Dog licenses expired March 31.
Winter parking ban ends.
Burning season ends May 1st.
May is “Get Caught Reading Month.”

May 4    Wednesday
May Day Celebration
9:00 a.m. sharp Community children can weaving and dancing at the Village School. There will be singing of traditional songs and local musicians. The aging Millers River Morris Men will appear, and leap and pound the earth to drive out winter and awaken the earth, and bring fertility to the crops, the fields, and the animals! This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies. Rain date to be posted on website.

May 5   Thursday
Cinco de Mayo  Hugely outnumbered Mexican soldiers defeated Empire-expansion - minded Napoleon III of France in the Battle of Oaxaca in 1862. (It’s not Independence Day.)

May 8   Sunday
Mother’s Day

May 14 - 15  Weekend
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday Police Fair - Crafters, games, hayrides, raffles, live music and canine demonstrations will be outside while in the upstairs of the Town Hall is a local artist show. Food, baked goods and refreshments on sale. Pancake breakfast and honor ceremony (1 p.m.) on Sunday.

May 15   Sunday
A total eclipse of the moon will be visible, weather permitting, from the northeastern US beginning at 9:31 p.m. this evening, and conclude at 2:52 a.m. tomorrow morning.

May 16   Monday
12:14 a.m.  Full Pink Moon

May 30   Monday
Memorial Day observed – Post Office, P. S. Newton Library, all schools closed; no meetings

7:30 a.m.  New Strawberry Moon
Selectboard Notes
Rick Martin, clerk

Working on the budget: Over the past month there has been much work and discussion on the FY2023 budget by the Select Board and the Finance Committee. This will continue into the beginning of May, but time is running out as we must come to final decisions on this budget and get it into the hands of the voters at the June 11th Annual Town Meeting. The Board received some unwelcome news this week in that the snow-and-ice budget ran over by roughly $35,000. Not a lot of snow this winter but many small storms that called out the crews each time. This allowed overrun will have to be dealt with at the ATM.

Some good news for the town that does not affect the budget directly was the ARPA money that we received from the federal government through the state. This amounted to $195,300, intended to make up for some of the hardships COVID-19 has caused. A special committee was formed to come up with the very best ways to use this first installment of money. Members received suggestions from all parts of the Town and the Town departments. Among the recommendations accepted by the Select Board are funds for projects at the transfer station, the library, the sewer system, and the Board of Health.

A Time of Change: The Annual Town Election on April 4th saw a changing of the guard on the Select Board. Rick Martin was elected to a three-year term. We would like to thank Roland Hamel for his five years of service on the Board. Roland continues to work on many boards and committees for the Town as well as serving as a lieutenant on the Royalston Police Department.

Keith Newton has submitted his intent to retire as head of the Department of Public Works, effective September 1, where he served for 36 years. Keith has seen it all and done it all and will have stories to tell for years to come. The Board thanks Keith for his stellar service to the town over all these years as well as being the fire chief for most of this time. He will be missed, but Keith has chosen this time to dedicate himself to his wife and family, a very good reason to retire!

Town Broadband and Cable Update: The Town has signed a contract with Charter Communications to bring internet and cable TV to the Town. You many have seen a couple of gentlemen working all over town measuring the telephone poles. This is the first step in this a two-year process. Each pole in town (yes, every single pole!) needs to be inspected to make sure there is space to add the necessary fiber.

State Budget Earmark for FD: At the request of Fire Chief Eric Jack, Select Board Chair Deb D’Amico has submitted an “earmark” of $60,000 be added to the state’s FY23 budget to purchase a pickup truck for the Fire Department. The truck will be used to haul the emergency equipment trailer used to respond to rescues in remote areas of the town. Calls for rescues in these areas has increased dramatically in the past two years, and this truck will allow for a more rapid response.

Policeman’s Fair. May 14 and 15.
Royalston Town Hall
Laurie Truehart

Please join us for fun, food, and YES an Art Show! We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting our second Policeman’s Fair to help fund new training requirements. All proceeds will be going to this important cause.

This will be a two-day event beginning on Saturday May 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday May 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafters, games, local information booths, hayrides, raffle table, live music and canine demonstrations will be outside while in the upstairs of the Town Hall there will be a display of local artists’ works. Food, baked goods and refreshments will be sold on the first floor of the Town Hall throughout both days with the addition of a pancake breakfast on Sunday. As the highlight of our fair, we will have ceremony at 1pm honoring our police officers.

Saturday evening, we will have an artist’s reception from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. upstairs in Town Hall. Light refreshments and appetizers will be served.

We are still looking for artists to display their work. If you are interested, please contact Laurie Truehart at 978-939-3962. Thank you.

And that’s why we call it...Lawrence Brook

In “Reflections on Royalston, Worcester County, Massachusetts, U.S.A.”, Bartlett reports “Lawrence Brook runs through the valley east of the ridge, breaks through the ridge at a low point in the Doane Falls section, and goes on to join Tully Brook, which joins Millers River in Athol. Lawrence Brook was probably named in honor of William Lawrence, who had a hand in the land deal with the Proprietors.” (“The proprietors were the group of investors who bought charter rights to land from the British colonial authorities in the 1750s and very profitably sold the land to the first families to settle in Royalston. Isaac Royall and John Hancock were among the other land speculators known as Proprietors.)

Lawrence Brook has a strong connection to the Town’s mills: . According to David Putney in the Town Scrapbook in a 1999 interview with Nick Mowrey, “Before electricity, there was only animal and water power. There were 8 mills on Lawrence Brook in the 1700s and 1800s. There were lumber mills, grist mills and furniture shops. There was a Civil War era lumber mill at the site of my mill. The roads in town were first built to get to these mills.”

Newton Hollow was another multigenerational mill site, located where the brook crosses NE Fitzwilliam Rd. Trees were turned into chair spindles and other parts and carted to the furniture factories in Gardner.

Now Massachusetts Wildlife Management has two parcels with a total of 357 acres, which provide access to the trout it stocks in Lawrence Brook. There has been a USGS water quality monitoring station on the brook continuously since 1965 and the data collected is available on-line. Tourists flock to Town to visit Doanes Falls and the brook was the December photo for the Nature Conservancy’s 2019 calendar. Not bad for a short little brook that only runs from the New Hampshire border to Tully Lake.
May Readiness:

Hurricane season for the Atlantic coast states begins June 1...and that’s way too late to begin preparations for what is predicted to be “another active hurricane season,” with “increased storm activity.” Atlantic coast states can expect approximately 20 named storms, with six to nine hurricanes, four or five of which will be major (highest potential for damage) hurricanes. (In case you’re curious, the first ten designated storm names for 2022 are: Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Ian, and Julia!)

Before the season hits:

If you haven’t already, sign up for CodeRED™, the Town of Royalston’s official emergency notification system. See the Town’s website for instructions, or contact REMA if you’re not already signed up.

You can also download the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) app on Google Play or via the Apple App Store. For an android device, by texting ANDROID to 43362 (4FEMA); or for an Apple device by texting APPLE to 43362 (4FEMA).

Make sure you have all of your necessary personal documents (ie: birth certificates, passports), insurance policies, etc., up-to-date, and easily accessible in case you need to quickly evacuate your home or business. Review any emergency plans, taking into account work, kids’ day care, pets/farm animals, as well as family and elder neighbors you may be assisting whom during a weather emergency. Have all potentially-needed names, addresses, and updated contact information compiled and accessible by electronic means (properly secured with strong passwords) and in hard copy (in a locked document box/safe is advisable). Assemble your “go bag,” with everything needed for your household members - don’t forget the pets- including medications, disinfectants and cleaning supplies, as well as all of the “Tech Ready” implements, like charging devices for phones and laptops.

Assess your home and business properties’ states of readiness for gale-force winds, and torrential rains. Ensure any run-off trenches, gutter, and drains are clear of debris. Consider having questionable trees taken down (on purpose).

Consider what you’ll need to do to secure outside furniture, trash cans, etc., and how to protect large expanses of glass in anticipation of a hurricane.

Cemetery Commision

The Town’s ten cemeteries are undergoing their annual spring cleaning in advance of Memorial Day weekend. The immediate area one foot in front of the lot monument is the area to which plants, planters, and ornaments may be placed. The Royalston Cemetery Commission rules state that, “Plantings in need of maintenance, and plantings which impede normal cemetery maintenance may be trimmed or removed…. Any plantings that become detrimental to adjacent lots, roads, or the general public may be removed… any adornments on graves deemed inappropriate or that which might pose a hazard to visitors or groundskeepers” may also be removed.

Recipe of the month:

Spring is springing and there are finally enough flowers to make a natty nosegay or a bounteous bouquet. Make your blooms last longer and your vases less slimy by using...

Ferron’s Flower Fixer

Combine 1 qt water, 2 tbsp lemon juice, 1 tbsp sugar and 1/2 tsp bleach. Pour into a vase. Store the rest. Add just opening flowers to the vase with this mixture to enjoy longer lasting arrangements. Look for a program on flower arranging coming this summer at the Library.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Jennifer Basso, Theresa Quinn
Open and pick up hours: Mondays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursdays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 - 8 p.m.;
Saturdays: 9:00 am-12 noon
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends
Shadow II
Diane Lincoln
Benny and Susan Gronowicz
Bob and Lorraine Casinginho
Dan and Cheryl Mahoney
Marguerite LaCroix
Mary Carnie
Ronald Hurley
Phil Leger and Mariah Mallett
Donald and Marlene Jarvenpaa
Virginia Gringras
Allen Young
Sara and Michael Dilg
Norah Dooley and Robert Fairchild
Kate Duffin
Steve and Cindy Savoy
Ralph and Joy Cutter
Diana and Geoffrey Newton
Sonja Vaccari
Susan Maki
Jeff and Bren Hopkins
Tom Montagno
Walter and Joyce Hubbard
Ken and Andrea Lively

Thank you
An especially huge thank you to Beth Gospodarek, for the great seed and seedling planting segment of kite flying day and to the indefatigable Maureen Blasco, for pulling together twice as many kites as we had anticipated needing. And to the Bundschuh/Santillo families for the use of their field. It was a perfect day for kite flying, planting, poetry, and kite cake!

Library Receives Funds to House Historical Records
Kathy Morris
After receiving the report from the Roving Archivist, I applied for a Massachusetts SHRAB Re-grant Program Grant and was awarded $500 to purchase archival storage materials to house our historical records. The papers will be sorted, cataloged into collections, and stored in archival boxes which will provide easy access to the records. We then plan to have items which were deemed important historical records digitized so that they will be available to interested people and researchers throughout the world. The grant is through The Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Mixed Media Artist Exhibit
Caleb Chase and Kelly Chen have playful mosaics and paintings on display in the children’s room.

Yoga – New Instructor
Unfortunately, Jessica O’Clair has decided that she will no longer teach our Tuesday evening yoga class. Fortunately, I discovered that Jessica Schanz is a yoga instructor and she has stepped in to teach. We have already had two classes but Jess will be on vacation and so class will resume on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Bring your own mat. Breathe and work on your flexibility and balance in a relaxed friendly environment. All abilities welcome.

Ginny Goes to Alaska
No, it’s not the title of a new book, but the beginning of a new adventure for Virginia Moore. After Ginny’s recent illness, she has moved to North Pole, Alaska to be with her daughter, Holly Szklarz and her family. Holly has welcomed people to call and yes, visit, Ginny there in Alaska. And also to feel free to call Ginny, afternoons are better; remember Alaska is four hours earlier than Massachusetts. Here is Ginny’s contact information.

Virginia (Ginny) Moore
Email: ginnyinalaska@gmail.com
Address:
c/o The Szklarz Family
1506 Davison St
North Pole, AK 99705
Phone: 978-721-9799

I know I will miss her cheerful voice at the Library and as she was a lifelong resident of Town, I’m sure many of us have fond recollections. So, keep in touch.

Preschool Storytime
at the Library
10 am each Monday
Stories, socializing, songs, snacks and crafts
Free
Call the Library for more information
### Some of the new materials at your Library

#### Adult Fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carr, Robyn</td>
<td>A Family Affair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coulter, Catherine</td>
<td>The Grayson Sherbrooke Other worldly Adventures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deveraux, Jude</td>
<td>A Relative Murder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egan, Jennifer</td>
<td>The Candy House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanovich, Janet</td>
<td>The Recovery Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox, Candice</td>
<td>The Chase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garmus, Bonnie</td>
<td>Lessons in Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green, Jane</td>
<td>The Younger Wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepworth, Sally</td>
<td>Sea of Tranquility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandel, Emily</td>
<td>Nobody Gets Out Alive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newman, Leigh</td>
<td>True Biz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novic, Sara</td>
<td>Take My Hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perkins-Valdez, D.</td>
<td>The Diamond Eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinn, Kate</td>
<td>The Investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandford, John</td>
<td>What Happened to the Bennetts?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottoline, Lisa</td>
<td>The Patron Saint of Second Chances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon, Christine</td>
<td>The Wedding Crasher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sosa, Mia</td>
<td>French Braid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler, Anne</td>
<td>The Lifeguards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward, Amanda</td>
<td>A Sunlit Weapon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winspear, Jacqueline</td>
<td>A Safe House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woods, Stuart</td>
<td>Four Treasures of the Sky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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#### Children’s Fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bair, Sheila</td>
<td>Billy, the Borrowing Blue-Footed Booby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnett, Mac</td>
<td>The Great Zappino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brallier, Max</td>
<td>Quint and Dirk’s Hero Quest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bury, Katrynn</td>
<td>Drew LeClair Gets a Clue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cali, Davide</td>
<td>The Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochran, Phyllis</td>
<td>Whose cat is this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cousins, Lucy</td>
<td>A Good Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean, Kim</td>
<td>Potty Time with Pete the Kitty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise, Christopher</td>
<td>Knight Owl</td>
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<tr>
<td>DiPucchio, Kelly</td>
<td>Oona and the Shark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fallon, Jimmy</td>
<td>Nana Loves you More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes, K.C.</td>
<td>Moving Words about a Flower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly, Erin</td>
<td>Those Kids from Fawn Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaCour, Nina</td>
<td>Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meserve, Jessica</td>
<td>Beyond the Burrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muth, Felicity</td>
<td>Am I Even a Bee?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nainy, Mamta</td>
<td>Rainbow Hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfeffer, Wendy</td>
<td>From Seed to Pumpkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilkey, Dave</td>
<td>Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-a-lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich, Simon</td>
<td>I’m Terrified of Bath Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanchez, Anita</td>
<td>Hello, Puddle!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schu, John</td>
<td>This is a School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singer, Marilyn</td>
<td>Dog Says, Cat Says</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stead, Phillip</td>
<td>I’d Like to be the Window for a Wise Old Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabor, Corey</td>
<td>Sir Ladybug</td>
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#### Audio book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tyler, Anne</td>
<td>French Braid</td>
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</table>

#### Young adult

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barnhill, Kelly</td>
<td>The Ogress and the Orphans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higuera, Donna</td>
<td>The Last Cuentista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter, Erin</td>
<td>River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oh, Axie</td>
<td>The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland, Tui</td>
<td>The Flames of Hope</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Book and Plant Sales are June 4

**Books** - A big variety of titles for all ages as well as 100s of dvds will be available at irresistible prices outside the Library.

**Plants** - A huge variety of the common and uncommon: perennials, annuals, herbs, hanging baskets, vegetable seedlings, shrubs, the odd corm or so, houseplants, and more. **Donations sought** - Pot up your thinnings or shed your surplus seedlings by bringing them to the sale early on the 4th or dropping at the library the week before.

All proceeds from both sales benefit the Friends of the Library, the group committed to library support who produce and mail this newsletter to every home in Royalston 10 times a year. New members always sought!
Kimberley A Willhite, 66, beloved mother, daughter, sister and friend was greeted by God and loved ones that passed before her on Friday, April 1, 2022.

Kimberley passed peacefully with family and friends by her side after a lifelong and beyond courageous battle with multiple sclerosis. Born May 1, 1955 to parents Meryl and Marie (Coderre)Willhite, Kimberley grew up in Royalston MA and was a graduate of the Athol High School Class of 1973. She continued on to nursing school before being diagnosed with MS in her late teens.

Kim will be remembered by those who knew and loved her for her spunky personality, her love of shopping and decorating her home especially for the holidays, how she wore her heart on her sleeve for better or for worse, her contagious mouth wide open “Willhite laugh”, for her strength and tenacity beyond what most could imagine, and for her love for God and her children. Kim was predeceased by her father Meryl in 2012 and former husband David Mertzic in 2018.

She is survived by her mother Marie Willhite of Royalston MA, children Ryan Mertzic (Tarsha) of Medford NJ, Benjamin Mertzic (Erin) of Jaffrey NH, and Samantha Dunn (Ron Hamilton) of Orange, siblings Janet Willhite of Athol, Linda Willhite of Middleboro MA, Mark Willhite of Sebec ME, Kelley Rigopoulos (Steve) of Pawleys Island SC, 11 grandchildren, 2 soon to be 3 great grandchildren, as well as the many who assisted in her care throughout her life, most recently Janet, Madison, Wendy and Melva. “Kimmy” was especially close to Maria Oro who devoted 15 years caring for her and Sherrill Noel who dedicated 25 years caring for her, much of which she resided with her in her home and both of whom became family to her.

Donations can be made in Kimberley’s honor to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.
William (Bill) Michael Hinchey, age 84, of Athol-Royalston, passed away Friday, April 15th, 2022, in Royalston, after a long battle with cancer.

He was the husband of the late Virginia F. (Gray) Hinchey. Bill is also predeceased by his son, Patrick Hinchey and two sisters, Ann McCann and Mary Margaret Leonard. He leaves his five children, Joe Hinchey and his wife Jessica of W. Hartford, CT, James “Jim” Hinchey and his wife Sherri of Norwell, Annie DeCosta and her husband Gilly of Royalston, Matthew Hinchey and his wife Melissa of Webster and Paul Hinchey and his wife Jennifer of Huntington Station, NY; 12 grandchildren, Virginia, Aislin, Alana, Aurora, Maizy, Charlotte, Nola, Ava, Aidan, Emma, Patrick and Ophelia.

Bill was born in Troy, NY, to Paul and Margaret Hinchey on April 1st, 1938. He served in the US Army before graduating from Siena College. Following a stint in Ohio where he studied zoology at the University of Dayton, he moved to California where he would meet his wife, and love of his life, the late Virginia Hinchey. Together they started a family, eventually relocating to Athol 36 years ago, where they raised their six children.

A devout Christian, Bill devoted his personal and professional life to supporting and advocating for those in need. He worked for Greater Athol Area Advocates for Families with Special Needs (GAAFSN) for several decades, helping adults with disabilities receive essential services and maintain their independence. Bill’s son, Patrick, was born with severe disabilities affecting his cognitive and physical development. Bill and Patrick had a special bond and were best friends. Together they enjoyed fishing, going to the movies, and eating exotic cuisines before Patrick’s passing in 2014.

Bill and Virginia raised their six kids to be caring, well-rounded individuals with a deep love for learning and helping others. Of Bill’s five living children, three work as health care professionals, one is an information technology specialist, and one is a public school administrator.

Throughout the course of his long and richly textured life Bill has been many things to many people. He was an educator, scientist, spiritual leader, craftsman, housepainter, a friend to anyone in need of friendship, and a minister to the disabled, the poor, and the socially marginalized. He will be most remembered by his family and friends for his sharp, dry sense of humor, his wisdom and passion for knowledge, and his faith in God and selfless charity. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Salvation Army.

Ed note: William Brosnan, 88, my uncle, passed away in East Providence, Rhode Island on April 27, 2022. Bill was a long time attendee and patron of the arts for all of the Town Shakespeare productions and frequent donor to the Friends of the Library. While not from Royalston, he spent many holidays here. He had a framed Noah Siegel poster of Royalston’s flora and fauna and a Gordon Morrison lithograph hanging in his living room as well as a rather amateur wheat weaving I had made hanging in the hall. He was a subscriber to this newsletter. When I visited a few days before he died, he was failing but rallied to ask after two things: my kids and Larry Siegel’s column.

David C. Putney, 87 years old, died at his home in Royalston on April 3, 2022 with his loving family by his side, after losing his battle with cancer.

Born on July 14, 1934, David was the son of the late Roger A. and Margaret M. (Deland) Putney. David enjoyed 67 years of marriage with “his bride” Shirley A. (Serre) Putney. A lifelong resident of Royalston, David was born, raised, worked and lived his life in the spot that he called home. He attended Royalston and Athol schools. In his younger years, David was an avid Boy Scout, having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He enjoyed baseball, was an avid gardener, and in earlier years enjoyed trips to York Beach, Maine where he and his family enjoyed the ocean, fishing and boating, and also enjoyed trips to the White Mountains and Vermont apple orchards. In recent years, he enjoyed driving his property in his John Deere Gator, and many hours of golf cart dog walking with his wife Shirley. David loved dogs, and together with Shirley, adopted 25 dogs in his lifetime. Through church and Grange, David devoted many, many hours of service to his beloved Royalston community.

After high school, David was self employed having partnered with his father Roger in the family woodturning and sawmill business, Roger A. Putney and Son, with his son James later joining them making it a 3- generation business. The original mill burned down in 1985 and was rebuilt with much support from the Royalston community, re-opening in 1986. David still enjoyed working and doing what he could in the mill beside his son James until recent weeks when his health would no longer allow. A jack of all trades, he also enjoyed logging, machining, carpentry, and maple sugaring. He built and operated Putney’s sugarhouse for 30 years, and recently enjoyed seeing his granddaughter Jessica start the sugarhouse back up. David drove bus for Wright Bus Lines for several years.

David served his country in the Army and Army Reserves.

Besides his loving wife Shirley, David leaves his son, James M. Putney and his wife Brenda L. (Divoll) of Royalston, a daughter, Joann M. St John and her husband Edward of Athol; granddaughters, Jessica A. Schanz and husband Erich, Emily R. Putney, and Amy M. Putney and her partner Justin Pucko, all of Royalston, and granddaughter Laura R. St John of Athol. David leaves 4 great grandchildren, Gunnar, Evelyn, Olivia and Jason. Besides his parents, David was predeceased by father in law and mother in law, Ralph and Evelyn (Newman) Serre, his brother in law, Ralph Serre and his wife Beverly (Lefrancois), and his granddaughter, Amanda Lee Putney.

The family would like to extend gratitude to Beacon Hospice of Leominster for their incredible guidance and support in the last precious days. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to MassQHYA for the Amanda Putney Memorial Fund, c/o Brenda Putney, 185 N. Fitzwilliam Road, Royalston, MA 01368, or to a dog shelter of one’s choice.
Monty Tech. Mary C Barclay, representative

Royalston vaccination rates for Royalston 12-15-year-olds are still, as of mid-April, the lowest in the Monty Tech District (up two percentage points from last month, to 31%). A third of the District’s communities have reached the 80% threshold for high school-aged demographics. Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks, despite the fact masking is no longer mandatory. Due to vaccination rates, and current stability of student/staff health at Monty Tech, Superintendent Harrity will no longer present COVID-19 updates as a part of the monthly update, unless infection rates begin rising.

Plans are underway for a Wednesday, May 25, 2022 graduation ceremony. The event is planned for outdoors and will be moved to the next day, in case of inclement weather.

Principal Thomas Browne will, on July 1, be Superintendent-Director! He and the SchoolCom agreed to terms, and a contract was accepted, signed, and ratified at the April 6, 2022 SchoolCom meeting. Dr. Sheila M. Harrity will be staying on through the opening of the 2022-2023 school year, ensuring a seamless transition.

Monty Tech was awarded $176,600 to establish a “Freight Farm” vegetable production system that is expected to provide 1,450 heads of lettuce every three weeks – 24,650 heads annually – at a savings of $38,000. Students in Culinary Arts will be using the produce, all students will learn important farm-to-table concepts, and students in need will have access to a free fresh produce pantry. No-cost educational courses on preparing healthy foods will be offered, with free produce provided to participants. Monty Tech employees will be able to purchase Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares, and receive boxes of fresh produce during the year.

Senator John J. Cronin has just announced: Monty Tech will receive a $599,970.00 Career Technical Initiative grant for FREE career training and placement for unemployed and underemployed adults. Monty Tech District adults may apply for training (with guaranteed placement for those successfully completing the program!) in welding, property maintenance, culinary arts, electrical, and CNC operation.

FYI, FY22 competitive grant applications are at $1.7M, the highest in the history of Monty Tech. FY22 to date has seen more than $1M in grants received! During the past ten years, Monty Tech has averaged $390,000/year in competitive grants!

There are currently 49 juniors and 131 seniors participating in work co-op jobs – a dramatic improvement over prior years, even pre-COVID-19 years. Our 180 co-op students are learning AND earning $13-$25/hour, as they work in area businesses. There are also 37 new school-to-business partnerships supporting Monty Tech students.

Despite working under pandemic protocols, Monty Tech students “pay it forward.” The Marine Corps JROTC presented flags at a Vietnam Veterans’ Day ceremony; the Early Childhood Ed students hosted a baby shower for MOC; (Making Opportunity Count) donating items for mothers in need; building trades students built a Habitat for Humanity house in Hubbardston; and the HVAC students installed a high-efficiency HVAC system at the Leominster State Police Barracks. Learning while contributing to our communities – it’s the Monty Tech way!

Superintendent Search in the ARRSD

The search for a new ARRSD superintendent has begun. Royalston residents Jessica Hopkins Willhite, Royalston Community School’s senior teacher/kindergarten teacher and parent; parent Jennifer Newton Winters, and Monty Tech SchoolCom representative Mary C. Barclay were on the search committee, which was facilitated by the Mass. Association of School Committees. The Search Committee completed the task of selecting finalists to be forwarded to the full ARRSD SchoolCom for further investigation and interviews. Royalston members of that committee are Nancy Melbourne, Carla Rabinowitz, and Brittany Newton. The new superintendent is expected to be named early in May, and once contract negotiations have concluded, is expected to assume charge of Athol and Royalston schools on July 1, 2022.

What’s Happening at the Village School

Right after April vacation, the classes fan out and identify local floral and fauna for Biodiversity Week. A few classes visit Lawrence Brook, and some explore the Camp Caravan pond and forest. The students also illustrate the written records of their discoveries.

This month starts with a traditional May Day celebration, May Pole and all, for which all the students have learned songs and dances. The K-6th classes will all have a morning canoeing on Tully Lake. The students are planting a garden, looking towards next fall’s harvest. All the students love being in the garden – with the extra bonus of finding all kinds of interesting bugs.

On May 27th the annual Village School original play is performed at the school, the culmination of intensive work by the 5th-6th class, based on their year-long study of Ancient Greece.

Royalston Fish and Game Club Suppers

The Royalston F&G’s roast beef supper includes tossed salad, bread and real butter, roast beef, mashed potatoes with a savory brown gravy, and green beans, all served “family-style.” A chocolate or strawberry “Hoodside” tops off the meal. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; supper is served at 6 p.m.

Memberships for 2022 are $50 and available that night at the Club. They are also available at the Royalston General Store. Call RF&G at 978-249-3004. Check out the Facebook Page – message for specific information.
**Classifieds**

**Wanted:** **PCA needed** for a 36 year old woman in Royalston at her home. $18.00 per hour. 20 to 40 hours. Please call 508-737-8996 for more information.

Looking for donations of **camping supplies**, like a large cast iron dutch oven, griddle, and other large pans and cooking utensils, to be donated for our scouting group. Please contact Teresa at 405.885.0650

**Services Available**

**Babysitter available.** Completed Red Cross Babysitter Training. Please call Hailey Dilg at 978-249-8108 or 978-248-9454.

**Photography Services:** Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowheronestudios.com Call 978-249-8108 or 978-248-9454.

**Horse Help!** You and your horse may find an extra pair of hands, another pair of eyes & experience useful. I can assist at your horse’s home space or my farm, working with your equipment or mine. Book by the day. Call or text Suzanne: (978) 424-8580.

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.

**Wildlife woodcarvings and hand-painted ornaments by Laurie Truehart.** Three-dimensional, life-like carvings of various animals and habitat, and glass bulbs (singles or sets) featuring wild birds, ducks, other animals available. In-stock, or custom designs available. Contact by Facebook messenger or text 978-939-3962.

**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.

**DTM Landscaping.** spring cleanup, snowplowing. Call Theresa Gates 413-336-1850 or David Plourde 413-336-1593.

**First Congregational Church of Royalston Outreach**

**Marion’s Food Pantry:** If anyone is in need or knows of someone in need within the Royalston community please let us know. No one should be without food. We can deliver to you or you can come in to pick out what is needed.

**Weekly Meals:** We are also cooking meals and delivering them to anyone homebound, elderly, physically or medically challenged who could use a home-cooked meal and some of God’s love.

Please contact: **Debbie Conrad (978)895-3505, Fred Hodgemman (978)894-4996, and Wendell Kathan (978)939-3990 for sale:**

**Flat Plate Solar Hot Water Panels manufactured by Alternate Energy Technologies** (Model AE-26 - 4’x6’-6”). Ideal for domestic hot water or home space heating systems. $50/Ea. (new $975 Ea.) 13 available. Call Walt (978) 249-8068.

“**You Name It**” blankets, crocheted-to-order. $25. Perfect for baby gifts, nursing homes, or your own couch. Also available: hats, scarves, mittens, baby sweater sets, etc. Call Marlene Jarvenpaa at 978-249-4491.


**Custom thermal travel cups** by Swank Kretations. Single pieces or sets; totally kool kids’s cups. Krys and Keith Swan at swankkretations@gmail.com.

**Fresh eggs and Royalston maple syrup** from Putney’s Sugarhouse -$20/quart; Eggs $4/dozen. Contact Jessica Putney Schanz at 978-939-3329 (cell); 978-249-248-8617; jessputney1989@gmail.com

**Royalston Maple Syrup from** Divoll’s sugar house. Prices: pints $12, quarts $20, half gallons $32 and gallons $55. Text/ Call John 978-894-5109.

**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

**Fresh Eggs:** $3/dozen, are available when the cooler is at the end of the driveway at 185 North Fitzwilliam Road. Contact Brenda Putney at 978-249-7787 to reserve eggs for pick-up.

**Nature books and prints.** Commissions accepted. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.


**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

**Dean’s Beans Coffee Order** (ground or whole bean) once a month through the Village School. Order online and pick it up in the hallway at the school the following Friday. Go to https://www.villageschoolma.org/shop/ to put in your order.
Garden Notes  April 22, 2022

Some parts of town might appear spring-like, but here, on the northern edge, greening proceeds at a snail’s pace. Trees remain leafless. More critically, grass is only now beginning to take on the appearance of grass. (More critically since we are close to exhausting our winter supply of hay.) Patience may well be a virtue, but I am an impatient sort, especially after months of inactivity.

April 10 was a mark-it-on-my-calendar day, the first harvest of parsnips. Other than some January kale (and a handful of chives last week), we have endured these past five months without a fresh vegetable. Many of you eat parsnips not-at-all. For us, it serves as a centerpiece for meal after meal (at least for the next month). The parsnip patch is undergoing a transition, from maintenance to neglect. For decades it was self-sustaining, second year plants self-seeding. But weeds have made more and more inroads and I have less and less enthusiasm to deal with them. I saved some seed and will plant them in rows, a more manageable approach.

Another bellwether date was April 13. Why, you ask? The thermometer registered 70º, the first time it reached that level since October 16. (That’s almost half a year folks.) We ‘celebrated’ this milestone with our first plantings of peas, spinach, radishes, and lettuce. (Second plantings will occur before month-end.) I also took this opportunity to drop in the first of the potatoes. ‘Drop in’ suggests a certain non-taxing undertaking. If only. The potatoes are ‘dropped in’ furrows at least six inches deep. Even with my well-worked soil, furrow formation is no easy task. Used to be, I’d devote a day to plant four hundred plus feet. This year I will plant less than three hundred feet over the course of numerous days.

 Wouldn’t you know, on the heels of my jump-start, the weather reverted to a general foulness. Yes, we were spared the snow on the nineteenth (just as well, the snow and ice budget already overdrawn), but for the last five mornings temperatures have hovered from the low 30s to the high 20s. Winds throughout, ideal for Kite Flying at the Library, less than ideal for most anything else. Additional garden activity ground to a halt. (It goes without saying that none of those early plantings has emerged.) But it won’t be long, May being the busiest month for planting and transplanting. Fortunately weed pressure will be minimal. Unfortunately, black flies will be maximal. I would rather have weeds.

Sadly, I note the passing of David Putney earlier this month. David was a lifelong resident of Royalston. In this day and age, when Royalston children flee the town as quickly as possible, four generations of Putneys live within a mile or so of each other. We sometimes crossed paths (regrettably, less so in recent years) and the first topic of conversation, always, was gardening. (In addition, he was my go-to guy in respect to matters of weather at Putney Hollow, Royalston’s notorious cold spot.) I consider myself a veteran gardener, in this, my forty-fifth year. Compared to David, I am a novice. He started gardening about the time he could hold a hoe. Last summer, at eighty-six, he was gardening still. I should be so lucky.

Larry Siegel

Uncovering Spring

This year’s spring has seemed a true mirror of autumn. It has been cold and wet. The surrounding woods remain rusty and black. Bare branches sway under skies that threaten snow. It would seem the world is suspended in indecision – wake or sleep? But something in me says it is time. So, I bundle up, take my rake and a shovel, and go outside.

I begin on the east side of our house where flower beds along the stone walls are matted with autumn’s leaves. The leaves are wet and stubborn, but I am determined. I rake them away and there I find it – spring. Shoots of daffodils, palest green, are just emerging. I imagine they are grateful for this sudden light.

I continue across to the base of a tree where, for many years, Cranesbill Geraniums have grown. Stroke after stroke I pull my rake until finally the mats give way. I have a moment of worry – did the geraniums survive another winter? But there they are, awake for another season – spindly, impossibly fragile, stretching toward the light. Working my way to the south side I uncover more patches. daffodils, tulips, hyacinths all wait their turn to be discovered and freed.

A round bed lays near the blueberry bush. This is a wet patch of yard. Nothing will grow here except ferns and irises. Over the years it has become a solid mass of densely packed roots and corms. This will be the most difficult patch to free, so, this morning, I save it for last.

A rake is useless here, so I put mine aside and get down on my knees. Last summer’s long iris leaves are in a wet tangle with the remnants of last year’s growth. Grabbing a handful, I rip away, moving slowly around the bed. My knees and gloved hands become wet with soaked earth, and I continue to pull and pull. The wheelbarrow piles high with these dregs of winter as slowly the patch emerges.

There are no freed shoots here. No hint of the soft green ferns and Siberian Iris, fragile and white, that will grace this patch in June. But there is something else. Uncovering this patch has demanded that I come down close to the earth, kneel in its dark damp, let its cold mud soak into my hands and knees, to examine what surviving another winter looks like. Spring is green shoots and spindly leaves. It is also the grim determination of a hard patch of ground, holding onto the promise of summer in a still-uncertain spring.

Deb D’Amico

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Raven stopped by this morning,  
a shadow on the springtime lawn, her hoarse call signaling danger  
not immediate  
but something else.  
While I do not speak her language, I paid attention.  
Looked east,  
the direction of her arrival.  
war in Ukraine.  
Looked west,  
wildfire scorched earth.  
Then south,  
refugees at the border.  
Raven is the watcher, Protector of  
All that wears fur on their skin, Hair on their head.  
Her gravelly voice speaks of The seen and unseen worlds. Her  
black cloak,  
Raiment of the underworld. When she speaks of mystery,  
I listen.  

*Michael Young Royalston Poet Laureate*