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

February 2 Sunday Groundhog Day
February 7 Friday 7 p.m. Royalston Open Mic Town Hall. Light supper fare available. Sponsored by the cultural council.

February 8 Saturday 10 a.m. – noon Village School Open House. Meet teachers, visit classrooms and find out about the admissions process. Tour the new building. There are activities for children in all the classrooms. Unable to attend? Call the school to schedule a visit, at 978 249 3505. Openings are tight for preschool-2nd grade. 3rd-5th grade has more openings. Find more info at villageschoolma.org

February 9 Sunday Full Snow Moon
February 10 Tuesday Animal Adventures, live animal program at Town Hall. Pre-register by contacting the library because this school vacation program packs the house. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

February 10 Wednesday Presidents’ Day Post Office, Town Offices, Library, Schools all closed

February 14 Friday Valentine’s Day School Vacation begins at close of school today – ARRSD, Village School, Monty Tech

February 17 Monday Presidents’ Day Deadline for nomination papers to be filed with the Board of Registrars/Town Clerk.

February 18 Tuesday 2 p.m. Animal Adventures, live animal program at Town Hall. Pre-register by contacting the library because this school vacation program packs the house. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

February 22 Saturday Washington’s Birthday

February 24 Monday Schools re-open Early Voting for Presidential Primary at Whitney Hall.

February 26 Wednesday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 6 - 9 p.m. Early Voting for Presidential Primary at Whitney Hall.

February 27 Thursday 7 p.m. Community Resilience Planning meeting to develop a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan at Town Hall. All welcome.

February 28 Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Early Voting for Presidential Primary at Whitney Hall.

February 29 Saturday Leap Day Winter Reading Program ends at the library. Prizes awarded.

March 3 Tuesday 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Presidential Primary. Voting at precinct 1 (Town Hall) and precinct 2 (Whitney Hall). There will be early voting for this election. These hours will be held in the Town Clerk’s office at Whitney Hall, 5 School Street, South Royalston, for both precincts.

March 4 Wednesday 6 p.m. Author talk: The writers of Flash in the Can Number One have done it again. Flash in the Can Number Two is packed with 28 new short stories filled with more mystery, mischief, and mayhem! Diane Kane, Kathy Chencharik, Sharon A Harmon and Phyllis Cochran will be at the Phinehas S. Newton Library to give an inside view on some of their entertaining characters. Snacks will be served. Signed copies of both books will be available.

March 21 Saturday 8 - 11:30 a.m. 7th annual Chet Hall Pancake Breakfast at Royalston Community School. Raffles, gift baskets, silent auction, t-shirts. Tickets at the door or at Royalston Comunity School and Kimball Cooke Ins. Auction donations can be dropped off at ticket locations.
Select Board Notes
Christine Long, clerk, Royalston Select Board

Elevator Update: The Select Board hoped to have a definitive report on the elevator in this edition of the newsletter. While 99.9% of the work is done, one remaining detail and one important inspection, by the state Elevator Board, were not complete at press time. That means the Open Mic on Friday, February 7, may be in Town Hall or may have to remain in the church hall for one more month. Attendees will know by coming – the lit-up space is where the music will be.

Sewer Issues: Royalston no longer has an elected Sewer Commission, and the Select Board has taken over the role of that commission. On December 30, 2019 Governor Charles Baker signed the act of the legislature that effectuated this change. Sewer issues will continue to dominate the conversation for months to come. DPW Superintendent Keith Newton has submitted the preliminary operating budget for FY21, to be reviewed by the Select Board and ultimately decided by voters. Keith and consultant Kent Songer are also working on a budget for routine repairs in the wastewater treatment system and recommended capital outlays. The operating budget will be paid for by ratepayers; both other expenses will be paid for by taxpayers, if voters approve. Finally, the board, Keith and Kent continue to explore options for long-term operation of the system, including possible regionalization with another town and contracting with a private company. Either may have a major impact on town finances.

FY21 Operating and Capital Budgets: The Select Board has been collecting budgets from the major departments, and will review them with departments in February. The Capital Planning Committee will meet with each department head, in coordination with their scheduled Select Board review, to assist them in creating their capital budgets for FY21.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair person
Flu activity is high across the country and our state. Not too late to get the flu vaccine.
Ticks were out during the recent warm weather looking for a blood meal.
Be careful of slippery areas while at RRATS, especially near the roll-offs.
Reminder that RBOH office hours are Wednesday evenings 5-9pm.

Department of Public Works
Parking ban in effect until April 30. During the ban, do not park in the road, on the shoulder or in public parking lots. When vehicles are left in the way, this delays or in some cases doesn’t allow the road to be treated or cleared of snow or ice. The Town can have these vehicles towed at the vehicle owner’s expense. Also, avoid plowing or shoveling snow into the public way. This also can build into a hazardous obstruction that may result in damage to other vehicles. Please be considerate. Thank you all for your support and understanding.

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

Community Resilience Planning
The Town of Royalston has received a grant to update our Hazard Mitigation Plan and develop a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan.
A public meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27th, 2020 from 7 to 9pm at Town Hall to present updates on the contents of the plan, with a focus on public understanding of the risks to community assets from natural hazards, and how Royalston can become more resilient.
Public input is critical to make sure that all local issues are addressed.
All members of the community are encouraged to participate. For more information contact Jim Barclay at 978-249-2904.

Royalston Cultural Council Announces Grant Awards
The Royalston Cultural Council has announced the award of grants totaling $5215 to nine local and regional educational and community organizations, for projects that will enrich the lives of local residents.
The Royalston Cultural Council, made up entirely of volunteers, is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.
Royalston programs to be funded through these grants include:
Royalston Community School: tickets to a performance of “Beauty and the Beast Jr.” at Theater at the Mount, and a performance of “The Magic of Communication” by Scott Johnson;
Phinehas S. Newton Library: the annual Royalston Shakespeare production; “Animal Adventures” at the Town Hall; and “Indian Cooking with Nalini”; The Village School: “Live Birds of Prey,” returning to the Royalston Common this summer, and Jeff Davis, “Oregon Trail through Song and Story”;
South Royalston Village Revitalization Committee: artwork for the new South Village sign;
Royalston Open Mic.

Grants to programs benefiting several local communities include:
Uniquely Quabbin magazine;
Starry Starry Night;
Quabbin Valley Pro Musica Winter Concert; and
Photo exhibit, “Indigenous Identity Through Portraiture” at the Athol Library. The Royalston Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall. All applications must have a local sponsoring organization. Applications and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org. For grant guidelines and Council priorities, contact Carla Rabinowitz at carla.rabinowitz@gmail.com. New Council volunteers are always welcome!

Our award winning Open Mic continues the first Friday, Feb 7th from 7-10, Town Hall (hopefully)
Great music, food and friends
Save the date: Saturday May 9, 7-10 pm
Bayou X playing Cajun, New Orleans, Zydeco dance music
Cash bar for beer, wine, soda
Free popcorn and Deb’s famous pound cake!
This is our major fundraiser that pays for our free MusicFest in July!
Happy New Year from the Royalston South Village Revitalization Steering Committee!

We have good news! Thanks to the hard work of Jessica Spring, the Chair of the Social Media sub-committee, a new Facebook page for RSVR was launched on January 1st. Within 24 hours, there were 120 followers. We hope that you will visit the page and spread the word! Here is a link to the page:  
https://www.facebook.com/Welcome-to-the-Village-of-South-Royalston-109177197269651/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Also hard at work in December was Rick Martin, head of the Community Garden sub-committee. With Kelly Dolan, he obtained permission of the Selectboard to coordinate a Community Garden at One School Street, the plot of town-owned land between the Country Store and the church. More information about this will come out in the spring.

Linda Alger and Marlene Jarvenpaa have been working on the Gazebo sub-committee with the aid of Tom Musco. Linda wrote a grant to the Community Preservation Committee, which awarded the grant. Funds need to be approved at the May 8 Town Meeting. If approved, Tom Musco has agreed to direct construction and mill the pieces and Roland Hamel will be the coordinator of volunteers.

If you would like to help out with any of these sub-committees, as well as the River Access sub-committee headed by Todd Neale, please let us know.

Special thanks to Laurie Deveneau, the LBS, Keith Newton and Santa and his elf, who helped us coordinate the Christmas tree lighting on December 11. It was the first time in many years that we have had a tree at Whitney Hall and it was lovely to see it lit in the evenings in December.

We’ve been enjoying the fish and chips at the Country Store on Fridays and other meals listed on their own Facebook page. Let’s support our local store as they bring new features every month!

The Royalston South Village Revitalization (RSVR) Committee is a group of residents from all parts of Royalston whose aim is to make the South Village a vibrant gathering place for the whole town to enjoy while building community and having fun in the process.

We are applying for a grant for planning assistance to develop consensus of how the town wants to develop the South Village. Meanwhile, it has various sub-committees to work on River Access, a Gazebo, and helping the town Building Committee in exploring ways to re-purpose Whitney Hall. For more information, reach Nancy Monette at 978-249-3694 or mimimonette@aol.com.

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Town Clerk News
Barbara Richardson

If you are not registered to vote yet, you must do so by February 12, 2020 to be able to vote in the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary. Also, if you would like to change your party enrollment it must also be done by this date. I will have voter registration hours at Whitney Hall from 2-4 & 7-8 P.M. Mail-in registrations must be postmarked no later that 2-12-20. Along with Presidential Preference, “State Committee Man”, “State Committee Woman”, and “Town Committee” is on the ballot for each party.

Primary Presidential election voting will take place March 3 for precinct 1 @ The Town Hall and precinct 2 @ Whitney Hall. 7 A.M. - 8 P.M.

There will be early voting for this election. These hours will be held in the Town Clerk’s office at Whitney Hall, 5 School Street, South Royalston, for both precincts.

Monday, February 24th 4-9 P.M.,
Wednesday, February 26th 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. and 6-9 P.M.
Friday February 28th 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Annual Town Election April 6, 2020
Nomination Papers are available now. You may get them by coming during regular business hours or by appointment.

Position Term
Currently in Position
Selectboard 3 years
Christine Long 3 years
James Richardson 3 years
Assessor 3 years
Board of Health 3 years
*Phil Leger 3 years
Cemetery Commission
Roland Hamel (will not seek re-election) 3 years
Library Trustee
*Theresa Quinn 5 years
Planning Board
*Kyle Nartowicz
Trustee of John N. Bartlett Fund (elect 4) 1 year
Curtis Deveneau * Gary Winitzer
Roy Smith Jr. 1 vacancy

Athol Royalston Regional School Committee 3 years
Nancy Melbourne

*denotes who has signed the blanket nomination papers as of 1-27-20 who will be seeking re-election.

You must submit the nomination papers to the Board of Registrars/Town Clerk no later than February 18, 2020 by 5 P.M.

Last day to register to vote in the Annual Election March 17, 2020 2-4 and 7-8 P.M. in the Clerks office

Keep an eye out for your annual street list forms coming soon.

Dog licenses are ready; all dogs must be registered by March 31st. To register, come in person during regular business hours or by mail. I will need a current rabies certificate and 6 dollars for spayed/neutered animals with proof, 10 dollars for unaltered animals. Checks are payable to the Town of Royalston. If applying by mail, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of license and tag. Mail to Town Clerk, PO Box 127, Royalston, MA. 01368
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Jennifer Basso, Theresa Quinn
Mondays: 10:00 am - 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572  www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends - Thank You!
Marie and Pierre Humblet  Paul Montero
Judith and Robert Dempsey  George Dyer
Stephen Demboske  Jim MacPhee
Christopher and Emily Santillo  Tom Kellner
Tony Ferragamo and Jean McCurdy  Marlene Jarvenpaa
Vyto Andreliunas

Donation to the Library
Donald R. Stanton

Internet to Go! - Hotspots Available for Borrowing
We have two Coolpad Hotspots available for two-week loan to people with valid library cards and who are 18 years and older. Hotspots are like portable wi-fi routers. These use Sprint as the internet provider and have worked surprisingly well in many areas of town where service is limited. You can wirelessly connect up to 10 devices: phones, computers, tablets, at a time and have unlimited data so you can upload or download large files. They are very easy to use, just charge them and connect. And if you are traveling within the United States, they will work wherever Sprint is available. Stop by and borrow one!

Animal Adventures Coming to Town
We are excited to welcome an expert handler from Animal Adventures, who will be presenting a premier animal program on Tuesday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the Royalston Town Hall. You will get to see many exotic animals up close and learn information about each one and in many cases even get to pet them. The presenter will make sure you get close looks and lots of information in this fun and educational program. To ensure your space, please register by contacting the library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Art Exhibit
During the month of February Sonja Vaccari’s beautifully rendered oil-on-canvas paintings will be on display at the library. Known for her detailed murals and more recently for her art exposition in Athol at the old Stan’s Auto Body site, this exhibit features new works including Mount Monadnock, fishing on Lawrence Brook, whooping cranes, and several others.

Winter Reading Program
Join in the annual winter reading program. There are several fabulous 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. Drawings will take place on February 29.

2020 Census:  This is just a reminder that the census begins in March (although it’s already started in remote areas of Alaska) and the library will be able to assist you if you need help. Library computers are available to fill out the form and we have materials to explain the forms and answer any questions. Remember you may complete the census by mail, phone, or online.

Indian Cooking Class
On Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Nalini Goddial, chef at Nalini’s Kitchen at the Quabbin Harvest Coop in Orange, will teach a class on Indian cooking. The class is limited to 15 people so sign up early by contacting the library. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Preschool Story Time
Every non-holiday Monday, you are welcome to join the Preschool Story Time led by Brooke Coleman. There is a story, an amazing craft, a nutritious snack, and plenty of time for children and their caregivers to play and socialize. You are welcome to attend this program whenever it works for you as there is no need to pre-register. It’s a great opportunity to connect with others with preschool children for socializing, networking and friendship.

Yoga Returns to the Town Hall
Yoga with Charlotte Weltzin will again be held upstairs in the Town Hall on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. The class is appropriate for all abilities. Improve your flexibility and balance (both physically and mentally). Charlotte is an experienced Ayurvedic Practitioner and Ayurveda Yoga Teacher (ERYT).
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**
- Chamberlain, Diane: *Big Lies in a Small Town*
- Dallas, Sandra: *Westering Women*
- Geddes, Luke: *Heart of Junk*
- Johansen, Iris: *Hindsight*
- Krentz, Jayne: *The Vanishing*
- Moore, Liz: *Long Bright River*
- Napolitano, Ann: *Dear Edward*
- Oakley, Colleen: *You Were There Too*
- Taylor, Brad: *Hunter Killer*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
- Kristof, Nicholas: *Tightrope*
- Maum, Courtney: *Before and After the Book Deal*

**CDs**
- Disney *Frozen*
- Disney *Frozen II*

**DVDs:**
*Ad Astra*, *Big Little Lies Season 2*, *Downton Abbey* (DVD & Blu-ray), *Joker* (DVD & Bluray), *A Million Little Pieces*, and *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?*

**Audiobooks**
- Connelly, Michael: *The Night Fire*
- White, E.B.: *Charlotte's Web*

**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*
- 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: *Roxy*
- Murphy, Julie: *Dear Sweet Pea*
- Nyong'o, Lupita: *Sulwe*
- Rex, Adam: *Pluto Gets the Call*
- Russell, Rachel: *Tales from a not-so-best Friend Forever*
- Smith, Sydney: *Small in the City*
- Toht, Patricia: *Pick a Pumpkin*
- Warga, Jasmine: *Other Words for Home*
- Wheeler, Eliza: *Home in the Woods*

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Ard, Cath: *Firefighter in Training*
- Bunting, Phil: *How Did I Get Here?*
- Demuth, Patricia: *Who is Ruth Bader Ginsburg?*
- Hubbard, Rita: *The Oldest Student*
- Macy, Sue: *The Book Rescuer*

**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*

**Reader Book/ Media Reviews**

*My Beloved World, a memoir by Sonia Sotomayor*

I’ve been borrowing audiobooks from the library on and off for several years to listen to on long car rides. This one, read by Rita Moreno, was by far the best audiobook I have ever listened to. Ms. Moreno’s reading was natural, captivating, and “real.” It felt as if Sonia Sotomayor were actually sitting right next to me and recalling her early life. Somehow she managed to read every chapter without drawing attention to herself, or to the art of her performance. Family life, Puerto Rican history, the legal profession, and the challenges of living with diabetes are just some of the many interesting topics covered in this fantastic book. If you have an interest in learning more about its intelligent and admirable author, I would highly recommend it.

Sara Dilg


Avowed Crichton fans, techno-thriller enthusiasts, and lovers of the 1969 book and 1971 movie *The Andromeda Strain* will quickly be drawn in to this second encounter with the new and improved, other-worldly microbe, which keeps just one step ahead of the (V.2) Project Wildfire team. The formatting of the book is reminiscent of the original. Recollections of the original encounter and Wildfire team are sufficient to link the two for those familiar with the 1969 book, but not so in-depth they would distract a first-time reader. Fresh science, a more diverse dossier, and new challenges make it current. References to Amherst, add a little local interest. *The Andromeda Evolution* is a fitting tribute to both Crichton and the genre of books he generated with *The Andromeda Strain.*

Mary C. Barclay

Read something good lately? Let us know at the RCN. Send your review by the 22nd of the month prior to publication. All ages welcome.
2020 events:
Quarterly meetings:
April 17th - Pot Luck Supper
July 17th
October 16th - Pot Luck Supper

Upcoming Society events include a museum open house, a jazz brunch and candlit cemetery tours at Riverside Cemetery.

All are welcome at these meetings to explore local history, plan events, and enjoy tasty refreshments.

Thank you to these supporters who recently donated to the Historical Society

George Krasowski and Theresa Quinn
Leslie and Tom Freudenheim
Michael and Sara Dilg
Bob and Lorraine Casinghino
David Spackman
Marjorie Anne Fullam and Patricia M. Dooley
Luther Otto, Christie Lyons
Patricia Worth
Marian and Elwood Taylor
Nancy Monette
Virginia Gingras
Virginia Moore
Gordon Morrison
Tom Musco, Deb D’Amico
John and Mary Ellen Scribner
Diana and Geoff Newton
Carl Kamp
Richard and Rose Lawrence

Christopher Buono, Paula Paul
Ralph and Joy Cutter
Raeann Leblanc
Timothy and Lisa Silveira
David and Shirley Putney
Martha and Kenneth Bouchard
George Northrop and Kate Collins
James and Nancy Melbourne
Nancy and Paul Murphy
Chuck and Polly Longsworth
Dawn and Joseph Steim
George Dyer
Dana Perkins
Tony Ferragamo and Jean McCurdy
Judith and Gordon Shaw
Peter J. Krania

Soup “R” Bowl/Chicken Shoot

Once again the Events Committee will hold an all-you-can-eat soup, stew, chowder, and chili event on Saturday, February 29th at 5pm at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Tickets will be $10 for adults, $4 for children, and eaters will judge winners in each category.

After the food there will be a “Chicken Shoot”, which is a card game in which players vie for a pre-cooked chicken and a prize. Each round costs $1.

This year kids will be having their own Chicken Shoot. For $5, kids can play 20 rounds, and there are prizes for all who play.

The Events committee is looking for donations of prizes, desserts, and of course contestant cooks. Servers are needed too. If you would like to volunteer, donate, be in the cooking contest or purchase tickets in advance, please call Gabe or Marlene Jarvenpaa at 978-249-4491.

Suppers Return to the Club

The next Royalston F&G Club Roast Beef Supper is February 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The family-style meal includes tossed salad, bread and butter, and roast beef, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, and ice cream for dessert. Fully-cooked roasts are raffled off at the conclusion of the meal, for $2/chance. For tickets, contact Sandra Graf at 978-249-4281.

The Biggest Apple Tree in the Commonwealth is in Royalston

Royalston has just added the distinction of having the largest documented apple tree in Massachusetts. It measures 117’ in circumference, 41.5’ in height, and has an average spread of 46.125’. The tree was discovered and submitted by Skip Ciccarelli to the Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program. After submitting the information, a state forester came and took measurements. When the calculations were done it was determined that it was the largest apple tree known in Massachusetts. The variety is not known but is possibly a Roxbury Russet. The Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program and National Legacy Tree Program and the National Champion Tree Registry, the Department of Conservation and Recreation Forestry Program formally recognizes the largest and most interesting known tree of each species, trees of historical origins, and other trees of unique and significant importance growing within the state of Massachusetts. If you know of a big, unique, or significant tree that is compelling for its age, size, form, history, species, or botanical interest, you can submit it for consideration. Information about the program is available at https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program. There is also a list of all the champion trees in Massachusetts. Years ago Royalston was the home of the largest Scots Pine and American Chestnut in Massachusetts but these were surpassed by others. See if you can add to the record.

This photo of Doanes Falls with a steel bridge and the boulder still at the top of the falls was recently brought to the library by James Chastney. The stone bridge was erected in the 1930s.
Obituaries

Mildred “Millie” Poor, 97, of Littleton, MA passed away on January 15, 2020, at Life Care Center of Nashoba Valley after a brief illness.

Born in Derry, NH on April 13, 1922, she was the daughter of Joseph N. and Anne (McCarten) Bertrand. She grew up in Manchester, NH where she attended St. Anthony School, graduated from Manchester Central High School, was married and raised her family. In 1983 she moved to Royalston, MA, and then to Littleton, MA in 2017.

After high school, Millie worked in the office of J.F.McElwain Company. Providing a caring environment for her five children became her next full-time profession. Later, she worked in retail; managed a book store; and served as library director in the Phelps Newton Library.

Millie was a woman of faith. She was a founding member of St. Pius X Church in Manchester and volunteered in a variety of ways. In Royalston, MA she was a prominent volunteer for Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church and served as a Eucharistic Minister bringing Communion to home-bound individuals.

Millie enjoyed gardening and creative crafts, loved to sing and was known for her charitable work, outgoing personality, and sense of humor.

In addition to her parents, Millie was predeceased by her son, John Poznanski; her husbands: Frank Poznanski, Robert Clement, and John Poor; her siblings: Alice Rybczyk, Helen Kramas, Joseph Bertrand, and Harold Bertrand.

Family members include her sons Peter Poznanski of Santa Cruz, CA and Bradley Poznanski and his wife Brenda of Nashua, NH; her daughters, Marilyn Griffin and her husband Donald of Lady Lake, FL, and Carolyn Gough and her husband William of Plymouth, MI; her daughter-in-law Margaret Poznanski of Weare, NH; her grandchildren Meredith Cook, Melanie Toscano, Meghan Hardy, Leslie Gaunt, Matthew Gittleson, Brian Poznanski, Jessica Poznanski, and Bridget Poznanski; and several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the NH Food Bank.

Thank you to Kathy Morris for 25 years as library director!

This is the lovely proclamation created by Sonja Vaccari and Ken Levine to commemorate Kathy’s efforts at the library.

Remembrance Tree

Thank you to everyone who donated to the LBS Holiday Ornament Sale. Ornaments were bought to honor individuals or groups and also to remember those who we have lost. This was a great time to reflect on things we are thankful for and great memories we will always hold dear....

Ornaments were purchased in honor of: My Friend, Sheila Hall; The Hard working Royalston Residents; Royalston Police Department; Royalston Fire Department

and in memory of: Amanda Putney (2); Mary & Frank; Gail; Nola; Natalie; William R Scott USN Commander; K-9s Tessa, Reba, Amber and Cami; Grandpa Martin; Marie Quinn; Helen Feleciano; Phyllis’Mom” Clark (2); David Hamel; Sharon Hood; Phyllis “Grandma” Clark; Dad Hamel; Phyllis “Great Grandma” Clark; Bill”Dad” Clark (2); Mom Hamel; Bill “Grandpa” Clark; Bill “Great Grandpa” Clark; Leigh Martinelli; Pauline Richardson; Mom; Chester Hall; Dave; Rohna Shoul; My Mom Elaine; Pokey; Phyllis Clark; Chet Hall; Werner Bundschuh; Leigh Deveneau Martinelli; Natalie; Nicky Gingras; Bill Clark; Sydney Melbourne; Yoshiko Melbourne; Francis & Eleanor White; Royal & Virginia Frye; Walter “Jake” Clark; Uncle Dick Clark; Uncle Dom, Nicky, & Tony; Donny Langlois; Aunt Peg & Uncle Floyd; Whittemore Family; Papa Debruin; Flynn; Lewis Dunham Sr 1912-1982; Arlene Dunham 1915-2012; Lewis Dunham Jr 1944-1996; Harry Dunham 1947-2012; Patti Dee Dunham 10/1962

Hoping everyone has a safe, healthy, and happy new year.
What’s Happening at the Village School?
K-6th classes have been skating at the Cushing Academy rink on Wednesdays. On Friday afternoons until after February vacation, 1st-6th graders are cross country skiing around Camp Caravan. 1st-6th students go downhill skiing at Crotched Mt. 5th-6th students are studying the Westward Expansion for the year and are studying the civil war right now. They are also working on science projects. 3rd-4th students are studying ancient Greece and making Greek style clay pots. 1st-2nd is studying Early America and working with maps, starting with their towns, then the local area, then the state, then the whole country. Kindergarten is exploring our bodies, including bodily functions, good eating, how we stay warm, and more.

Parent-Child Group Begins Again in April
For parents with children ages 0-3. Get out of the house, bring your young children and socialize with other parents. Enjoy snack time together. Drop in anytime. Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator and Sofie Vieria, preschool teacher. Wednesday mornings 8:45 to 10:00 Six sessions: April 1, 8, 15, 29, May 6 and 13. FREE.

Scholarships Available
Royalston Academy Scholarships:
Forms are available through your high school guidance counselor, Royalston Library, or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, PO Box 35, Royalston, MA 01368.

The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship (up to $1000) is available to graduating high school resident of Royalston going on to a higher education.

The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including college, home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs.

The Ladies’ Benevolent Society Scholarships are open to all residents (regardless of age or gender) pursuing higher or continuing education opportunities. Forms are available from high school guidance counselors and the Phinehas Newton Library. For more information, contact Theresa Quinn 978-249-3819, theragquinn@aol.com. Deadline for submissions is April 17, 2020.

Chet Hall Memorial Scholarship is open to those who attended ARRSID schools past and present. Applications are with guidance counselors or call Royalston Community School 978-249-2900. Deadline: April 17, 2020.

Congregational Churches News
First Congregational Church of Royalton, 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 Royalton, 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.

Monty Tech
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston Rep., m-barclay@montytech.net
Congrats to Royalston Monty Tech students who placed at the District Skills USA competition: Junior Anthony Divoll, a gold medal in Collision Auto Repair Technology, and senior Ashley Hadmack, a silver medal in Restaurant Service.

A generous year-end donation of $4,260 from BNY Mellon, for the Marine JROTC program, was accepted at the December meeting. It was reported Monty Tech had also received tools valued at $10,000 from an I-CAR grant program. Facilities security enhancements funded by an $80,000 FY19 SAFER Schools and Communities Initiative grant will be in place by the end of January, and include a number of more secure exterior doors, and a sliding gate to limit access to the rear of the school building. A recent auction of surplus equipment netted $7,569. MWI Animal Health provided $9,738 worth of supplies for Monty Tech’s Veterinary Sciences program, now in its second year.

Monty Tech students in the United Way Youth Venture Program, for the second year, provided complete Christmas dinners to all on-duty first responders in the 18-community School District. Thanks to phenomenal support from donors, the program was expanded this year and served Thanksgiving meals to all District on-duty first responders.

For the eighth time since their inception in 2007, Monty Tech’s Marine JROTC has earned the distinction of a “Marine Corps Honor School.” In November, 161 Monty Tech Marine JROTC Cadets traveled to Battleship Cove in Fall River, where they viewed the world’s largest collection of WWII naval vessels, and were invited to board the USS Massachusetts, a South Dakota-class battleship that was involved in battles including Operator Torch, and is one of the few surviving vessels of its kind. The Marine Corps provided the $3,900 for transportation. The group traveled to New York City in December for a tour of the USS Intrepid and 9-1-1 Museum. Also in December, Monty Tech hosted a Military Awareness Night, similar to college fairs, for those students interested in serving in the military. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine, and Navy representatives were on hand to answer students’ and parents’ questions.

This year’s motivational speaker is Erin Gruwell, the subject of the 2019 PBS documentary, “Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart.” She will address students and staff at Monty Tech on February 11. Her 1999 publication was the basis for a movie entitled, “Freedom Writers,” starring Hilary Swank.

Monty Tech’s Cosmetology students are planning a trip to NYC in March for the International Beauty Expo. Customer tips from the Monty Tech Salon will offset trip expenses. Monty Tech’s students provide complete hair, nail, and skin care offerings for the public, under the careful supervision of professional beauticians and cosmetologists. The schedule and price list are on the school web site.

The 33 annual Superintendent’s Dinner is planned for Wednesday, April 15 at Monty Tech. The theme is Mardi Gras Masquerade, and attendees are encouraged to come in costume. The evening features entertainment, fund-raising events, an elegant social hour, and gourmet meal. Everyone receives a student-made gift. Sponsored by the Monty Tech Foundation (a non-profit, fund-raising group dedicated to Monty Tech students) has granted on the order of $50,000 worth of scholarships, grants, and awards at graduation.

Congrats to Josh Machonis of Royalston, recently hired as a maintenance technician for Monty Tech.
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


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 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

for sale:


Large gym/sport(?) bag exc. cond. Will take offers. Call Gordon 978-249-2947.

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. 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


In the 5th century in Ireland, the story goes that St Brigid got permission from St. Patrick for women to ask men to marry. He allowed that on Feb. 29, women could give up passively waiting for a proposal and instead actively propose marriage to their intended. One day in 4 years! What a saint! The day is known as Saint Bridged’s Complaint.

Over the years, the tradition has held some currency through Sadie Hawkins themed dances and fundraisers but less so now when gender roles are more fluid, evidenced by Merriam Webster recently listing “they” as a singular pronoun in its dictionary. St. Brigid’s Concurment?
A Tiny Life

In the half-light of a recent winter morning I padded to the kitchen to put the kettle on for tea. It was early still. The sun had not fully risen so the light was soft and gray. As I crossed the hallway a tiny movement on the wooden floor caught my eye. Someone else was up before dawn, like me. Who was my early morning companion? I crouched down to get a closer look. It was a spider – tiny and black – moving slowly across the floor.

I have never been bothered by spiders. Most I’ve encountered are quick to move out of my way. Or they are tiny and shy, hiding in corners or clinging to ceilings. I remember my sister and I noticing one such ceiling-clinger in the shared bedroom of our childhood. After it did not move for several days, my sister spoke for the spider with a deep and plaintive “help me!”. This made us roar with laughter. Was it the idea that a spider would speak in such a voice that amused us or the ridiculous notion that a spider would need our help at all? I cannot say. However, to this day, a ceiling spider elicits from us the same plaintive cry and the same laughter.

The spider of this winter morning, however, was acting distinctly un-spiderlike. Instead of scuttling for the safety of a crack or hole, this spider was barely moving at all. With a gentle nudge from my finger the spider began to move, but slowly as if confused or lost. I continued to the kitchen and put the kettle on.

When I returned to the hallway the spider was still there. Looking closely, I saw that it was now on its back – a sad state of affairs. The spider took a few tentative steps forward so I left it alone. Hours later I thought to check on my morning companion. There it was, exactly where I had left it. But now, after several gentle nudges, there was no response. It appeared that I had witnessed the final moments of this tiny life and I wondered – how had it come to be here in my hallway on a dark winter morning? Had it lived in a baseboard crack or had it hitchhiked here on a pantleg or shoe from a life in the outside world? If I had not crossed the hallway at that exact moment I would never have known it existed at all. And if that is true, how many other tiny lives are there in my midst that go unseen? I thought of the moment we’d been attached by that thread of silk. For the rest of the day I walked around the spider, careful not to disturb it.

Before dark I took the spider outside and placed it on the frozen ground. A tiny life among millions, to be sure. But this one I had witnessed and touched. For reasons I cannot explain that seemed very important.

Deb D’Amico

Garden Notes

For a variety of reasons, I am not particularly partial to kale. First, there is the matter of taste: among the numerous brassicas I grow, I much prefer the flavor of broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage even. Then there is the matter of texture: mature kale leaves are anything but tender and require fine chopping and (relatively) long cooking. Mostly though, my issues with kale revolve around the fact that the diet police have declared it magical, required eating for those who aspire to healthy living. These self-righteous foodies have elevated kale to a near-mythical cult status. I tend to shy away from anything that has been elevated to a near-mythical cult status. But. There is nothing, nothing else that I can harvest from the garden in the middle of winter. (I suppose I could venture out with a pick-axe and attempt to extract a few parsnips.) Admittedly, the plants have been toppled from their upright position, and, admittedly, the patch is generally covered with snow, and admittedly, the leaves are often frozen to the ground, but, with a modest effort a bunch of kale can be harvested, prepared, cooked, and consumed.

Kale. Currently my only connection to the garden. Oh, when the ground is bare, I glance at it from time to time, but since it serves as a reminder that there is more than a few un-cleaned-up fall clean-up chores which will require clean-up next spring, I do not tend to glance very often. In the world of north-central Worcester County gardeners, these are lean times indeed. Yes, I have the catalogues, many with glossy photographs of the perfect vegetable or flower, a perfection I have yet to experience. But the best catalogues provide all sorts of useful information as well, from seed starting to growing to harvest to storage. The number of varieties being offered are growing exponentially. Too much of a good thing, in my opinion, and I rarely succumb to the appeal of newness. Seems the real appeal is growing to harvest to storage. The number of varieties being offered are growing exponentially. Too much of a good thing, in my opinion, and I rarely succumb to the appeal of newness. But the best catalogues provide all sorts of useful information as well, from seed starting to growing to harvest to storage. The number of varieties being offered are growing exponentially. Too much of a good thing, in my opinion, and I rarely succumb to the appeal of newness. However, to this day, a hot new variety.

The garden lives on in the root cellar. Literally. Everyone of those roots, if planted out next spring, will re-grow. (Some, in fact, will commence re-growth in the root cellar.) The potatoes, cut into pieces, grow into new plants that will, in turn, provide more potatoes. All the others (the carrots, onions, beets, rutabaga, kohlrabi, celeriac, and daikon) will develop, not a root, but a flower head. These flower heads can be dramatic, several feet tall and several feet wide. The flower head, of course, will ultimately become a ‘seed packet’. If the original was not a hybrid, the new seed can be gathered and replanted, the resulting root retaining all of the characteristics of the original.

Sadly, I am a long way from setting out these roots (or undertaking any sort of outdoor garden activity.) In the meantime, I’m just hanging out, hoping that something will emerge to occupy my time. Rest assured, it will not be the Iowa caucuses or the impeachment circus.

Larry Siegel
Winter Book Club

The library is unable to borrow enough copies of *Talking to Strangers*, so the February 9 gathering of the Library Book Club is canceled. We will still meet on Sunday, March 8 to watch and discuss the movie *Best of Enemies*, including a special feature interview with the actual people whose story is depicted in the film.

Submission deadline for March issue: February 22

Please Contact Us

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:
- E-mail: chasegos2@gmail.com
- Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368
- Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
- Phone: 978-249-0358 (newsletter)
- In person: Drop off at library

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Wildlife Sightings

Four juvenile beavers were spotted December 1, playing together on the iced-over Lawrence Brook, by the Town Barn. Jim and Mary Barclay, and daughter Heather Johnson were driving by, and stopped to catch the cute quartet skittering around on the ice.