Calendar of Events

A complete listing of all department, committee, commission, and board meetings is posted on the Town's website, www.royalston-ma.gov

February 1 Friday
7-10 p.m. Open Mic Night Town Hall

February 2 Saturday
Groundhog Day
6 pm AREF fundraiser spaghetti supper downstairs at Town Hall. Spaghetti, salad and homemade desserts. Tickets $10 per adult, $5 kids.
7 pm AREF’s Trivia Night raises money for enrichment projects in the local public schools. Teams of up to 5 players $25. Want to play but don’t have a team? Meet up with spontaneous teammates at the supper.

February 3 Super Bowl Sunday
4 p.m. RF&G Super Bowl Party

February 4 Monday
4:04 p.m. New Snow Moon

February 5 Tuesday
Lunar New Year - The Year of the Pig Begins
7 p.m. Select Board Meets

February 9 Saturday
10 a.m. Village School Open House

February 11 Monday
10:00 am Toddler Tails, a program at the library for preschool children with animals and related stories from the Southwick Zoo, funded by a grant from Valuing Our Children.
5 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. All welcome.

February 12 Tuesday
Lincoln’s Birthday

February 14 Thursday
Valentine’s Day

February 15 Friday
Close of Schools – February Vacation Begins!

February 16 Saturday
5:30 p.m. RF&G Roast Beef Supper

February 18 Monday
Presidents’ Day – Town offices, Post Office, Library, schools, all closed

February 19 Tuesday
2:00 pm Southwick Zoomobile vacation program about endangered species at the Town Hall. Using six live animal ambassadors and biofacts, this program will explore reasons why so many plant and animal species are now endangered or extinct.
7 p.m. Select Board Meets
10:54 p.m. Full Snow Moon

February 22 Friday
6 p.m. Enjoy a Pizza and Movie night at the library. Mr. Popper’s Penguins will be featured. Sign up by calling or emailing the library.

February 27 Wednesday
5 p.m. Final day to object to nomination/withdraw from Town Elections

Save the Date:

March 1 Friday
7-10 p.m. Open Mic Night Town Hall

March 8 Friday
7 p.m. Dale Monette will show his nature photos at the Town Hall. sponsored by the Friends of Library.

March 24 Sunday
2 p.m. Ari Krakow will lead a Thai cooking class at the Town Hall - with a limit of 20 people. Sponsored by the Friends of Library.

April 20 Saturday
10 a.m. The Royalston Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Royalston Town Hall on the Common.
Select Board Notes
Deb D’Amico – Select Board Clerk

Great News for the New Year – an Elevator!
At long last, the elevator project for Town Hall is underway! The road here has been long and winding, but the journey has been one of cross-community collaboration, creative problem-solving and perseverance. This is a story worth telling.

For many years our neighbor to the east – Phillipston – has also been looking to make their town hall accessible by installing an elevator. Each town had committed general and Community Preservation Funds toward this goal, and Royalston, through the efforts of Select Board chair Christine Long, had won a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant of $183,000. Then, under the guidance of Kevin Flynn, Royalston Grant Administrator and Phillipston Town Administrator, our two communities collaborated to apply for a Community Development Block Grant – and we won! The $872,000 grant was divided between the two communities, with a little over 60% earmarked for the Royalston project.

However, circumstances began to conspire against us. When we went out to bid, the federal government’s steel tariffs had just been announced, with dire results locally: the bids came in significantly over budget. A second round of bidding, structured slightly differently, produced bids that were lower, but still out of range. Our last hope was to apply for a grant from the Mass Office of Disability, which we hoped would close the gap for both communities. Just after Christmas we learned that our application had been denied.

Nevertheless, we persisted! Flynn and project engineer Paul Lienek began some creative problem-solving. On January 2, at a joint meeting between Royalston’s and Phillipston’s Select Boards, they proposed an alternate plan that changed Phillipston’s project from an elevator to a chairlift. Not only did this save much needed office and storage space in Phillipston’s town hall, but it saved money as well – nearly $200,000! The $872,000 grant was divided between the two communities, with a little over 60% earmarked for the Royalston project.

Royalston’s Select Board acted immediately, voting at that same joint meeting to accept a bid from Kurtz, Inc. of Westfield, Mass to build our elevator. On January 16, Phillipston held a public hearing to review their new plan with residents, as required by law. At that meeting the townspeople agreed to seek bids for the chairlift plan. At long last, each town’s dream to make their town halls accessible to all is finally a reality.

Ground-breaking will not be tomorrow, of course. The lead time for a project like this is about 20 weeks. However, it is wonderful to know that next season’s Open Mic sessions and library programs and private events will be accessible to all! This has been a dream of so many of us for so long. The fact that it has come about through the collaborative efforts of neighbors willing to think creatively makes the end of the story even better.
Department of Public Works
Pamphlet in effect until April 30. During the ban, do not park in the road, 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. Also, avoid plowing or shoveling snow into the public way. This can build into a hazardous obstruction that may result in damage to other vehicles. Be considerate. Thank you all for your support and understanding.

Royalston Department of Public Works Supt.,
Keith R. Newton

Cultural Council News
We have had two very successful Open Mics, and there are three to go: February 1, March 1, and April 5, all Fridays. 7-10 pm, delicious food and goodies. See you there!

Fundraising event on Saturday, May 18th - This year we would like to do Royalston Follies, typically comical skits and some serious acts. We need 7-8 acts to do this, so a verbal commitment from you is needed by FEBRUARY 15th for this to happen. Plan B will be instead a Blues or Rock night or some combination thereof. This is a major fundraiser for the Cultural Council so it can bring you the annual MusicFest at Bullock Field on Sunday, July 14th from noon-5 pm for FREE!

More info: Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair
Well that went well. Our first load of glass was rejected. The result a cost of $950+. Why? Too many non-glass items, such as empty oil containers, metal and plastic containers etc.

Moving forward: in order to be able to try again, we ask that you deposit acceptable glass containers in barrels provided. Attendants will do all direct deposits into roll offs. We have additional signage as to what is not acceptable. We know this is an extra step, and extra labor. But due to closure of the last area glass processor, our options are limited. Remember: Window glass is junk. Light bulbs are junk. Ceramics are junk. Tempered glass is junk. Empty oil and chemical containers are all junk. Only glass jars and bottles (any color) are ok. This glass is either crushed to add to road aggregate or sent to be used to make fiberglass. We ask for your consideration and cooperation.

Still time for flu vaccines. See your health care provider or local pharmacy.

Winter is here. Keep an eye on your neighbors especially seniors. Bright side, no black flies or mosquitoes.

South Village and RoyalstonNet:
Town-Wide Broadband Wireless Network
Jon Hardie IT Dir / RoyalstonNet Project Lead
1. South Village Network Update: The SV network has been up over 3 years, bandwidth usage has grown dramatically accommodating SmartTVs, Smartphones, iPads, Laptops & Gaming Station, Live Streaming News, Netflix, Gaming, YouTube, Facebook and other social media. To meet customer data needs & reduce network congestion, we’ve again increased network backhaul, to 200 Mbps. That raises our backhaul to 4Mpbs/person/day. By comparison, in early 2016, data usage was lower & backhaul was at 75Mbps (2Mpbs/person/day). How much data do we use? A lot! Our 2 top subscribers downloaded 2,045GB of data in the last 30 days. Each one downloaded over 1 Terabyte of data, at the rate of ~34GB a day! Good News, if you live in the South Village, there’s still room to sign up. You can go online http://royalston-ma.gov/RMLPBBN/ Our posted network grant and contract documents can also be downloaded there. If you live elsewhere in town, you’ll need to go online and PRE-REGISTER (if you haven’t already done so) for RoyalstonNet, the town-wide network at http://royalston-ma.gov/RMLPBBN/

2. RoyalstonNet Broadband Update: South Village Upgrade
With your help, we have learned a lot from each of the SV Pilot, on how get it right. As we complete RoyalstonNet late this fall, we will also be upgrading the SV Network from the old (circa 2014 802.11) Technology, to the latest 2019 advanced, Fixed LTE MIMO Technology. This system is NOT a wi-fi network, like the one you have in your house, or use in Starbucks. It’s a High-Speed Broadband Network that uses Fixed Wireless LTE technology, not fiber.

3. Network Procurement & Project Management: The Broadband committee hired WG&E (Westfield Gas & Electric) as our Owners Project Manager (OPM) to procure, build & manage RoyalstonNet, our new Fixed LTE, High Speed Wireless Broadband network. Our contract with WG&E designates the WG&E Procurement Officer, as our RoyalstonNet Project Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). WG&E has years of municipal procurement, building and operating, communications networks. WG&E’s OPM/CPO procurement system is already in place with 22 Western MA Hilltop Towns, like us, who are building community owned wireless and/or broadband networks.

4. RFP Process Status: WG&E’s CPO (Chief Procurement Officer), is guiding us through the 30B § 6 (RFP based sequestered technical & financial review) procurement process. The 30B RFP § 6 process enables us to utilize the best, proven, fixed LTE MIMO technology, for our very challenging terrain & tree coverage, without being forced to buy something just because it is cheap.

a) Our Final Engineering Design Request for Proposals was posted by WG&E August 28th and responses opened on October 26th. The Technical Team and Financial Team each work separately.

b) The sequestered Technical Review Team has completed its review, scoring, questions & lockdown of the 3 Tech submissions.

c) Our sequestered Financial Team is now wrapping up review and scoring of the financial submissions, has submitted vendor questions, and expects to be completed and locked down in the next week or so.

d) The two teams will then meet, review and aggregate their scoring data, and select a finalist, to bring to the Select Board for approval.

e) We can then prepare the network buildout RFP using the vendor provided, granular: BOM (Bill of Materials), SOW (Statement of Work) and Gantt Charts that were provided in the Design Response.

f) The town can then begin permitting and building the network, with the reasonable expectation of completion in the next 9-11 months.

If you have any Questions about the SV Network or RoyalstonNet, Call Jon at 978-790-8474 or Email Jon.Hardie@royalston-ma.gov

Royalston Community Newsletter February 2019 Page 3
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 Library
Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski

Donations to the Friends
Ken and Marty Bouchard
Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski
Tom and Leslie Freudenheim
Joan Katz
Cathy Ofutt
Hattie Bernstein and Donald Shambroom
Marcia Flanagan
Pierre and Marie Humblet
The MacPhee family
Kathleen Pirro
Robert Hendrie
Tony Ferragamo and Jean McCurdy

Thank you
Kathy Chencharik, Sharon Harmon, Diane Kane, and Phyllis Cochran for a lively entertaining evening introducing their collection of short fiction, self-publishing, and for the gift basket.
Carla Rabinowitz for an astute and engrossing introduction to the history of the beginning of our country by relating her family diaspora across the South to the West.
To all those who baked for ‘Flash in the Can’: Kathy Chencharik, Sharon Harmon, Phyllis Cochran, Maureen Blasco and Patti Stanko and all who baked for ‘Borderers’: Maureen Blasco, Patti Stanko, Gina Verrelli, and Beth Gospodarek
To Stephanie McClure for baking her delicious Mexican Wedding Cakes for the December Saturday goodies

Art Exhibit and Sale
The pastels of Gail Oswald are on display for the month of February. Gail has donated these beautiful paintings for sale to benefit the library. All are realistically rendered portraits of North Quabbin landscapes and have an ethereal quality that evokes a feeling for the landscape. They have the look of a photograph but with more depth and character. We are very grateful for her generosity and also for the opportunity to display them. There are still several that have not been purchased and all are still on display. Please stop by and take a look. In March and April, Dale Monette will have a display of his nature photographs also taken in the North Quabbin region.

‘Smitten With Reading?’
Win great prizes! Ends Feb. 28.
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. Forms need to be turned in by 2/28 to collect prizes.

Hold that thought: The publicized cozy book/film discussion group got too cozy, delayed decisions, got an overloaded calendar, and now needs to postpone. Instead of this cabin fever season, it will meet during the first full week of January, February, and March 2020, when with the benefit of hindsight, it will be able to jump into the new decade with selections, times, and venues in place. The topic for the fiction, nonfiction, and film selections remains immigration.

The Southwick ZooMobile is Coming to Town - Twice
This February we have two programs featuring animals from the Southwick Zoo.
On Monday, February 11 at 10:00, Toddler Tails, a program at the library for preschool children, will keep children entertained with a story focused on a particular animal which will be there with the zookeeper. This program is funded by a grant from Valuing Our Children.
On Thursday, February 19 at 2:00 at the Town Hall, zookeepers will bring the zoomobile for a program on endangered species. Using six live animal ambassadors and biofacts, this program will explore reasons why so many plant and animal species are now endangered or extinct. They will also discuss possible ways to help slow the loss of biodiversity and how you can be a part of the solution. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library.

Movie and Pizza Night
On Friday, February 22, at 6:00, young people are invited to a pizza and movie night at the library. We’ll show Mr. Popper’s Penguins and then enjoy pizza. Sign up for this fun evening by calling or emailing the library.

Upcoming Events:
Dale Monette – North Quabbin nature photography program, Friday, March 8 at 7:00 at the Town Hall.

Thai Cooking Class with Ari Krakow on Sunday, March 24 at 2:00 at the Town Hall. Space is limited to the first 20 to sign up.

Wind down through the winter. There is 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**
- Barry, Jessica: Freefall
- Burke, James: The New Iberia Blues
- Carr, Robyn: Headlong
- Hendricks, Greer: The Boy
- Hoag, Tami: Watching You
- Jewell, Lisa: The Accidental Further Adventures of the Hundred-Year-Old Man
- Jonasson, Jonas: Untouchable
- Perry, Thomas: The Burglar
- Preston, Douglas: Verses for the Dead
- Rankin, Ian: In a House of Lies
- Rous, Emma: The Au Pair
- Slimani, Leila: Adele
- Stabenow, Dana: Death of an Eye
- Steel, Danielle: Turning Point
- Taylor, Brad: Daughter of War
- Vijay, Madhuri: The Far Field
- Woods, Stuart: A Delicate Touch

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Cordon, Lita: Pastry School
- Dunn, Rob: Never Home Alone
- Hanson, Thor: Buzz
- Harris, Russ: The Happiness Trap: How to Stop Struggling and Start Living
- Holt-Gimenez, Eric: Can We Feed the World without Destroying it?
- Kelly, Christopher: Am I Dying?
- London, Jaclyn: Dressing on the Side (and Other Diet Myths Debunked)
- Meltzer, Brad: The First Conspiracy
- Rabinowitz, Carla: Borderers
- Smarsh, Sarah: Heartland

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Black, Holly: The Wicked King
- Blohm, Craig: The Civil Rights Movement
- Sutherland, Tui: The Hive Queen
- White, Kiersten: Slayer

**Audiobooks**
- Owens, Delia: Where the Crawdads Sing
- Birney, Betty: Life According to Og the Frog

**DVDs:**
- Alpha (Blu-ray only), Bad Times at the El Royale (DVD & Blu-ray), The Bookshop, Castle Rock Season One, Gone with the Wind, Goosebumps 2, Halloween (2018), The House with a Clock in its Walls, The Meg (DVD & Blu-ray), Mission: Impossible. Fallout (DVD & Blu-ray), Nashville Season 4, The Old Man & the Gun, Peppermint, A Simple Favor, Three Identical Strangers, and Venom (DVD & Blu-ray)

**Children’s Fiction**
- Carroll, Lewis: Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
- Judge, Lita: Penguin Flies Home
- Osborne, Mary Pope: A Big Day for Baseball
- Osborne, Mary Pope: Warriors in Winter
- Pierce, Lincoln: Max and the Midknights
- Ransome, James: The Bell Rang
- Sarcone-Roach, Julia: There Are No Bears in this Bakery
- Kallen, Stuart: The Environmental Movement
- Nardo, Don: The Women's Rights Movement
- Rissman, Rebecca: Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling Waste

**Community Reading Day**
Thanks to the Athol Public Library Children’s Department, Community Reading Day will occur on Friday, March 1 (snow date, March 4) at the Royalston Community School and grades Pre-K to 4 classes in Athol. The books will be Maybe Something Beautiful for Pre-K-2, Magic Trash for grades 3 & 4, and How They Choked for grades 5 & 6. If you would like to be a reader this year, call the library at 978-249-3572.

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

**Audiobooks in Libby**
Overdrive /Libby isn’t just for reading eBooks you can also download thousands of audiobooks to listen to on your mobile devices. Need help setting up the Libby app? Stop by the Library.
Historical Society is Thankful for your Support

Thank you to all whom responded to the Society’s recent fundraising appeal. The funds will be used to continue to restore our building and improve our museum. Mark your calendars for an event celebrating the history of education in our town on April 29.

Bob and Lorraine Cassingham
Fair Alice McCormick
Matthew and Teresa Valliere
Kathy Pirro
Douglas Spring
Rev. Phil Jacobs
Kenneth and Martha Bouchard
Luther Otto and Chris Lyons
Ginny Gingras
Patti Stanko
Curtis and Laurie Devaneau
Anita and Chuck Dowell
Ralph and Joy Cutter
Judith Shaw Gordon
Robert Hendrie and Janace Wamboldt
Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski
Geo Northrop and Kate Collins

Nanji Davison
Paula Paul
Leslie and Tom Freudenheim
Elvia Richards
Pat Jackson
Alyce Mayo
The Altieris
Glenn Hastings
Karl Camp
David Spackman
Tom and Lynne Kellner
Paul Montero
John and Steffi McClure
Anthony Ferragamo

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

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

Looking back a decade ago to the epic “Ice Storm of 2008,” and the months-long debris clean-up in 2009, I learned the value of, and reimbursement for, we receive from State and Federal Emergency Management agencies for volunteers. The Town of Royalston not only covered expenses for debris clean-up, but took in tens of thousands of dollars thanks to residents who donated time, vehicles, chain saws, generators, water tanks, hand tools, etc. The Select Board wisely redirected the unexpected dollars to a massive roadside tree cutting project, which has served us very well over the past decade. It’s hard to prove the value of a project that results in things NOT happening, but there were power outages, wires down, poles broken, and associated loss of power damage that did NOT occur as a direct result of volunteer reimbursement.

It’s only a matter of time before we are besieged by another major event that brings our town to a standstill. When that happens, I respectfully request you log ALL of the time you spend, vehicles you drive, and equipment you use for the good of getting Royalston back up and running. In 2008, people expressed embarrassment about sharing all they did to help. I often heard, “It was nothing.” “It’s nothing I wouldn’t have done anyway.” “I was just being a good neighbor.”

Whatever you do to help in an emergency IS something! Please jot down dates and times, mileage/hours and descriptions of vehicles and equipment used. Oh, and, if you can safely do so, take pictures to document any major event.

The way our residents respond to major events has a direct impact on the effectiveness of emergency personnel. The way our residents document their response afterwards has a substantial impact on both short and long-term recovery. Thanks for all you do every day just because it’s good or neighborly to do it – but if there’s a major event, please keep track!

Ladies’ Benevolent Society Making Plans

Several members of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society met last month to work on the 2019 program. They’re finalizing plans, and will shortly have their annual program guide available. If you’re not yet a member and would like to know of upcoming meetings and events, contact Secretary Pat Worth at greengyre1@gmail.com or 978-249-2722 or President Laurie Deveneau at lmdevaneau@ms.com or 978-249-5807.

Tracking Program

Join Mount Grace and Expert Tracker, Paul Wanta at Skyfields Arboretum for Wildlife Tracking Workshop on February 2nd, 2019 from 9am-noon. You will learn how to spot and interpret wildlife signs as you walk through the trails of the open meadows and woods. The event is $10 for non-member and free for Mount Grace members. Skyfields Arboretum is located at 1461 Old Keene Rd in Athol. More information and registration at: https://www.mount-grace.org/skyfields-tracking-workshop-2219

Royalston Fish and Game

The season’s second Roast Beef Dinner February 16th, at 5:30 p.m. Start off with tossed salad and dressing, bread and real butter, followed by roast beef, mashed potatoes, and green beans, all served family style. Choice of chocolate or strawberry Hoodsie for dessert! Reserve your tickets at the Club or by contacting Sandy Graf at 978-249-4281.

F&G 2019 Memberships are $50/year. Contact the Club at 978-249-3004. Check into the Royalston Fish & Game Club Facebook page to see what new events are added! 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 chasegos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

Welcome to baby Penny Ruth Hall, daughter of Emily and Chet Hall born on January 2, 2019. Miss Penny won the Athol Daily News New Year’s Baby contest.

Kiley Cleveland and Dylan Hall were married January 26 at Harrington Farm in Princeton, Mass. The parents are Tim Cleveland and Molly Cleveland of Athol and Sheila Hall and the late Chet Hall of Beryl Hill Rd. The couple resides on NE Fitzwilliam Rd.

Sheena M Butler recently graduated from Fitchburg State with a Masters in Education, Special Education specialty.

Marley Aldrich, Theo Belmont, Shelby Bronnes, Isabella Cooke, Melissa Persson, and Emily Davis were recently placed on the Dean’s List at Mt. Wachusett Community College.

Molly Divoll recently received the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents’ Certificate of Excellence, awarded to the students who have most distinguished themselves in pursuit of academic excellence during high school.

Obituary

Gene Cauthen, 77, a former long-time Royalston resident, passed away on September 26, 2018 in Orange, California. He was the first Professor of Sculpture in the Art Department of Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, and was the Gallery Director of the East Wing Gallery there for many years. Prior to his retirement in 2005, he taught sculpture and bronze casting, drawing and three-dimensional design for 34 years. He organized exhibitions of work by alumni and professional artists, and coordinated numerous student art exhibitions. He inspired countless students and helped establish the college’s art program and the gallery as a cultural center for the college and the community.

Gene Cauthen was an accomplished artist, with numerous exhibitions and public commissioned large-scale works. He earned his B.F.A. at University of Texas in Austin. Following graduation, he taught drawing and painting for a year at Saint Edwards University in Austin. He continued his art education at Cleveland Institute of Art, studying painting and sculpture, and earned his M.F.A. in sculpture at Yale University. At Yale he was awarded the Fannie B. Pardy prize for Excellence in Sculpture. Prior to his employment at Mount Wachusett Community College, Gene spent six months living and working (painting and woodworking) in Finland, the native country of his wife, Marita (Maba). Gene loved reading poetry and listening to classical music and jazz.

He lived 45 years in Royalston before moving to California last May to be closer to his children. He loved the natural beauty of Royalston, and enjoyed taking daily strolls on and around the town common, wearing his beloved Block Island cap, a keepsake from several summer vacations on the island. In addition to his wife of 49 years, Gene is survived by daughter, Fleur, in Los Angeles, son Ben, and grandchildren, Lauren, Hannah and Conrad in Orange.

Donald Shambroom recently published Duchamp’s Last Day, an in depth examination of a photograph of famed artist Marcel Duchamp taken moments after his death. Don explains the photo in context of art and describes the details of the last day of Duchamp’s life. The book is filled with intricate details from decades of research into this peculiar encounter between art, life, and death.

Paul Rezendez was Mr. December in the World Wildlife Fund 2019 calendar with his photo of a rosy yet frosty Lawrence Brook, Royalston, Massachusetts. He also sells 2019 calendars of his original photos as well as his books on tracking on his web-site paulrezendez.com.

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

Twenty Royalston Community School students are currently enjoying a 12-week after-school program entitled, “It’s Electric,” led by first grade teacher Cindy Drouin. The scientific exploration includes learning about project management, essential questions, trial and error, two-column note-taking, and group presentations. The program is underwritten by The Royalston Academy, Inc.

RCS Calendar

2/01 - DARE, Grade 5, 1:30 - 2:30
2/01 - All School Meeting, First Student Voice Reponse announced by each class @ 2:00
2/06 - 100th DAY (if no snow days prior)
2/07 - “SAFE” Program, Fire Safety Program, a Grant funded program instructed by James Hopkins, Fire fighter & EMT & Meaghan A’Hearn, Fire fighter & Paramedic.
2/08 - DARE, Grade 5, 1:30 - 2:30
2/15 - DARE, Grade 5, 1:30 - 2:30
2/18 - 2/22 - FEBRUARY VACATION

Congregational Churches News

First Congregational Church of Royalston
15 On The Common
Services start at 11:00 a.m. 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 Amenecer

The former Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel is now the Christian Spiritualist temple Vale Do Amenecer. The temple is open to the public every other Sunday at 3 p.m. Anyone interested may contact Telma Miloli at 617-515-8647, or e-mail templeojaveiro@gmail.com for the next open dates.

What’s Happening at the Village School?

Children are knitting on Tuesday afternoons. Classes went skating at the Cushing Academy rink on Wednesdays. On Friday afternoons until after February vacation, 1st-6th graders are cross country skiing around Camp Caravan. 1st-6th students go downhill skiing at Crotched Mt. before school vacation. 5th-6th students are studying ancient Greece for the year, and are researching philosophers now. They are also working on science projects. 3rd-4th students are studying ancient Egypt, and made a 3D model of the Nile River valley. Kindergarten hosts a Theme Share for parents on Feb. 7, when the children will share their learning over the past 2 months about water. Their bimonthly themes for the year are Earth, Water, Air, and Fire.

Village School Open House Saturday February 9th 10 to noon
Come meet teachers, visit classrooms and find out about the admissions process. Tour the new building. Bring your children. There are activities in all the classrooms. If you miss the Open House, go ahead and call the school to schedule a visit, at 978 249 3505. Find more info at villageschoolma.org

Parent-Child Group Begins Again in March
For parents with children under preschool age. Get out of the house, bring your young children and socialize with other parents. Enjoy snack time together. Drop in anytime. Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator and Sofie Vieria, preschool teacher. Wednesday mornings 8:45 to 10:00 March 20, 27, April 3, April 10 and April 24. FREE.

Monty Tech

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

Royalston seventh and eighth graders are invited to participate in Monty Tech’s Spring Session of VIP, Vocational Interest Program, which takes place from 3-5 p.m. on Mondays March 11, 18, 25, and April 1, and 8. Participants will try out some of the school’s trades and professions, meet staff and faculty, and learn about the commitment required to successfully earn a diploma and certificate of occupational proficiency at Monty Tech. Enrollment is on a first come-first served basis for a limited number of seats. Contact Christine Leamy, Dean of Admissions at Monty Tech, 978-345-9200 x5231; application deadline is March 1, 2019.

Through the courtesy of the Wreaths Across America program, which made an overnight stop at Monty Tech in December, Royalston was gifted a beautiful, large, Military Remembrance Wreath. Monty Tech Marine JROTC Cadet Alexandra G. Phelps presented the wreath to the Select Board. It was accepted, and a brief ceremony was held with musicians Ryan Hood of Royalston and Al Brogdon of Fitzwilliam, after which Cadet Phelps placed the wreath at the war memorial monument on The Common.

Scholarships Available

Worcester County high school students – Royalston residents – are eligible for Greater Worcester Community Foundation Scholarships ranging from $300-$5,000. The application deadline is Monday, March 4, 2019, with applications available at www.greaterworcester.org/scholarships/APPLY-HERE/.
Classifieds

**Free:**

**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.

**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 Susanne 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.

**DTM Landscaping,** spring cleanup, snowplowing, Call Theresa Gates 413-336-1850 or David Plourde 413-336-1593

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**Wildlife Sightings**
The Kraus-Hardies enjoyed a long look at a bobcat in their North Fitzwilliam Rd. yard in early December.

Paul Montero on North Fitwilliam Rd. has a milk snake slithering around his winter basement. He hasn’t seen a mouse for months.

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**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. 978-249-4013.

**Pork Cut Packages available.** Variety packs. 10 lbs- $55 20lbs- $100 Sausage also available for $4/ lb- breakfast, hot, sweet, and cajun. Call Chet 978-895-6327

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

**Jarvenpaa Farm Eggs.** $2.50/dozen. 17 River Rd, So. Royalston. Come by anytime. Cooler at the bottom of the driveway next to road.

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. 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.

**Nature books and prints.** Commissions accepted. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

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


**Dean’s Beans Coffee Order** You can order fresh roasted coffee once a month through the Village School, ground or whole beans, for around $10/ lb. Order online and pick it up in the hallway at the school the following Friday. Go to http://www.villageschoolma.org/coffee.htm
Finally, finally, with six inches of snow on the ground and the thermometer hovering at 0°, winter has arrived. Yes, there was that Thanksgiving blip, but it was brief and followed by November weather in December and December weather in January. (Until yesterday, rain totals exceeded snow in January.) With no excuse to let this window-of-opportunity pass by, Kathy and I did not let this window-of-opportunity pass by, cutting and stacking wood most every day, enough so that almost all of next winter’s supply (ten cord) is accounted for. Not bad for a couple of folks whose combined age is one hundred forty-eight years.

The garden has re-located to the kitchen. Not in its entirety of course. There are no salad greens. No tomatoes. No cucumbers. I know, to forego salads for at least half the year borders on anti-Americanism. But. The goal has always been to feed ourselves with the fruits of our own labor, and, in the absence of a heated greenhouse or, heaven forbid, a move to Florida, salads are off the table. Except for a few tired cabbages, set aside for sauerkraut, and an ample supply of leeks, our ‘fresh’ produce is limited to roots of one sort or another. Potatoes abound. Steamed potatoes. Fried potatoes. Mashed potatoes. Roast potatoes. Potato pancakes. And my signature dish: baked potato stuffed with potatoes and topped with a dollop of potatoes. Stop by the house most any day and you will be offered a bowl of leek and potato soup sizzling on the corner of the wood cookstove. Onions and garlic are added to most everything. (Well, we haven’t made onion and garlic ice cream yet.)

Lots of space to fill here and so little to fill it with, at least in respect to gardening, but that has not bothered me in the past. There is the matter of the recent divorce of that head-Amazon guy and Mrs. head-Amazon guy (why are divorces considered so newsworthy?) who will be dividing up a net worth of $160 billion dollars. Compare that to the number of people in this country who have a net worth of zero, any number of whom do not even have a pot to pee in.* The class divide. And lest you think otherwise, that divide gets wider and wider. In 1965, top executives earned perhaps twenty times more than the lowest wage earners in their companies. As recently as 1989 it was fifty-nine times more. Now? Numbers vary depending on their source, but two hundred fifty times more is not an unreasonable estimate. You think electing a multi-billionaire whose organization pays lower-end workers perhaps ten or eleven dollars an hour is gonna solve the problem? Of course, his last opponent ‘struggled’ with her multi-millions, augmented by her husband’s multi-millions. Once upon a time, I was obliged to not only read but recite the Gettysburg Address. For those of you not so obliged, Honest Abe referred to a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Abe would be rolling over in his grave upon learning that we have evolved into a government of the rich people, by the rich people, and for the rich people.

Larry Siegel

*Yes, we have a pot to pee in, though there have been times in the not-so-distant past when we have lacked the water to flush it.

City Storm

The first real storm of the season is upon us. It is the “wintry mix” we dread: sleet, freezing rain, dropping temperatures, ice. When it hit I happened to be in our Watertown home where the houses are close and where, all night long, the flashing lights of plows play across the bedroom walls. In the morning I woke to the pattering of sleet against windows and three inches of grainy snow on the ground.

City snowstorms bring the neighborhood out. People whose lives and schedules are otherwise not in synch are all out at the same time doing the same thing. Up and down the street we hear the scrape of shovels and see our neighbors tossing arcs of snow. We stop and wave and then shuffle up and down the street to meet half-way. We continue the same conversation we have been having for two decades - wondering when the snow will stop, how much to shovel now and how much to leave until later. We catch up on family news and share rueful glances when we hear a neighbor’s brand-new snow blower chug to life. Then we part, returning to our driveways and our arcs of snow. This is the ritual of a city storm.

Our neighbors to our right are a young couple with two small boys, ages 3 and 5. Recent transplants from Austin, Texas, they are at once befuddled and charmed by our winters. This morning, as the wintry mix continued to pop and spatter on the crusted snow, I watched from my kitchen window as all four of them battled their snow-covered drive. The two boys had tiny shovels and spent more time rolling in the snow than actually moving it. Their parents divided their attention between the boys and the task at hand. I finished my tea, donned my shoveling garb, and headed out.

Our driveways abut so it was easy to combine greetings with the work at hand. As a native New Englander, I found myself instantly cast as the expert on snow and its efficient removal. We pondered our options and decided to focus our energies on clearing the mound of icy snow which the town plow had deposited at the end of our driveways. Meanwhile the boys tumbled and slid.

Then the plow returned – a giant contraption with enormous tires and flashing lights – chugging its way slowly down our street. This was the best of all moments for the boys who ceased their cavorting to take it all in. When the driver responded to their waves with a blast from his horn they were wide-eyed. We watched together as the plow scraped its way down the hill and out of sight. I then set to work clearing the storm drain at the end of our drives which the plow’s passing had covered. This fascinated the five-year-old. What is that? Why is it here? When I explained that the melting snow would fall into this drain and travel in culverts all the way to Boston Harbor he was in awe. I smiled. It is not often that I get to be the conveyor of magic.

City storms are a mixed blessing, I know. They can, at once, be inconvenient, dangerous and beautiful. But, like this particular city storm, they can also bring small moments of neighborhood warmth and delight – moments that stay with us long after the snow is gone.

Deb D’Amico
Ending legal slavery after many centuries of cultural and economic entanglement was not easy. Abraham Lincoln died trying.

The day Columbus arrived in the New World, he took indigenous slaves. Eight years later, European settlers brought the first recorded slaves from Africa. For the next 300 years, the slave trade flourished here. Over 10 million slaves were brought to the New World from Africa. (Another 1.5 million did not survive the trip). In our state, slavery was first codified into law 20 years after the Mayflower arrived in the 1641 “Massachusetts Body of Liberties” and remained legal until 1771. National laws including the 1790 Naturalization Act, which denied citizenship to any immigrant not a “free white”, and the 1857 Supreme Court Dred Scott decision, which denied citizenship to all slaves, ex-slaves and descendants of slaves, codified hardship even where slavery had been officially abolished.

Lincoln presided over a Civil War where “the peculiar institution of African slavery...was an immediate cause,” according to the Vice President of the Confederacy. In the middle of the war, in 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which stated “all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.” It is true that this was an imperfect compromise as it only freed slaves in the deep South or in Northern occupied territories while border states like Delaware and Maryland who had not joined the Confederacy still kept slaves, but Lincoln’s proclamation made way for Congress to pass the XIII Amendment at war’s end two years later. Finally, the U.S. caught up to Canada, Mexico and most of the rest of the world and abolished slavery. Soon after, Lincoln was assassinated as a “tyrant”.

The strong feelings that plagued Lincoln related to race, citizenship, and immigration as well as presidential proclamations vs. Congressional legislation persist. We are walking a path trod by Lincoln. May we do as well.