
- Henkes, Kevin: *A Parade of Elephants*
- Haasen, Carl: *Squirm*
- Jenkins, Emily: *All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah*
- John, Jory: *Giraffe Problems*
- Keller, Laurie: *Potato Pants!*
- MacLachlan, Patricia: *My Father’s Words*
- Mattick. Lindsay: *Winnie’s Great War*
- Meadows, Daisy: *Robyn the Christmas Party Fairy*
- Morales, Yuyi: *Dreamers*
- Pastis, Stephan: *It’s the End When I Say it’s the End*
- Rinker, Sherri: *Construction Site on Christmas Night*
- Silvestro, Annie: *The Christmas Tree Who Loved Trains*
- Sorell, Traci: *We are Grateful*
- Soundar, Chitra: *You’re Snug with Me*
- Stilton, Geronimo: *The Phantom Bandit*
- Sullivan, John: *Kitten and the Night Watchman*
- Tarshis, Lauren: *I Survived the Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967*
- Van Fleet, Matthew: *Chomp Goes the Alligator*
- Vernon, Ursula: *Little Red Rodent Hood*
- Willems, Mo: *I Lost my Tooth!*

#### Children’s Nonfiction
- Bullard, Lisa: *My Family Celebrates Day of the Dead*
- Bullard, Lisa: *My Family Celebrates Kwanzaa*
- Churnin, Nancy: *The Queen and the First Christmas Tree*
- DeRubertis, Barbara: *Let’s Celebrate Election Day & Juneteenth*
- DeRubertis, Barbara: *Let’s Celebrate New Year’s Day*
- DeRubertis, Barbara: *Let’s Celebrate Women’s Equality Day*
- Golo, Gary: *Carlos Santana*
- Hackett, Jennifer: *Vermont*
- Holt, Hannah: *The Diamond and the Boy*
- Kibuishi, Kazu: *Supernova*
- Long, Loren: *There’s a Hole in the Log on the Bot tom of the Lake*
- Manfredi, Kate: *Pearl Harbor*
- Ohlin, Nancy: *Women’s Suffrage*
- Ohlin, Nancy: *The Secret Life of the Little Brown Bat*
- Prince, Laurence: *National Parks of the U.S.A.*
- Siber, Kate: *The Atlas Obscura Explorer’s Guide to the World’s Most Adventurous Kid*

#### DVDs
- *A Quiet Place (DVD & Blu-ray)*, *Eighth Grade*, *Game Night (DVD & Blu-ray)*, *The Good Fight Season 1*, *Gringo (DVD & Blu-ray)*, *Hotel Transylvania 3*, *Killing Eve Season 1*, *Monster Family*, *Ocean’s 8 (DVD & Blu-ray)*, *Sicario: Day of the Soldado*
Recipe of the Month

*Many have a neighbor who is such a good cook that when she or he asks, “Can I bring anything?” ... even if there is already enough food, the answer is “yes please!” Librarian Gina Verrelli is that kind of cook. One of the crops that did particularly well this season was butternut, so here is her recipe for the perfect way to use butternut at a holiday potluck.*

**Butternut Tart**

**CRUST:**

1 3/4 cups all purpose unbleached flour
1/4 cup whole grain cornmeal
2 tablespoons granulated white sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup (1 stick) cold salted butter, cut into pieces
1/3 cup + 1 to 2 tablespoons lowfat buttermilk

For the Filling
2-3 onions, cut into thin slices
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 cup shredded Fontina cheese (or sub white cheese of your choice)
1 small butternut squash (or other winter squash), cubed
dried or fresh thyme or sage
kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
creamed blue cheese (optional)

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Pre-filling prep: Prepare the onions: Caramelize onions in olive oil until softened and lightly browned. Set aside to cool. Toss butternut squash with olive oil and salt and pepper, roast until tender.

2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare the crust: Combine flour, cornmeal, sugar and salt in a medium bowl- whisk together. Add the salted butter and use a pastry cutter to cut it into the dry mixture (you can also do this step in a food processor). Keep cutting in the butter until your mixture is a mess of crumbs. Add 1/3 cup of buttermilk and stir to combine. You’ll need to add 1 to 2 more tablespoons of buttermilk. Place the ball of dough onto a large flat parchment-lined baking sheet and roll dough into a 12 to 14-inch round circle (it does not have to be perfect).

3. Sprinkle the onions around the middle of the rolled out crust, leaving about a 1 1/2 inch border around the edge. Add Fontina cheese next, then butternut squash and blue cheese. Gently fold edges over toward the middle, on top of the filling. Sprinkle herbs on top; if you like a little bit of heat, add red pepper flakes.

4. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until the crust is golden brown and the filling is bubbly. Let cool for about 15 minutes, then slide the tart onto a cutting board, cut into slices and serve.

**Why is there a Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis?**

Most people know that Royalston is the only Royalston in the United States (yes, there is a Royalton, Vermont, but it lacks the s), but recently Fair Alice McCormick was in Minneapolis when she came across “Royalston Avenue” near the medical center. Back in Royalston, she visited the library to see if Kathy Morris had any information on the origins of the name. Googling found that the Gale family had been prominent in the history of Minneapolis. Knowing there were Gales in Royalston, a connection was surmised. Fair Alice was off to visit Pierre Humblet, who has been working on a history of the houses on the Common. He remembered that the Gale sons had moved to Minneapolis in 1857 (History of Royalston, Caswell, pp 228-233, Reflections on Royalston, Bartlett, p. 228). Checking further, Kathy Morris found records on the Minnesota Historical Society website, www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00319.xml, “The Gale Family represented here includes and is descended from Isaac and Tamar Goddard Gale, of Royalston, Massachusetts. Isaac was a grandson of Richard Gale. In the 1850s Isaac and Tamar’s sons Harlow, Samuel, and Amory moved to Minneapolis; the widowed Tamar eventually joined them there. Shortly after the Civil War Harlow joined Samuel in the firm Gale & Co., real estate dealers and insurance agents. The firm invested in real estate developments, and operated the city market in Minneapolis.” Thus, there is a Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Royalston Fish and Game**

Patriots’ Football Game Days are continuing on November Sundays, the 4th, 11th, and 25th. Bring along your favorite game-day dish; steamed hot dogs and, of course, the bar will be open.

The Queen of Hearts drawings continue Fridays at 6:30 p.m. through November – actually, through January 4th.

The regular November Monthly Meeting begins at 7 p.m., Nov. 14th. Members, potential members, and the curious are welcome to attend. Memberships are $50/year. Contact the Club at 978-249-3004.

And you’ve been asking: Roast Beef Dinners begin January 19th and continue on third Saturdays through April. Reserve your tickets at the Club or by contacting Sandy Graf at 978-249-4281.

For more information, check out the Royalston Fish & Game Club Facebook page.

**Butterworth Farm** on Butterworth Road in West Royalston marked its 45th anniversary on Labor Day Weekend with a dance party at the home of Allen Young (mirrored disco balls, laser lights and music by Dave Malin), a bonfire at the home of Jerry Marciano and Rob Jabbert, and a barbecue at the home of David Spackman. The community began with the purchase in 1973 of 94 acres of forestland for $9,000, at a time when Butterworth Road had no electric service and the town’s population was 980. The birthday cake was by Kristen West.
**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.

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**Congratulations to Linda Alger,** who was deservedly lauded and feted for her 18 years a Selectboard member recently. **Pictured:** State Representative Susannah Whipps presents Linda Alger with an official citation for her service.

**Taj Jenkins Musco,** of N. Fitzwilliam Rd, won the Gold Prize for Drama in the 2018 Page International Screenwriting Awards with his feature film screenplay entitled “Experience”. The Page awards were established fifteen years ago to discover the most exciting new scripts by up-and-coming writers from across the country and around the world, and to help them penetrate the barriers of the Hollywood system. The Page Awards are considered one of the top three screenwriting awards in the USA. “Experience” is the story of a lonely San Francisco bus driver who discovers a lost love doll on her bus, then secretly befriends the doll’s owner under false pretenses. Taj was inspired to write his script after living in San Francisco’s Tenderloin district in 2013.

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**Ladies’ Benevolent Society**

It’s DRIVE BY PIES time! Saturday, November 17th, from 9 a.m. to noon or sellout, outside along the road frontage between the Raymond School Building and Post Office/Historical Society Building on the Royalston Common. This has become the largest single fundraiser for the Ladies’ Benevolent Society, and provided more than $800 in scholarship money last year. You can pre-order and pick up or purchase fresh or frozen pies from a wide variety as you drive by or from the Royalston Recycling and Transfer Station. If you’re a baker and would like to contribute or if you’d like to pre-order pies, give Maureen Blasco a call at 978-249-5138.

If you’re new in town or (not-so-new) and would like to see what the LBS is all about, stop by and speak with any of the members. Check out the 2018 program guide. Members represent a wide diversity of ages, religions, politics, lifestyles, and economic circumstances. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

We will be gathering in December at Theresa Quinn’s house to do holiday baskets. If you know of anyone who would enjoy receiving one, please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

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Thank you to all who participated in the recent candlelit cemetery tours put on by the Historical Society. The clouds racing over the moon, dozens of candles winding through the unique headstones telling about three centuries of life in our town were the perfect setting for the knowledgable guides and enthusiastic actors relaying gripping true tales. The museum was open and cider and baked goods served.

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**Cemetery Commission Reminder**

The Historical Society provided an interesting and informative program last month, which involved visiting a cemetery after dark – and this was done with the knowledge and consent of the Cemetery Commission. Just a gentle reminder: All cemeteries are open to the public daily, from dawn until dusk, or 8 p.m., whichever is earlier, weather permitting. Cemeteries are closed outside of those hours. These rules are to help ensure the safety of visitors, to protect the resting places of loved ones, and to minimize the possibility of damage to stones, many of which are irreplaceable historic artifacts. If you have questions about the Royalston’s cemeteries, please contact Roland Hamel at 978-249-4587 for a copy of the Cemetery Commission Informational Guide. Commissioners Sherry A. Miner, Roy A. Smith, Jr, or Roland G. Hamel, or leave a message at 978-249-4587.

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**Collaboration with local Athol high and middle school students, who researched and wrote some scripts and portrayed townsfolk from the past, added to the candlelit cemetery tours.**
**Community School**

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<tr>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>DARE Program for Grade 4 begins on Thursdays w Officer Sherry Miner</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/06</td>
<td>DARE Program for Grade 3 begins on Tuesdays w Officer Sherry Miner</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/09</td>
<td>Veterans’ Day Program @ 2:00pm, all are welcome</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL - Veterans’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>School Picture make up day</td>
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<td>1/2 day before Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>11/22</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Day</td>
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<td>11/23</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL - Day after Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/05</td>
<td>Author &amp; Illustrator Ralph Masiello-time to be determined, public welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/07</td>
<td>DARE Program for Grade 5 begins on Fridays w Officer Sherry Miner</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>Caring for Kids dental program</td>
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<td>12/12</td>
<td>1/2 day of school, noon dismissal, lunch served *District Professional Dev.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>1/2 Day - December break, return January 2, 2019</td>
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**Vale Do Amanecer**
The former Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel is now the Christian Spiritualist temple Vale Do Amanecer. The temple is open to the public every other Sunday at 3 p.m. Anyone interested may contact Telma Milioli at 617-515-8647, or e-mail templeojaveiro@gmail.com for the next open dates.

**What’s happening at the Village School?**
As we get cozy in our new building, we are at the tail end of many outdoor field trips. All K-6th children went canoeing on Tully Lake and some even went swimming! Classes went to Northfield Mtn., to the Connecticut River, to Lawrence Brook and to Doanes Falls. All K-6th classes join in the hour-long beautiful Friday afternoon hike on the east portion of the Camp Caravan property, down old cart paths, crossing rivers, through the woods, over gigantic erratic boulders, through the field and back to the school again, making a full circle.

**Village School Open House** Saturday November 10th 10 a.m. to noon. Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the new building and classrooms, find out about the unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children, they will enjoy art and science activities in the classrooms just for them. Refreshments are served.

**After-School Program for Royalston children**
If you are looking for after-school care, the Village School offers a fun program from 3 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS bus and get dropped off at the Village School on South Royalston Rd. 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.

**Openings in Preschool**
There is one opening in preschool. Please call the school at 978 249 3505 to arrange a visit with your child.

**Visit Monty Tech Restaurant and Salon**
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston Rep., m-barclay@montytech.net
If you haven’t already, swing by the Mountain Room Restaurant at Monty Tech for lunch. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy gourmet dining at bargain prices while promoting vocational education. Examples of offerings include an appetizer of fried native oysters with spicy siracha aioli for $4.95; chicken pot pie, roast beef dinner or stir-fried beef with vegetables for $7.95; bacon-onion cheeseburger, grilled ham and Swiss, or turkey sub for $6.95. Soups of the day run from your basic chicken noodle, to more exotic ones, like quinoa and chickpea. The Mountain Room is the “shop” for students in the Culinary program. Although signs ask for patience and understanding, the usual response from diners is utter amazement – outstanding service, high-quality, delicious food, incredibly low prices! Menus change daily, and the Mountain Room is closed if there’s no school. Go to www.montytech.net, click the Community Tab, then go to menus. On Mondays-Thursdays, you can even order meals to go.

To make a day of it, check out the Monty Tech Salon, open from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on school days, and during evening school, 6 – 9 p.m. Hair cutting with blow-dry and styling begins at $9; color services from $17 touch-ups and cap highlighting, all the way to double-process hair coloring starting at $44. Chemical texturizing is available, $25 and up. Facial – relaxing or extractions – start at $15; waxing runs from $4 - $20. Make-up application begins at $7. Manicures and pedicures are also offered; try paraffin dips, masks, acrylics, and gel sets from $3 - $22.

*The complete listing is available at www.montytech.net, under the Community Tab, Monty Tech Salon.*
Classifieds

Free:

One quart small mouth Ball canning jars. Many still in the unopened original boxes. Six dozen available. Call Bert 978-249-8308

Antique pump player piano w/scrolls. Requires professional movers. Includes bench. Please contact Rose at 978-249-6814.


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:

Early drop off and/or after-school babysitting available for children from the Royalston Community School. Hours are Monday to Friday 6:30am till school drop off, 3 to 6pm after-school pickup and childcare. I will pick up your children and bring them back to my home.5 mile from the school. Snow days, holidays and school vacation days are also available. Costs will vary depending on how many days coverage you would like. Call Christine Morris: 978-249-4737.

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

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


2 matted horse stalls available; round pen, arena, generous turnout, watchful care 24/7. Black Horse Farm is near Birch Hill Dam by horseback. $400 per month. Training or any number of lessons $575 per month. Text Suanne at 978-323-1048.

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:

Pork Cut Packages available. Variety packs. 10 lbs- $55 20 lbs- $100 Sausage also available for $4/lb- breakfast, hot, sweet, and cajun. Fall piglets ready to go early to mid-December $60/piglet or discounts for larger quantities. Call Chet 978-895-6327

Car for Sale by original owner: 2006 Subaru Legacy wagon, AWD, 141,000 miles. New clutch, brakes, tires. Moon roof. Royalston mpg 27-28 over 12 years. Call Phil, 978-249-4422, or email prabinow45@gmail.com

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

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 writer’s Diane Kane, Phyllis Cochran, Kathy Chencharik and Sharon Harmon have a newly released book of short stories for sale. Flash in the Can, stories to read on the go. Makes a great stocking stuffer! To order 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

Turning In

Autumn has drawn me in. I travel up and down our road in a tunnel of red maples and golden birches. Against an overcast sky the leaves shimmer and, surrounded by so much color and light, I feel I am the luckiest person alive.

Outside work is a pleasure now. Biting insects have all but disappeared and the waning production of fruits and flowers allows for a slower pace. I stop now and then from mulching and dividing and transplanting to notice the shift in my surroundings from the busyness of summer to the slowing down of fall. I am struck by the silence and strain to hear an occasional cricket or a lone chipmunk’s call. The songbirds have long since departed leaving the skies to hawks and crows, whose piercing calls provide a haunting backdrop to the year’s turning. The gardens, once exploding with grasshoppers and bees, are abandoned. If silence could be a physical thing, it would look like this autumn day.

Autumn is changing our home. Grasses are brittle with age and laden with seeds of all shapes and sizes. Burst milkweed pods offer their white silks and the wind carries them away. Asters struggle to bloom but will continue, straggly and persistent, well into November. Some trees have already shed their leaves revealing enormous nests, the summer work of squirrels or crows. The oaks hold onto their green with stubborn persistence. We will see their withered brown leaves in January when a wintery blast finally sends them tumbling and scraping across the crusty snow.

I am drawn to the turning-in of autumn, with its cloudy days, cool temperatures, and early dark. As the season slows it offers fewer distractions, inviting me to focus on the very small and quiet things that are happening all around me. And there is so much that is quiet and small at this time of year. The dry rustling beneath the leaves in the garden turns out to be a brown mouse rushing to hoard for the winter. The slight movement in the tall grasses gone to seed turns out to be a flock of goldfinches, bereft of their bright summer plumage, grasping the swaying branches and plucking seeds.

This is a time to button-up and make ready. So, we put away the rakes and hoes that were next to the door and replace them with a stack of wood, sturdy and serious and ready. The outdoor chairs and tables are moved to the garden shed and placed carefully behind the snow shovels and birdfeeders, which will soon be needed. Tom has planted the garlic, and we will cover the beds with hemlock boughs. It is time.

All of this seems to set the stage for the turning-in that is about to happen, with the cold days and long nights of the winter ahead. Autumn, with its small quiet moments, asks us to consider: “What have I been missing? What have I overlooked? What is really important?” Good questions to consider, I think. So, I welcome the quiet and the dark of this turning-in season.
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**Wildlife Sightings:**

**Plethora of Porcupines**

*Stephen Chase*

This has been a bumper year for rodents, including our second largest, the porcupine. (Beavers are biggest.) Male porcupines can weigh up to 40 pounds with the average of 24 pounds. Our species, the North American porcupine, is quite abundant throughout the northern United States and Canada. The porcupine is the only North American mammal with antibiotics in its skin. This prevents infections when the porcupine falls out of a tree and gets stuck with its own quills. An adult porcupine has about 30,000 quills that cover all of its body except its face, underbelly and feet. Its first defense, however, is its skunk-like black and white coloration and strong odor which lets its potential attacker know who it’s dealing with in the dark. If the attacker persists, the porcupine will chitter its teeth, turn its back, raise its quills and whack with its tail. The barbed quills are difficult and painful to remove. Porcupines eat all kinds of vegetation, especially tree roots, stems, bark, and needles as well as berries. Unlike other vegetarians, they can live solitary lives not dependent on the flock or herd to provide food or defense. They do not hibernate and stay close to their dens in winter. Juveniles stay with their mother for the first winter. They are nearsighted and slow moving, which makes me wonder why people are always hitting them with their cars.

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The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
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Saturday Nov. 10 10-noon

Meet teachers, tour classrooms, activities for children.

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**Please Contact Us**

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:
- E-mail: chasegos2@gmail.com
- Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368
- Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
- Phone: 978-249-0358 (newsletter)
- In person: Drop off at library

RCN reserves the right to edit and restrict all submissions.

**Out of Town Subscriptions**

are available for $25/calendar year (10 issues)
by mailing a check to: Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

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**Plethora of Porcupines**

Come to the library on Friday, November 2 as local short story authors Diane Kane, Kathy Chencharik, Sharon Harmon, and Phyllis Cochran discuss their new book “Flash in the Can”.

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