Calendar of Events

December 2  Sunday
sundown  Chanukah begins

December 3  Monday
5 pm  Friends of the Library Meeting. All welcome to plan library support and programs as well as this newsletter.

December 5  Wednesday
6 pm  Christmas Tree Lighting at Town Hall, rain or shine. Santa arrival, cocoa and cookies in Town Hall, and RCS singers inside. Sponsored by the Cultural Council

December 7  Friday
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
2:20 am  New Cold Moon
7 - 10 pm  First Open Mic of the 2018-19 season. Great music and homemade food at Town Hall. Free. Host band is the Williams Bros. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

December 9  Sunday
2 pm  Mason Jar Holiday Light at the Town Hall. Participants will create a decorative light in a mason jar. This program is free and there are a few spaces left, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

December 12  Wednesday
7 pm  Ladies’ Benevolent Society holiday basket packing at the home of Theresa Quinn on the Common. If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving a basket, please call Deb at 978-249-4000.

December 13  Thursday
dark  Geominid Meteor Showers - continual shooting stars Thursday and Friday. Face northeast for best viewing.

December 16  Sunday
3:30 pm  Holiday Jazz Concert performed by Berklee College of Music alumni Laura Ramsey and Brooks Milgate at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Free

December 21  Friday
5:23 pm  Winter Solstice, the darkest day of the year. The sun is as far away as it gets, but starting today, daylight begins to lengthen and the sun nudges north again every day until summer.

Village School holiday break begins following a noontime celebration; breaks for ARRS and Monty Tech begin at close of school today.

December 22  Saturday
12:49 pm  Full Cold Moon

December 25  Tuesday
Christmas

January 1  Tuesday
New Year’s Day 2019

January 4  Friday
7 - 10 pm  Open Mic at Town Hall. Local music and homemade food. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

January 11  Friday
7 pm  Carla Rabinowitz reads from her new book, Borderers: Becoming Americans on the Southern Frontier, at the Phinehas Newton Library. Refreshments.

January 18  Friday
7 pm  Historical Society quarterly meeting at the home of president Peter Kranik, 43 Winchendon Road. Come learn about the town’s history, meet kind people, and plan museum improvements and upcoming events. All welcome.

February 2  Saturday
6 pm  AREF fundraiser spaghetti supper downstairs at Town Hall
7 pm  AREF’s Trivia Night raises money for enrichment projects in the local public schools. Start forming your team now. Watch for more details.

Save the Date:
We love our old town buildings! For so many of us, Whitney Hall, Town Hall and the Raymond Building are among the places that have come to symbolize Royalston. However, they also present ongoing challenges as we work to find the resources necessary to keep these spaces warm, safe and usable.

The Raymond School – originally a town school, then the Village School, now vacant – has presented us with our most recent challenge. As reported briefly in last month’s Newsletter, the building has major water infiltration problems from groundwater seepage and a leaky roof. In a building otherwise structurally sound that offers usable space for the town, we are eager to address these issues in the quickest and most cost-effective way.

The town has contracted with a company that will install a drainage system around the perimeter of the building to address the groundwater issues. The leaky roof has been more of a challenge.

DPW Superintendent Keith Newton and Building Committee members Jim Barclay and Tom Musco have met with a number of contractors over the course of several weeks to come up with the best plan. After much research and several on-site inspections – one of which included using the fire department’s ladder truck to allow the roof to be viewed from above – they have identified the exact location of the leaks. We will be able to contract with a roofing company for a repair that will cost much less than we had feared.

That is good news. But turning this historic building into usable space for the town will take considerable resources over the next few years. Jim Barclay is exploring grant funding that will help defray the cost of removing asbestos and lead paint. The Select Board this month voted to accept a recommendation from the Building Committee to repurpose the building into a public safety complex, with a public meeting room plus office space for the Fire Department, Police Department (now with woefully inadequate space) and Emergency Management (which currently has no office).

That will mean also repurposing the current Public Safety Building, perhaps for town offices, perhaps for the post office (which in its present home offers no restroom), perhaps a combination.

We are still hopeful about the Town Hall elevator project. We have grant funding, but the first round of bidding came in over budget. A second round of bidding, which allowed for combining our elevator project with a similar one in Phillipston, brought in bids closer to budget. Our Grants Administrator, Kevin Flynn, is applying for additional funding from the ADA, which we hope will close the gap.

The Building Committee has been presented with two sets of plans that would turn Whitney Hall into either apartments or offices. The cost of either of these projects would be upwards of $3 million – clearly way beyond our resources at this time. What to do with this grand, iconic South Royalston gem is an ongoing question.

These building needs point to the need for a Capital Plan for Royalston. The Capital Plan Development Committee is working to develop a long-term plan for funding our needs. We are committed to preserving our town’s assets for our benefit and that of generations to come.

The RBOH is happy to announce the hiring of our first administrative assistant, Michelle Deline. She’s lives in Royalston with her husband John in a house they built. She brings Title V experience which is one of our main responsibilities. Where to fit her involved several departments at Whitney Hall. The BOH had shared a room with the town clerk, Precinct 2, the sewer department, and the water association. It was suggested that we move to an under-utilized space in the Assessor’s room. After discussions with the parties affected, we were given the green light to move. We would like to thank the assessors for sharing their space, Brenda Putney for the idea in the first place, Lori Bolasevich town accountant, RBOS, and everyone that helped to think it through. We have very limited space town wide, but my experience with others working for the town is one of sharing and problem solving.

So, the RBOH will have regular office hours on Wednesdays 5-9pm. The RBOH will still meet on the first Wednesdays of the month at 7pm at Whitney Hall. Our office number is 978-249-3617.

Flu season is upon us. See your local pharmacy or health care provider for the flu vaccine. Keep an eye on each other throughout the winter weather. Check on neighbors, especially seniors, to see they are ok.

Make sure you have marked your calendar for:

- Christmas Tree Lighting, Wednesday, December 5, 6 pm, Town Hall, rain or shine. Santa arrival, cocoa and cookies in Town Hall, Christmas Tree Lighting, Wednesday, December 5, 6 pm, Town Hall.
- First Open Mic: Friday, December 7, 7-10 pm. Great music and great homemade food. Free. Other Open Mic dates: Friday, Jan. 4; Friday, Feb 1; Friday, Mar 1; Friday, April 5
- Royalston Follies is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th, with rehearsal; Friday, May 17. We need 7-8 acts for this to go forward. Please contact Deb at dwellsnunes@aol.com by Feb. 1st with your verbal commitment to participate. If we don’t get enough response we will do a Blues Night instead on May 18th.
Fire Department News
I would like to remind everyone to take a few moments and think of safety while heating your home this winter. I’m sure everyone has cleaned stoves and chimneys by now, but the close monitoring of stovepipes and chimneys continues through the winter months. The act of burning solid fuels will build deposits of creosote in flues and chimneys when temperatures fluctuate. Properly cured wood kept under cover will help a great deal to stay safe from most incidents. Inspect all connections of stove pipes. Check for open joints. Any breaks or loose fitting pipes could lead to dangerous CO gases escaping into your home. This is a good opportunity to remind you that you should have Carbon Monoxide detectors for every level of your home. Stay safe and enjoy the holiday season that approaches.
Royalston Fire Chief, Keith R. Newton

Department of Public Works
The winter is upon us and this brings the annual struggle to manage our Public Ways (roads). The Town Bylaw calls for the parking ban to be enforced. Please help the Highway staff by not parking any vehicles in the road or on the shoulder or in public parking lots. When vehicles are left in the way, this delays or in some cases doesn’t allow the road to be treated or cleared of snow or ice. The Town can have these vehicles towed at the vehicle owner’s expense. The parking ban is from December 1, 2018 to April 31, 2019.

Please avoid plowing or shoveling snow into the public way. This also can build into a hazardous obstruction that may result in damage to other vehicles. Please be considerate.
Thank you all for your support and understanding.
Royalston Department of Public Works Supt., Keith R. Newton

Police Department
Mary C. Barclay
Non-emergency number, 978-249-5838
Royalston Police Officer Sherry A. Miner is in her 12th year as Royalston Community School’s D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Instructor. She is pleased to report RCS has enthusiastically agreed to expand the program to include all students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Officer Sherry recently discovered many people don’t really understand D.A.R.E. – what it is, and what it isn’t. D.A.R.E. is not all about drugs. Yes, drugs (prescription, illegal, alcohol, tobacco) are mentioned, but drugs are not the focus. The focus is on age-appropriate decision-making skills. Students ultimately learn to:
Define problems:
Assess decisions and potential outcomes
Respond appropriately
Evaluate the results

With guidance and practice, students learn to make wise decisions, even in the face of peer pressure or bullying. They learn how to say no when no isn’t easy, ways to deal with stress-filled situations, strategies for coping with their own anger, and role play practice decision-making skills and responses to difficult situations.

The Royalston Police Department is committed to helping children grow up confident in their ability to make informed, healthy, and safe decisions. D.A.R.E. helps prepare children for a life of tough but wise decision making.

RoyalstonNet Town-Wide Broadband Wireless Network
Jon Hardie IT Dir / RoyalstonNet Project Lead
RoyalstonNet Update: On October 26th, after seven years of hard slogging together, we had a number of vendors who expressed interest, and three very competitive bids were received in response to our widely posted, Request for Proposal for a Final Engineering Design of a Fixed Wireless Telecommunications Network in Royalston, MA.

To effectively, rigorously, and critically decide which bid is chosen for final consideration, (and on the ground testing), we have formed two isolated technical and financial teams to review the three bids that have been submitted.

The Tech Evaluation team can only look at each technical proposal and evaluate and score each bid against more than 20 written sets of criteria in the RFP. Similarly, the financial can only evaluate the financial components of each RFP.

Once the bids are independently reviewed and scored and any questions either team may have of the vendors are answered, we will ask the finalists to demonstrate their technology on some of the toughest terrain and foliage across our 42 square miles. Then we will choose the final engineering design and budget proposal.

To learn more about the RoyalstonNet project, and the lay of the land go to http://royalston-ma.gov/RMLPBBN/ and
1) Take a look at an aerial view of Royalston Data … and find your location.
2) Read our Request for Proposal for a Final Engineering Design of a Fixed Wireless Telecommunications Network.

If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to call Jon on his cell at (978) 790-8474 or email at royalstontech@gmail.com.
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!
Donald Stanton
Florence Taylor
Buddy Dyer
Thank you
Kathy Chencharik, Sharon Harmon, Diane Kane, and Phyliss Cochran for a delightful and enlightening evening delving into short stories and self-publishing. And thank you for the gift basket which was won by Mary Smith.

Stop in for December Saturday Refreshments
Warm up your Saturdays with our perennial December Saturday refreshments. Enjoy hot coffee, cocoa, and cider with other goodies provided by the Friends of the Library and augmented by patron donated home-baked sweets while you peruse the collection and relax. You can also see our newly enlarged shelving area for audiobooks and reference materials and new laptop computer for patron use in the north front room.

Get cozy with a new book/ film discussion group.
It will meet the during first full week of January, February and March. To sign up and/or weigh in on the reading selections and meeting times, contact the library soon. The topic for the fiction, nonfiction, and film selections is immigration.

Holiday Craft Workshop
Space is limited. Pre-register by stopping by, calling, or emailing the library. Funded and refreshments provided by the Friends.

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

Art Exhibit and Sale
Art Exhibit and Sale
Gail Oswald has generously donated her gorgeous pastel paintings, all with scenes from the North Quabbin area, to benefit the Friends of the Library. The paintings are beautifully framed and ready for gift giving. While only painting for three years her expertise in capturing the feeling and mood of the area and her artistic ability are extraordinary. The exhibit will be on view until the end of February (except for the paintings that are sold.) Each would make a wonderful holiday gift or addition to anyone’s home. Suggested prices are posted but reasonable offers will be accepted. Many thanks to Gail for her generosity.

Wind down through the winter. There is yoga every Tuesday night at 7 pm at town hall, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Donations to the Friends- Thank you!
Donald Stanton
Florence Taylor
Buddy Dyer
Thank you
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Holiday Concert
On Sunday, December 16 at 3:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, enjoy a rustic afternoon of holiday jazz performed by Berklee College of Music alumna Laura Ramsey (a Royalston resident) on saxophone and clarinet, and Brooks Milgate, on piano. They create a musical landscape that will embrace you in warm harmony and exciting melodies. Together they have performed to wide acclaim throughout New England for nearly a decade and continue the music traditions of jazz with modern artistry. Come enjoy this relaxing afternoon enhanced with holiday refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

Carla Rabinowitz will be reading from her new book, Borderers: 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. 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 publisher, Haley’s, 488 South Main St., Athol, MA 01331, for $29.95. After January 1 it will also be available on amazon.com. For a sample of topics and writing, visit Carla’s blog, at www.carlarabinowitz.com.

‘Smitten With Reading’ Winter Reading Program Starts in January
Cuddle up with a book and win great prizes. Once again the library will be having our winter reading program where you read and earn prizes. This year’s theme ‘Smitten With Reading’ is open to all ages and will have prizes in categories for adults, young adults, and children. Stop by, pick up a form, and get reading.

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
- **Baldacci, David**: Long Road to Mercy
- **Beaton, M.C.**: The Dead Ringer
- **Berg, Elizabeth**: Night of Miracles
- **Chamberlain, Diane**: The Dream Daughter
- **Child, Lee**: Past Tense
- **Clar, Mary Higgins**: You Don’t Own Me
- **Connelly, Michael**: Dark Sacred Night
- **Dubus, Andre**: Gone so Long
- **Emmons, Cai**: Weather Woman
- **Evans, Richard Paul**: Pulse
- **Francis, Felix**: Crisis
- **Grisham, John**: The Reckoning
- **Harvey, John**: Body & Soul
- **Harvey, Michael**: Forever and a Day
- **Horowitz, Anthony**: Never Again
- **Johansen, Iris**: The Kinship of Secrets
- **King, Stephen**: The Feral Detective
- **Lethem, Jonathan**: Alaskan Holiday
- **Lamott, Anne**: The Colors of All the Cattle
- **Lawrence, Ellen**: Nine Perfect Strangers
- **Moriarty, Liane**: The Tattooist of Auschwitz
- **Morton, Kate**: The Clockmaker’s Daughter
- **Rao, Shobha**: Girls Burn Brighter
- **Robinson, Kim**: Red Moon
- **Rosnay, Tatiana de**: The Rain Watcher
- **Rosenfelt, David**: Deck the Hounds
- **Sparks, Nicholas**: Every Breath
- **Woods, Stuart**: Desperate Measures

#### Adult Non-Fiction
- **America’s Test**: The Complete Diabetes Cookbook
- **Archer, Jeffrey**: Heads You Win
- **Bruno, Michael**: Cruising New Hampshire History
- **Dobrow, Julie**: After Emily
- **Garten, Ina**: Cook Like a Pro
- **George, Rose**: Nine Pints
- **Grann, David**: The White Darkness
- **Greenspan, Dorie**: Everyday Dorie
- **Ellis, Joseph**: American Dialogue
- **Hawking, Stephen**: Brief Answers to the Big Questions
- **Kelton, Elmer**: Hard Ride
- **Lamott, Anne**: Almost Everything
- **Lewis, Michael**: The Fifth Risk
- **Obama, Michelle**: Becoming
- **O’Reilly, Bill**: Killing the SS
- **Pagels, Elaine**: Why Religion?
- **Sasse, Benjamin**: Them

#### Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction
- **Krosoczka, Jarrett**: Hey, Kiddo
- **Polonsky, David**: Anne Frank's Diary: the Graphic Novel
- **Riggs, Ransom**: A Map of Days

#### Audiobooks
- **Child, Lee**: Past Tense, Dark Sacred Night
- **Connelly, Michael**: Long Road to Mercy, The Reckoning

#### Children’s Fiction
- **Chen, Julie**: When I Grow Up
- **Daywalt, Drew**: The Epic Journey of Huggie and Stick
- **De Seve, Randall**: Zola’s Elephant
- **Dean, James**: Pete the Cat Checks out the Library
- **DiPucchio, Kelly**: Poe Won’t Go
- **Fleming, Meg**: Sometimes Rain
- **Fox, Mem**: I’m an Immigrant Too!
- **Henkes, Kevin**: Winter is Here
- **Hood, Morag**: Sophie Johnson
- **Kann, Victoria**: Pinkalicious and the Amazing Sled Run
- **Kastelic, Maja**: A Boy and a House
- **Kinney, Jeff**: The Meltdown
- **Kress, Adrienne**: The Door in the Alley
- **Lies, Brian**: Got to get to Bear’s!
- **Martin, Bill**: Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? (book & cd)
- **Mlynowski, Sarah**: Seeing Red
- **Raschka, Christopher**: New Shoes
- **Ransom, Candice**: Snow Day!
- **Reynolds, Jason**: Lu
- **Russell, Rachel**: Dork Diaries 13: tales from a not-so-happy birthday
- **Silverman, Erica**: Jack (not Jackie)
- **Simler, Isabelle**: A Web
- **Watson, Stephanie**: Best Friends in the Universe
- **Wilson, Karma**: Bear Can’t Sleep

#### Children’s Nonfiction
- **America’s Test**: The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs
- **Barss, Patchen**: Flow, Spin, Grow
- **Bruno, Michael**: Discover Mars
- **Brown, Jeffrey**: Jedi Academy
- **Brown, Jeffery**: Star Wars
- **Courts, Lyn**: Flags of the World
- **Dodd, Emily**: Energy
- **Hughes, Catherine**: First Big Book of Space
- **Krosoczka, Jarrett**: A New Class
- **Lawrence, Ellen**: Creeping Slime
- **Olsson, Helen**: Weird but True! 5
- **Osborne, Mary Pope**: Ranger Rick Kids’ Guide to Hiking
- **Rockliff, Mara**: Leprechauns and Irish Folklore
- **Russell, Rachel**: Light! Camera! Alice!
- **Simler, Isabelle**: Geronimo Stilton Reporter
- **Slade, Suzanne**: Separate is Never Equal
- **Stilton, Geronimo**: Kids’ Guide to Paddling
- **Watson, Tom**: Maya, Incas, and Aztecs
- **Winner, Cherie**: Kids’ Guide to Camping

#### DVDs
Historical Society News
Dear citizens of Royalston,
A fundraising letter is going out, and it is hoped that readers will consider a holiday present to the Society as it continues to make improvements on its building, Old School House #1. Volunteers to help organize the museum are also needed. Thanks to the many who have been generous, enthusiastic, supportive and open to the lessons of history in 2018. Please consider coming to a meeting in the coming year.

2019 meeting dates:
January 18
April 17 (Pot Luck Supper)
July 19 (at the museum building)
Oct. 18 (annual election, Pot Luck Supper)
Meetings are open to everyone. New ideas are always good. Meetings held at the home of Peter Kraniak, 43 Winchendon Road except for the summer meeting, which is in the Society’s museum in old School House #1.

Wishing you the best of holiday seasons,
Peter Kraniak, president of 30 years

Over the River - Royalston Connection
Beth Gospodarek
When a yearling deer paused for several minutes outside our window to watch us eat Thanksgiving pie, it seemed too much like a snowglobe scene to be real. Royalston seemed exactly the setting for the song Over the River and through the Woods, so I told my kids about reading in Caswell’s History of Royalston (1917) that the author of that famous tune was born “in the easterly part of Royalston” December 7, 1836.

Turns out that there was a song that was very famous when Caswell was alive called Over the River; it just wasn’t the one I was thinking of. Caswell’s praises author Nancy Priest as the “most gifted daughter of Royalston in the realms of poetry...whose name is carried wherever the English language is spoken.” He goes on to tell how her poem was set to music and widely sung. Howev

Recipe of the Month
In Remembrance of Mrs. Carnie’s Potato Latkes
From the 1980s through the oughts, every 2nd grader in Royalston in Mrs. Carnie’s second grade made latke’s in December as a nod to experimenting with unfamiliar traditions. The potato pancakes were always fried up in the heavy aluminum electric frying pan with a retro Jetson-like controller that Mary had gotten as a wedding present. There may or may not have been some bloody nicked knuckles in the mix from little hands scraping potatoes and onions through the box grater.

Ingredients
4 medium baking (Russet) potatoes (about 2 pounds)
1 egg beaten
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 medium yellow onion
1/4 cup cooking oil

Soak the potatoes (peeled or not to your preference) and then, wring as much water out of them as you can and discard the water. Grate the onion with the large holes of a box grater and add to the potatoes. Stir in the egg. Toss in the baking powder, flour, salt and pepper so that the potato, onion and egg mixture are evenly combined.

Heat a medium sauté pan over medium heat with the oil. Shape four pancakes, each about 4 inches in diameter and about a quarter-inch thick. Sauté them until each side is golden brown, about 3-4 minutes per side or so. Transfer the pancakes to a sheet pan lined with a double thickness of paper towels and keep in a warm (180-200) oven while you repeat the process, making four more pancakes.

Serve immediately with sour cream or warm applesauce.

Royalston Fish and Game
The next Royalston F&G member meeting is Sunday, December 9th, 10 a.m.

The first Roast Beef Dinner of 2019 is January 19th, at 5:30 p.m. The family-style suppers start with tossed salad, bread and real butter. Enjoy perfectly-prepared roast beef (your choice of rare through well-done), steaming hot green beans and mashed potatoes, and plenty of savory gravy. Reserve your tickets at the Club or by contacting Sandy Graf at 978-249-4281.

The Royalston Fish & Game Club, on Route 68 just past the Phillipston town line, has a beautifully groomed facility than 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.
**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS**

Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasesgos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

Grady MacPhee is currently in the second year of a two-year commitment as a Corps Leader in the Teach For America (TFA) Program in Baltimore, Maryland. "TFA is a diverse network of leaders working to confront educational inequity through teaching and at every sector of society to create a country free from this injustice. Together, we are driving impact across the country to achieve our vision that one day all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education." Grady teaches English at the Bard High School Early College (BGSEC) program in inner-city Baltimore. He also leads the BGSEC Moot Court Competition and is the founder/leader of the school’s debate team. Over the summer, Grady became engaged to Hannah Rice of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Grady and Hannah met as undergraduates in the The Center for Peace and Global Citizenship program at Haverford College. They now reside in Baltimore. Hannah is also a TFA Corps Leader and teaches second grade at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Baltimore.

Last spring, Owen MacPhee graduated from Deerfield Academy. In his last semester at Deerfield, Owen made the academic honor roll and was selected "Athlete of the Week" as the center fielder and leadoff hitter for the Deerfield varsity baseball team. Over the summer, Owen roamed the outfield for the division-winning Greenfield Post 81 American Legion baseball team. Owen is now a freshman at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio where he is planning to major in Environmental Studies with a minor in Theater Studies. Owen will try out for the Kenyon Lords baseball team in the spring.

Please welcome new advertiser Carolyn Cullen, a Royalston resident and owner of Luna Body Therapeutics, Integrated Massage Therapy. Located in the Orange Innovation Center, she offers various massage services for clients looking for pain relief and stress management. She is licensed and carries a degree in Complimentary Health Care, and is currently studying an Herbal Apprenticeship program. Carolyn has been practicing therapeutic massage therapy for twelve years, and hopes to continue to help clients old and new to incorporate preventative health into their lives.

**Ladies’ Benevolent Society News**

Ladies’ Benevolent Society will meet on Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm at Theresa Quinn’s house on the common to do holiday baskets. If you know of anyone who might enjoy receiving one please contact Deb at 978-249-4000 or dwellsnunes@aol.com or President Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807.

Members are asked to bring contributions for the basket. Suggestions include individually-wrapped packages of cocoa, tea bags, and snack foods; small/single-serving sizes of non-perishables; small, decoratively packaged home-baked goodies; practical and holiday paper goods.

**Royalston Emergency Management Agency**

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

Royalston Needs More Snow Angels! There are already many snow angels in Royalston, but there are never enough! BE a snow angel this winter – encourage your kids to be snow angels - and keep a watchful eye on your elderly and home-bound neighbors! Ensure vents for heating systems, dryers, and motor vehicle exhaust pipes have been cleared at least three feet in all directions to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Shovel paths between doors and driveway, and see that driveways are opened enough for vehicles to get in in case of emergency. Remind elders to have insured snow removal contractors lighten heavy snow load on roofs, especially those with a shallow pitch. If you’re running errands, see if you can save your neighbor a trip by picking something up, or invite them to join you. If they’re driving, suggest they keep a warm blanket within reach should they become stranded. Encourage them to keep their fuel tank and windshield washer fluid topped off, too.

In the event of potential power outages, make sure your neighbor has some drinking water and non-perishable food in storage. If they’re using alternate heating and light sources, be sure they’re using them safely.

Recommend your neighbors provide you with a list of emergency contact information – or at the very least, keep a copy easily accessible in their home. If conditions in their home are unsafe, or if you’re concerned about their health and well-being, contact either the Royalston Police or Royalston Rescue Squad at 9-1-1.

**Stephen Chase Contracting**

Restoration and Preservation Services

Royalston
978-249-0358

MA Construction Supervisor #044817
EPA Lead Safe Certified #NAT-58592-2
**Athol-Royalston Schools**  
*Mary C. Barclay*

**Athol-Royalston Regional Schools** were well-represented this past November at the annual MA Association of School Committees and Superintendents, held in Hyannis.

Superintendent Darcy Fernandes was in attendance, along with School Committee Chair Deb Kuzmeskas of Athol and Royalston member Carla Rabinowitz. Of particular interest to Royalston, the Association passed resolutions calling for the creation of a working group to advise the legislature on the best public policy solutions to support small, and rural school districts, and to oppose legislation or unlegislated regulations that attempt to restructure, expand, regionalize, or dissolve its school district without its consent.

**Congregational Churches News**

*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. We need 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.

**Vale Do Ameneecr**

The former Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel is now the Christian Spiritualist temple Vale Do Ameneecr. 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 tempeojaveiro@gmail.com for the next open dates.

**What’s Happening at the Village School?**

The Parent-Child group was fun and relaxing for new and old parents, and ended mid-November. It resumes again on Wednesday March 13, for parents and their children ages 0-3.

Before Thanksgiving, everyone at the school pitched in to collect a mountain of food for the Orange Food Pantry. The 5th-6th class is visiting the M.F.A. to view the Greek exhibit, as part of their year-long study of Ancient Greece. In December, the 5th-6th class will visit the Amherst College Natural History Museum to experience the planetarium. All classes begin Winter Gardens early December, beginning with rocks and sand, adding moss and then adding miniature animals. They take the gardens home for the holidays, adding a candle to honor the light in all of us. Before the break, the whole school will gather to play recorder and sing for parents at the Holiday Celebration. 1st-6th graders start cross country skiing in January. The week of January 14th is Dance Week at the Village School with Anna Hendricks, Artist in Residence. This is the 3rd year with Anna, and all the students look forward to moving with her. Thank you to the Mass. Cultural Council for this STARS Residency grant. Saturday February 9th is the next Open House.

For continual updates on events, go to www.villageschoolma.org

**Monty Tech**

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

The Monty Tech Foundation added $12,500 to the scholarship fund from September’s 24th annual golf tournament.

Governor Charlie Baker and United States Representative Jim McGovern participated in the October ribbon cutting ceremony at Monty Tech’s on-site, state-of-the-art veterinary clinic. Some 200 students from eight trades, under the direction of nearly two-dozen instructors, worked side-by-side with Lamoreaux Pagano Associates (project architect and management) during construction of the facility. The project was funded with $2.6 million in donations, grants, and in-kind contributions. Students, under the direction of lead instructor Dr. Christine Schlupf, DVM, will accept “patients” next school year. The clinic, which is a partner with Veterinary Clinics of America, will provide services to low-income pet owners.

Royalston’s Monty Tech School Committee rep. Mary C. Barclay attended the annual Association of School Committees meeting in November, held in Hyannis. She attended more than 16 hours of seminars and presentations, served as the voting delegate for the annual meeting, and was re-elected secretary of the MASC’s Division VIII, which represents the state’s vocational-technical schools.

**Scholarships and Blizzard Bags**

For the best shot at scholarships and financial aid, fill out your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) as quickly as possible in January. With limited funds available, the early bird gets the funding! More about local scholarships in the February newsletter! A seminar on “Blizzard Bags,” as a way to educate students when schools must be closed is certainly not a new idea but one getting more and more traction, given the growing number of reasons schools are now closed (road conditions; heat/cold; threats/student safety) during the year. Since January, under the more inclusive term “Alternative structured learning day” bags, DESE has been permitting an increasing number of schools to employ this method of education.
Classifieds

Free:
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

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 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

Royalston Community Newsletter December January 2019 Page 9 for sale:
All in good condition: Playstation 2 Game System with 2 controllers, several games including Guitar Hero with guitar accessory, $40. 19” Visio TV, $30. IMPEX MP1105 home gym, $70. Medium sized Metal Dog Crate, $20. Call Diana or Geoff at 978-249-3726.

Hand-knitted items: Hats, mittens, boot socks, baby sets, etc. Great Christmas gifts. 978-249-4013.

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
It snowed the night before yesterday. For all I know, it will snow November 28. Give me a break. It is snowing. It snowed yesterday. Year. I have, at least, completed my garden plan, a plan that represents preparing the beds for next year’s planting will not occur until next year. It goes without saying that the garden remains less than cleaned-up.

Ray brought neighborliness to a new level. At extraction, it remained mired. Neighbor Ray Sawyer arrived with particularly boggy area. Almost. A week later, after assorted efforts before the snow; I almost drove the fully-loaded pick-up through a wood might be a challenging task, I did not have in mind nine inches of snow on the ground. Of course, it was challenging enough even before the snow; I almost drove the fully-loaded pick-up through a particularly boggy area. Almost. A week later, after assorted efforts at extraction, it remained mired. Neighbor Ray Sawyer arrived with the appropriate extraction equipment and we were freed in seconds. Ray brought neighborliness to a new level.

It goes without saying that the garden remains less than cleaned-up. Preparing the beds for next year’s planting will not occur until next year. I have, at least, completed my garden plan, a plan that represents a significant reduction in the space allotted to a host of crops (beans, corn, potatoes, carrots, brassicas, and winter squash). It is time.

Larry Siegel

November 28. Give me a break. It is snowing. It snowed yesterday. It snowed the night before yesterday. For all I know, it will snow tomorrow.

Garden Notes

November 22, 2018

Thanksgiving. There will be no thanks conveyed to Mother Nature (where, by the way, has Father Nature lurked all this time?), who has hammered us with rain, cold, and snow. How much rain? I’ve measured thirty-one inches from mid-July to mid-November. (Number three son whose name is Noah, coincidentally enough) was spotted constructing an ark atop Prospect Hill.) How much cold? Temperatures have been running ten to fifteen degrees below normal for most of the month. Record low temperatures this morning with record low temperatures predicted for tomorrow, making the prior weeks seem balmy in comparison. For the first time the wood furnace was fired up in November. How much snow? Nine inches over five days, though precise measurements were complicated by the high winds. We’ve experienced snow in November before (October even), but it was of the here-today, gone-in-a-day-or-two variety. This snow has gone nowhere. Now, don’t go winter-wonderlandy on me. There remains wood to haul in and crops to harvest. The first snow arrived with little advanced notice and I was obliged to establish priorities in respect to what might be accomplished at the last minute. With most of the crops harvested, the carrots, beets, radishes, celeriac, and leeks were left to their own devices. Winter fare might be a bit less diverse but we will not go hungry. The day was devoted to wood hauling. It was a no-brainer. We have alternate foodstuffs; we have no alternative source of heat. Since then, and only after a fair amount of snow removal, we’ve wrestled some of the abandoned vegetables out of the ground. We’ve hauled in no more wood. (Alas. Another three cord must be.) Last month, when I suggested that getting in the wood might be a challenging task, I did not have in mind nine inches of snow on the ground. Of course, it was challenging enough even before the snow; I almost drove the fully-loaded pick-up through a particularly boggy area. Almost. A week later, after assorted efforts at extraction, it remained mired. Neighbor Ray Sawyer arrived with the appropriate extraction equipment and we were freed in seconds. Ray brought neighborliness to a new level.

Porcupine

A porcupine has made our property his home. Not exactly a newsflash given where we live. Like the rest of us Royalston residents, this porcupine prefers the quiet of our woods and meadows to the bustle of suburban life, though I would bet he has cousins who are trying to make a go of it in some town just west of 128. Too much stress, I say, and judging from the slow amble of our porcupine, he would agree.

The recent snowfall has made his presence easy to detect. His distinctive tracks leave wide, shallow troughs that crisscross our property in long, determined lines. This is an animal on a mission. The tracks I follow form a never-ending patchwork from garden shed to peach tree to woodshed to maple grove and back. I expect to come across this fellow as I follow his journey across our home but he stays hidden. Despite his poor eyesight the porcupine has a keen sense of hearing and smell, so I have no doubt he is well aware of my presence.

I suspect this porcupine has been with us for many months, perhaps years. About four winters ago a small porcupine took up residence in our wood shed. We were charmed by how tiny and alone he was, scurrying to the back of the woodpile whenever our paths would cross. One morning I looked out our kitchen window to see him clinging to the top of a small tree, gnawing on the bark. We liked the idea of this forest creature living nearby and began leaving him the ends of carrots or pieces of apple, placed at the woodshed entrance on a wooden tray that Tom made just for him. Toward the end of that winter we found him one morning sitting on a bench near our back door, soaking in the late winter sun. We were certain he was here to stay.

However, when spring arrived, we lost track of him. The scraps of vegetables we left for him remained untouched and we no longer encountered him in our yard. So, we assumed he had left our property for good, taking up residence deep in the woods. Now we see that the places our current porcupine frequents are the same places that tiny one had used for shelter years ago. Could this be the same porcupine? We like to think that our porcupine never went far after all and has, in fact, returned as the large lumbering fellow we now see.

So, once again, we share our property with this solitary animal. On cloudy afternoons our eye will be caught by a slow gray shadow lumbering across the snow. Or we see him emerge at dusk to begin his rounds from the same corner of the woodshed where that baby had nestled five years ago. After dark I often go outside to play the flashlight’s beam across the gardens and there he is, ambling slowly up toward the field. His solo wanderings in the bleak autumn landscape are oddly reassuring. Like a true New Englander, he is facing the winter ahead with stoic self-reliance.

Deb D’Amico
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Wildlife Sightings:

Buddy Dyer has been witnessing a dramatic bit of nature from a window in his house on Butterworth Road. There have been some red foxes hanging around his house, which he has noticed for a few months. There have also been an unusually large number of squirrels, some of whom have fattened themselves by grabbing peaches and other fruit from his orchard. He watched with awe more than once as a fox grabbed a squirrel from under a bird feeder, shook the squirrel to end its life and then ran off, presumably taking it back to a nearby den. He also saw a squirrel escape and find safety in a stone wall.

Marjorie Chase noticed her horses staring at the edge of her paddock where a young moose was staring back at the horses in mid-November.

Deer hunting season - take precautions in the woods. Shotgun season runs from Nov. 26 to Dec. 8. Primitive firearms season is Dec. 10 to Dec. 31. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Hunting is allowed 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.