Calendar of Events

September 2  Tuesday  Labor Day

September 8  Sunday  Grandparents’ Day

September 10  Tuesday  Special Election
12-8 pm  Special Election on voting funds for an override road improvement and a debt exclusion for improving the Raymond School for use as Town offices. Precinct 1 votes at Town Hall, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall.

September 14  Saturday  Royalston Country Fair at Bullock Park (behind the Post Office), rain or shine. Free children’s activities all day; bouncy house, hay rides, face painting, photo booth, crafts, and old-fashioned games.

8am to 10:30 am the First Congregational Church will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the newly renovated basement of the Church on the Royalston Common. Prices $6 for adults and $3 for children. All funds raised go to the church’s Royalston Food Pantry program.

Vendors will be selling a variety of local crafts, maple syrup, honey and other items. There will be a tag sale and two raffles: a 50-50 and a cord of wood raffle. Local civic groups will have information booths and blood pressure screening throughout the day.

The Royalston Agricultural Commission will have animals to pet as well as old and new tractors on display all day. There will be a contest for best vegetables, fruits, and flower arrangements. (No processed food please). Everyone is invited to enter home-grown treasures, but do it before 1 pm because that is when the judging will begin.

Royalston Historical Society will open the Museum (located at the Post Office/ Old School House #1), and will be having periodic tours of the common. It will be collecting unforgettable school memories. Come share your story and become part of the historical record.

The Williams Brothers, back by popular demand and sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, will play on the new stage. They blend country, French-Canadian and rock, and have a big following in Royalston.

The Royalston Events Committee will have food available all day including: hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, pizza, ice cream, corn-on-the-cob, and baked potatoes, as well as a host of drinks. The Royalston Events Committee is a group trying to foster community connections, and invites everyone from Royalston and other nearby communities to come, meet and enjoy each other. For more information contact Michelle LeBlanc at 413-522-2756.

September 16  Monday  4:30 pm  Friends of the Library meeting. All welcome.

September 21  Saturday  Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at GCC and Orange Transfer Station. Pre-registration is required by September 16th. Preferred method: register online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazardouswaste.html

7 pm  Get Schooled program at the Town Hall organized by the Historical Society, including an overview presentation on Royalston’s one room school houses, a showing of the mini-documentary Eleanor and Maxine, featuring Maxine Wilcox, as well as film clips of Peg Langlois remembering her school days. There will also be reminiscences with other citizens in a back-to-school mood. Come, share your memories.

September 23  Monday  First day of autumn

September 24  Tuesday  Labor Day

September 8  Sunday  Grandparents’ Day

September 10  Tuesday  Special Election on voting funds for an override road improvement and a debt exclusion for improving the Raymond School for use as Town offices. Precinct 1 votes at Town Hall, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall.

September 14  Saturday  Royalston Country Fair at Bullock Park (behind the Post Office), rain or shine. Free children’s activities all day; bouncy house, hay rides, face painting, photo booth, crafts, and old-fashioned games.

8am to 10:30 am the First Congregational Church will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the newly renovated basement of the Church on the Royalston Common. Prices $6 for adults and $3 for children. All funds raised go to the church’s Royalston Food Pantry program.

Vendors will be selling a variety of local crafts, maple syrup, honey and other items. There will be a tag sale and two raffles: a 50-50 and a cord of wood raffle. Local civic groups will have information booths and blood pressure screening throughout the day.

The Royalston Agricultural Commission will have animals to pet as well as old and new tractors on display all day. There will be a contest for best vegetables, fruits, and flower arrangements. (No processed food please). Everyone is invited to enter home-grown treasures, but do it before 1 pm because that is when the judging will begin.

Royalston Historical Society will open the Museum (located at the Post Office/ Old School House #1), and will be having periodic tours of the common. It will be collecting unforgettable school memories. Come share your story and become part of the historical record.

The Williams Brothers, back by popular demand and sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, will play on the new stage. They blend country, French-Canadian and rock, and have a big following in Royalston.

The Royalston Events Committee will have food available all day including: hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, pizza, ice cream, corn-on-the-cob, and baked potatoes, as well as a host of drinks. The Royalston Events Committee is a group trying to foster community connections, and invites everyone from Royalston and other nearby communities to come, meet and enjoy each other. For more information contact Michelle LeBlanc at 413-522-2756.
All Boards Meeting on “The Future of Royalston”  
Deb D’Amico, Select Board Clerk  
The work of Royalston’s town government is carried out by committees and boards comprised largely of volunteers. For decades Royalston has been well-served by such people, and this continues to be true today. The Select Board is tremendously grateful for their dedication and hard work.

When a board or commission meets, its focus must be on the issues within its specific charge. As it carries out its work, the committee’s members begin to hold a great deal of wisdom and expertise in their specific area of responsibility. Each group is likely to see opportunities and challenges that others may not. These “pockets of wisdom”, held by the various boards and committees, may overlap and fit together in ways we may not realize. Without a specific opportunity to hear from each other, the ways in which these parts could fit together for the good of the town will be lost. The Select Board wants to provide just such an opportunity.

On Tuesday, September 24 at 7PM, the Select Board will hold a meeting we are calling “The Future of Royalston” at the Town Hall. This meeting will be an opportunity for the members of Royalston’s boards and committees to begin a long-view conversation about how their work fits into the larger whole of the town. This meeting will be open to the public and a public comment time will be planned. However, this is not an open forum. This is an opportunity for board and committee members to listen to, and learn from, each other as we move forward to address the long-term needs of Royalston. There will be opportunities for the public to participate as the process unfolds.

Board of Health News  
Phil Leger, chair person  
Please find the Hazardous Waste Day flyer and registration form as an insert in the newsletter. Pre-registration is required by Sept. 16th. Please note that we are no longer accepting fluorescent light bulbs at Hazardous Waste Day. Some alternatives are described on page 2 of the insert.

Another roll-off was repaired using DEP recycling initiative funding. Next up, one of the paper roll offs. The new mattress container is in use, which creates space in the demo roll off. These mattresses get deconstructed in Gardner and material recycled. We are receiving some recycling education funding to develop some new signage and a card hand out to folks. We also have a temporary education position to help residents. (See p. 7 for more info.)

The RBOH voted on new smoking regulations to take effect on January 1st. One major change is to extend the no smoking in the workplace to private membership clubs. Winchendon Rod and Gun Club is our only club that meets this definition.

Massachusetts has had positive West Nile Virus mosquitoes and 2 confirmed Eastern Equine Encephalitis human cases as of this printing. These are dusk to dawn biters that like stagnant water such as rain gutters, 5 gallon pails, kiddie pools, tires, etc. So, fix those screens, empty those pails, wear long sleeves and pants if going out in the evening. DEET is effective as well as some essential oils such as lavender, citronella, and cinnamon.

Show Your Garden’s Best  
The Royalston Agricultural Commission will be having a contest of best garden produce. The date is Saturday, September 14 at the local fair on the common. Categories are as follows: flower arrangements, vegetable, fruit, and harvest basket (an arrangement of vegetables and or fruit in a basket). Please bring to the tent from 10am-12 noon. Judging will begin at 1pm. First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded. No cooked or prepared foods such as jams, jellies, pickles, baked goods etc. Show off your garden’s bounty!

Christine Long, Chair, Royalston Select Board  
Please come out to vote Tuesday, September 10, 12-8 pm. Precinct 1 votes at Town Hall, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall.

There are two important questions on the ballot.  

**Question 1** seeks approval of a $200,000 override to Proposition 2½ for the new Road Improvement Stabilization Fund, money that will be used to bolster the Chapter 90 money from the state that pays for the “big” improvements like jointly purchasing a piece of equipment with Phillipston and upgrading 1,400 feet of Warwick Rd. and 6,000 feet of North Fitzwilliam in the last couple years.

Improving roads was identified as a crucial need by residents at the series of community meetings organized by the Capital Plan Development Committee in the months before the annual town meeting. Voters at the annual town meeting approved this approach by a vote of 48-15.

The override would raise a homeowner’s annual property tax $142 per $100,000 of valuation. As an example, the owner of a house worth $200,000 – the average house in Royalton – would pay an additional $282 in property taxes.

**Question 2** seeks approval of a $145,000 debt exclusion for the abatement of hazardous materials and replacement of the roof at the former Raymond School. Bringing this building back on board helps meet another identified crucial need – protecting what we own and providing more municipal office space.

The 195 voters at the July special town meeting overwhelmingly approved this plan; only 23 opposed it. A debt exclusion too is a form of Proposition 2½, but the tax increase lasts only until the debt is paid. The planned seven-year loan for this project will cost the town about $25,000 a year. (The exact amount won’t be known till the day we take out the loan.) This debt exclusion will cost a taxpayer about $38 for each $100,000 of valuation; the property taxes for the owner of an average $200,000 house will thus go up about $76 a year. The Select Board urges strong voter turnout for this important election.
Phase 2 of Athol and Bolton Road Project has Begun
Keith R. Newton, DPW supervisor
Road improvements will impact travel and create delays for several minutes at various locations on both streets. Please choose an alternate route and plan extra time if you drive on these roadways. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience.

RoyalstonNet & Broadband Updates
Andy West – Chair, Royalston Broadband Committee
Jon Hardie IT Admin, RoyalstonNet Grant Manager & Project Lead
Since June, the Broadband Committee has been wrapping up the bid process for the design phase of our wireless network. The committee’s Technical Team has been researching and answering the technical questions submitted by potential network designers. This is time well spent, as it helps to clarify for our bidders the specific needs of our community.

The Broadband committee has been working on an (IGA) Intergovernmental Agreement with (WG&E) Westfield Gas & Electric, our Owners Project Manager, to operate our RoyalstonNet Wireless Broadband Network as it’s built out and turned on across town.

WG&E will become our Network Operator and the “face” of our Broadband Network, providing on-call technical support, seamless online billing services (they do the billing & we get the money - since we own the network), as well as prompt and courteous fixes for issues when they occur.

The Broadband Committee has been working closely with the select board, and with funding agencies through Jon Hardie, the designated EOHED / MBI Contract Manager and our RoyalstonNet Project Lead, who provides ongoing monthly & quarterly status reports and communications, ensuring clear, shared understanding & support for our RoyalstonNet project.

The Broadband Committee meets every week, except holidays, on Mondays at 7PM at the Town Hall. Our meetings are always open to the public. Have any questions about the SV Network or our upcoming RoyalstonNet Buildout? Please Call Jon Hardie at 978-790-8474 or you can email him at jon.hardie@royalston-ma.gov

Cultural Council News
We had our most successful MusicFest ever! The weather was perfect and the new stage was amazing! Thanks to all who helped and attended. It’s not too early to put these dates on your calendars:
MCC Grants due: October 15; go to MCC website to download forms
Cultural Council grants award meeting: Saturday November 2, 10:00 am; Town Hall
Open Mics; all first Fridays: Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 6, April 3
Tree Lighting: Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6 pm
Fundraiser: Saturday, May 9, 7-10, Town Hall; BayouX; Creole, Zydeco, Cajun dance band
MusicFest 2020: Sunday, July 12, noon-5 pm, Bullock Field
Call Deb Nunes (978-249-4000) for more information

Hikes and Bikes, Walks and Talks on October 5 Festival
Ruth Suyenaga
The Royalston South Village Revitalization (RSVR) Committee is planning a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 5 where we will launch the RSVR projects (the rain date is October 19). We are calling on all of you artisans, farmers, musicians and storytellers to contact us if you would like to participate. There will be games for the children and food from the General Store. We are looking to have a small farmers’ market, hikes along the river, a bike trip leaving from South Village and looping back and other activities for the family.

Please contact Nancy Monette at 978-249-3694 or mimimonette@aol.com if you would like to participate in the Festival. We need people who would like to pitch in to help us put up the tents, etc. If you can help, please come to an organizational meeting on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church in South Royalston.

The RSVR Committee had a great Work Day on July 13, when 36 volunteers trimmed 27 years of overgrowth from the King Street Bridge and along the road and by Whitney Hall. The DPW had a chipper and two trucks to get rid of the branches. We cleaned up the South Village before the National Night Out on August 6th, which was a fun event for families with food, s’mores, and games. Thanks to the Royalston Police, Fire/EMT and the Ladies Benevolent Society for putting on that event in the South Village.

Members of the Steering Committee have been researching possible funding for work on the bridge project and the gazebo project. Work on these and other projects will start up in the fall.

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.
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!
Pauline and James Baab
Dan Rosen and Rachel Freedman
Anthony Ferragano
Boyd Estus
Pat Worth and Michael Young
Shadow C.
James and Carol Canning
Richard and Rose Lawrence
Matthew and Teresa Valliere
Amy and Stephen Newland
Jennifer and Royce Johnson
Tom and Lynne Kellner
Dana Perkins
John and Stephanie McClure
the Jessica and Christopher Willhite family
Nancy Monette
David Spackman
Allen Young

Thank you
The Royalston Academy for generously funding our Summer Reading Programs. This support, combined with the generosity of the Friends of the Library, enable us to provide great programs.

Hannah Cummings, Maureen Blasco and Patti Stanko for help with summer reading programs

Art Exhibit
During September and October, Kathy Chencharik and Sharon Harmon will exhibit photographs taken around Royalston. Kathy’s will be a series of photographs of spider webs and Sharon’s will be of a series of haunted houses she has photographed. Perfect for Halloween.

Enjoy Digital Audiobooks Anytime, Anywhere

Access popular titles from your phone or tablet 24/7
The Phinehas S. Newton Library is proud to offer you best-selling and classic digital audiobooks available 24/7 from the library’s digital collection. This service, powered by Over-Drive, is free with your library card. Just download the free Libby app, enter your library card number and password, and start downloading and listening to audiobooks instantly! Need help setting everything up? Stop by the Library whenever we’re open for help and free Wifi to download your borrowed titles. To browse the digital collection visit https://sails.overdrive.com/ or download the Libby app today.

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.

The Library Summer Reading Program ice cream social was a big success with a big crowd turning out for Animal Adventures and ice cream sundaes!
### Some of the new materials at your library*

#### Adult Fiction
- Baldacci, David: *One Good Deed*
- Box, C.J.: *The Bitterroots*
- Brown, Pierce: *Dark Age*
- Caputo, Philip: *Hunter’s Moon*
- Collette, Katherine: *The Helpline*
- Coulter, Catherine: *Labyrinth*
- Crais, Robert: *A Dangerous Man*
- Goldin, Megan: *The Escape Room*
- Gregory, Philippa: *Tidelands*
- Hart, Rob: *The Warehouse*
- Johansen, Iris: *Smokescreen*
- Kibler, Julie: *Home for Erring and Outcast Girls*
- LaPena, Shari: *Some We Know*
- Lipman, Laura: *Lady in the Lake*
- Lutz, Lisa: *The Swallows*
- MacNeal, Elizabeth: *The Doll Factory*
- McCauley-Smith, A.: *The Second-Worst Restaurant in France*
- North, Alex: *The Whisper Man*
- Obreht, Tea: *Inland*
- Preston, Douglas: *Old Bones*
- Raney, Karen: *All the Water in the World*
- Russell, Mary: *The Women of Copper Country*
- Russo, Richard: *Chances Are…*
- Sager, Riley: *Lock Every Door*
- Stradal, J. Ryan: *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*
- Ware, Ruth: *The Turn of the Key*

#### Adult Non-Fiction
- Abbott, Karen: *The Ghosts of Eden Park*
- Ensler, Eve: *The Apology*
- Fuller, Alexandra: *Travel Light, Move Fast*
- McAuliffe, Terry: *Beyond Charlotteville*
- Messineo, Janet: *Casting into the Light*
- Preston, Richard: *Crisis in the Red Zone*
- Taddeo, Lisa: *Three Women*
- Weschler, Lawrence: *And How are You, Dr Sacks?*

#### Children’s Fiction
- Buckley, James: *Amelia Earhart*
- Burach, Ross: *The Very Impatient Caterpillar*
- Heder, Thyrza: *How Do You Dance?*
- Holm, Jennifer: *The Evil Princess vs. the Brave Knight*
- Lloyd-Jones, Sally: *Look! I Wrote a Book! (And You Can Too!)*
- Seeger, Laura: *Why?*
- Steele, K-Fai: *A Normal Pig*

#### Children’s Nonfiction
- Buckle, James: *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- Conrad, Vicki: *Just Like Beverly*
- Gravel, Elise: *The Worst Book Ever*
- Lin, Joy: *Masters of Matter*
- Lin, Joy: *Fantastic Forces of Motion*
- Lin, Joy: *Heroes of Light and Sound*
- Lin, Joy: *The Super Human Body*
- Patent, Dorothy: *At Home with the Beaver*
- Reid, Aimee: *You Are My Friend*
- Shulman, Mark: *Abraham Lincoln*

#### DVDs: The Avengers: Endgame, The Best of Enemies, Captain Marvel, Descendants 3, A Dog’s Journey, Five Feet Apart, The Hustle, Isn’t it Romantic, Killing Eve Season 2, Lego DC Batman: Family Matters, Norm of the North, Orange is the New Black Season 6, Patrick Melrose, Pet Sematary, Pokemon Detective Pikachu, Poms, The Public, Shazam!, The Sun is Also a Star, Unforgotten Season 3, Us, Wonder Park

#### Audiobooks
- Box, C.J.: *The Bitterroots*
- Goldman, Matt: *The Shallows*
- LaPena, Shari: *Some We Know*
- Lee, Patrick: *Dark Site*
- Russo, Richard: *Chances Are…*
- Stradal, J. Ryan: *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*

#### Check it out:

**Preschool Storytime**

at the library

10 am each Monday

Stories, socializing, songs, snacks and crafts

Free

Call the library for more information

**or how about the moon and stars…..?**

This is a reminder that the library has a fool-proof Orion Star Blaster Telescope to loan to anyone with a valid library card. This is a great way to spend a fall evening looking at the stars, planets, and moon.
Historical Society:

Get Schooled Program September 21, 7 pm at Town Hall

The night will include an overview presentation on Royalston’s one room school houses, a showing of the mini-documentary *Eleanor and Maxine*, featuring Maxine Wilcox, who taught in Old School House #1 from 1929 (when she was 18 years old) until it closed and then taught at the Raymond school for 20 years. There will also be film clips of Peg Langlois remembering her school days, and reminiscences with other citizens who attended local schools.

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.

The Society recently received a query from Janice Holm, who wrote “This is my grandmother Amelia Nosik (where it says “Me”) in her South Royalston class sometime around 1920, 100 years ago. Does anyone know who the other children maybe? Please contact Peter Krania or the newsletter if you have information.

Silk Roads of the Middle East Program

There will be a LBS Program on Wednesday, September 25 at Town Hall; business meeting, 7 pm; program 7:30-8:30. It features Tara Stuart, retired Keene State College Professor of Communication who will present a program on the Silk Roads of the Middle East, featuring women in Iran. Tara has spent her life traveling all over the world being involved in projects benefitting humanity. Hostess is Nancy Melbourne. This fascinating program is open to everyone so please join us. For more information, please call Deb Nunes, Secretary, 978-249-4000

There will be a benefit concert to support the Women’s Memorial Bell Tower restoration at Cathedral in the Pines, Rindge, New Hampshire, on Sunday, September 8, 2019, at 4:30 pm. Featured performers are Half Annie, three women guitarists and singers who play music that spans the last 60 years while singing exquisite three part harmonies. The Bell Tower at the Cathedral was built to commemorate women who participated in World War Two. For more information please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000

Garden Club

As summer flowers fade, gardeners can prepare for blossoms and fruit next spring. Ricky Banuc of Seeds of Solidarity in Orange, a farmer-educator, will discuss no-till gardening that keeps the micro-organisms and worms we need alive in the soil. The discussion will take place on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 7 pm at the Millers River Environmental Center.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions. Members are currently working on a wildlife habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center. Guests and new members are always welcome, so join us this month and learn something new about gardening. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a donation.

Cemetery Tours coming on October 19. Would you like to take a role enacting the stories of some of the old souls buried in Center Cemetery? Contact the Historical Society or the newsletter to get involved.

“I trust your Garden was willing to die ... I do not think that mine was —pit persisted with beautiful reluctance, like an evening star” —Emily Dickinson, in a letter to her Aunt Katie Sweetser, 1880
Help Wanted:
Part-time science teacher at The Village School
Looking for science teacher for one afternoon a week, teaching a 3rd-4th class and a 5th-6th class. Prefer individual with science teacher experience, science background and teacher training. Curriculum is already developed by the school, and the right person will be mentored by the long-time science teacher. It requires a fair amount of prep. Be ready to take students out in the field regularly! No textbooks, it’s all hands on, labs and observation. For the right person, this is a great opportunity to enter the science teaching field, or to renew science teaching after an absence. Send resume and references to rise@villageschoolma.org or call 978 249 3505

Temporary Recycling IQ Inspector and Community Outreach
Department: Department of Health
Job Title: Recycling IQ Inspector (1 openings)
Position Status: Temporary part-time, grant-funded, non-union, no benefits
Residency: not required resident
Dates: October – December 2019, depending on work availability and completion
Hours: during or fraction of hours, 7 am -2 pm., Saturdays
Salary: $11-$15 hourly
Reports to: Board of Health Chair and or Transfer Station Manager
The Recycling IQ Inspectors will work in a team on the Recycling IQ Program, a grant funded program of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection that aims to Improve the Quality of local recycling programs through a two-pronged approach: education and feedback at the Transfer Station.
Responsibilities:
Inspect items collected at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center for proper recycling content.
Conduct outreach and talk to users of Royalston Transfer Station/Recycling Center about proper recycling
Notify users of items that are not properly recycled. Help user understand where items can be recycled or if it is not recyclable or where to get more information at RecycleSmartMA.org. Give user recycling information card.
Qualifications:
Passion for the environment and a desire to make a difference
Ability to work with local people from a variety of different ethnic, socioeconomic, educational, religious, sexual and generational backgrounds
Ability to deal with residents and businesses participating in the town collection program,
Ability to follow oral and written instructions and to communicate both orally and in writing
Ability to stand; walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, crawl, or crawl; talk or hear; and taste or smell.
Ability to occasionally lift up to 40 pounds.
Ability to use close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus.
You do not have to be a city/town resident to apply for this position. This position is open to U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens age 18 and older.
If interested, send short resume or letter to boh@royalston-ma.gov or call 978-249-3617 leave message

Milestones
obituary: Andy and Kristen West of Royalston are saddened to report the passing of Andy’s father, Edwin West, of Townsend. Ed passed away peacefully on August 21, 2019, at age 99, surrounded by family. Ed lived a rich and full life. He filled his life with loving attention to his wife, Mary, and family. He had an ever expanding curiosity of the world around him. Ed enjoyed drawing, poetry, music, and caring for his historic home and Christmas tree farm. His children and grandchildren shall treasure their memories with him.

Royalston Country Store has Re-opened
New owners, Heather Golding and Rob Sylvester at the helm. As in the past, Heather and Rob will offer usual convenience store fare: milk, bread, liquor, cigarettes, and lottery tickets as well as other food staples.

They hope to keep the kitchen menu similar to past offerings with a variety of all - day breakfast dishes and different daily hearty lunches. There will also be home-made soup. The kitchen is expected to be up and running in September.

Local products will be showcased and the store is already serving Dean’s Beans coffee. Ideas for the future include local pastries (anyone want to bake?), produce from local farmers and gardens, and grab and go meals.

Heather and Rob see the store foremost as a place where the community can gather. They would like to have music, storytelling, and other events and are excited that the South Royalston improvement group has begun revitalization in the neighborhood. They hope to be a big part of the effort.

Come on down to the Royalston Country Store, open 7 to 7, 7 seven days a week. 978-249-9798.

Wildlife Sightings
Rabbits, absent for decades, have hopped back into our gardens and hearts this summer. Coyotes, also scarce for some time, yip in the wee hours. Is a balancing coming?

Monarch caterpillars are back and in abundance along with other tuft caterpillars that feed on milkweed. However, they are eating milkweed plants down to the stalk, including the pods. The crystal-lis seem to be made on a big variety of plants and structures. It is not the usual pattern. Is it sustainable?
Dear RCS Community,

It is an honor to introduce myself as the new principal of Royalston Community School and to join this extraordinary school community. I can assure you that I share in our school community’s commitment to caring for our students each and every day while providing them a safe, innovative and vibrant learning environment. I firmly believe that every child can excel and that the partnership between home and school builds confidence in students to use their knowledge and skills to shape their lives, their future and the future of our communities.

My conversations with district staff and families over the last month have brought me privileged insights into the core beliefs and values that underlie Royalston Community School and the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. I can’t wait to continue to discover more about our wonderful school and district! With my goal of continuing the tradition of excellence here at Royalston Community School, I am committed to always exploring new ways to meet the needs of all students and to more effectively communicate with parents and community members. Please feel free to reach out to me with a phone call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Our hard working and conscientious custodian, Laura Chase has spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning our school. Our school is shining! Our skilled and devoted teachers have been hard at work planning and preparing for the year ahead. Our new administrative assistant, Jenn Basso has been working hard organizing our front office. Our dedicated cafeteria staff of Deanna and Bailey Melanson have been busy planning and prepping to make sure our students are well fed so they are ready to learn. And, our hardworking and much-appreciated PTG is gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Stefanie Hicks, Jennifer Sonnaband, Elle Hunter and Kathleen Blake as dedicated educators to our school family.

As the new school year begins we are looking for volunteers to step in and assist our school. Volunteers can assist in classrooms, help supervise the lunch room or playground, and help with specific tasks of our day. If you would like to be placed on our volunteer list, please send me an email or give us a call. Volunteers will have to provide a license or other identification so they can have a CORI on file at our school. We look forward to working with you.

I heartily welcome your conversation and positive input throughout this year. Let us always keep our students the primary focus of our school community. I look forward to celebrating our collective successes during the 2019-2020 school year. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

Your super student(s) have brought home beginning-of-year paperwork including: Registration Form - please correct and add any information that may be needed and return to the school, as well as a Confidential Medical information and a Military Form (if applicable). Please fill both out and return.

Just a reminder, our school day begins at 8:30AM and ends at 3:05PM. Students can be dropped off at 8:15 but cannot be dropped off before then as we have no one to supervise them prior to that time.

On behalf of our extraordinary team here at RCS, we look forward to working with you to provide the best possible education for your children. Let’s have a great year!

Cindy Reilly, Principal of RCS
978-249-2900
creilly@arrsd.org

Village School

After School Program for Royalston children

If you are looking for after school care, the Village School has a great After School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS school bus and get dropped off at the Village School. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting!) run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair. To sign up or for info, call the school at 249-3505.

Roots and Sprouts: a parent child group for infants and toddlers up to age 3 at the Village School 253 S. Royalston Rd. (Rt. 68) FREE. Meets Wednesdays, starting September 11th to October 16th from 8:45 to 10 a.m. Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator. Come gather with other parents and their young children in the lovely Village School preschool classroom and deepen your connection with your child through singing, movement and art, celebrating the seasons and outside play. Learn more about child development, how to build a healthy parent/child relationship, and enjoy a simple snack with your child. Free. Drop ins are welcome. Call 978 249 3505 or email info@villageschoolma.org

Dean’s Beans Coffee You can get yours delivered, fresh, once a month to the Village School, whole beans or ground. Find the order form at www.villageschoolma.org and order online- it’s easy! You’ll pick up the coffee in the Village School hallway.

Openings in the Village School this fall

Kindergarten Children enjoy art, music, story, immersion in nature, play and more. In the small classroom, children learn to read at their own pace.

3rd&4th grade The 3rd-4th class is immersed in a year-long study of Ancient Greece. Call 249 3505 for more information.

Piano Lessons at the Village School

The Village School offers piano lessons after school with Isaac Richardson, Berklee College of Music alum. For children and adults. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. For more information please call 978 249 3505,

What’s happening at the Village School

Preschool and Kindergarten Orientation are on Tuesday Sept. 3rd and all classes start on Wednesday September 4th. The children are coming back to explore the playground and go hiking in the woods. It’s field trip time! We’ll take advantage of the weather. Classes will go canoeing on Tully Lake. With this great weather, science classes are taking place outside, investigating the local flora and fauna.

This year, the 3rd-4th is studying Ancient Greece and the 5th-6th is studying the Westward Expansion. Both classes will immerse themselves in stories, history, art, music and crafts related to their themes. There will be some great museum visits too. For up-to-date Village School information, go to www.villageschoolma.org
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.snowheronstudios.com Call 978-249-8108 or 978-248-9454.

**2 matted horse stalls available:** round pen, arena, generous turnout, watchful care 24/7. Black Horse Farm is near Birch Hill Dam by horseback. $400 per month. Training or any number of lessons $575 per month. Text Susanne at (978) 424-8580. Current email: coombsuzanne4@yahoo.com. Stalls available for winter. Thanks!

**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.

**Congregational Churches News**

First Congregational Church of Royalston, 15 On The Common- Services start at 11 a.m. with Pastor Tim Oja. Fellowship gathering and refreshments served after service. Thursdays, at 3 On The Common, there is a 5 p.m. 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 gathering and refreshments served after service. On Wednesday at 7 pm, there is Bible study with Pastor Tim Oja.

Royalston Community Newsletter September 2019 Page 9 for sale:


**Bosch 7-1/4” worm drive saw in excellent condition** - $75 - only used on one job. Antique folding wooden wallpaper pasting table 22” x 73” (folds to 11”x73”) nice patina - $300. Contact Dave at 978-939-3663.

**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 K reations. Custom options by experienced graphic designer and etching of glassware. Single pieces or sets. Contact Krys and Keith Swan at Swankkreations@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

**Pigs:** Call John 978 894-5109.

Local writer’s Diane Kane, Phyllis Cochran, Kathy Chencharik and Sharon Harmon have a 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 $195/ 170 cu feet. or $380/340 cu feet. Semi-seasoned wood also available $210/cord. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.
Every August I remark on the dramatic changes in the garden since I last reported in late June. In the past sixty days, my fingernails have grown an eighth of an inch. The winter squashes have grown ten feet. It is a jungle out there and it is all I can do to keep the tomatoes out of the cucumbers and the cucumbers out of the winter squashes and the winter squashes out of most everything. Some of the garden is gardenless. Sixteen beds previously occupied by the early crops (peas, spinach, garlic, potatoes, and wheat) have become available. In prior years, all were re-planted; this year twelve remain ‘open.’ (Of course, they remain open only because I hack away at the proliferation of weeds with my trusty hoe.)

If you recall, the cold, wet spring set back garden activities. The prevailing wisdom is that everything catches up. The prevailing wisdom did not prevail. Peas and spinach were weeks later than normal. Only now is the corn showing signs of ripening. We’ve eaten some cherry tomatoes but not one slicer. We’ll be lucky to have a pepper before September. Most of the onions ought to have died back. But few have. Just as well, they continue to bulk up and the availability of onions is assured this winter. This is definitely not the year to experience an early frost.

With harvest just beginning for so many crops, it is difficult to predict the ultimate yield of most of them. No wait to determine the size of the cucumber crop: it exceeds my capacity to consume, pickle, sell, and give away. Winter squash will not be harvested until early fall but there are an untold number of fruit on the vines. The third unprecedented success is the brassicas. They, too, will be harvested in September, assuming the porcupine does not harvest them first. Corn is iffy; the gusty winds several weeks ago flattened the stalks. Picking up two hundred some corn plants is not my idea of a good time, especially since I was obliged to repeat the undertaking two more times. In respect to the vegetables harvested, it was an ordinary year for peas, spinach, and garlic. Let’s grade them B-. It was an extraordinary year for the potato plants, extraordinary in their failure to produce many potatoes. They were planted late, failed to thrive in the wet conditions, and were then subjected to the worst outbreak of potato beetles we’ve ever encountered. I had expected perhaps 350 pounds from our patch; we harvested barely 200 pounds.

In light of more-than-commendable strawberry yields in June, I will attempt to nurture a seventh year from them. (Commercially, strawberries are planted annually.) Spreading by runners, I have encouraged them to reach out to new ground. Having extended as far as space allows, it is time to turn them around and direct them to their original plot (which will be enriched with compost and wood ash). It’s work but the end results are strawberries.

I’ve experienced a couple of mishaps recently, one behind the wheel of the truck and one behind the wheel of my feet. And these are referred to as the golden years. Leaden years might be more appropriate.

---

Late Summer Company

It is late August and nature has settled down. The frenzy of early summer has given way to a drowsy calm. I step outside our back door, or linger on the walkway, just to watch and listen and notice small things. What I notice is the vast number of insects going about the business of their tiny lives with absolutely no interest in me - and I am fascinated.

A discarded insect shell clinging to a post in our kitchen garden brings back memories of childhood summers playing hide-and-seek. I recall an August when the “home” tree in our backyard was covered with shells like this one – brown and dry and split up the back. At the time I was horrified. Now I am curious. Who has left this behind? I remove the shell carefully, amazed at this dry and fragile imprint of insect, and bring it inside. A bit of research tells me it was left by a cicada, a cricket cousin who’d shed its confines for swifter wings and sings to us now on hot summer days. This is what our mother, with rueful resignation, called “the hot weather bug”. If it sang early in the day we knew it would be “a scorcher”.

Singing insects seem to drown out the songbirds now. Crickets are in abundance in our gardens and I am charmed by the tiniest ones who crawl, then jump, then flick out of sight. They sing all day and, at night, a lone cricket chirps to us from a corner of our office. I wonder if it is confused by its surroundings, trapped behind file cabinets, bereft of cricket companions. Tom is not a fan of insects, but I tell him that a cricket in the house is good luck, and wish our small tenant good night as I go up to bed.

The sheer number and variety of moths and butterflies defy my attempts to keep track. However, my eye was caught recently by a butterfly that lingered at our back door. It was dark brown with a broad white stripe running diagonally across each wing – a “white admiral,” I learned. This one had a large chunk of wing missing, and I wondered which predator it had foiled.

A variety of insects hurl themselves at our screen door at night and, occasionally, one finds its way in. A recent visitor – long and slender and bright green – spent the night on the living room ceiling. In the morning it found its way to the screen door and we set it free. It was a katydid, no relation to cicadas, but a singer nonetheless. On sultry August nights it is the katydid who sings to us from the trees.

Just last evening as the sun was about to set, I saw the late summer swarming of dragonflies. Their swoops and swirls and sheer numbers are mesmerizing – an airborne waltz of insects. As a child I was told they were “darning needles” which would sew up my mouth if I wasn’t careful. For years I was terrified at the sight of them until I learned their true name and their gentle nature. Dragonflies eat mosquitoes – a solid recommendation in my book – and I love when they land on my finger so I can look into their enormous eyes and study their veined and translucent wings.

They are great company, these insects – fine companions for these drowsy late summer days.

---

Deb D’Amico
Recipe of the Month

It has been a decent peach year in Royalston backyards for those who could thwart the porcupines. Librarian and excellent cook, Gina Verelli, took advantage of these late summer golden globes to make some batches of Habanero Peach Jam, whose sweet and spicy goodness goes well on crusty bread or with soft cheese. Here is a recipe to trap your own bit of summer in a jar.

Habanero Peach Jam

yield: 6 1/2 pint jars

Ingredients
2 lbs diced peaches (not necessary to peel) about 5 1/2 cups
2 lbs white sugar about 5 cups
3 habaneros very finely diced (remove the seeds for less heat)
juice of 1 lemon about 1/4 cup juice

Instructions

Combine all ingredients in a large heavy bottomed pot. Stir and let the mixture rest at room temperature for an hour. The peaches will release their juices as the sugar starts to dissolve. Bring to a boil over high heat and then reduce to medium high to maintain a boiling temperature for about 20-25 minutes. Stir frequently, as the mixture thickens.

The mixture will initially foam constantly, then the foam will reduce as the jam is finishing its cooking time. Test the jam by dropping a teaspoon’s worth onto a plate. When it thickens and doesn’t run, it is done. Remove from the heat and pour into sterile jars. Process in a hot water bath and then store in a cool dark place or store in the refrigerator until ready to use. Without the hot water bath, the jam will keep in the refrigerator for up to a month or alternatively, you can freeze it for up to 6 months. Enjoy!

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

Luna Body Therapeutics
Integrative Massage Therapy
Carolyn Cullen LMT
131 West Main Street, Suite 210
Orange, MA 01364
978-633-5423