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

Select Board Notes
Deb D’Amico, Select Board Clerk
Waste Water Treatment Plant Woes

In early June the Select Board was presented with a major challenge. A routine inspection of our Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) by the state Department of Environmental Protection revealed serious problems throughout the system. The most serious of these is the condition of the three pump stations in the South Village that regulate the flow of wastewater through the system. These pumps should function automatically. They are not doing so.

In addition, ground water appears to be entering the system via illegal hook-ups or diversions from properties in the South Village. These need to be investigated. In the midst of all this, our plant operator abruptly left our employ, leaving us without the required licensed operator.

Each of these issues by itself puts the town out of compliance with state and federal regulations. Taken together they create a critical situation that will incur steep fines if not addressed quickly and decisively.

In response, DPW Supervisor Keith Newton, the Sewer Commission, and the Select Board have been working daily to tackle the issues. We have hired Kent Songer, recently retired WWTP Operator in Templeton, as our temporary part-time operator. Kent hit the ground running, and he and Keith have helped the town make substantial progress in defining the scope of the problem, getting quotes for necessary repairs and replacement of equipment, communicating daily with DEP officials, and generally keeping the town moving forward.

The repair of one pump house, which was struck by lightning last summer, will be covered via an insurance claim. Repairs to the two other pump houses will need to come out of sewer capital. We are hoping that there is enough in that fund to cover this. The Sewer Commission and the Building Inspector are working to contact the owners of the properties that appear to have illegally hooked into our sewer system.

This has been a wake-up call for the Select Board. Obviously, the most important and immediate work is to get the system running properly and back into compliance. Moving forward, the board will have the expertise required and the funds necessary to ensure that this situation never happens again.

Special Town Meeting and Special Election The Select Board will likely call a special town meeting this summer to deal with proposed abatements of hazardous materials at the Raymond Building and perhaps needs related to the sewer issues. The date of the special election to vote on the override for road improvements has not yet been scheduled. Please watch the website for announcements about both.

Elevator Update On a very happy note, the elevator is proceeding apace – residents can keep tabs on the progress.

Elevator Update On a very happy note, the elevator is proceeding apace – residents can keep tabs on the progress.

Elevator Update On a very happy note, the elevator is proceeding apace – residents can keep tabs on the progress.
South Royalston Trains

Deb D’Amico, Select Board Clerk

In late winter Select Board Chair Christine Long wrote to Pan Am, the company that manages the railroad, detailing the town’s concerns about trains that idle for hours in South Royalston. We are grateful to Jessica Spring, South Royalston resident, for her detailed log of the days and hours that trains were left to idle, from July through December 2018. Copies of our letter to Pan Am and Jessica’s log were sent to our state senator, Jo Comerford, and our representative, Suzanna Whipps. Response from our elected officials was swift. In early April they convened, and attended, a meeting with Pan Am Executive Vice President Cynthia Scarano. Select Board member Deb D’Amico attended the meeting and raised the following areas of concern.

1. Idling Trains –
Information from Pan Am:
A train’s engine must idle to keep up brake pressure. The alternative to idling would be to shut down the engine. However, this would require a manual check of every brake on every car before the train could move again. With close to 80 cars on a typical train, the inspection would take nearly four hours with the engine idling, which defeats the purpose of shutting the engine down in the first place.

There are two reasons for a train to idle:
Another train is loading or unloading cargo further up the track. The train crew is changing, which usually takes only 45 minutes. Parking the idling trains near Birch Hill Dam only works for westbound trains. Eastbound trains are so long that, were they to park nearer the dam, they would block the road.

Plan: Pan Am committed to having trains idle in South Royalston for as brief a time as possible. Ms. Scarano asked us to call her directly if we receive any complaints from residents about idling trains. If a train is expected to idle in South Royalston longer than four hours, the train will be shut down.

Follow-up: South Royalston residents report that the number and duration of idling trains has noticeably decreased.

2. Old Railroad Ties –
Information from Pan Am:
At the time of the meeting, Pan Am was in the process of removing old ties. Ms. Scarano committed to having all the ties removed by April 17.

Follow-up: Ties were removed before April 17.

3. Train Derailment –
Information from Pan Am:
As required, Pan Am filed a report with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) about the train derailment that occurred in South Royalston on the afternoon of July 3, 2018. Ms. Scarano said that Pan Am was not required to file a report with the town.

Follow-up: Deb found the derailment report on the FRA website. However, the report states that the cause of the derailment is “unknown”. An email exchange with agents at the FRA sent us back to Pan Am because all “corrective action” is their responsibility. We are in the process of following up with Pan Am as we are not satisfied that the official cause of the derailment remains “unknown”.

Report from the RoyalstonNet Project Team

Andy West / Broadband Committee Chair
Jon Hardie / IT Dir & RoyalstonNet Project Lead

The Broadband team continues to work toward finding the right company to install our network. Working through the state required bidding process, we have narrowed the selection down to 2 bidders.

Unfortunately, we have lost a few weeks making several rounds of clarifications with the bidders. Our communication with them must be handled very carefully and be worked through our purchasing agent, Westfield Gas & Electric, in order to maintain the integrity of the bidding. More recently, we have seen excellent engagement from these bidders. By the end of June, enough information should be compiled for the Royalston finance and technical review teams to assess the bids formally. Once a winning bidder is chosen, the Broadband team will review the design with the Planning Board for compliance with tower bylaws. We will ask the winner to run a quick test to show us that its design will work well with our foliage and terrain.

The Broadband Committee is pushing to complete this phase as quickly as possible. By the time the next newsletter is published, we hope to announce significant steps forward to construction.

TIME TO PRE-REGISTER Almost 400 families have now pre-registered for RoyalstonNet, our town-wide internet network. If you haven’t pre-registered, and you want to be notified when we are building out in your neighborhood, now would be a good time to do that. Go to http://royalston-ma.gov/RMLPBBN/

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

Our new MADEP granted mattress recycling container is now on site and in use. Instead of going to a landfill, mattresses are now going to Gardner to be deconstructed and recycled. This is a regional grant so Phillipston residents will be able to bring their mattresses to us for a fee for recycling. These grants are competitive, so this took a while.

Warning: Please do not put gas cylinders in the metal roll off! This is dangerous and may cause our load to be rejected. Also, do not think if you removed the top of the cylinder for the brass that the cylinder has no gas in it. See attendant when leaving off cylinders...or better yet, bring back to where purchased.

Please note that disposal of demo and tires is not free. Just because it’s not in a bag, it’s still pay as you throw. See attendant before dumping please. Thanks.

Have a safe and fun summer. Be tick savvy this summer. Check yourselves and your pets when outdoors. Time to check those screens and clean those gutters. Mosquitoes are out and biting.
Valuing our Children is starting to register parents for our Nurturing Program, which will start the last week of August. This 15-week parenting series is for families who have a child age 6 and under. Help with transportation, breakfast and lunch is offered. Topics include: child development, safety, self nurturing, discipline, and more.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency
Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay 978-249-2904
The Town has been enjoying the quiet assistance of REMA Deputy Director Tom Musco for several months now. Tom has a long history of community service in Royalston, and brings to REMA his experiences in post and beam construction, and for 27 years as a hazard mitigation specialist with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Royalston received a Municipal Vulnerability Grant of $33,727! This will allow the Town to continue work on our Town-Wide Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). These mandatory documents must be current in order to qualify for Federal and/or State assistance for hazard mitigation, and for emergency assistance/reimbursement when states of emergency have been declared. Volunteers will be needed for the completion of these plans – keep an eye out in the fall for specific requests for assistance. Please be aware, your volunteer hours count towards our “financial contribution” for these and many other projects!

Who doesn’t love a s’more?
Please join us for Royalston’s first National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, from 6 – 8 pm, in the park in South Royalston. The Ladies’ Benevolent Society is teaming up with The Royalston Police Department and the Royalston Fire Department to host this event. There will be hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, drinks, popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy. There will be a S’more station. There will be family style games for all to enjoy and safety tips. Please come and meet your neighbors. This event is free of charge to all Royalston residents. Anyone wishing to donate to the event or help out is encouraged to call Curtis or Laurie Deveneau, 978-249-5807.

Royalston South Village Revitalization (RSVR) Committee Calls a Work Day on July 13
The RSVR Committee had a great second community meeting on June 11 with 23 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 gazebo/bandstand in the park, a veteran’s memorial and hiking/ biking/ fishing/ kayaking recreation promotion.

We hope that you will save these dates to come and join us:
July 13, Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon – WORK DAY (raindate July 20) – come to help clean and trim the South Village, including the picnic area across from the store, the bridge, and Whitney Hall. Please bring: gloves, rakes, shovels, garbage bags, lawn mowers, chain saws, trimmers, weed whackers, wheel barrows, water.

August 6, Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. – NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, sponsored by the Royalston Police and Fire Departments and Ladies Benevolent Society
October 5, Saturday – FALL EVENT with River Walk and Launch of the RSVR projects
We will not have monthly meetings during the summer but will start up in the fall to work on the various projects. Research has been started on fundings with the help of Kevin Flynn, Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Phillipston who writes grants for Royalston. He reported at the meeting that area towns have participated in a program through the Department of Housing and Community Development in which the community can develop a “conceptual plan” according to what residents want. He said that it would help us see a progression of the projects. He said that it gives funders confidence. We will be considering this.

We are looking into applying for Community Preservation Act funding for materials for a gazebo/bandstand and asking Monty Tech to build it. We have heard Senator Jo Comerford’s office will send a letter of support to funders and are helping to identify funding for various projects.

There was interest expressed in participating in the National River Clean-up Day and future work on trails. Whitney Hall was discussed; the roof in particular needs repairs. Though a large, long-term project, various people expressed concern and commitment to explore possibilities to renovate this historic building which was an important part of the lives of those who grew up in town. One possibility that was mentioned was an artists’ cooperative.

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 our events. We need your ideas and energy! For more information, call Janice Trask, Nancy Monette or anyone else on the Steering Committee.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Jennifer Basso, Theresa Quinn
Mondays: 10:00 am- 8:30 pm, Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572  www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends - Thank You!
Elizabeth and Clarence Rabideau
James and Janice Draper
Deb D’Amico and Tom Musco
Bob and Lorraine Casinghino
Frances Dias
Virginia Gingers
Phil Leger and Mariah Mallet
Janice and Jim Draper
Michael and Sara Dilg
Liane Brandon
Marita Cauthen
Gerald Marcanio and Rob Jalbert
Deane Marchbein
Rhonda and Glenn Bishop
Christine and Russ Long
Steve and Cindy Savoy
Glenn Hastings
Walt Thornton and Nanji Davison
Ruth Suyenaga and Mark Shoul
Tom Montagno
Gordon Morrison
Dan and Cheryl Mahoney
Nancy Schnetzer
Chuck and Polly Longsworth
Chuck and Anita McDowell
Antonia and Jack Pettrash

Summer Programs for kids and adults at your library

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES 2019 Summer Reading Programs at the
Phinehas S. Newton Library

A Universe of Summer Programs—For All Ages—1:30 p.m. @ the Library
July 11—Explore the Night Sky—Hands on Nature will teach us how to explore the night sky and each will create a special project.
July 18—Space Out T-shirts—Spray dye over stencils to create an out of the world t-shirt with Gina Verrelli. Sign up with T-shirt size.
July 25—Rocket Blasters—Create a super rocket blaster and see how far your rocket can travel. Sign up to ensure you'll get the blast!

A Universe of Preschool Programs—10:00 a.m. @ the Library
July 8—Tools In Space—Leanne Limoges will help young people build a space-age creation.
July 15—Space Jam—Make music, move, and learn space songs with Erin Girouard.
July 22—Space Shirts—Use stencils and spray dye to make a new galaxy T-shirt with Brooke Coleman. Sign up with T-shirt size.
July 29— Constellations—Explore constellations and make your own book to find them at night!

Royalston Shakespeare Company—Hamlet
15th Annual Production
June 22-July 5, Ages 8-18
Actors! Directors! Stage Hands! Sign up now!

Aug 9 at 6:30 p.m.- Ice Cream Social, Summer Prizes and Night Creatures with Animal Adventures
Enjoy ice cream sundaes while we give out summer reading prizes and then enjoy a special program by Animal Adventures featuring a deluxe program of animals of the night.

*This is not a school sponsored program.

Summer Reading Contests for All Ages
Once again there will be Summer Reading Bingo for adults and young adults with great prizes, including a grand prize of $50 in each category. Kids through age 11 can also win prizes by reading. Their grand prize is a ticket to the Big E! All prizes and raffle drawings will occur on August 9 at the Ice Cream Social before the ‘Deluxe’ Night Creatures program by Animal Adventures. Stop by the library to pick up your bingo card and reading list. Thanks to the Royalston Academy for funding our summer programs and to the Friends of the Library for refreshments, supplies, and prices. A Universe of Stories is sponsored by the Phinehas S. Newton Library, the Royalston Academy, the Friends of the Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

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**

Batuman, Elif  
*The Idiot*

Beattie, Ann  
*The Accomplished Guest*

Black, Benjamin  
*Wolf on a String*

Crichton, Michael  
*Dragon Teeth*

Doiron, Paul  
*Knife Creek*

Fender, Joseph  
*The Switch*

George, Nina  
*The Little French Bistro*

Glass, Julia  
*A House Among the Trees*

Godwin, Gail  
*Grief Cottage*

Green, Jane  
*The Sunshine Sisters*

Grisham, John  
*Camino Island*

Gudenko, Heather  
*Not a Sound*

Hilderbrand, Elin  
*The Identicals*

King, Laurie  
*Lockdown*

Lively, Penelope  
*The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories*

Meloy, Maille  
*Do Not Become Alarmed*

Paterson, James  
*The Black Book*

Robards, Karen  
*The Ultimatum*

Roberts, Nora  
*Come Sundown*

Roy, Arundhati  
*The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

Sandford, John  
*Golden Prey*

Shattuck, Jessica  
*The Women in the Castle*

Various Authors  
*Matchup*

**Adult Non-Fiction**

Alexie, Sherman  
*You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*

Franken, Al  
*Al Franken, Giant of the Senate*

Grandin, Temple  
*Temple Grandin's Guide to Working with Farm Animals*

Lamott, Anne  
*Hallelujah Anyway*

Mercola, Joseph  
*Fat for Fuel*

Nhat Hanh  
*The Art of Living*

O'Reilly, Bill  
*The Civil War: Lies & Legends*

Ortiz, David  
*Papi*

Ruhlman, Michael  
*Grocery*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**

Dessen, Sarah  
*Once and for All*

Patterson, James  
*Crazy House*

**Children's Fiction**

Arsenault, Isabelle  
*Colette's Lost Pet*

De la Cruz, Melissa  
*Rise of the Isle of the Lost*

Galing, Ed  
*Tony*

Grabenstein, Chris  
*Beach Party Surf Monkey*

Lennon, Julian  
*Touch the Earth*

Naberhaus, Sarvinder  
*Blue Sky White Sky*

Patterson, James  
*Pottymouth & Stoopid*

Rosenthal, Amy  
*On the Spot*

Rubin, Adam  
*Dragons Love Tacos 2*

Stilton, Geronimo  
*The Treasure of the Sea*

Willems, Mo  
*The Good for Nothing Button*

Wolk, Lauren  
*Beyond the Bright Sea*

**Children's Nonfiction**

Davis, Jim  
*Garfield Cooks Up Trouble*

Jenkins, Martin  
*Exploring Space*

Markel, Michelle  
*Balderdash!*

Ogden, Charlie  
*Equality and Diversity*

Ogden, Charlie  
*Government & Democracy*

Ogden, Charlie  
*Identity and Gender*

Pullman, Philip  
*The Adventures of John Blake*

Winterbottom, Julie  
*Frightlopedia*

**DVDs**

*A United Kingdom, Beauty and the Beast (DVD & Blu-ray), Before I Fall, Call the Midwife: Season 6, The Great Wall, In Dubious Battle, Labyrinth, The Last Word, Logan (DVD & Blu-ray), Queen of Katwe, The Shack, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and Vikings: Season 4 Volume 1*

**Audiobooks**

Alexie, Sherman  
*You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*

Mackintosh, Clare  
*I See You*

McKinty, Adrian  
*Police at the Station and They Don't Look Friendly*

Rooney, Kathleen  
*Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*

Sedaris, David  
*Theft by Finding*

Tyson, Neil  
*Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*

**Unique things to borrow from the library 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

**Art Exhibit**

In July and August, long-time Athol High School teacher Lynne Stopen from Orange will have an exhibit of pencil and colored pencil bird drawings. In 2017, she was diagnosed with cancer which kept her housebound. As a way of dealing with the isolation, she started drawing birds and found inspiration in observing them and then capturing their images on paper.

**Taking a roadtrip?** 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.

**Something is rotten in Denmark...** Come see **HAMLET**, in a Workshop performance by the Royalston Shakespeare Co. outdoors on the Common at 5:30 on July 3.
Historical Society:

Alice McCormick recently donated this delicate palm leaf fan to the Historical Society. She remembers it sitting on her grandmother Alice Bullock’s dressing table. It was possibly made by Melinda Miller, or the straw braided by her, in the 1840’s.

Summer fun, in-town, historical style...

Memorial Day Exercises
Annual Memorial Day exercises were held on The Common, May 27th, on an absolutely perfect, early summer day. Thanks to all who contributed to a meaningful and moving ceremony, including Royalston Fire & EMS; Royalston Police; American Legion Post 102 members Rocky Stone, Mick Bjork, Position Commander Bill Graziano, Parade Marshal Andy Anderson, and Chaplain Peter Newman, and Auxiliary members Debra LeRay and Bobbi Newman; the Color Guard, history re-enactors Rick Abbott (Warwick), Andrew Hastings (Westfield), and Glenn Hastings; emcee and former selectboard member Andy West; Marine JROTC Cadet Alexandra G. Phelps; select board member Deb D’Amico; musician Erin Giourard; guest speaker Marine Jay Consiglio (Spencer); flag folders Jackson Phelps, and Colton Chapman, who also read a poem; and Nancy Melbourne and other members of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society, who provided a lovely town-wide picnic under the shade trees on The Common. Thanks, too, to Brenda Putney and her young helpers, who saw to it a new American Flag was displayed on every known veteran’s gravesite in Royalston. Special thanks to all who have served, at home or abroad, and their families.

Anyone wishing to help with next year’s program – May 25th, 2 p.m. at the park in the South Village – please contact Chair Beth Weaver at marancook122@gmail.com or member Sherry Minor at shawkenawe@hotmail.com; to assist with luncheon after, please contact Ladies’ Benevolent Society Laurie Deveneau at lmdeveneau@msn.com.

Royalston Fish and Game Club
RF&G Club Meetings start up again in the fall.
Horseshoes: Luck of the Draw Partner nights are on-going through August 27 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.
Trap Shoots for all levels, members and non-members, are open Wednesdays, from 5-8 p.m., at a cost of $3/25 clays. They will continue through November. ATA/MATA members needing registered targets, the one remaining registered shoot is August 28.

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.
Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN at chasemos2@gmail.com or drop at library.

Congratulations Graduates

Monty Tech graduates:
Tayiah Makenzie Neale - Early Childhood Education
Dakota David Herr - Electrical
Rachel Carolyn Killay - Machine Technology
Natalie Janelleen Lawrence - Welding/Metal Fabrication

Athol High School Graduates
Matthew Davis, Molly Divoll, Alexia Park, Olivia Parnanen, Ethan Pasakinskas, Anthony Persson, Abigail Roberts, and Maison Stevens

Congratulations to all Athol High graduates, with special congrats to Valedictorian Molly Divoll, daughter of Randy Divoll and Becky Divoll; and granddaughter of John and Helen Divoll.

photo: Barclay

Tyler Boyd, son of Erin Mahoney and grandson of Dan & Cheryl Mahoney made the Dean’s list for the Spring semester at MWCC where he is majoring in Computer Science.

Kudos
Two pieces of Skip Ciccarelli’s work have been selected for the 84th Local Artists juried show at the Fitchburg Art Museum. In the furniture/sculpture category his table, ‘Angles and Curves,’ was described as exuding motion.

The second piece was a photograph, ‘Appalach,’ which is a palm tree on a spit of land that he came across while paddling his kayak in Appalache Bay.

Obituary: Bruce Alan Phillips, age 86, died after a short illness on June 11, 2019, in Sierra Madre, CA. Bruce was born on January 26, 1933 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts to Frank and Pauline (Percy) Phillips. After graduating from Fitchburg High School, he attended Becker Junior College. At Mead Containers Corporation, he worked as packaging design engineer, where his innovative designs earned him many national design awards. He continued his career at New England Wooden Ware with more outstanding achievements in the design engineering field.

Bruce was a great family man and a loving father. He married Fay (Stedman) Merrow in 1958 and the couple had four children together. Bruce is survived by Robin Phillips, of Arcadia, CA; Scott Phillips of Royalston; Mark and Catherine Phillips of Maynard, MA, Erick Phillips, of Fitchburg, MA; three grandchildren and one great grandchild. He is predeceased in death by his beautiful wife, his loving parents and his older brother, Norman. Bruce enjoyed gardening, camping, hunting and fishing. His friends and family will always remember him as a devoted father, loving husband and a very friendly, helpful person. A funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, July 27, 2019 at Woodside Cemetery in Westminster, MA. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Bruce’s life. The family requests donations in lieu of flowers be sent to The British Home located at 647 Manzanita Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Engaged:
Araceli Medina Gonzalez of Mexico City and Asher Chase of Royalston have announced their betrothal. The couple met while both were living in Taipei, Taiwan, where Chely was enhancing her engineering degree by completing a Masters degree in business administration and Asher was working teaching English to students ages 5 - adult. The couple’s parents, Maria Esperanza Gonzalez Narvaez and Ignacio Medina Hernandez of Mexico and Beth Gospodarek and Stephen Chase of Royalston are very happy that their families will be joined. An August 2020 wedding is planned.

Kudos
Two pieces of Skip Ciccarelli’s work have been selected for the 84th Local Artists juried show at the Fitchburg Art Museum. In the furniture/sculpture category his table, ‘Angles and Curves,’ was described as exuding motion.

The second piece was a photograph, ‘Appalach,’ which is a palm tree on a spit of land that he came across while paddling his kayak in Appalache Bay.

Obituary: Bruce Alan Phillips, age 86, died after a short illness on June 11, 2019, in Sierra Madre, CA. Bruce was born on January 26, 1933 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts to Frank and Pauline (Percy) Phillips. After graduating from Fitchburg High School, he attended Becker Junior College. At Mead Containers Corporation, he worked as packaging design engineer, where his innovative designs earned him many national design awards. He continued his career at New England Wooden Ware with more outstanding achievements in the design engineering field.

Bruce was a great family man and a loving father. He married Fay (Stedman) Merrow in 1958 and the couple had four children together. Bruce is survived by Robin Phillips, of Arcadia, CA; Scott Phillips of Royalston; Mark and Catherine Phillips of Maynard, MA, Erick Phillips, of Fitchburg, MA; three grandchildren and one great grandchild. He is predeceased in death by his beautiful wife, his loving parents and his older brother, Norman. Bruce enjoyed gardening, camping, hunting and fishing. His friends and family will always remember him as a devoted father, loving husband and a very friendly, helpful person. A funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, July 27, 2019 at Woodside Cemetery in Westminster, MA. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Bruce’s life. The family requests donations in lieu of flowers be sent to The British Home located at 647 Manzanita Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.
Monty Tech
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston Rep., m-barclay@montytech.net
Monty Tech grads and their families now have a high tech way to enjoy the 2018-2020 school year – Annual Commencement DVD/Blu-Ray DVDs of awards night, the graduation ceremony with Senior Sign out photo slide show, and the entire year book. A personalized option is available, featuring the graduate’s personal photo on the DVD, and a direct link to the graduate receiving his/her diploma. Order form is available at the website, www.montytech.net.

Also check the Monty Tech website for a Worcester News Tonight TV clip on the building trades students who recently completed a carriage house-style garage in Princeton for the NEADS (National Education for Assistance Dog Services). The non-profit organization trains more than 70 dogs at a time, then pairs them with people with disabilities. The structure will house two vehicles, and loft will hold 12,000 lbs. of dog chow. It was dedicated in the name of Army Captain Christopher Sullivan who was killed in Iraq in 2005. Monty Tech’s JROTC has supported NEADS for many years, raising funds to train a dog for a local veteran.

Royalston non-profits and governmental agencies are eligible for such projects and an array of others available through the Town of Royalston’s vocational-technical school, as long as they provide meaningful learning opportunities for students.

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. 9-1 Daily. Available weeks are June 24-28, July 8-12, July 15-19 and July 22-26.

Openings in the Village School for Fall 2019
There are openings in kindergarten, 3rd and 4th grade. Call the school to arrange a visit as soon as possible at 978 249 3505.

School begins again with preschool and kindergarten orientation on Sept. 3, and the first day of school is Wednesday Sept. 4.

Ladies’ Benevolent Society Scholarships Awarded
Each of these applicants was awarded a LBS scholarship to support her post-high school studies:
Molly Divoll - The Arline Vining Scholarship
Abigail Roberts - The Helen Feleciano Scholarship
Tayihah Neale - The Maxine Wilcox Scholarship

Several Key Staff Members Retire at RCS
The Royalston Community School recently thanked retiring school administrative assistant, Marie Lajoie, for her 23 years of service with an afternoon social that drew many current and former students, parents, town officials, and members of her family. A video tribute played as the guest of honor was presented with gifts and thanked with hugs and stories. Marie has been with RCS since it opened in 1996, and recalled moving furniture, equipment, and supplies into the building over Columbus Day weekend in preparation for the grand opening. She has provided a thread of continuity through 18 changes of principals and some drastic changes in educational policy, and, as with all employees at RCS, has been considered as much a member of the faculty as the classroom teachers.

Also retiring is kindergarten para-professional Brenda Hopkins of North Fitzwilliam Road, with more than three decades with the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. She began working in 1988 as a custodian at the Raymond School and took the job as a special education para-professional in 1996. She has been the kindergarten para-professional for the past five years, serving right alongside her daughter, kindergarten teacher Jessica (Hopkins) Willhite.

Claire Morris, para-professional in the Futures classroom, came to RCS in 2002 after working decades in Athol elementaries supporting kids; she is now retiring as well.

Fifth/ Sixth grade teacher Brian Snell, who has been at RCS since 2001, is going gently into that good retirement too. According to Becky Divoll, his former colleague and parent of several of his former students (including this year’s AHS valedictorian), “Mr. Snell has supported, nurtured and helped his students grow and mature as learners and citizens. He was always willing to lend a hand in any event and to any colleague to make RCS the best that it could be.” A book of memories, pictures and well wishes is being created for him. Anyone interested in contributing can send submissions to formrsnell@gmail.com by August 30th. Please spread the word.

These fabulous four were recently recognized at a luncheon at RCS. (pictured)
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.

**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.snowheronestudios.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

Royalston Community Newsletter July/August 2019 Page 9

**for sale:**

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**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

**Firewood**- Green firewood $195/ 170 cu feet. or $380/340 cu feet. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.

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.
Garden Notes

June 23, 2019

I best ‘fess up: Kathy and I ventured back to Ireland earlier this month. How, ask you, can any self-respecting gardener remove himself from his garden in early June? Fact is, prior years have provided this window of opportunity: summer crops having been planted or transplanted, weeds not yet taking off, and little to harvest. No such window this year, everything related to gardening delayed ten days to two weeks because of the incessant rain and cool temperatures. I compromised, transplanting some but not all of the tomatoes, planting some but not all of the corn, seeding single beds of beans, squash, and cucumbers with a wish and a hope. Peppers and basil, in their demand for heat, were put on hold.

So. Ireland. When we last visited, The Donald had just been installed as president and his face surfaced throughout the Irish media. He went one step further this round, physically surfacing in Ireland, having arrived the same time we did. But The Donald was visiting the far south of the country and we were stationed in the far north (though, in wee Ireland, one is never that far from anyone else), minimizing the likelihood that the two of us would get together and chat about our visit. Another footnote to our adventure: the span from dawn to dusk was nineteen hours. Nineteen hours. 11:00 or so, we’d leave the bar after an evening of music and Guinness and walk back to our accommodations with daylight persisting.

It is time to leave The Donald and the bars behind and move on to matters gardening (these are garden notes after all). We were surprised to discover the types of flowers growing, both in backyard gardens and in the wild, were pretty much the same flowers currently blooming in Royalston gardens and woods. Strawberries, currently flooding my farmers’ market, were being peddled at Irish roadsides.

Returned home to discover the gardens in surprisingly good shape. (Yes, I was surveying them before the suitcases were hauled into the house.) Turns out there had been more rain in Royalston than we encountered in eternally-sodden Ireland. Everything planted had emerged; everything transplanted had survived (though perhaps not thrived), though all could benefit from a healthy dose of heat and a healthy dose of dry. Everything continues ten to fourteen days later than normal, a blessing in respect to the peonies; heretofore they would have been blooming in Royalston gardens and woods. Strawberries, currently flooding my farmers’ market, were being peddled at Irish roadsides.

As the counterpoint to winter’s darkness, it takes its place in summer’s light. I know this summer light will leave us, as it is meant to do. Stretching our play into early evening made it more exciting. In the slowly fading light, hide-and-seek became mysterious. Our forays into the woods near our home held a shimmer of magic. Landmarks that, in full light, would lead us down woodland paths as familiar as our own back yard took on a strangeness in the dusk. We could almost believe we were entering a world we did not know. Emerging from the woods’ gathering gloom we would be surprised to see that, out in the open, it was merely dusk. The mid-summer sky still held enough light to guide our way home, as we passed houses where lamps were already lit.

Our White Mountain summers were all the more precious for their brevity. The July 4th carnival, held on the town green every summer, became a sort of turning point. The fireworks began at 9 pm, when the last of the light glowed over the western mountains. However, despite the fireworks’ shimmering display of light and color, we could see that the darkness was real. The excitement of the evening was now mixed with an awareness that the summer was turning.

As July turned to August, our mother would remark that the sunset came minutes earlier each day. Still immersed in summer’s abundance of light and warmth, we barely noticed the change. However, by late August, as the new school year approached, we could see the difference. The afternoon shadows were deeper, the early evening light was softer, the air cooler. I remember all of these things as I revel in our mid-summer light.

I know this summer light will leave us, as it is meant to do. As the counterpart to winter’s darkness, it takes its place in the wheel of the seasons. So, I work in the warmth of midday and walk in the glow of twilight and cherish this fleeting gift of summer light.

Larry Siegel

Summer Light

It is the solstice, and the light of full summer is upon us. Even our days of rain and clouds cannot mask the summer twilights that linger long past 8:00. Spending hours outdoors in our back yard and gardens, I feel the expansiveness of this summer light. And I am not alone. Each day finds more flowers opening, more seedlings emerging, more chipmunks scurrying across lawns and stone walls. We are all aware of this precious time of high-summer light, and we soak it in.

This gift of light brings back childhood memories of the freedom of summer days in our White Mountains town. With sunlight from the moment we opened our eyes in the morning until after our bedtime, it seemed the night had disappeared. Our mother’s efforts to usher us into bed at a proper time were met with astonishment: How could we possibly go to bed when it was still light outside? She understood. As the school year waned and the light grew, she granted us the luxury to “play outdoors after supper”. Dashing outside, a mob of six, we assured her that we would come home “when the streetlights come on.” Our negotiations of what to play were quick and decisive. No time to argue. This precious time must not be wasted.

As July turned to August, our mother would remark that the sunset came minutes earlier each day. Still immersed in summer’s abundance of light and warmth, we barely noticed the change. However, by late August, as the new school year approached, we could see the difference. The afternoon shadows were deeper, the early evening light was softer, the air cooler. I remember all of these things as I revel in our mid-summer light.

I know this summer light will leave us, as it is meant to do. As the counterpart to winter’s darkness, it takes its place in the wheel of the seasons. So, I work in the warmth of midday and walk in the glow of twilight and cherish this fleeting gift of summer light.

Deb D’Amico
Renovations R Us  
All Phases of Home Improvement  
Bob Leblanc, Royalston  
cell 508-425-0570  
MA CS #62476  HIC # 115978  
MA Lead Cert. #LR000324  

Family Pet Veterinary Services  
*Sue Ellen Mowcomber DVM*  
978-249-4626  
www.familypetvetservices.com  

Stephen Chase Contracting  
Restoration and Preservation Services  
Royalston  
978-249-0358  
MA Construction Supervisor #044817  
MA Home Improvement #161878  
MA Lead Safe #LR003488  

Royalston General Store  
MON - WED 7AM-7PM. THUR & FRI 7AM - 8PM  
SAT 8AM -8PM. SUN 9AM - 6PM  
DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS  
FULL BREAKFAST  
978-249-9798  
Subs • Pizza • Pasta • Beer • Wine  
Liquor • Lottery • Groceries • Hardware  
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT  

The Highland Press  
59 Marble Street  
Athol, MA 01331  
978-249-6588  
www.highlandpress.biz  
Offset, Digital and Letterpress  
Printing and Copy services  

Paul A. Montero, P.L.S.  
Professional Land Surveyor  
101 Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd - PO Box 20  
Royalston, Massachusetts 01368  
Telephone: (978) 249-5879  

Daisy Duke’s Country Salon  
Waterville Plaza, 10 Main Street  
Winchendon, MA  
Hair, Nails, Tanning Services  
& Hydro Massage  
Hair Stylists  
Lisa Martin & Emma LeGrand  
Call for an appointment:  
978-297-1200  

Amy DeMar-DuBois  
Amy Mae Photography  
www.amydemar.com  
amymae@amydemar.com  
617-903-0262  

Sam’s Canine Companions L.L.C.  
Sherry A. Miner  
71 Athol Road  
PO Box 123  
Royalston MA 01368  
508-873-0629 call or text  
Professional all breed grooming  
and obedience training
Musicfest 2019!
Come one, come all to MusicFest 2019 on Sunday, July 14th from noon to 5 pm at Bullock Field, behind the Historical Society Building on Royalston Common.

Headliner band at 4 pm is the amazing Green Sisters, preceeded by performances by Sunset Garage, Brian Dickens, Rachel Killay, Fred and Wibby Swedberg, The Williams Brothers Band, and Back Street Band. Phil Leger is our always stalwart MC and Jim Bennett coordinates and runs the sound system.

There will be food and drinks, ice cream and watermelon, this year’s awesome T-shirts, a reptile petting zoo featuring Kronos (giant tortoise) and Athena (ball python), with handler Allison Zettel, kid games and dancing galore!

This event is FREE and will be held rain or shine. Bring your own canopy or shade.

Your hardworking Cultural Council sponsors this yearly event, always our best! Council members include Jim Bennett, Jim Taylor, Deb Nunes, Carla Rabinowitz, Gordon Morrison, Teresa Valier, Laura Ramsey, Grace Belmont, Andrea Lively, and Becky Krause-Hardie. For more information please contact Secretary Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01368

RCS 5th/6th grade teacher is retiring. A book of memories, pictures and well wishes is being created for him. Anyone interested in contributing can send submissions to formrsnell@gmail.com by August 30th. Please spread the word.