Calendar of Events

A complete listing of all town meetings is posted on the Town’s website, www.royalston-ma.gov

May 1st Wednesday
9:00 a.m. sharp **May Day Celebration** at the new Village School (253 S. Royalston Rd.) . Visitors can join in May pole weaving and dancing. There will be singing of traditional songs; the aging Millers River Morris Men will appear, and pound the earth to drive out winter and awaken the earth to bring fertility to the crops, the fields, the animals and the people! The public is invited. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies. Rain date to be posted on website.

May 4 Saturday
7 - 8:30 pm **Father-Daughter Dance**, a fundraiser for the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation, which raises money for enrichment activities in the local public schools, at Athol Community Elementary School. Advanced tickets ($20/ couple) are available at ARRSMD schools or at Kimball-Cooke or at the door ($25). Dancing, dressing up, and dunking in chocolate fountains! More info at atholroyalstoneducationfoundation.org. *Uncles, moms, grandfathers, big brothers, friends’ dad, etc. all could make great dates for the night.

May 5 Sunday **Ramadan begins**

May 10 Friday
7 p.m. **Annual Town Meeting at Royalston Community School**, Winchendon Rd.

May 12 Mother’s Day
10 am - 2pm **Walter Carlson Fishing Derby** for kids at Royalston Fish and Game Club. Prizes. Lunch available. Open to members and non-members.

May 16 Thursday
6:30 pm **Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee Community Meeting**: All interested Royalston residents are invited to attend a meeting in Fellowship Hall of the Second Congregational Church in South Royalston to hatch plans.

May 18 Saturday
5:11 pm **Full Flower Moon**

May 27 Monday
2:00 pm **Royalston Memorial Day Observance** on the Common. Come join the community to honor those who gave all for the freedoms we enjoy each day. Enjoy patriotic tunes, listen to readings from local school children, join the parade and stay for a bite to eat provided by the Ladies Benevolent Society. If you would like to participate in the program, volunteer, or contribute a dish to the luncheon, please contact Beth Weaver at (978) 249 0920.

May 29 Wednesday
6 pm **Monty Tech graduation**

Save the Date:

June 15 Saturday
6 pm **Royalston Fire & EMS Association, Annual Chicken BBQ** . Tickets will be sold via department members for $12 Adult $6 Children.
New Faces at Town Hall. Please welcome our new administrative assistant, Wendy Johnson of Orange, and our new administrative clerk, Michelle Deline of Royalston. Wendy is now on duty, working 18 hours a week, Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Michelle will be working six hours a week, starting date to be determined. Wendy has considerable government experience. She has worked for the last few years as the executive assistant to the Orange town administrator and for years before that as the project manager/administrative assistant in the Orange Community Development Office. She has also worked as an account clerk and a procedures clerk for the Orange District Court. Wendy’s e-mail address will be Wendy.Johnson@royalston-ma.gov. Any e-mails sent to the BOS group address will also go to her.

Some of you may already know Michelle as the Board of Health clerk, where she has worked since November, or as a bookkeeper and office manager for Deline Engineering, a family business. Michelle’s e-mail will be Michelle.Deline@royalston-ma.gov.

Select Board Notes
Christine Long – Select Board Chair

The Financial Picture: Capital Needs. For the last few years we have stressed the importance of the Capital Plan Development Committee – to see where we need to be heading and to avoid “management by crisis.” In last month’s newsletter, committee chair Phil Rabinowitz provided a clear, comprehensive account of the plan’s vision and key elements. In this newsletter you will find an overview of the full 10-year plan, and voters at the Annual Town Meeting on May 10 will weigh in on the coming year’s plan.

But that plan, both for the coming year and in the long run, needs an infusion of funds. Thus, if ATM voters give us the go-ahead, we will be asking all voters to support it in a special election (probably in the fall) seeking an override of $200,000 for additional road work and another override of $200,000 for the specifics in the plan.

Large thanks go to the committee and to the many residents who participated in the development of this plan. You spoke, and we listened.

The Financial Picture: Operating Needs. ATM voters will also consider the operating budget for this time of year. For the first time ever, the amount we can raise and appropriate is not enough to cover the budget. Last year we noted this outcome would be likely, and that prediction has come true.

Did we ignore fiscal responsibility? Absolutely not. Because of a significant increase in our AARSD assessment and a decrease in Monty Tech’s, we will be paying almost $30,000 more in support of schools. We are recommending about $20,000 in modest raises for the police department, the fire department and library staff to at least bring these employees closer to regional averages. We included an additional $5,000 for tree maintenance (a direct response to residents’ requests) and an additional $10,000 for information technology (to fund stronger protection for the town’s computers, to revamp our website, and to develop a town Facebook presence).

With these and a few other minor increases, we find ourselves short for FY20, a problem we can solve by using some of the free cash certified last fall. Of course, this leaves less free cash to bolster the Stabilization Fund, though we will be tapping that fund for $82,000 for FY19 snow and ice expenses.

Bylaw Review. Another task we have been working on for some time is a review of our General Bylaws. While we have not completed the comprehensive review, at ATM we will be offering amendments to the Finance Committee, DPW, Personnel, and Community Preservation Committee bylaws.

Interested in Joining the Royalston Fire Department?
The Royalston Fire Department is looking for new members to join our team to help respond to fire and medical emergencies in town. If you are interested in assisting the town in this way, I invite you to attend one of the Department’s weekly meetings or contact the Department for more information. Meetings are held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays of each month from 7 – 9pm at Station No. 1, 4 Athol Rd., for a rotating schedule of fire and medical trainings and administrative meetings.

For an overview of what being a part of the Royalston Fire Department entails, here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

Q: Are there age restrictions for joining the Fire Department?
A: Yes, fire or medical experience is required but knowledge of, or interest in, any of the following can be especially helpful: building and construction, machinery and equipment, rock climbing, SCUBA and water sports, experience in the Health Care industry, proficiency with paperwork/organization, and the desire to help others. There are training requirements that must be completed (these will be provided by the Fire Department), and you must have some availability to respond to calls and live within a reasonable response time to the town.

Q: How much time would I have to commit?
A: Members are expected to attend the majority of the meetings and trainings and respond to calls when available.

Q: Do I need prior experience or training with firefighting or medical emergencies?
A: No fire or medical experience is required but knowledge of, or interest in, any of the following can be especially helpful: building and construction, machinery and equipment, rock climbing, SCUBA and water sports.

Q: How can I become a member of the Royalston Fire Department?
A: For more information and or answers to questions about joining the Royalston Fire Department please contact me at the phone number or email address listed below.

Thank you, Lt. Joshua Doub
doubworks@gmail.com, 978-895-0376

Annual Town Meeting, May 10, 7PM
Royalston Community School
Bumps in the Road
An Interview with DPW Director, Keith Newton
Nancy Monette, Capital Planning Development Committee

This time of the year the long and winding road to your door may be filled with pot holes, frost heaves, and large puddles. Spring has arrived, and the cycle of road repair begins yet again. The lack of town funding over the years has made it difficult to keep up with the many repairs required annually, and we have many deteriorating roads because of it.

After numerous neighborhood meetings with community members, the Capital Planning Development Committee has identified roads as the number one source of irritation with many people in our town. We thought it might be a good idea to try and enlighten our community with some facts and figures and get some answers to that ever-nagging question…. “Why are our roads so awful?” Consequently, I recently visited with Keith Newton, head of the DPW.

Did you know that there are 78.9 miles of roads in Royalston and that 28 miles of those roads are gravel, or that we only have four people on the DPW including a manager? That’s a lot of road for a small crew. According to our Mr. Newton, approximately 95% of our yearly funding for road building/repairs comes from Chapter 90, which is a grant from the state. Royalston may have to buy some stone or pipes for drainage and sand and salt for snow removal, but other than salary and wages for our small highway crew, we depend entirely on the State. Just like in many households, we must save some of our money for a few years to complete a road project. For instance, the Winchendon Road was funded by a Mass Works Grant for $1.3 million along with $149,000 from our Chapter 90 funds, which the DPW had saved for two years.

In talking with Keith, I have learned that there is a big difference between simply resurfacing a road and completely rebuilding it from the bottom up. Here’s an eye opener…. It can cost anywhere from $500,000 to $1,000,000 a mile to rebuild a road. I’m starting to see why we seem to get nowhere year after year.

I have heard these questions asked numerous times: “Why do some roads get more attention than others while many roads are in worse shape? Who makes the decision regarding which roads come first for repairs?” Keith Newton makes those decisions based on public safety and school buses.

Three things Mr. Newton stated he would most like the community to know about roads:
*Because we could never do all the roads at once we must prioritize, and the key is public safety.
*Royalston adopted the Scenic Roads and Shade Tree Act. The protection of stone walls and vistas along with protecting trees an inch and a half and bigger adds another level of complexity to road management.
*Drainage! We need to improve drainage associated on our roadways. There is a delicate balance between managing properly drained and esthetically pleasing roadways.

Finally, I asked him if he were to suddenly have an additional $200,000 per year in his budget, what would he do? “Augmenting Mass Works Grants and Chapter 90 money extends the mileages for repairs. It would be an investment and a start for future improvements with our roads.”

I have lived in this town for 35 years and have seen little to no progress in bettering our roads. Yes, there have been some big projects like Route 32 and the Winchendon Road, but, in general, progress has been bleak. Now, I have a better understanding of why and the choices we face for the future.
Thank you
Donation to the Friends
Virginia Moore

Thank you
Maureen Blasco and Beth Gospodarek for getting the kites in the air during the annual kite flying day at the library.

Royalston Shakespeare Company 2019
We are looking for actors ages 8-18 and adult volunteers to help with this year’s production. It is a two week commitment, June 22 - July 5. Everyone is welcome! We are exploring alternate venues since the Royalston Town Hall is undergoing construction.

If you are interested in acting or volunteering, please let me know as soon as possible so we can start the planning process. Registration forms are available at the library and local schools. For more information, please e-mail Grace Belmont belgra3@gmail.com. Email is the best way to contact, but phone calls work as well 978.249.3092.

Stay Tuned:
It won’t be long before there will be lots of summer reading programs offered through the library. This year’s theme is ‘A Universe of Stories’ and we’ll be using that theme to design our programs. There will also be the two-week Royalston Shakespeare Theater, summer movies (outdoors, weather permitting) and reading bingo for all ages with lots of great prizes.

yoga—every Tuesday night at 7 pm RELOCATED TO THE BASEMENT OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DURING ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTION, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Free but donations welcome.

Friends of the Library Plant Sale
June 1 at the Post Office 9 am - 11:30.
Expect a big selection, including perennials, herbs, vegetables, fruit, annual, groundcovers, house plants and shrubs as well as some unusual and unexpected finds. Each plant comes with solid advice from long time local gardeners.

Plant donations sought: Too many seedlings on your windowsills? Need to thin the perennials? Re-potting the houseplants? Please put up your extras to benefit the Friends. Bring to the Post Office early Saturday May 1 or drop at the library the week beforehand.

Book Review: Non-fiction Fun
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Two recent additions to the library meet what I consider important criteria for good non-fiction about science: books that make the concepts easy to understand and enjoyable to read by non-scientists. The following two books accomplish that. The first is: Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets, and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live by Rob Dunn. He introduces us to the over 200,000, yes 200,000, different species that live in and around our homes and lets us know that we should be happy and grateful for most of them for being there. Reviews rightfully state that you will never look at your home in the same way, and that especially applies to your shower head! The second book is written almost as a travelogue. Author Mark Miodownik brings us along on his flight from London to San Francisco to attend a conference on liquids in Liquid Rules: The Delightful and Dangerous Substances That Flow Through Our Lives. You begin by learning why you can’t take peanut butter (besides the fact of its allergenic properties, its molecular structure is similar to nitroglycerine) and that as you take off on a long flight you are sitting on top of about 13,000 gallons of very flammable, modified kerosene, so don’t even worry about how to get that oxygen mask affixed to your face. From the tea he’s served, to the liquid crystal screen, to the ink in his pen, to the water in the lavatory, to the stain on his shirt, to the volcanoes of Iceland and the frozen expanse of Greenland you fly over, you learn a lot of fascinating information about liquids. Interjected with his comments on the person sitting next to him on the plane.

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

Read something good lately? Let us know at the RCN. Send your review by the 22nd of the month prior to publication. All ages welcome.
**Some of the new materials at your library***

### Adult Fiction
- Boyle, T.C., *Outside Looking In*
- Coulter, Catherine, *The Last Second*
- Dektar, Molly, *The Ash Family*
- Dubois, Jennifer, *The Spectators*
- Fairstein, Linda, *Blood Oath*
- Freudenberger, Nell, *Lost and Wanted*
- George, Nina, *The Book of Dreams*
- Johansen, Iris, *Dark Tribute*
- Kelly, Martha Hall, *Lost Roses*
- McCauley, Terrence, *Dark Territory*
- Moyes, Jojo, *Henry, Himself*
- Patterson, James, *The Cornwalls are Gone*
- Scottoline, Lisa, *Someone Knows*
- Shriver, Lionel, *Property*
- Wilkins, Joe, *Fall Back Down When I Die*
- Winslow, Don, *The Border*
- Winspear, Jacqueline, *The American Agent*

### Adult Non-Fiction
- Barry, Dave, *Lesson for Lucy: The Simple Joys of an Old, Happy Dog*
- Dooley, Beth, *Sweet Nature*
- Galvery, William, *Basic Welding for Farm and Ranch*
- Immerwahr, Daniel, *How to Hide an Empire*
- Kabat-Zinn, Jon, *Mindfulness for All*
- Lacey, Amy, *Califo’ur Kitchen*
- Makos, Adam, *Humanimal*
- Rutherford, Adam, *Moss Gardening*
- Winfrey, Oprah, *The Path Made Clear*
- Hollis, Rachel, *Girl, Stop Apologizing*
- Hollis, Rachel, *Girl, Wash your Face*
- Land, Stephanie, *Maid*
- Lopez, Barry, *Horizon*
- McCabe, Andrew, *The Threat*
- Miodownik, Mark, *Liquid Rules*
- Rubin, Gretchen, *Outer Order, Inner Calm*
- Waal, de Waal, *Mama’s Last Hug*

### Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction
- Avery, Logan, *Art and Culture*
- Bottner, Barbara, *What a Cold Needs*
- Ellis, Gerry, *Little Larry Goes to School*
- Jenkins, Steve, *The Frog Book*
- Levine, Sara, *Flower Talk*
- Markle, Sandra, *The Woolly Monkey Mysteries*
- Rice, Dona, *Tails*
- Rice, Dona, *The History of Ice Cream*
- Rice, Dona, *The Serengeti*
- Slade, Suzanne, *Daring Dozen*
- Wick, Walter, *A Ray of Light*

### Children’s Fiction
- Atinuke, *B is for Baby*
- Brosgol, Vera, *The Little Guys*
- Cipriano, Jeri, *Hello Neighbor: Canada*
- Cipriano, Jeri, *Hello Neighbor: Cuba*
- Cipriano, Jeri, *Hello Neighbor: Mexico*
- Daywalt, Drew, *What is inside THIS Box?*
- Eggers, Dave, *Tomorrow Most Likely*
- Frost, Helen, *Hello, I’m Here!*
- George, K., *Duck, Duck, Dinosaur*
- Gilmore, Sophie, *Little Doctor and the Fearless Beast*
- Henkes, Kevin, *Sweeping up the Heart*
- Jackson, Richard, *Puddle*
- Kinney, Jeff, *Dairy if an Awesome Friendly Kid*
- Lozano, Luciano, *Diana Dances*
- McDonald, Megan, *Judy Moody and Friends: Searching for Stinkodon*
- Meddour, Wendy, *Lubna and Pebble*
- Park, Linda Sue, *Gondra’s Treasure*
- Pizzoli, Greg, *The Book Hog*
- Roemer, Heidi, *Peekity Boo What You Can Do!*
- Tabor, Corey, *Fox is Late*
- Tabor, Corey, *Fox the Tiger*
- Teague, Mark, *Felipe and Claudette*
- Theule, Larissa, *Born to Ride*

### Children’s Nonfiction
- Alexander, Kwame, *The Undefeated*
- Bulion, Leslie, *Superlative Birds*
- McMahon, Serah, *Killer Style*
- Sayre, April, *Like a Lizard*
- Stewart, Melissa, *Seashells*
- Wolf, Allan, *The Day the Universe Exploded my Head*

### Audiobooks
- Meltzer, Brad, *The First Conspiracy*
- Michaelides, Alex, *The Silent Patient*
- Thomas, Angie, *On the Come Up (YA)*

### DVDs

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*To get a deal on some of the old materials at your library, Come to the Library Book Sale June 1 at the library 9 - noon.*
Historical Society:
Memorial Day display:  Henry George Duley, who grew up in the white farm house on the corner of Philipston Rd and Rt 68 in the South Village, was killed in battle in France just over a century ago during World War I. Recently, his nephew Robert Duley generously donated Henry’s citations of honor from the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Army, and the French Republic to the Royalston Historical Society. These note the “brilliant courage, the vigor, spirit and tenacity of the men who overcame all hardships and losses...after 12 days of incessant fighting (from the 2nd to the 13th of June 1918) on very difficult terrain, undertaking an advance varying from 1200 to 2000 meters, on a front of 4 kilometers, capturing a large amount of material, taking more than 500 prisoners, and capturing 2 objectives of first importance: the village of Buresches and Belleau Wood.” Included in the donation were letters from Private Duley to his mother and friend Mamie back in Royalston. These will be on display in the museum in time for Memorial Day.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency
Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay  978-249-2904

Through the Royalston Emergency Management Agency, the Town is exploring some grant funding for assessing our vulnerability to, and how to prepare for, some of the current and expected results of climate change. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program will help us build community resilience and keep us on track with our local Hazard Mitigation Plans. More information to follow, next month.

Royalston Fish and Game Club
The annual Walter Carlson Fishing Derby will be on May 12 from 10 am - 2 pm. The pond will be stocked with trout and kids of all ages are invited to try to catch them. Prizes are awarded in several categories and age groupings, including most fish and biggest fish. Lunch is available. This event is open to members and non-members.

Trap shoots for all levels, members and non-members, are open Wednesdays, from 5-8 p.m., at a cost of $3/25 clays. ATA/MATA members needing registered targets, registered shoots are May 15, 22, 29; June 5; and August 28.

Horseshoes: Luck of the Draw Partner nights have begun and continue through the summer on Tuesdays from 6-10 p.m. $5/person. Top shooter is ten best of the 20 weeks. If raining, join in for CornHole under the pavilion.

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!

Did you attend Royalston schools or were you home-schooled in Town? Do you have an unforgettable memory of your school days? The historical society is collecting your experiences! Write up, record, or make a drawing to tell all about it (and to be archived as part of the Town’s historical record). If you agree, your memory will be put on display at the upcoming “Get Schooled” event on September 21. Alternatively, visit the Historical Society’s story-collecting booth at the Town Fair in September to share your true tale.
Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN at chasemos2@gmail.com or drop at library.

Graduates (and/or their parents), share your happiness and pride by sending announcements and photos to the RCN, so we can all be happy and proud with you!

Monty Tech honor roll: Anthony Divoll, Aliyah Neale, Elysia Rosado, and Emma Watts

Congrats to two “2019 Newspapers in Education” contest winners! Ryder Barilone earned an honorable mention in the Original Artwork category. Aubrie Hautanen took fourth place in the Essay Contest. The annual contest is conducted by The Gardner News

Egg-citing Photo Ops

As she stepped down from 20 years of running the annual egg hunt on Royalston Common, Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi launched one final project, the photo board shown in this photo. Gordon Morrison, an accomplished artist who lives in Royalston, agreed to take on the project. With a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council and materials donated by Rene’, Gordon created this work of art in time for this year’s egg hunt. The artwork is signed and carries a copyright symbol, protecting the artist’s work. The town will now benefit from this unique work which features the setting on Royalston Common. It will be enjoyed by hundreds of Royalston children in years to come.

Fire Recovery

Tony Argiro, long-time Royalston resident and our transfer station attendant, recently lost his home and 3 pet cats to an early morning fire. The house was a complete loss. There was no fire insurance on the home and he hopes to rebuild. There is a Go Fund Me page under Royalston and his name. Any amount will be appreciated. Folks who wish to donate directly (and avoid the on-line commission) can do so by mailing to his address:

Tony Argiro
PO Box 60
Royalston, MA 01368

Town-wide Roadside Clean up Meets Citizen Science

At the recent soggy and chilly roadside clean up, among the hundreds of discarded plastic Hot Shot nip bottles, beer cans, plastic water bottles, and styrofoam coffee cups collected, Carol Dzub and Dan Monette found a National Weather Service experiment in the weeds of New Boston Road. It had been a small weather balloon but was now a small styrofoam base with a few instruments sticking out. A postage paid envelope was sealed on the side. It was returned with a note asking for a follow up on the experiment and its results.

Amanda Putney Horse Show

The 7th annual Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show has been moved to a later-than-usual date of June 23rd, 2019. This family-friendly fundraiser helps out young equestrians with scholarships to help with showing expenses. If you wish to donate items, certificates, or commitments of goods or services, please send a message via the group’s Facebook Page, or by contacting Brenda L. Putney at 978-249-7787.

Millers River Garden Club

Pauline Aldred, co-president

It is time to start planting again. Pick up robust plants at The North Quabbin Garden Club’s 13th annual plant sale from 8 am to 1 pm at the Millers River Environmental Center on Saturday, May 18. Our plants are grown in the gardens of local gardeners and thrive in our climate and soil. We have a variety of plants including annuals, perennials, herbs, fruit, vegetables, shrubs, and natives.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions.
Monty Tech

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

Once again, there are so many applicants for Monty Tech’s 355 seats, no school choice freshmen are able to be accepted. School choice IS accepted for grades 10, 11, 12, to enable children who have moved out of District in their first year to continue through to their senior year.

School Committee Officers for the 2019-2020 school year were elected as follows: Chair Brian Walker (Fitchburg); Vice Chair Diane Swenson (Ashburnham); Secretary – Superintendent-Director Dr. Sheila M. Harrity; Recording Secretary – Superintendent-Director’s Administrative Assistant Julie Marynok; Treasurer – Norman LeBlanc; Assistant Treasurer Barbara Reynolds (Lunenburg). Royalston’s representative is continuing as the Clerk of the Policy Subcommittee; Chair of the Student Advisory Council Subcommittee; Chair of the Ad Hoc School Committee Scholarship Subcommittee; is a participant with staff and faculty on the Health and Safety Committee; and serves as the MassAchusetts Association of School Committees Division VIII (Vocational-Technical Schools) Secretary.

The Annual Superintendent’s Dinners, hosted by the Monty Tech Foundation, raised more than $30,000 for student scholarships. Thanks to all of the attendees and generous donors who made the evening a spectacular success.

Royalston Community School Calendar

May 1 - STEM DAY at Fenway Park - Grade 6 Field Trip
10 - All School Meeting @ 2:00pm
13 - 17 - Grade 5 to Nature’s Classroom
15 - 1/2 Day, Noon release
15 - School Committee Meeting @ RCS @ 6:00PM
16 - Kindergarten Community Helpers Field Trip, 8:30 - 2:30
22 - Grade 2 Field Trip to Ecotarium @ 8:45 - 2:30pm
22 - Grade 3 Field Trip to the Athol Historical Society w Mr. Vaidulas @ 8:45 - 1:00pm
24 - Memorial Day Program @ 2:00pm
27 - Memorial Day, NO SCHOOL
30 - Grade 6 Field Trip to UMASS Amherst @ 8:30 - 5:00pm

Congregational Churches News

First Congregational Church of Royalston, 15 On The Common
Services start at 11 am. with Pastor Tim Oja. Fellowship and refreshments served after service. Thursdays, at 3 On The Common, there is a 5 pm prayer worship and a 7 pm women’s Bible study group.

Second Congregational Church of Royalston, 3 School Street
Services start at 9 am with Pastor Tim Oja. Fellowship and refreshments served after service. On Wednesday at 7 pm, there is 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. If you can help us, please contact Debbie Conrad - 978-895-3505.

What’s Happening at the Village School?

Right after April vacation, the classes fanned out and identified the local floral and fauna for Biodiversity Day. A few classes visited Lawrence Brook, and some explored the Camp Caravan pond. The students also illustrated the written records of their discoveries.

The students are planting a garden, looking towards next fall’s harvest. All the students love being in the garden – with the extra bonus of finding all kinds of interesting bugs.

This month starts with a traditional May Day celebration, May Pole and all, for which all the students have learned songs and dances. On May 17th the annual Village School original play is performed at the school, the culmination of 2 months intensive work by the 5th-6th grade, based on its year-long study of Ancient Greece.

Openings for the next school year at the Village School
There are openings in kindergarten through 4th grade. Please call to arrange your visit as soon as possible at 978 249 3505.

You are invited to Open Visiting Mornings. You can observe classes from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Wednesday. Tour the school, talk to staff and meet with the Director. You can find out about Financial Aid and carpools too. Call 978 249 3505 to visit.

The Athol-Royalston Education Foundation

Father*-Daughter Dessert Dance

* Bring your own father or adopt one for the night.
A step-father, an older brother, uncle, cousin, grandfather, a mom, or a friend’s dad could all be great dates.

How much: Tickets are $20.00/ couple in advance and $25 at the door. For dads* with multiple daughters, each additional girl costs $5.00.

When: Saturday, May 4, 2019  7 - 8:30 pm
Where: Athol Community Elementary School

What: Come dressed up to dance to the music of the DJ, dunk in the chocolate fountains, consume cake and have lots of fun.

Gary Gamache, professional photographer will be available to capture the moment. Packages are $10 and up. (Doors open at 6:00 for photographs only.) Photos are optional.

This is not a school sponsored event. Proceeds benefit A-REF, a group of local citizens who work to provide enrichment opportunities in our local public schools. Consider becoming a member or joining the board.
Classifieds

free:  File Cabinets: 4, gently used, 4 drawer; 2, a bit more mileage, 5 drawer. Assorted office, desk top trays and dividers. 978-249-3531, please leave message.

Help wanted:

Yard Work and Odd Jobs for Spring and Summer 2019 Season. Need an able-bodied, reliable and trustworthy person to do yard work and mow lawn till November as well as help with odd jobs around the property like stacking wood and cleaning the cellar. I will supply all necessary materials and can provide transportation if needed.  Rt 32 Royalston, 3 miles from the Richmond border. 15.00 per hour, a minimum of 4 hours per week. Call Gary at 978-575-0124, leave a message.

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

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

Royalston Maple Syrup Putney’s Sugarhouse $6.50/half-pint; $10/pint; $18/quart. Jessica Putney Schanz at 978-939-3329 (cell); 978-249-7787; jessputney1989@gmail.com.

Maple Syrup from Divoll’s sugar house. Prices: pints $10, quarts $18, half gallons $30 and gallons $55. Call John 978-894-5109

Sweetwater Sugar House at the LeRays has syrup available. Call 978-249-3464.


Glass etching: by Swank Kreations. Custom options by experienced graphic designer and etching of glassware. Single pieces or sets. Contact Krys and Keith Swan at Swankkreations@gmail.com.

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.

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. To order call 978-249-3040.


Local, raw honey from Squier Davis Farm. One pound jars $8.00 Cash preferred. Call Deb/Jo 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) 424-8580 or email suzannagaits@gmail.com

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

Garden Notes

The chives, alas, required a lot more, extracting perennial scallions required little more, a bit of moving around required no more effort than to push aside the mulch. Once in the garden, primarily the alliums (bless 'em). The garlic

The ‘and such’ chores revolve around the earliest signs of life - bed preparation, pruning, and such proceed at a snail’s pace. Conditions are hardly gardening-friendly. If it is dry enough, we are hardly in the arms of spring either, while we are no longer in the grips of winter (the last below freezing reading was ten days ago, the last bit of snow two days prior to that), we are hardly in the arms of spring either, a month after its onset. Yes, grass is greening (although it will be a while before the lawn mowers are hauled out). Evening grosbeaks, rare winter visitors to the bird feeders, have felt no compelling need to return north. (Large numbers of them are engorging on sunflower seeds as I write.) My principal harbinger of spring is neither the return of the robins to their rightful place on the front lawn (which occurred some time ago) nor the burst of yellow from the forsythias and the daffodils (which occurred most recently), but the first time I go to bed without wearing socks. (Yes, you need to sleep in an unheated bedroom to grasp this.) I continue to wear socks.

The ‘and such’ chores did not include any seeding. Last year, pea planting was delayed until April 23. It will be delayed even more this year. (Some of my gardening compatriots, more optimistic than I, have already planted.) Spinach, radishes, and potatoes are set back as well; how far, yet to be determined.

The vagaries of weather were not enough, there is the matter of wild-life to contend with. Squirrels have survived the winter with no apparent reduction in numbers. Porcupines are astir. Are they ever not? And there’s a new kid on the block. You’ve no doubt heard about the measles outbreak in New York. Now you’re hearing about the weasels outbreak in Royalston. Our flock of seven hens and a rooster was reduced to one (since relocated to a “safe house”). Two others in town have shared similar experiences. Nobody has suggested this gardening life was gonna be easy.

P.S. Town meeting on May 10. At best, it can be incredibly boring. At worst, incredibly divisive. Sort of like politics. And life. But it’s the only game in town. Sow the seeds of democracy.

Larry Siegel

The Wind

“Whenever the moon and stars are set, Whenever the wind is high, All night long in the dark and wet, A man goes riding by.”

So begins one of the first poems I committed to memory as a child. We had a copy of “A Child’s Garden of Verses” by Robert Louis Stevenson from which our mother would often read aloud. Of the many poems in that volume, none had quite the impact on me as this one. It is called “Windy Nights”, a dead giveaway as to topic. One would think. But my seven-year-old sensibilities were caught in the literal: Who was this man? Why is he riding in the rain? In the dark? In the wind?

The poem goes on: “Late at night when the fires are out/Why does he gallop and gallop about?” Now I saw a house, dark and cold. Was there a child, like me, up at a window watching this phantom rider come and go in the “dark and wet”? Chilling images that never failed to draw me in.

It was not until many years later, with an older child’s understanding of metaphor, that I understood what the poet had done. The wind was the rider, of course, and, just as great gusts of wind roar and subside on windy nights, so too this rider would come and go and come again. “By at a gallop he goes and then/by he comes back at a gallop again.”

When I was a bit older our family moved from our apartment in town to a house in Intervale where we all developed a new relationship with the wind. The house sat on a rise and faced west toward the mountains. I don’t recall the time of year when we took occupancy. However, I do recall the first time the wind blew hard because a moaning sound came from the dining room. No one was frightened, we were just intrigued. Somehow my father had learned the explanation. An iron rod, he’d been told, had been walled up in the northwest corner of the room, left, perhaps, by a careless carpenter. When the wind was high, the rod vibrated, and the house moaned. Our house, it seemed, had its very own wind instrument! This was way better than having a ghost.

This month we have had our share of windy nights – and days. From a northeast window on our second floor I watch as the wind comes and goes, like the poet’s night rider. Especially now, when the trees have not yet leafed out, I can watch the wind grab and toss the highest branches. I can see how the wind sometimes travels in bands, causing the pine boughs over here to wave gently while the rhododendrons over there remain still.

After a recent night of high winds, I was gathering fallen branches when I came upon a small wind chime that, last summer, I’d hung in a blueberry bush. The chimes were impossibly tangled, their strings wound in a tight swirl that must have followed the wind’s passing. I brought it in to show Tom. “Just throw it out,” he said. But I could not. This was something tangible the wind had left for me. I hung the chime from a pendant light over our table and set to work. The wind is a night rider, an instrument player, a twister of strings. And now it is here in my hands. “I am touching the wind,” I thought as I worked to free the chimes.

Deb D’Amico
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Recipe of the Month: Rhubarb Pie
Beth Gospodarek
My husband brought 2 recipes to our marriage: tuna melts and his mom’s rhubarb pie. Pre-Stephen, it never had occurred to me that one could eat rhubarb without strawberries. It had occurred to everyone hungry in New England for most of the past 400 years, however. Easy to grow and reliable to yield, rhubarb is historically called “pie plant”, while local strawberries, though an exceptionally delicious complement, are fickle producers with a month lag time after the fresh rhubarb arrives. Rhubarb goes well with any berry actually. Blubarb pie is great. Nonetheless, in early May, when the first gifts of the garden are offered, it is time to savor the simple. With only 4 ingredients, this pie is easy and pleasing with its tart-meets-sweet contrasts. Put the filling in your favorite crust, bake, and enjoy an old time favorite.

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