Calendar of Events

**Saturday Morning on Royalston Common, June 1, 2019**

**Saturday Morning on Royalston Common**

- **June 3**  Monday
  - 6:02 a.m.  **New Strawberry Moon**

**June 4**  Tuesday
- 7 p.m.  **Select Board Meets**
- **Eid al-Fitr** begins at sundown celebrating the end of Ramadan.

**June 5**  Wednesday
- 7:30-11:30 a.m.  **Spectacular Silent Auction**
- 7:30-10:30 a.m.  **The Village School Pancake Breakfast**
  - Organic blueberry pancakes & local maple syrup
- **Town Hall • $7/$3 Kids**

**June 11**  Tuesday
- **South Royalston Revitalization Committee Meets.**  All encouraged to attend.

**June 14**  Friday
- **Flag Day**

**June 15**  Saturday
- 1 - 3 p.m.  **Retirement Celebration for RCS administrative assistant, Marie Lajoie** at RCS. Refreshments.
- 6 p.m.  **Royalston Fire & EMS Association, Annual Chicken BBQ.** Tickets will be sold via department members for $12 Adult, $6 Children.

**June 16**  Sunday
- **Father’s Day**

**June 17**  Monday
- 4:31 a.m.  **Full Strawberry Moon**
- **half day dismissal**  **School’s out for summer!** (in ARRSD)

**June 21**  Friday
- 11:54 a.m.  **Summer Solstice**

**June 23**  Sunday
- **Annual Amanda Putney Memorial Horse Show,** which helps young equestrians with scholarships to help with showing expenses. To donate items, please send message via the group’s Facebook Page, or by contacting Brenda L. Putney at 978-249-7787.

**June 26**  Wednesday
- 7 p.m.  **The Ladies’ Benevolent Society** meets for a short business meeting downstairs at town hall, followed by a program on Search and Rescue Dogs presented by Sherri Miner and Roland Hamel. They will talk about how search and rescue dogs are chosen, trained, and deployed. Kristin West will host. For more information contact Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000.

**June 29**  Saturday
- 10 a.m.  **Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will be opening the wheelchair-accessible trail at the Eagle Reserve Conservation Area** located at 55 Winchendon Road. Community warmly invited.

**Save the Date:**

- **July 3**  Wednesday
  - 7 p.m.  **Hamlet** in a workshop performance by the Royalston Shakespeare Co. Kids ages 8 - 18, sign up now at the library to act, build sets or run tech. Free. Sponsored by the Friends.

- **July 14**  Sunday
  - noon - 5 p.m.  **Musicfest 2019!** at Bullock Park (Behind Historical Schoolhouse), rain or shine, FREE! Royalston organizations can set up informational tables or raffles; outside vendors can set up tables for $10.00. Look in July newsletter for more information. Contact Deb Nunes (978-249-4000).
Select Board Notes
Deb D’Amico, Select Board Clerk

Annual Town Meeting – Last month 71 voters gathered for our Annual Town Meeting. This is twice the number of voters who attended the 2018 meeting, which was encouraging to see, but still under 10% of the town’s registered voters. The Select Board appreciates the enormous amount of time that department heads, the town’s finance team, the Finance Committee, and the Capital Planning Committee spent over many months preparing the warrant articles and finalizing the budget. Voting the budget is the most important act of the town’s residents. We appreciate the time set aside by those who came to Town Meeting to ask questions and cast their votes.

Budget and Capital Requests – Voters approved an operating budget of $2,340,645, the amount needed to run the town – to “keep the lights on,” so to speak. It includes salaries for all town employees, employee benefits, department expenses, and our mandated share of the school budgets. Ideally, this budget would be covered by the taxes we raise. However, as Board Chair Christine Long pointed out at the beginning of the meeting, the amount of money we can raise from taxes this coming year will not cover the operating budget. For the first time, we had to dip into our “free cash” reserves to balance just this portion of our expenses. Voters also approved $59,684 worth of capital expenditures to fund much-needed maintenance on, and improvements to, town properties.

Road Improvements – In response to residents’ concerns about the condition of our roads, the Capital Plan Development Committee sponsored an article to create a “Road Improvement Stabilization Fund” with $200,000 to be raised from taxes. To accomplish this goal, the town needs to override the state’s 2½% tax cap, and voters must approve this override at both town meeting and in a ballot vote. Voters did approve this article at the town meeting, so a special town election will be held later this summer when voters will be asked again to approve it. Special Town Meeting – Town meeting voters rejected another Capital Planning recommendation, to add money every year to the Capital Stabilization Fund via another override. Voters made it clear that rather than seeking to build up a fund, the town should put forward a specific project via a debt exclusion. (The difference is that a debt exclusion raises taxes for a defined period of time only, while an override is a permanent increase.)

As many of you know, the town has a serious need for office space and the former Raymond School building in the Center is a key part of the solution. The Raymond, however, has an asbestos roof and both asbestos and lead in the interior. Abating these hazards and replacing the roof will cost about $200,000 – with no available grants to help. So last month, the Select Board voted to schedule a special town meeting sometime this summer and to include this proposal on that special election ballot. Again, we need voter approval at both. Dates of both will be posted on the town website.

Be Part of Your Government! We hope by now you have had a chance to look over the Handbook of Boards and Committees included in your April newsletter. The Select Board encourages you to consider joining a committee whose work interests you. Remember that all committee and board meetings are open to the public, so if you are curious about the work of a particular group, plan to attend a meeting. Contact information for each group is included in the handbook. Or you can call the Select Board Office at 978-249-9641.

Select Board Office Summer Hours – Starting on Tuesday, June 25, the Select Board office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM to 3PM.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair person

BOH NEWS

Coming soon to RRATS, a new shipping container for mattress recycling. Instead of dumping them in the demo roll off, they will be collected and deconstructed in Gardner and recycled. There still will be a size appropriate fee to cover cost. Container purchase with a MADEP grant.

Textiles collection boxes are in front of recycling building. We take any kind of textiles, blankets, curtains, belts, shoes etc. Please no wet, damp, oily, items please. Signage states what is acceptable.

If you have questions, see attendant.

Ticks, ticks, and more ticks this year are expected. Please take precautions and check humans and animals after going outside.

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: 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, 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: Are there age restrictions for joining the Fire Department?
A: You must be at least 18 years old to become a full member of the Fire Department but those age 16 – 17 are welcome to become Junior Members and train alongside full members until turning 18.

For more information and or answers to questions about 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
Fire Department Updates
I want to thank the Royalston residents for a very successful “Open Burning” season this past spring. It shows with your cooperation and careful burning practices we can safely burn and clean up our yards and gardens. Please consider when building your next-year brush pile(s) if the location was suitable and safe. If not, please select another area; remember all fires must be 75’ from any building. Have a great and safe off-season and I look forward to another successful open burn schedule from January 15 to May 1, 2020.
Respectfully, Keith R. Newton, Royalston Fire Chief

Dept. of Public Works
The road construction season is upon us and we are scheduled to do several areas that need work desperately. The scheduled work starts with Norcross Road and will include Route 68, (South Royalston Road). The intention this year is to include some gravel road work as well. Areas that turned into “Mud Pits” during the spring will be reviewed and corrective materials and work will be added.

Let’s hope for moderation in precipitation this season, which will help road conditions throughout the year.

Thank you for your support at the Annual Town Meeting and let’s complete the mission with a positive vote when scheduled.

Respectfully,
Keith R. Newton - DPW - Supt.

Cultural Council
Mark your calendars for Musicfest 2019!
Sunday, July 14th, noon-5 pm, Bullock Park (Behind Historical Schoolhouse), rain or shine, FREE! This is our best annual event! Better than tree lighting; better than our famous Open Mics; better than Blues Night! Headliner band: GREEN SISTERS, proceeded by talented local musicians. Food, games, reptile petting zoo, dancing, t-shirts, new and vintage. Royalston organizations can set up informational tables or raffles; outside vendors can set up tables for $10.00. Look in July newsletter for more information. Contact Deb Nunes (978-249-4000) for more info.

Royalston South Village Revitalization (RSVR) Committee Calls a Second Meeting on June 11
All interested Royalston residents are invited to attend a second meeting of the RSVR Committee on Tuesday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the Second Congregational Church in South Royalston.
We had a great first community meeting on May 16 with 37 people attending. The group was welcomed by Steering Committee Chair Janice Trask, who described the mission of revitalizing the South Village while building community in the process. Vice Chair Nancy Monette led a discussion of the ideas for projects, including Royalston River Walk/Bloomin’ Bridge, restoration of Whitney Hall, helping the General Store, a park in the One School Street lot, a bandstand in the park, a veteran’s memorial and hiking/biking/fishing/kayaking recreation promotion.

One sense of the meeting was to select initial projects that have a visible impact and are needed but relatively simple compared to the other longer term efforts, while starting the research on the other projects. There was also a sense that we want to retain the rural character of Royalston and “keep Royalston as Royalston” but develop more places where townspeople can gather as they did in the past.

Fire/Highway Department Chief Keith Newton gave a report on the state of the bridge, saying that it is owned by the town, is presently condemned but that grants to evaluate the structural needs could be sought through the help of Kevin Flynn, Chief Administrative Officer of Phillipston who helped Royalston obtain the grant for the Town Hall elevator. Keith invited Mr. Flynn to attend the meeting and he gave a report to the group about possible grant funding that could be sought for various projects. He said that grant sources often look for a local group with community support to work with. Some funding sources mentioned were the Community Preservation Act, the state Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Downtown Revitalization, PARC Program, Complete Streets Program, Mass Works Program, and others. Also, Pat Worth talked with the Conway School of Design which has graduate student interns that work on community projects.

Jim Barclay sent in a report from the Town Building Committee about Whitney Hall. He is looking into Mass Development and the Mass Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund. Linda Alger reported that she had made efforts in the past to gain designation of the building as part of the Historic Preservation District on the upper Common.

Everyone was excited to meet Heather Golding and Rob Sylvester, the new store owners, and hear about their plans. They said that they welcome residents’ suggestions.

Attending were all members of the SelectBoard, the heads of the Police, Highway, Building, and other departments. Many people commented on the large attendance and really creative discussion and it was very gratifying to see the generous offers of help from many quarters.

At the next meeting on June 11, we will continue work on these ideas, decide which projects will take a longer time to do research and fundraising for, and to prioritize.

The idea of the RSVR Committee originated with a small group of residents who attended a neighborhood meeting last fall sponsored by the Capital Planning Development Committee. They decided to form the Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee (RSVR) and met with the SelectBoard to discuss potential strategies for a rejuvenation of the South Village. On the RSVR Steering Committee are Janice Trask (Chair), Nancy Monette (Vice Chair), Ruth Suyenaga (Secretary), Rose Lawrence (Treasurer), and also Linda Alger, Marlene Jarvenpaa, Mark Shoul, and Alice Leonard.

If you are interested in working with us on revitalizing the South Village, please come to the next meeting. We will be having monthly meetings on the second Tuesday. We need your ideas and energy! For more information, call Janice Trask, Nancy Monette or anyone else on the Steering Committee.

Town of Royalston Cemetery Commission seeks contractor for full vault burials. Contact 978-249-4587 or 978-249-9687.
**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

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**Donations to the Friends - Thank You!**

**Buddy Dyer**

**Art Exhibit**

During June there will be a selection of Gail Osgood’s acrylic paintings including some that were not in the original display. Gail donated these realistic (they look like photographs!) paintings to the library and several have been purchased. Stop by and see what is still available.

In July and August, Lynne Stopen from Orange will have an exhibit of her pencil and colored pencil realistic bird drawings on display. Lynne was a teacher at Athol High School for 23 years. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2017. This kept her housebound and so she started drawing birds as a way of keeping the sense of isolation at bay.

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**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 3. 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 starting 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.

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**Summer Reading Programs**

‘A Universe of Stories’ is the theme for this year’s summer reading programs. We have a wide variety of programs at the library during July and August culminating with a fantastic show on Friday, August 8 with an ice cream social and Animal Adventures doing a premium show on ‘Nocturnal Animals’ at 7 p.m. This program will include some rare, impressive animals of the night. Preschool programs will be on Mondays at 10 and include a program on constellations and a moving in space music program. All ages are welcome on Thursdays at 1:30 when we will be making rocket blasters, Saturn’s ring hula hoops, space ship, planet, star, and comet spray-dyed T-shirts. We’re excited to once again be able to offer such high quality, fun, and educational programming. In addition, we will have reading bingo for teens and adults and reading logs and prizes for younger kids. All prizes and refreshments are funded by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. And there’s space for everyone!

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**Preschool Storytime**

at the library

10 am each Monday

Stories, socializing, songs, snacks and crafts

Free

Call the library for more information

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**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: Please pot up your extras to benefit the Friends. Bring to the Post Office early Saturday June 1 or drop at the library the week beforehand.

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**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.
Some of the new materials at your library*

**Adult Fiction**
Andrews, Mary Kay  
Sunset Beach
Baldacci, David  
Redemption
Blake, Sarah  
The Guest Book
Carr, Robyn  
The View from Alameda Island
Cheek, Chip  
Cape May
Chiaverini, Jennifer  
Resistance Women
Deaver, Jeffrey  
The Never Game
Evonovich, Janet  
The Big Kahuna
Evans, Richard Paul  
The Road Home
Goldberg, Myla  
Feast Your Eyes
Grames, Juliet  
The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna
Horowitz, Anthony  
The Sentence is Death
Hubbard, Sue  
Rainsongs
Kane, Jessica  
Rules for Visiting
Knott, Robert  
Robert B. Parker's Buckskin
Koontz, Dean  
The Night Window
Koryta, Michael  
If She Wakes
McEwan, Ian  
Machines Like Me
McMahon, Jennifer  
The Invited
Patterson, James  
The 18th Abduction
Phillips, Julia  
Disappearing Earth
Ramos, Joanne  
The Farm
Rooney, Sally  
Normal People
Russell, Karen  
Orange World and Other Stories
Sandford, John  
Neon Prey
Smith, Ali  
Spring

**Adult Non-Fiction**
Atkinson, Rick  
The British are Coming
Diamond, Jared  
Upheaval
Gates, Melinda  
The Moment of Lift
Manson, Mark  
everything Is F*cked
McCullough, David  
The Pioneers
McKibben, Bill  
Falter
Page, Susan  
The Matriarch
Quindlen, Anna  
Nanaville
Roach, Margaret  
A Way to Garden: A Hands-On Primer
Wilson, Bee  
The Way We Eat

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
Safina, Carl  
Beyond Words
Stevenson, Robin  
My Body, My Choice
Telgemeier, Raina  
Share Your Smile

**Children’s Fiction**
Barrett, Hayley  
Babymoon
Choi, Susan  
Camp Tiger
Cronin, Doreen  
Click, Clack, Surprise!
Daywalt, Drew  
Pete the Cat and the Itsy Bitsy Spider
Dean, James  
Abner & Ian Get Right-Side Up
Eggers, Dave  
The Great Indoors
Falatko, Julie  
If Was the Sunshine
Fogliano, Julie  
Carl and the Meaning of Life
Gibbs, Stuart  
Spy School British Invasion
Haack, Daniel  
Maiden & Princess
Lam, Thao  
My Cat Looks Like My Dad
Patchett, Ann  
Dear Boy
Rosenthal, Jason  
High Five
Rubin, Adam  
Motor Mouse
Rylant, Cynthia  
Music for Mister Moon
Stead, Philip  
I Have an Idea!
Tuttle, Herve  
RowboatMost Marshmallows
Watkins,  

**Children’s Nonfiction**
Buzzeo, Toni  
When Sue Found Sue
Davis, Jim  
Garfield: The Monday that Wouldn’t End
Forshaw, Nick  
Plants!
Lawrence, Ellen  
Becoming an Astronaut
Paul, Miranda  
Nine Months
Perdew, Laura  
Biodiversity
Simon, Seymour  
Destination

**DVDs:**  
Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood, A Dog’s Way Home, Glass, Holmes & Watson, The Lego Movie 2 (DVD & Blu-ray), Mirai, Mrs. Wilson, On the Basis of Sex, Searching and Serenity.

**Audiobooks**
McCullough, David  
The Pioneers
Stabenow, Dana  
Fire and Ice
Stabenow, Dana  
So Sure of Death

**Unique things to borrow from the library to usher in the summer:**
* Orion StarBlaster Telescope and tripod
* ice cream makers (the round ball type)
* Kill-A-Watt electricity monitor
* 6’ folding tables (3)
* kindergarten readiness kits
* state park passes

*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:
Summer fun, in-town historical style... In fact, these photos show some of the same kinds of fun people still have in town... for now at least ...until the town gets the internet working.

Eagle Reserve Conservation Area Opening Day
On Saturday, June 29th, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will be opening the wheelchair-accessible trail at the Eagle Reserve Conservation Area located at 55 Winchendon Road. The property is 139-acre mix of woods, wetlands, and open water that beavers, otters, bald eagles, and a host of other wildlife call home. The trust acquired the property in 2016 thanks to community support, and has since been able to create low impact recreational trails, including a wheelchair-accessible trail and a peninsula trail due to a Recreational Trails Program Grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Mount Grace is encouraging all Royalston residents to join on the opening day starting at 10 am with a short welcome from key players involved in the property, followed by a walk down to the accessible viewing deck that juts over the wetland. Dave Small, President of Athol Bird and Nature Club will then lead an optional Dragonfly and Butterfly Discovery walk while others may choose to wander over to the peninsula trail further down the property. Eagle Reserve offers amazing opportunities for everyone to witness the beautiful landscape and rare wildlife while having a low impact on the natural communities that live there. Mount Grace welcomes all to come out and experience the beauty of the reserve for opening day and after! For more information about Eagle Reserve or about the Opening Day, please contact Kim Lynn Nguyen at 978-248-2055 x14 or nguyen@mountgrace.org.

Royalston Fish and Game Club
The next RF&G Club Meeting is June 12, 7-8 p.m., and open to all members and potential members. Feel free to stop by to learn about the Club.

NRA-3GE 3-Gun Fun Shoot June 15, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. – All shooters welcome to attend. Bring a rifle, pistol (holster recommended), shotgun and ammunition. Targets are steel and cardboard. Sign-up at 8 a.m.; mandatory range safety and walk-through at 8:30 a.m. Competition begins at 9 a.m.

Trap Shoots for all levels, members and non-members, are held Wednesdays, from 5-8 p.m., at a cost of $3/25 clays. For ATA/MATA members, who need registered targets, registered shoots are June 5 and August 28.

Horseshoes: Luck of the Draw Partner nights are on-going 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 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.
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**Royalston Emergency Management Agency**  
**Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay  978-249-2904**

Royalston’s application for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant has been submitted, and now it’s just wait-and-see. If the grant comes through, we will need volunteers to help assess Royalston’s vulnerability and preparation for some of the current and expected results of climate change. For example, one we’ve already seen is increased flooding, which is expected to get worse. Free community workshops will be offered for all interested in assisting. Unlike many grants, this one also focuses on protecting the environment, rather than protecting the community at the expense of the environment. This should help keep us on track with our local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and our Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), both of which are mandatory, and must be up-to-date in order to receive Federal and State assistance for both hazard mitigation and emergency assistance/reimbursement.

**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.

**Fire EMS BBQ**

The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is hosting one of their famous fundraising chicken barbecues Saturday, June 15, at 6 p.m. at the Royalston Center Fire Station, with proceeds going to the general fund, which has provided training, equipment, supplies, and even apparatus for the Town of Royalston’s Fire Department, without the use of tax dollars! Tickets are $12/adults and will include a half chicken barbecued over an open fire, potato salad, tossed salad, bread and butter, and watermelon for dessert. Kids’ meals will be available for $6. Advance tickets suggested and are available from any member.

**Monty Tech graduates:** Dakota Herr, Rachel Killay, Natalie Lawrence, and Tayiah Neale.

**Fitchburg State:** Katelyn Robinson BA psychology

**Welcome to the world! Alivia Mae Deveneau** was born on February 10, 2019 weighing 6lbs 14oz and 20 inches long. She is the first child of lifelong resident Christopher Deveneau and his wife Catey Deveneau.

Christopher is the son of Curtis and Laurie Deveneau also from Royalston, the grandson of Elwin and Gladys Deveneau (Athol) and the late William and Phyllis Clark (Royalston)

**Philstock 45, August 3 - Be there or be square!** Once every 5 years Phil Leger turns his garage into a club for the day. Potluck with pig roast at 6 pm. Music starts at 3 pm. Who will be the volleyball champs this year?

**Meet Your Neighbors S'mores Party**

On August 6, Tuesday, National Night Out will be held in the South Royalston Village Park from 6-8pm. The Ladies’ Benevolent Society, Royalston Police Department, and the Royalston Fire Department have teamed up to make the event happen. This is a family friendly atmosphere for everyone in the community to get together to meet new and old neighbors. Their will be a cookout, drinks, popcorn, games, and a SMORES table. There will be music and other festivities for the whole community to enjoy. The Events Committee along with the South Village Improvement Committee are giving their support for the event also. Watch for more specific details to come over the next months.
Monty Tech
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston Rep., m-barclay@montytech.net
Monty Tech’s web site – www.montytech.net – now features a link to a YouTube spot about Royalston’s outstanding vocational-technical school. Meet Superintendent-Director Dr. Sheila M. Harrity, Principal Tom Browne, as well as a number of staff members and students; see some of the main school building, various shops, and some of the extra-curricular activities. We are fortunate to have a vocational-technical school that graduates students who are both career and college ready!

Monty Tech’s Summer Camp is signing up participants. This is an excellent opportunity for 6th-8th graders to see if Monty Tech is a possible high school choice – and Monty Tech is NOT for every student. Academics are doubled up every other week, to allow for the equivalent of a job training program every other week. It’s also a great chance to try out cosmetology, culinary arts, cyberSTEM, graphics, house carpentry, automotive, and/or machine technology!

Thanks to 100 Monty Tech students and the United Way of North Central MA, 22,224 meals were packaged for distribution to needy north-central Massachusetts families. Also noteworthy: Monty Tech students raised $7,500 to fund their endeavor.

Royalston Community School Calendar
JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER……… KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS ONGOING – CALL RCS FOR MORE INFO
June 03 – 8:45 – 11:30 * Grade 6 to ARMS, Grade 7 orientation
June 04 – 1:00pm -*Bee Program, Grades 5 & 6
June 05 – 9:00am – Angela Dumas w Athol Public Library “summer reading program”
June 05 - “EGG DROP” grades 5 & 6 (rain date, 6/6)
June 06 – 8:15 – 12:00, KINDERGARTEN SCREENING AT RCS
June 06 – last after school Garden Club Program
June 06 – 6:30 – 8:00pm, Multicultural Festival @ ARMS
June 07 – 10:00 – 12:00, RCS is recognized at the State House
June 07 – Kindergarten field trip to Davis Farmland
June 10 – 1:00 – 2:00pm, Grade 3 “Wax Museum” visitors are welcome!
June 10 – ½ day field trip Grades 5 & 6, local historical & geological features
June 11 – 1:00 – 2:00, Grade 4 “State Fair” visitors are welcome!
June 11 – 6:00pm, Grade 6 Completion Ceremony
June 12 – 10:00am, Diamonds & Toads Opera sponsored by Royalston Academy
June 12 – 12:45 – 2:45, FIELD DAY
June 13 – 12:30, Principal’s Barbecue
June 13 – 6:00pm, Spring Concert & Band Concert
June 14 – 1:30pm, Kindergarten Celebration
June 15 – 1 - 3 pm  Retirement Celebration for Marie Lajoie.  Come by to say thank you for the 23 years of service Marie has put into making RCS a happy, healthy, high-achieving public school.
June 17 – Student’s last Day, ½ day, noon dismissal

What’s Happening at the Village School?
Summer Programs are back at the Village School for ages 4-9 led by Royalston residents Jessica (Putney) Schanz and Sofie Vieira Choose your week(s) for outdoor fun, including art, crafts, nature walks, scavenger hunts, singing, yoga, water play, fort building, fairy houses and lots of free play. Go to villageschoolma.org to see the full Summer Program brochure.

Openings in the Village School for Fall 2019
There are openings in kindergarten, 3rd and 4th grade. Call the school for more information asap at 978 249 3505.

What’s happening:
Congratulations to the 5th-6th class on writing and performing an engaging and delightful play, Discord among the Deities. The video will be shown on AOTV. Dance Week took place in late May. All classes were engaged in creative dance with our Artist-in-Residence, Anna Hendricks. K-6th classes are canoeing at Tully Lake. The Kindergarten, 1st-2nd and 3rd-4th classes finish the year with Theme Share Celebrations, including singing, playing recorder and sharing their writing. On Wednesday June 5, the 5th-6th class shares their artwork portfolios at 6:15, followed by graduation at 7:00 p.m.

Marie Lajoie Retiring as RCS Administrative Assistant
As we all know, there comes a time when it seems logical to retire. I can’t tell you how difficult it was to actually submit paperwork resulting in my retirement as the Administrative Assistant of Royalston Community School.

It has been 23 years of meeting thousands of children and families that I would have never had the opportunity to meet. I have learned so much about life through the experiences of many of you and yours. Thank you for the trust you’ve had in me as your connection between school and home. RCS is the same now as it was when we walked through the doors on Columbus Day weekend 1996. We’ve worked as a team, no one more important than the rest. Life continued on through all of the challenges each of us endured, including the constant changes, positive and negative, in the lives of our children and families. This is our Royalston Community School. We are proud of every student that has attended RCS, for they are our future.

It has been a privilege and an honor to be a part of a unified staff that has helped to prepare every student for middle & high school, assisting and supporting them to believe in themselves as they work to achieve success in reaching their dreams and goals. Hopefully, they remember our motto, to be “Respectful, Co-operative and Safe” citizens of our community and our world. Working at RCS has made me a better person, and has enriched my life in so many ways. I’ve learned how little it takes to make a difference in a child’s life, and in the lives of families. Pay it forward…Make good choices…Be the best that you can be…All slogans that have helped to pave the way to greatness for every student that has walked through our doors.

RCS is a special place. I’m so thankful to have been such a big part of its growth.

Marie Lajoie

Come say thanks to Marie Lajoie, long-time administrative assistant: caring colleague, friend, mentor, and glue to the RCS community, (not to mention, encouraging aerobics instructor) at RCS on Sat. June 15 from 1 - 3 pm. Light refreshments served
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.

free (or a small donation to the Friends of the Library): 4 drawer filing cabinets - Available at the library. (They were free, used, surplus equipment when we acquired them many years ago but all the drawers move freely and they serve their intended purpose. None lock.) Contact 978-249-3572.

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

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 around the property like stacking wood and cleaning the cellar. I will supply all necessary materials and can provide transportation if needed. 978-249-3572. 2 matted horse stalls available

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

Royalston Maple Syrup
Putney's Sugarhouse $6.50/half-pint; $10/pint; $18/quart. Jessica Putney Schantz 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 20 lbs- $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 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/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) 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
May 22, 2019

If what follows appears to be the same-old, same-old, it’s because it is the same-old, same-old. Yes the grass looks like grass and the trees are exhibiting varying degrees (and shades) of green. (In this respect, there is a definite, and unchangeable, progression: the maples are mostly leafed out, the oaks just beginning, the ashes not at all.) But. Everything is set back. Lilacs are finally showing color, ten days later than last year. The garden is hardly a beehive of activity. I delayed and delayed and delayed my early plantings of cool weather crops (they are not, after all, cold weather crops), finally dropping the pea, spinach, and radish seeds (and potato pieces) into a soil not especially warm (or dry). I was obliged to make some adjustments. A portion of the potatoes was earmarked for our lowest-lying (read: wettest) garden, a recipe for disaster this year. A juggling of the garden plan moved them to a more amenable spot. I did, hesitantly, transplant the onions and leeks into the same area. Both, supposedly, thrive in muckland. I have a plethora of muck this year. In the meantime, they are requiring an inordinate amount of attention. At least twice a week, I visit, hoe in hand, not only to upend the emerging weeds (and emerged they have) but to shake up the soil, air-it-up if you will, upsetting its tendency to revert to hardpan.

On a bright note (both figuratively and literally), the peach, plum, and cherry trees (and some of the apples) are in full bloom, a first, necessary step on the road to securing fruit. Our lawn serves as a palette for dandelion yellow, violet purple, and violet white. To mow now would be, well, a crime against nature. On another bright note, with so little to do in the garden, I have devoted large chunks of time to the asparagus and strawberry patches, the result being a total absence of weeds. I’ve already been rewarded for my efforts: asparagus is a key (sometimes only) element of many of our meals. And, today, the first strawberry flower appeared. If luck prevails (and why oughtn’t it?) we will be rewarded again in late June. I can think of far less rewarding rewards than an ample supply of strawberries and asparagus.

Plants responded to the effects of winter in very different ways. It was the finest stretch of forsythia blossoms in years. At the other end of the spectrum, the rhododendrons took a beating. The rosa rugosa, the common beach rose of eastern Massachusetts, has thrived since we planted it forty some years ago. Until now. A patch of dead canes. Ironically enough, another rose, which heretofore barely survived winters, has never looked better. Summer raspberries, seemingly indestructible, have proved to be anything but.

Finally, from the Department of More-Than-You-Need-To-Know: we have not experienced three consecutive sunny days since late March. It was sunny yesterday. It is sunny today. Tomorrow’s forecast is not as optimistic and it seems unlikely we’ll experience that third day of sun. Hang in there (as if we have a choice in the matter).

Larry Siegel

Night Watch

It is that time of year when spring should be turning toward summer, but spring itself has scarcely arrived. As I write, the trees surrounding our home are not quite leafed out and, beyond the stone walls, tulips and daffodils still bloom. Yet the light lingers into the evenings, and birdsong has returned to our woods. Summer approaches. I know because of these things...and because the night watch has returned.

Often, in this between-season time, I wake in the middle of the night. This is not a groggy, half-awake. I am wide awake and alert. Nor is this the product of a strange dream or a sudden sound. It’s as if I am responding to the season’s shift with a restlessness that urges me to waste no time. Whatever the cause, the result is always the same: I am awake and will remain so for some time.

Years ago, when my work life demanded a night of uninterrupted rest and an early rise, such midnight wakefulness would have been cause for alarm. Tossing and turning, I would have watched the night creep relentlessly toward dawn, certain that this lack of sleep would be my day’s undoing. But that life is behind me, and I can now think of time as flexible and forgiving. This midnight wakefulness is an invitation to enter into the restless stirrings of these early summer nights.

Waiting for sleep to return now is a waste of precious time, so I get up. I do not turn on lights. Instead, I feel my way along the dark corridor and count my footsteps as I descend the stairs — twelve exactly top to bottom — opening my eyes to the night. I find my way to the Oak Room with its large windows facing east and west. I open one slightly so I can hear as well as see, and I settle in. I am now one more presence in the nighttime world. This is my night watch.

On a recent night I watched the full moon sink slowly toward the western horizon, its light casting everything in shades of gray. Giant pines and oaks stood dark against a light gray sky and the field was shot with silver. In time, the trees began to sway in a sudden predawn wind. Night sounds came to me. The chirring of tree frogs, the swish of dried grasses, the soft pop as the window glass responded to the shifting night air. To the east a Barred Owl’s call was answered and I wondered how long it would take for the two birds to find each other.

Time passed — a lot or a little, I’m never sure. High clouds moved in from the west, shrouding the moon in a milky veil. The Owls moved on and the eastern horizon began to lighten. This night watch was drawing to its close, so I moved through the dark house and returned to bed and to a sleep that was almost instant.

I know that my place in this night world is of no consequence. Whether or not I wake and watch makes no difference. The moon would sail and set, the owls would call and find each other — or not — all without me. Yet when I rise and watch I am part of it — another pre-dawn presence responding to the call of early summer.

Deb D’Amico
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**Wildlife Sightings**

*Kathy Chencharik has been snapping some interesting wildlife, including these River Otters and owl in her River Road neighborhood in South Roylaston.*

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Peter Kranik had company for dinner recently when a mama Black Bear and her two cubs stopped by on Winchendon Road.

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