Calendar of Events

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

December 1 Sunday
11:00 a.m.  **Basket making workshop** at the Town Hall - Full

December 4 Wednesday
6 p.m.  **Annual Tree Lighting** on the Common: carols, Santa, cocoa and cookies. Rain or shine

December 6 Friday
7 - 10 pm  **Open Mic** at either Town Hall or the church. The house band will be Sunset Garage. Great food, friends, fun, music. Cultural Council members will provide a $5.00 dinner and homemade desserts. For more info, call Deb Nunes - 978-249-4000

December 7 Saturday
11:00 a.m.-noon. Office hour with State Senator Jo Comerford at the Phinehas Newton Library

December 10 Tuesday
Dawn-dusk  **Deer Hunting/Primitive Firearms** through Dec. 31st

December 11 Wednesday 6pm
**Tree lighting** at Whitney Hall. **Remembrance ornaments** are available for purchase from the LBS. Hot cocoa and cookies and if you are not on the naughty list, Santa will come celebrate.

7 p.m.  **Ladies’ Benevolent Society Holiday basket packing** at the home of hostess Theresa Quinn.

December 12 Thursday
12:12 a.m.  **Full Cold Moon**

December 13 Friday
All Night long  **Geminid Meteor Shower**, THE meteor shower of the year, featuring non-stop (more than one a minute!) shooting stars, originating in northeastern skies. It occurs through the day and all through the night and into early morning, December 14th. Bundle up and sleep out.

December 15 Sunday  **Bill of Rights Day**

December 20 Friday  **National Ugly Sweater Day**
ARRSD and Monty Tech holiday vacations begin at the close of school today, and continue through January 1, 2020

December 21 Saturday
11:19 p.m.  **Winter Solstice** – First Day of Winter

December 22 Sunday  sundown  **Hanukkah begins**

December 25 Wednesday  **Christmas Day**

December 26 Thursday
12:13 a.m.  **New Wolf Moon**

December 28 Saturday
1 - 4 pm Open House Retirement Reception for Brian Snell at the Royalston Town Hall. Light refreshments. Anyone interested in helping can contact me at beckydivoll@yahoo.com.

December 31 Tuesday  **New Year’s Eve**

January 1 2020 Wednesday  **New Year’s Day**
Post Office, Town offices, Library, schools all closed

Happy 195th anniversary to the Ladies’ Benevolent Society of Royalston, which remains the second-oldest Society on record for continuous service in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Library Winter Reading Program begins.** Read library books in January and February and be entered to win fabulous prizes.

January 2 Thursday  **ARRSD classes resume** after holiday break

January 3 Friday 7-10 p.m.  **Open Mic Night** Town Hall

January 5 Sunday  **Earth at Perihelion**, with the sun as close to the earth as it will be in 2020, a mere 91,398,199 miles apart.

January 10 Friday 2:21 p.m.  **Full Wolf Moon**

January 11 Saturday 5:30 p.m.  **Roast Beef Dinner** at the Royalston F&G

January 17 Friday 7 pm  **Quarterly meeting of the Royalston Historical Society** at the home of Peter Kraniak, corner of Winchendon and Stone Rds.

January 20 Monday  **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday**

January 24 Friday 4:42 p.m.  **New Snow Moon**

January 25 Saturday  **Lunar New Year** 4718 – Year of the Rat
Select Board Notes

Chris Long, clerk, Royalston Select Board

Sewer Issues: The town took two major steps toward addressing the problems that became evident over the last half-year when special town meeting voters on October 22 unanimously approved spending $79,000 to make needed capital repairs in the wastewater treatment system and approved by a vote of 32-3 an increase in the sewer operating budget to $70,276.

The capital spending will come from town-wide resources; such a large expense midway through the year may seriously impact what we can and cannot do in FY21. The higher operating expenses means ratepayers who last year paid $434 per toilet will this year pay $740.

The Select Board, together with DPW Superintendent Keith Newton and consultant Kent Songer, met with ratepayers on October 16 to explain both spending plans and to answer questions.

These dramatic steps do not solve all the ongoing problems. Kent continues to assess the condition of the treatment plant itself, of the pump stations, and of the collection pipes, while Keith and the board are exploring long-term ways to address operations.

Elevator Update: The Select Board met with Newton and Grant Administrator Kevin Flynn at an emergency Saturday meeting on November 16 to finalize details related to providing three-phase power for the elevator.

The original architectural plans and the elevator bid called for three-phase power to be run between Town Hall and the utility pole near Town Hall. Only recently did National Grid rule that it would have to be fed from a new street-side pole, resulting in an increase of $13,000 in the price of the electrical work. The elevator grant will cover $2,000 of this, and the board will request a Reserve Fund transfer of $11,000 to cover the balance. Such a big hit to the Reserve Fund, which holds only $20,000, may be a problem later in the year.

All work and inspections of the elevator must be completed by the end of the year, but we all hope we can hold the dedication well before then.

Holiday Greetings: We’ve just celebrated a major national and family holiday as we gathered around the Thanksgiving table, whether by ourselves or with a larger circle, and now we’re approaching the next major holidays. The board hopes all our residents have a joyous and fulfilling Yuletide and New Year’s!

Thanksgiving

T’was the day of Thanksgiving.
It was at my Gram’s house.
The turkey was cooking
And so was the stuffing

My mouth was watering
And so were the dogs.
The droppings of food
That fell on the floor
Would be scooped up
By the dog of my uncle.

We’d gather ‘round the table
To eat up the food.
The sticky mashed potatoes
With gravy on it

Last but not least
We’d say our goodbyes.
See you next Christmas
I’d say to my family.

Leah Lacasse
Mrs. Hunter’s class, RCS

Royalston Emergency Management

Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay
电子邮件 ema@royalston-ma.gov 或电话 978-249-2904

You’ve had lot of practice dealing with power outages, lack of communications, and inability to get out and around this year, so let’s chat about prepping your vehicles for the upcoming winter weather. The usual admonishments apply: Make sure your battery is up for cold, winter starting; radiator has enough antifreeze; tires are going to go and stop in snow; the appropriate viscosity oil is in the engine; nice, new winter windshield wipers are installed; and at all times, try to keep your windshield wiper fluid and gas tanks topped off. If you have the misfortune of being stranded IN your car, make sure you have at least SOME of the comforts of home – blanket, cell phone charger, flashlight… never a bad idea to grab a bottle of water on the way out the door, and if you’re one to go crazy when bored, bring a book (or your Kindle and charger). Verify your vehicle has jumper cables; flares or reflective triangles; and at least one sturdy ice scraper. A bag of kitty litter or sand in the trunk will provide a little extra traction, and along with a shovel, may get you out of a nasty spot.

Of COURSE, if you can possibly stay off the roads during a major winter weather event, and even until they are cleaned up, it’s a great favor to those who don’t have that choice. You will be warm and happy, and those who must be out and about will have minimal traffic to contend with as they perform their duties.

Emergency Management is about being prepared – being Royalston Ready for whatever happens. If you are interested in other helpful hints, check out www.ready.gov , which offers incident-specific information, helpful charts and forms to fill out in advance of emergencies, and some fun activities for the kids (just don’t tell them that they’re also educational). If REMA can help you be better prepared, please drop an e-mail or give a call, and let’s see if we can help you help yourselves!

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair person

Mosquito season is now over for this year due to frost. Tick season is not however. With deer season in full swing, those out should use repellent, protective clothing, and check themselves when coming in. Don’t forget your pets.

With colder weather upon us, be careful when at RRATS. There can be black ice when not expecting it. The team does a great job taking care of sanding etc., but personal awareness is best. Keep an eye on children especially.

With the holidays upon us, some reminders concerning packaging. Empty all packaging of non-recyclables such as foam, strapping, and plastic wrap, prior to depositing into roll offs. Flatten boxes prior to depositing also please. Gift wrap, if paper, free from string, ribbon, etc., is ok to recycle.

Food waste that is not compostable should be wrapped in leak-proof bags prior to depositing into compactor.

With RRATS and the RBOH team wish all a happy holiday season. BOH Office hours at Whitney Hall Wednesday 5-9pm every week.
Interested in joining these RSVR sub-committees?

Hello Royalston neighbors,

On November 12, there was a very good Community Meeting to plan the next steps of the Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee. We want to make the South Village a vibrant gathering place for the whole town to enjoy and have fun while doing it. There has been a tremendous outpouring of interest in doing this and we have formed four sub-committees to work in the following areas. If anyone is interested in joining any of these efforts or to be informed of work days and projects, please let Nancy Monette know at mimimonette@aol.com or 978-249-3694.

A) Gazebo – Linda Alger and Marlene Jarvenpaa are heading this effort to build a gazebo in Park Circle in South Royalston. The committee is getting estimates for various designs in preparation for writing a grant proposal.

B) River Access – Todd Neale is heading this committee. This winter, the group will be doing planning, visiting sites and determining the best course of action to start with small projects to open access to the river for residents for viewing, and for fishermen, kayakers, hikers, and others.

C) Whitney Hall – This group will be helping the town Building Committee, which has done a tremendous amount of work on exploring ways to re-purpose this historic building. Peter Gagliardi has volunteered to consult with this group.

D) Social Media – Jessica Springer is heading this committee. It will be setting up a Facebook page for the RSVR.

The RSVR is sponsoring a tree lighting at Whitney Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11. Thanks go to RSVR member Rick Martin, who identified a pile of scrap cast iron that contained carcinogens that were leaching into the riverside by the railroad tracks; he asked Representative Susan Whipps to talk to Pan Am RR to remove it, which they did.

Recognition of Former Store Owners: On October 18, the Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee presented a gift basket and Certificate of Appreciation to Pat and Tom Bushee, long term owners of the Royalston General Store.

Pat is originally from Winchendon and Tom grew up in Royalston. Before they bought the store 13 years ago, it was owned by Dennis Zioli, who had a laundromat where the kitchen is now. They put in a new furnace and electricity. They had it open 7 days/week and closed it on Christmas and Thanksgiving, when they would make improvements. They had hot meals daily.

A memorable part of the history of the store was the ice storm of 2008. The DPW brought a generator and Pat and Tom stayed in the store all week. They slept on the floor, cooking up batches of food for the road crews and anyone who came in. The store was a hub of the town, a place to get warm, get supplies and hear the news. The town is grateful for their many years of keeping the store open to all and we wish them a happy retirement.

Department of Public Works

The time has come again and snow will be our main focus at the DPW. Please get all mailboxes secured for the effects of snow pouring off the end of the plow. You must remember that the weight of snow changes from one storm to another, so you must plan on mounting each receptacle securely and appropriately set back. This is extremely important to the plow driver as most times the box is hidden by blowing and drifting snow. Please help us help you and don’t plow or place snow into the road. Please call the DPW office if you have questions about any of the above suggestions.

Parking automobiles in the Public Way becomes a problem immediately when roads need treatment and plowing. I must remind you that it is unlawful to park any vehicle or obstruction along or in the roadway. All vehicles or objects will be towed at the owners’ expense. Thank you for your full cooperation. Let’s remember these simple few requirements and see you in the spring.

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

Fire Department Reminders

This time of year cold temperatures cause us to choose a source of heat for our homes. Whatever your choice is please remember some simple rules. Please secure seasoned wood and protect it from weather for your best results. If burning solid fuels, have chimneys cleaned and inspected before the real cold hits. Any other alternate fuels must have similar inspections and any problems found corrected before bitter temperatures are here.

Be extremely careful with your extension cords and how you place them throughout your homes when decorating for the holidays. Don’t run cords under carpets and be careful as you run them along doorways and windows. Only use UL approved equipment. Please take a moment and inspect for damage and condition before using any of these decorations.

Keeping safety our main goal, please make sure that smoke alarms and CO detectors are functioning and have fresh batteries before you start your heat season. Have a SAFE Winter and let’s think SAFETY throughout. See you when the snow melts!

Burning Permits will be issued in 2nd week of January. Burning season is from January 15, 2020 to May 1, 2020. Remember to follow burning regulations and BURN SAFE.

Keith R. Newton - Chief Royalston Fire Dept.
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!
Benny and Susan Gronowicz

December Saturday Library Refreshments

Our annual Saturday morning refreshments in December will commence on December 7 and continue Saturdays throughout the month. Stop by to browse, check out an item, and enjoy some refreshments thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library.

Winter Reading Program

Join in the annual winter reading program. This year, there will be several prize baskets and each time you read a book, you get to put a ticket into the jar of your choice for one of the baskets. We have also extended the program to run from January 1st until the end of February so you have more time to read and win. So ‘Get Yeti to Read!’

Art Exhibit

The enchanting photographs of ice formations on puddles taken by Cathy Offutt will remain on display through the month of December. These close-up views of the different formations will make you want to look more carefully the next time you are out on a walk in the cold.

During January and February Sonja Vaccari will exhibit some of her more recent paintings, many depicting wintery scenes. Sonja has recently been receiving acclaim for the murals she has painted in Athol on the remains of Stan’s Auto Body at the intersection of Rt. 32 and 2A. Her past work includes many murals as well as paintings.

Hotspots to Borrow

We are in the process of acquiring two hotspots for one-week loan to library card holders. The wireless LTE mobile hotspots, Coolpad Surf, are capable of connecting up to 10 computers, tablets, smartphones, and other devices at a time. They are from Mobile Beacon, who use Sprint, and can be used anywhere in the United States to provide unlimited 4G LTE data-only service. Sprint service in this area is only fair but we felt that for those that have limited internet access or when DSL is not working, these could provide an alternative. Stay tuned!

State Senator Jo Comerford Library Tour

As part of her Library Tour, State Senator Jo Comerford will be at the Phinehas S. Newton Library on Saturday, December 7 from 11:00 until noon to meet with constituents to discuss library and other issues. Join us for refreshments and conversation.

Preschool Storytime with Brooke Coleman every non-holiday Monday at 10:00 a.m. No pre-registration necessary. Stories, crafts, snacks, networking, play time.

Twenty-five Years…..

This morning the Sandy Denny song “Who Knows Where the Time Goes” was running through my mind when I realized come December 14, I will have been at the library for 25 years. It all began with a casual remark from Robert Fairchild asking why I wasn’t applying for the library director job because I was always there. I hadn’t given it much thought so I talked to Larry, called library trustee Otto Siegmund and set up an interview. Barbara Guiney and Otto interviewed me and I was surprised at how nervous I was. I realized that I’d really like the job. And as they say, ‘the rest is history’. In the interview I stated that my primary goal was to have a card catalog and with the help of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society and some homeschoolers, we set out hand-writing and typing cards. A couple of years later the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners sent the Library all the reports from consultants who had visited the Library throughout the years. The major comment: no card catalog. Nothing changes. For years, we typed and typed and even though the process was semi-automated, those cards didn’t get finished. It took until 2008 before we had a complete card catalog and that was online but we kept the paper catalog for a couple more years. And you might recall, the tickets to the Literary Ball for the 100th anniversary of the Library were printed on the back of those paper cards. And those twenty-five years: I couldn’t have done it without the support of the dedicated, thoughtful trustees; amazing, competent staff; and, as the Beatles sang, “I get by with the help of my “Friends”. They are the ones who help with all the programs, bake delicious refreshments, and generate the Royalston Community Newsletter. Finally, to all of you I have come to know throughout the years, you have all enriched my life. Thank you.
**Some of the new materials at your library**

**Adult Fiction**
- Aciman, Andre: *Find Me*
- Attenberg, Jami: *All this Could be Yours*
- Berg, Elizabeth: *The Confession Club*
- Child, Lee: *Blue Moon*
- Clark, Mary Higgins: *Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry*
- Connelly, Michael: *The Night Fire*
- Cussler, Clive: *Final Option*
- DeMille, Nelson: *The Deserter*
- Evans, Richard Paul: *Twisted Twenty-Six*
- Jewell, Lisa: *To the Land of Long Lost Friends*
- Mizushima, Margaret: *Tracking Game*
- Morgenstern, Erin: *The Starless Sea*
- Patterson, James: *The 19th Christmas*
- Solomon, Rivers: *Olive, Again*
- Strout, Elizabeth: *Let it Snow*
- Thayer, Nancy: *The Andromeda Evolution*
- Wilson, Daniel: *Noel Street*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Albom, Mitch: *Finding Chika*
- America’s Test: *How to Cocktail*
- Armstrong, Karen: *The Lost Art of Scripture*
- Booth, Abigail: *The Wild Dyer*
- Bryson, Bill: *The Body*
- Chang, Joanne: *Pastry Love*
- Christie, Judy: *Before and After*
- Drummond, Ree: *The Pioneer Woman Cooks: The New Frontier*
- Dunlop, Fuchsia: *The Food of Sichuan*
- Farrow, Ronan: *Catch and Kill*
- George-Warren, H.: *Janis*
- Gwynne, S.C.: *Hymns of the Republic*
- Johnson, Hal: *The Big Book of Monsters*
- Kenney, John: *Love Poems*
- Louv, Richard: *Our Wild Calling*
- McBride, Jean: *Talking to Children about Divorce*
- McDougall, Chris: *Running with Sherman*
- Morris, Edmund: *Edison*
- Rocca, Mo: *Mobituaries*
- Roman, Alison: *Nothing Fancy*
- Rombauer, Irma: *Joy of Cooking*
- Rowe, Mike: *The Way I Heard It*
- Sagan, Sasha: *For Small Creatures Such as We*
- Simon, Carly: *Touched by the Sun*
- Thompson, Charles: *Going Over Home*
- Tyson, Neil deGrasse: *Letters from an Astrophysicist*
- Waterman, Jonathan: *National Geographic Atlas of the National Parks*
- Weingarten, Gene: *One Day*

**DVDs:** *After the Wedding, Amazing Grace, The Art of Racing in the Rain, The Biggest Little Farm, Hobbs & Shaw, The Lion King (DVD & Bluray), Luce, Poldark Season 5, Queens of Mystery, Stories to Tell in the Dark, and Yellowstone Season 2*

**Children’s Fiction**
- Berry, Julie: *Long Ago, on a Silent Night*
- Bird, Betsy: *The Great Santa Stakeout*
- Capucilli, Alyssa: *Biscuit’s Snow Day*
- Cooper, Elisha: *River*
- Fogliano, Julie: *Just in Case You Want to Fly*
- Forsythe, Matthew: *Pokko and the Drum*
- Fox, Mem: *Roly Poly*
- Gay, Marie-Louise: *Fern and Horn*
- Gratz, Alan: *Allies*
- Henkes, Kevin: *Penny and her Sled*
- Hoefler, Kate: *Rabbit and the Motorbike*
- Kinney, Jeff: *Wrecking Ball*
- Lin, Grace: *A Big Bed for Little Snow*
- Maillard, Noble: *Fry Bread*
- McCartney, Paul: *Hey Grandude!*
- Miles, Ellen: *Saturday*
- Mora, Oge: *Dear Sweet Pea*
- Murphy, Julie: *Sulwe*
- Nyong’o, Lupita: *Pluto Gets the Call*
- Rex, Adam: *Tales from a not-so-best Friend Forever*
- Russell, Rachel: *Small in the City*
- Smith, Sydney: *Pick a Pumpkin*
- Toth, Patricia: *Other Words for Home*
- Warga, Jasmine: *Home in the Woods*

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Caruso, Nick: *Does it Fart?*
- Cooper, Robert: *New England Patriots*
- Davis, Jim: *Garfield, Snack Pack*
- Goldstein, Margaret: *Discover Earth*
- Goldstein, Margaret: *Discover Jupiter*
- Goldstein, Margaret: *Discover Neptune*
- Goldstein, Margaret: *Discover Saturn*
- Goldstein, Margaret: *Discover Venus*
- O’Brien, Cynthia: *National Geographic Encyclopedia of the American Indian*
- Rogers, Lisa: *16 Words*
- Waxman, Laura: *Firefighter Tools*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Black, Holly: *The Queen of Nothing*
- Cabot, Meg: *Black Canary*
- Milano, Alyssa: *Project Middle School*
- Smith-Llera, D.: *You are Eating Plastic Every Day*
- White, Kiersten: *The Guinevere Deception*
- Atwood, Margaret: *The Testaments*
- Bryson, Bill: *The Body*
- Caine, Rachel: *Killman Creek*
- Caine, Rachel: *Wolfhunter River*
- Child, Lee: *Blue Moon*
- Grisham, John: *The Guardians*
- Richardson, Kim: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*
- Rocca, Mo: *Mobituaries*
Milestones

**Historical Society:**
*Peter Kranik, president*

As everyone is able to notice, we have started work on the electrical phase of the project for the museum, and it has added a new dimension to the area of the entrance and upper hall. Work was also done on the first floor room, so now we are able to accent the displays. Our annual appeals letter has been sent out and our contributors’ tree has been installed. A THANK YOU to Gordon Morrison and Lyman Signs for their work done on this project.

Material from the former Grange was discovered and given to the Society recently and is being readied for display. This was a lucky find, and it was good that it was not discarded. If you come across anything that would be of interest to the Society and the history of the town, do present it to us. History means right up to yesterday as it has already become the past. It is always important to preserve it so that future generations can see what the past has done.

The dates for the meetings in 2020 are as follows:
- January 17th
- April 17th - Pot Luck Supper
- July 17th
- October 16th - Pot Luck Supper

With the exception of the July meeting all meetings are held at the home of the president, Peter Kranik.

Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the membership.

**LBS Remembrance Tree in the South Village**
The Ladies Benevolent Society is selling Remembrance Ornaments for the Holiday Season. You may choose from: angel, star, Christmas tree, or Christmas ball ornament. You may personalize it yourself or the Ladies B will personalize it for you. Each ornament is $5 each or 5 for $20. The ornaments will be hung on the Holiday Tree located in the South Village in front of Whitney Hall. The South Royalston tree lighting will be December 11, at 6pm followed by hot cocoa and cookies. The funds raised from the ornament sales will be used to grant scholarships to residents pursuing additional education. For more information or to purchase ornaments, please call Laurie Deveneau 978-249-5807 or Nancy Melbourne 978-249-8917.

The Ladies’ Benevolent Society of Royalston will close out its 195th year on December 31st, 2019, and the final meeting of the year is Wednesday, December 11, beginning at 7 p.m. in the home of Theresa Quinn. Following a brief business meeting and election of officers, holiday baskets and merry mugs for elders and shut-ins will be filled with an assortment of home-made goods and supplies. Refreshments will follow. Prospective members are invited to contact President Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807, lmdeveneau@msn.com, or Secretary Patricia Worth at 978-249-2722, greenfyre1@gmail.com to RSVP for the evening.

**Monty Tech honor roll:** Anthony Divoll, Aliyah Neale, Alexandra Phelps, Elysis Rosado, and Emma Watts

**Good News**
The old store and post office at #12 on the Common has had its heat restored and now is available for community gatherings. Suggestions so far include Ladies’ Benevolent Society meetings, a sewing/knitting group, seasonal local art and craft shows, a children’s toy library with games and pastimes that can be checked out with borrowers cards. What are your ideas for the space? Contact Janace Wamboldt JMLMWambolt@gmail.com and tell her.

**Suppers Return to the Club**
Royalston F&G Club Roast Beef Suppers begin again January 11. The meal is family-style and starts with a tossed salad, bread and real butter, and then features juicy roast beef, savory brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, and ice cream for dessert. If you’d like to be notified of upcoming suppers, contact Sandra Graf at 978-249-4281.

While you’re enjoying dinner, why not pick up a 2020 membership? Help support the Royalston Fish & Game Club, on Route 68 just past the Phillipston town line, a facility that includes a club house, function hall with complete kitchen, dining pavilion, covered barbecue area, firing and archery ranges, horseshoe pit, and a fishing pond. Check into the Royalston Fish & Game Club Facebook page.
Robert “Bob” White, 71, passed away at his home on November 10, 2019. Born on Nov. 19, 1947, Bob is predeceased by his parents Robert M. White and Margaret (Bonney) White, formerly of Keene, NH and South Natick, MA. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Faye (Burgess) White and their 13 adult children, Daniel, Stephen, James, Joseph, Judith, Susan, John, David, Elizabeth, Ruth, Mary, Charles and Lucy, and 13 grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Carol L. White of Keene, NH and his brother, David W. White of Bolton, MA.

Bob served honorably in the U.S. Navy for four years during the Vietnam era and was stationed at bases in Japan and Alaska. After the Navy, he attended the University of Massachusetts, graduating in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in Soil Science. He worked most of his career as a U.S. postal carrier in Winchendon, MA.

Bob loved running and ran in the Boston Marathon as well as numerous road races throughout New England. He also loved hiking and the outdoors. Each summer he planted a large organic garden in his yard. Family and belief in God were his top priorities. After retirement from the postal service in 2009, Bob served God on three mission trips to Columbia, Japan and Papua New Guinea. He attended the Athol-Orange Baptist Church with his family for many years and lived to have his children and grandchildren around him.

A celebration of Bob’s life will be held on Monday December 16th at 11:00 a.m. at the Athol-Orange Baptist Church, 131 Ridge Ave., Athol, MA 01331. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in memory of Robert D. White to the Athol-Orange Baptist Church or to Dana Farber Cancer Institute to support cancer research and patient care at: Dana Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via www.dana-farber.org/gift.

THANKSGIVING

Ryter Cummings, RCS

Thanksgiving
An American tradition
Turkey Day, it could be called

The 3 F’s
Football
Food
Family

A great mood
To be in
Having fun
Inside and out

Aunts, Uncles
Fathers Mothers
Sisters and Brothers

It’s going to be
A very grand

THANKSGIVING

Ronald S. Vars, 71, of 192 Main Street, died peacefully Thursday morning, October 17th in Quabbin Valley Healthcare, Athol, after a period of declining health.

He was born in Newport, RI on March 10, 1948, son of the late Edmund and Frances R. (Salmon) Vars Jr and grew up in Stowe, MA. Ron worked as a machine tender for Local #39 until his retirement. A resident of California for many years until returning to Royalston, he then lived his final years in Winchendon. He was a graduate of Nashoba Valley Technical High School. Ron enjoyed working around the farm on projects he always created. He enjoyed the outdoors as well as four-wheeling and working on his antique cars. He used to race cars at Westboro Speedway and Monadnock Speedway. Ron was an avid NASCAR, New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox fan.

He leaves a daughter, Julie Kennerson and a grandson Derek Kennerson of Palm Coast, FL and one sister, Kathy Chencharik of Royalston; his close friends, Ron, Marsha and Ronnie Alger III of Winchendon, as well as many close friends. Ron is buried in Lawrence Brook Cemetery, Royalston.

Rohna Anna (Isaacson) Shoul, age 93 of Northampton, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2019. She was surrounded by her children and their families who hold her core values as guiding stars in their own lives. She left the greatest legacy a person can have: a life of integrity that became a model for her children and grandchildren.

An early environmentalist, she co-founded the Green Decade Coalition in Newton. She protested nuclear testing and was arrested in 1986 with Daniel Ellsberg at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. She was active for 50 years in the Democratic Party because she knew that unless people were active citizens, the freedom that enabled everyone to have satisfying lives would disappear. Rohna was a champion mother. Her one goal in life was to create a world rich in conditions that would enable her children and all other children to have good lives. She co-founded “Voice of Women” one of the earliest women’s groups protesting the Vietnam War and protestedynchings in the South during the 1940’s.

Despite the challenges of growing up poor, she became a truly resilient woman who was known for her cheery disposition and respect for all people. She was an early feminist who knew the value of her own thinking. Rohna’s strength to persist came from the unconditional love of her mother, Rebecca. She worked as a medical social worker and school social worker.

She was predeceased by her husband Dr. Melvin I. Shoul and her son David. Rohna leaves her son Mark Shoul and his wife Ruth Suyenaga; son Paul Shoul and his companion Diane Porcella; grandson Kenji Shoul; granddaughter Maile Shoul and her husband Sean Nolan; and great-grandchild Margaret Shoul Nolan.

James E. Kelley, 78, of Royalston, died at home on Deland Rd. on November 16, 2019 with his family at his side. He was born in Framingham, MA on July 31, 1941, son of the late Earl J. and Vera F. (Leach) Kelley and had lived in Royalston for 20 years. Jim had previously lived in Athens, VT for over twenty years, following his retirement from the Navy.

Jim proudly served his country as a Master Chief in the United States Navy from 1958 to 1980. Following his military service, he worked as a police officer and dispatcher in Bellows Falls, VT, and as a constable in Athens, VT, and as a deputy sheriff in Windham County, VT. Jim was a life member of Winchendon Rod and Gun Club and a long time member and water aerobics enthusiast at the Wendell P. Clark YMCA in Winchendon. He was a graduate of Chesapeake Community College in Chesapeake, VA. Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his family.

He leaves his wife of 57 years, Priscilla (Holdsworth) Kelley; two children, Kathleen Costello and her husband Michael of Nottingham, NH and James E. Kelley II and his wife Joanna of Shrewsbury; five grandchildren, Jim III of Templeton, Scott of Boylston and Mikey of Athol, Connor Costello of Beverly and Terri Costello of Nottingham, NH; a sister, Joan Greene of Mystic, CT; a brother, Joe Kelley of Brockton; four great grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews. Gravestones were set up with military honors, held in Jonas Alliene Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Wendell P. Clark YMCA, 155 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475.
In response Harvard has stated, “Harvard is determined to take additional steps to explore this institution's historical relationship with aid; it is not a gift; it is compensation to correct the injustices of the past and restore equity.”

Boston Globe reported that Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has demanded that Harvard pay reparations ''for the gains Harvard enjoyed at the expense'' of Antiguan slaves. He suggested in his letter that Harvard should return when the kerfuffle was over. He meant to go back to Antigua but could not get past the blockade and went to Nova Scotia instead. In 1778, he wrote a will which freed his slaves (but left them no where to go and destitute) as well as left his farm to Harvard University to endow ‘a Professor of Laws in said Colledge, or a Professor of Physick and Anatomy’. This was the stake in a slave ship named the Mayflower, which brought him more wealth, so he bought a sugar plantation in Antigua. This is where Isaac Royall Jr was born. The brutal conditions included droughts, epidemics, and slave uprisings. The Royalls retreated to Boston and bought a large gentleman’s farm in Medford and built and filled a large slave quarters. (This historic property can be visited today.)

Antigua Requests Reparations from the Isaac Royall (Royalston’s Namesake) Legacy

Many know that our town is named after the Colonial entrepreneur Isaac Royall, who along with other wealthy movers and shakers (like John Hancock) of the mid 18th Century bought a land charter from the King for permission to sell it off in lots and make more money. In return they would build a meeting house to use for a church. Royall was the biggest investor, so that spot on the map, (which is now our home) got his name.

Not everyone knows that most of Royall’s wealth was derived from the triangle trade, using and selling slaves. His father, the son of a wood chopper/ carpenter, moved from Massachusetts to Antigua around 1700 where he had married into some wealth. He bought a stake in a slave ship named the Mayflower, which brought him more wealth, so he bought a sugar plantation in Antigua. This is where Isaac Royall Jr was born. The brutal conditions included droughts, epidemics, and slave uprisings. The Royalls retreated to Boston and bought a large gentleman’s farm in Medford and built and filled a large slave quarters. (This historic property can be visited today.) After his father died, Isaac Royall Jr. inherited the property including the slaves. He continued to procure slaves for his wealthy New England connections.

Years later, immediately preceding the blockade connected to the Battle of Bunker Hill, Royall fled Boston in a hurry thinking he would return when the kerfuffle was over. He meant to go back to Antigua but could not get past the blockade and went to Nova Scotia and then England instead. In 1778, he wrote a will which freed his slaves (but left them no where to go and destitute) as well as left his farm to Harvard University to endow ‘a Professor of Laws in said Colledge, or a Professor of Physick and Anatomy’. This was the roots of Harvard Law School.

The Nov. 6, 2019 Boston Globe reported that Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has demanded that Harvard pay his country reparations “for the gains Harvard enjoyed at the expense” of Antiguan slaves. He suggested in his letter that Harvard could offer financial assistance to the University of the West Indies campus in Antigua & Barbuda and admonished, “Reparation is not aid; it is not a gift; it is compensation to correct the injustices of the past and restore equity.”

In response Harvard has stated, “Harvard is determined to take additional steps to explore this institution’s historical relationship with slavery and the challenging moral questions that arise when confronting past injustices and their legacies.”

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Monty Tech

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

Monty Tech’s Veterinary Clinic began offering pet grooming services in November. Six appointment slots are available between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. There are no income restrictions on grooming services. Information on the program is available at www.montytech.net.

Monty Tech has a “Career Closet” with professional attire students can use, at no cost, to assemble an outfit appropriate for interviewing. Monty Tech’s Social Worker Kathleen Hanson and Director of Student Services Vicki Zarozinski recently traveled to the Men’s Warehouse storage facility, where they were invited to select suits, shirts, pants, ties, shoes, etc., all of which are now available.

If your public, private, or home-schooled child would like to visit Monty Tech, please contact the office to set up a tour.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito was on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony at Monty Tech’s ARM (Automation, Robotics, & Mechatronics) Lab, late October. The Lab was created using a $500,000 Skills Capital Grant, the largest single grant awarded in the School’s history. (Monty Tech has received more than $1.4 million in Skills Capital Grants since 2016.) The Lab will help prepare students for regional workforce needs for employees with electrical, engineering, CAD/Drafting & Design skills.

Due to changes in expected Net Transportation & Other Operating Costs, Monty Tech’s total assessment decreased by $196,498. It was voted at the last meeting to decrease assessments to communities, rather than reallocating the money. Royalston’s assessment will decrease by $2,182.

Royalston’s Kevin Killay, instructor of Monty Tech’s Machine Technology Program, recently escorted his students to EMUGE Corporation in West Boylston, where they toured the showroom and attended a working luncheon. Their generous hosts also donated more than 1,000 cutters to Kevin’s program, with a value of more than $60,000.

Mushrooms on Pizza

By sam kane

Mushrooms
They're gross on pizza
I like pizza
But NOT mushrooms on it
Mushrooms
I like the way they look
They're cool
But NOT on my pizza

Mushrooms
When they're not cooked
They look cool
But NOT on my pizza

Mushrooms
They aren't gross
But if they're on MY pizza
They are DISGUSTING

Orders are due Saturday February 8th is the Spring Open House from 10 to noon.

Interested in the school? Call to arrange a visit and observe a class or two. 978 249 3505 or email rise@villageschooloma.org

The preschool and kindergarten are starting waiting lists for the next school year.

You can order Deans Beans coffee and other goodies for the holidays at https://www.villageschooloma.org/shop/ Orders are due by December 15th.
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.

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: cobbsuzanne4@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 benguiney@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 p.m. women’s Bible study group.

Second Congregational Church of Royalston, 3 School Street. Services start at 9 a.m. with Pastor Tim Oja. Fellowship gathering and refreshments served after service. On Wednesday at 7 pm, there is Bible study with Pastor Tim Oja.

ThanksGiving

Turkey is a tasty food,
Gravy dripping from the table,
The stuffing smell has filled the room,
I’m in the great Thanksgiving mood

We gather around full of thanks,
The turkey is placed in the center,
Close your eyes and say a prayer,
We have met the thanksgiving ranks

Mmm the taste is grand,
The seasoning is perfect,
The turkey in my hand

Dessert is pudding and pies
We eat it all
Till none is left
So it’s the end they say goodbye

By: Clare McNamara, RCS

for sale:

Fitness Equipment - In good working shape. Lightly used - Bench with weights, $100. Cross-country ski machine, $35. Treadmill (Smooth 5.0P) $400. Call Polly 978-240-5901.

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. If you’d like to order specialty bottled syrup, do so ASAP so the bottles can be ordered. Call John 978-894-5109

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


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

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

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

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

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

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.


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

Garden Notes

November 22, 2019

Perhaps I should declare closure in respect to the gardening season. Perhaps not. Lift the mulch from the spinach beds and the spinach is green. Lift the mulch from the parsley patch and the parsley is green. Lift the mulch from the strawberries and the strawberries are green. The garlic is not, nor do I want it to be. Below ground, the individual cloves are establishing a root system; shoots will appear next spring. The edible perennials (the asparagus, the rhubarb, the horseradish, the scallions) show no signs of life but it is not for nothing that they are referred to as perennials. Come April they will remind me of their presence; come May they will contribute to our meals. The Johnny jump-up flowers continue to jump-up. I spot the occasional dandelion flower, as rare as a thoughtful, honest, dedicated, humble, politician. Fresh Brussels sprouts will be harvested for the turkeyfest (in our household it is a chickenfest) and I don’t plan on beginning a kale harvest until December. There is no closure to the garden; there is continuity.

The cold snap last week was unanticipated and unwelcome, bringing late-fall garden activities to a halt. The cold snap was unwelcome indoors as well, obliging us to fire up the wood furnace long before our usual start-up date. With relatively moderate (but not yet seasonable) temperatures returning, the ground is sodden but freed of frost, providing me with another opportunity to kick next year’s garden beds into shape. And, as important, the furnace has been returned to its dormant state.

As always, there were ups and downs in respect to the past season. Apple yields were more-than-adequate. After a hiatus of one year (recall, 2018 was apple-free), George and Sonja Vaccari again hosted their ciderama. I attended, accompanied by five bushels of apples. After chopping and pressing and filtering, I returned home with two five-gallon pails of cider (which were divided up and frozen).

Root crops were more-than-more-than-adequate. The front of the house is serving as a temporary root cellar (until the furnace is operating in earnest) and there is hardly room to walk. Despite a carrot failure, over three hundred pounds of onions and potatoes and beets and rutabaga and celeriac and garlic and daikon radish are strewn about. Strewn also are the one hundred fifty pounds of above-ground storage crops (winter squash, cabbage, and kohlrabi) and the eight remaining bushels of apples. Wealth. Real wealth. (As opposed to that wad of paper in my wallet or the pile of plastic in most people’s wallets.) I will be challenged to ‘spend’ it all, but I prefer that challenge to one that requires hustling up food to eat.

Maybe, maybe, December will provide some garden surprises, surprises that will be shared two months hence.

Larry Siegel

Two Places at Once

As I rake our leaves and put our gardens to bed for the winter, the sounds and scents of late autumn cause my mind to wander. In that odd way of memories, this autumn day stretches back to my childhood and I am in two places at once. These dry leaves become the ones my siblings and I raked into giant piles in our backyard. I hear our laughter and feel the weight of the rake, massive in my small hands. As I pile our leaves I hear our father’s caution to stand back. Then, one after another, he sets the piles ablaze. Now, when I smell the smoke of late autumn fires, I am back standing with my siblings in awe of our father’s command of burning leaves.

A recent late autumn day of rain and cold transported me back to another cold and dreary day in early December. In an instant I am no longer in our Royalston home. I am sitting at the plate glass window of a barber shop on Huntington Avenue in Boston. My father has brought my sister and me into the city with him on a cold and rainy December day. We are no more than five or six years old, yet we are aware of how special it is to be here, for this is the barbershop our father frequented as a college student long before we were born.

This memory is fragmented into sounds and images: my father’s laughter, the large window, the afternoon dusk, the headlights reflected in the puddled streets of a wet winter day. Then the Huntington Avenue trolley – a wonder of metal and glass – takes the turn with a screech of metal wheels and disappears in the gathering gloom. It is almost too much to take in!

I know now how ordinary this all must have been to the adults around me, but my five-year-old self was enchanted. The rest of the day included a trip to a toy store, cavernous with light and color, and I recall holding my father’s hand. But the most vivid images come from that barbershop window. To this day, the first cold rain of December brings me back to that window, gazing at a world of half-light, wet streets and trolleys.

The call of a crow in December is nothing like its high summer call. Is it the cold air or the forest’s silence that gives it such a melancholy sound? Whatever it is, I know I have been aware of this difference since I was very small. I can almost recall the exact moment in late autumn when I realized that the crows were signaling that the season was about to turn and winter cold was ahead. A crow’s December call today brings that moment back.

These moments I recall so vividly seem to skip over entire decades of my growing up years and land firmly in my childhood. It would seem that the responsibilities of adulthood have made it too difficult to pause and take in the small details of my days. It is those details – the scent of an autumn fire, the call of a crow, the cold of a December rain – that cause me to pause and, for just a moment, be in two places at once.

Deb D’Amico
“Christmas”  
*By: Autumn Knechtel*  
*Grade: 6, RCS*  
Presents, presents, presents  
We gather round  
A family room  
Where the sun glooms  
We have our food  
We have our laughs  
We have our presents

But what we need  
Is our family  
Family is what we love  
We hug them  
We kiss them  
We live with them  
We need our family!

“Christmas”  
*Royalston Resident*  
*Star Route 80*  
Royalston MA 01368

It was 2 nights before Christmas every one wearing Christmas sweaters.

My family came over  
my Grandma, Grandpa, Nana, Uncle, And my Aunt.

We all ate so much then we got so fat that we exploded.  
Me and my mom made cookies, corn, mashed potatoes, green beans, and carrots for dinner.

The next day I look outside and it’s snowing!  
I’m like it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas! LOL  
*Kamdyn Ward 11/21/19, RCS*