Calendar of Events

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

June 4  Saturday Morning on the Common - 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall. Adults $7  Children $4  Organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup.
Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Congregational Church.  Auction items include original paintings, handmade furniture, crafts, gift certificates, maple syrup, organic meat, and lots of interesting brand new items from local farms and businesses.  The whole list of items for the auction is posted at www.facebook.com/village.school.ma The auction and breakfast will benefit ongoing building renovation at Camp Caravan.

8 - noon Friends of the Library has plants and books for sale at the Old School house #1, also known as the Post Office.

The program of events includes a giant yard sale, the Millers River Morris Men, a live Birds of Prey Presentation (sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council), an espresso and citrus bar, beer tent, a Cake Walk for Children, face painting, live music, and lots more.

Shavuot begins at sundown

June 7  Tuesday
6 p.m.  Drop-in yoga continues at Town Hall on Tuesdays. Bonus yoga on Fridays in June outside on the common Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Donations welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

June 9  Thursday
Last day of school for The Village School – noon dismissal

June 11  Saturday
10 a.m. Annual Town Meeting, upstairs in Town Hall. Visit www.royalston-ma.gov for Town Meeting Warrant.

June 14  Tuesday  Flag Day
7:52 a.m.  Full Strawberry Moon

June 18  Saturday
10:00 a.m:  Community meeting about park design at the gazebo (in case of rain, at the church in the South Village). NOTE time change: originally posted as 11:00 a.m. on the forms inserted in the Newsletter last month

June 19  Sunday  Father’s Day
1 p.m.  Royalston Open Mic at the gazebo

June 20 - July 1  9:30 - noon Mon. to Fri. (Performance July 1 at 7 p.m.)
Royalston Shakespeare Company, free theater workshops for ages 8 to 18. Call the Library soon to register so that plans can be finalized. No auditions for actors and plenty of jobs for kids who prefer backstage roles. If there are adults who would like to help, please let us know 978-249-3572. Funded by the Royalston Cultural Council and supported by the Friends of the Library.

June 21  Tuesday
5:14 a.m.  Summer Solstice – First Day of Summer!

June 25  Saturday
5 p.m.  Royalston Fire & EMS Chicken BBQ

June 28  Tuesday
10:52 p.m.  New Buck Moon

Town meeting no longer to be held in May. This year it is on June 11.

GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT APPROVED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL, MAY 11, 2022
ARTICLE II SECTION 3, CALL AND NOTICE TO TOWN MEETING

(Former) By law amended at the Special Town Meeting 2/26/2022

SECTION 3. As amended the annual election of town officers shall be held on the first Monday in April and the annual town meeting for appropriations and other business on Friday after the first Monday in May at 7:00 pm; all Town Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. *(Amended 9/22/2000 - Approved by Attorney General January 16, 2001)
**Selectboard Notes**

**Rick Martin, clerk**

**Annual Town Meeting Schedule and Venue:** In the previous two years at this time, we were unsure of either the schedule or the venue for the Annual Town Meeting because of the pesky COVID situation and how this affected Royalston and the state budget. This year we are scheduled to meet on Saturday, June 11th at 10 a.m.. This is planned to be held on the Common as last year pending any heavy rainstorms. If a change is needed, we will move inside to the second floor of Town Hall.

**Budget and Warrants:** This year the anticipated incoming revenue for the Town has come in at about $2.55 million. The bad news first. This year the Snow and Ice account for the Town came in over budget at about $35,000. This amount has the affect of wiping out our Stabilization Account and driving it negative by $6,000. Also, the budgets submitted by the department heads were over the anticipated incoming revenue by about $40,000.

Now the good news... Working together with the department heads to slim their annual budget requests and receiving a large sum of money from the Federal Government through the State because of COVID, we were able to make a reasonable budget, which considered several requested capital requests made by members of the Town, and still left about $15,000 in the Stabilization Account. This is far short of the desired amount of $127,000 that the Town would like to have in that account.

Now another “Good News/Bad News” situation with the warrants for the Town Meeting. The good news is that there is an expense of $200,000 coming off the books this year FY22. The bad news is that a debt exclusion warrant for $310,000, down from the original request from the Capital Planning Committee for $349,600 and two other requests totaling an additional $20,000, will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting for voter consideration.

**Marijuana Growing Facility Update:** Damon Schmidt attended a Select Board meeting at the request of the Board. First, he wanted to inform the Board of a name change for the facility. It will now be called Royal Sun Farm. Because the name was being used by the business in other towns, the use of Royalston Farms was confusing—thus the change. Asked about the status of the facility, Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that an inspection by the Royalston fire chief found that the facility now needs TWO fire sprinkler systems according to building codes. Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that this will further delay the completion of the facility.

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**Royalston South Village Revitalization News**

Hello Royalston neighbors,

RSVR is inviting all Royalston residents to participate in the design and building of a new park on the site of the former Pete and Henry’s restaurant in South Royalston and will have a community meeting about this on Saturday, June 18 from 10 a.m.-noon at the gazebo.

A few of the ideas that have been coming in for the new park: “portico over concrete slab with picnic tables, benches, chess table, fountain with garden, benches, art displays, koi pond, BBQ grills, plaque commemorating Pete and Henry’s” etc. This is a good start but we’d like to hear more so we are extending the deadline through June 10. Please fill in the forms at the Library, store or Post Office. You can also call RSVR Steering Committee Chair Janice Trask (978-249-2510) with your ideas.

RSVR’s mission is to revitalize the South Village while building community in the process. To fulfill this mission, we envision a process that:

1. Connects lots of people together who do not know each other well;
2. Designs public art that reinforces values that motivate people to think about and treat each other in ways that help build a community that is strong enough to survive and thrive during the challenging times ahead;
3. Creates a place that is so beautiful and comfortable people will want to gather there with their families, view the gorgeous Millers River and perhaps eat a sandwich from the general store.

There will be a three stage process: Stage one is for you to fill out the questionnaire telling us your ideas about the Park. Stage two is a community meeting that will be held on June 18. At this meeting, we will see which features our community thinks are the most important to include in the park design. Stage three is to form a committee to supervise the completion of the park design, and then undertake the building of the park.

**OTHER NEWS:**

--Many thanks to Todd Neale for organizing the many river work days since 2019 that have produced the beautiful views of the river in the South Village (including clearing 27 years of overgrowth around the bridge). Todd has stepped aside as chair of river projects and RSVR is looking for another willing volunteer to take the lead on these projects. Please contact Janice Trask at 978-249-2510 if you are interested.

--Thank you to Roland Hamel for many hours spent in building the base of the flagpole that he designed to reflect the 8-sided gazebo. This was placed behind the gazebo. Many thanks to the DPW for their assistance and to Linda Alger for overseeing the Gazebo project.

-- Thank you to Rose Lawrence, Maureen Blasco and the volunteers who worked hard this spring to spiff up the plants around the gazebo, in the plant boxes, by the side of the Fire Station and on the area in front of the gazebo.

--Thank you to Bob Curley and volunteers from the North Quabbin Trail Association for continued work on the trail along the river.

--The Royalston Arts Council has awarded a grant to RSVR to bring in two aerialists to perform at a family event in the fall. More news on this will be in future newsletters.
Royalston Emergency Management
Director Jim Barclay, e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or 978-249-2904

Coronavirus Status: A three-dose COVID-19 vaccination for babies 6 months and older is now available. Boosters are now available for children 5+: those 50+ can now have a second booster.

Masking mandates are beginning to pop up in response to a fairly sharp increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Mass. in mid-May, with positivity approaching 10%, and are presumed higher as the positive home tests likely not reported to the State. The highest rates were in the 20-29-year-old group. Hospitalizations and deaths are also up, predominantly in unvaccinated individuals, and those with pre-existing medical conditions are also up.

VACCINATION is the single, best move to limit hospitalization and deaths due to COVID-19. If you are not vaccinated or not up-to-date with booster(s), please do so. Your Primary Care Provider (PCP), can review your need based on age, health, potential for infection, etc. and provide the right answer for you.

COVID-19 PCR Testing: Area pharmacies and independent labs now offer PCR (most often required test for traveling), with results usually taking one to two days. (High demand can delay results.) Call to find out what type tests are offered, hours, and protocols.

COVID-19 Home Test Kits: are still available through the Board of Health, as well as Emergency Management. Rather than risk exposing others, if you have symptoms that warrant a home test, please contact us to drop one off at your home.

FACTS on COVID-19: are found at www.cdc.gov and/or www.mass.gov; social media sites are NOT reliable sources of FACTS! Keep up on Massachusetts and Worcester County transmission rates at https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view.

June Readiness:

Before the worst of this extreme heat arrives, take some measures to provide an escape. Make sure weather stripping around doors and windows is still intact. Apply reflective films to east and south-facing windows. Add insulation to keep heat out of living areas. Install a powered attic fan to keep hot air moving out. Add an air conditioner to a room – preferably not south-facing - that can be closed off and used as a refuge from extreme heat. Be sure to insulate around it, which keeps heat and bugs out.

Each morning before the sun pops up on a hot and humid day, shut windows, pull shades, and close drapes – and the insulated ones are best. The layers of trapped air act as additional insulation. Fans can provide a little relief, but remember, they don’t cool. Babies, with little body mass, elders and those coping with major medical issues may not be able to maintain hydration, and keep their body temperature within reasonable limits. Blowing hot air will not reduce their body temperature. When the sun goes down, open screened windows and doors, and allow the house to expel hot air, and bring in fresh, cooler air.

It is possible that electrical grids will have difficulty keeping up to demand during heat waves, therefore the less electricity people use, the more electricity that will be available. Do laundry, dishwashing, and take showers during off-peak hours. Make sure all electrical usage in empty rooms is stopped; make meals that don’t require heat or electricity.

Brush up on the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness, and immediately call 9-1-1 if anyone is exhibiting one or more of the following: body temperature of +103F. degrees, red, hot, and dry skin – no sweating, rapid, strong pulse, or dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness. If cooling costs, weatherization, or energy-related home repairs are unaffordable, check into the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/623.

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Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair

Not too late to get a first or second booster or a vaccine. Be prepared for the next uptick with a proven COVID vaccine.

Ticks will continue to proliferate throughout the year. Mosquitoes are starting to hatch. Check pets and yourselves after coming in from outside.

New annual windshield stickers will be ready for purchase in May in time for July 1st deadline. See attendant to purchase.

Please, please and pretty please keep plastic bags out of the recycling stream. Folks have been putting bags of plastic bags in the can roll off. Return them to the stores you got them from. Or better still use a reusable bag. The bags jam up the conveyors at the processing facility and cause down time and added waste. Remember demo is not free. See attendant for an assessment prior to dumping.

Checkpoint Charlie and the RBOH . Thanks to all who picked up roadside trash at the annual collection. Bud Light still wins as the most littered beer. Car parts still collect on the roadsides. Keep your neighborhood clean by picking up trash year-round. Again a big THANKS!!

ROYALSTON ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP - APRIL 30, 2022
Hosted by Checkpoint Charlie Scribner

We enjoyed excellent weather for the 2022 Royalston Roadside Clean Up. We had a light breeze to take care of black flies. For over 30 years the people of Royalston have come together on the last Saturday in April to perform a public service. Volunteers gather at Bullock Park in the morning to get trash bags and be assigned a road to clean roadside litter. Most people start in their own neighborhoods and work to clean up trash. People team up with families and friends to take on road assignments. Trash is sorted and taken to the transfer station. Tony and Steve assist with disposal of materials.

At 11:30 Charlie fired up the grill and served Checkpoint Charlie chili and hotdogs, soda and water to volunteers. The following people helped with the 2021 cleanup:

Dan Monette and Karol Dzub – Provided the grill and cleaned parts on Norcross Rd.
Scribner Family – North East Fitzwilliam Road, Laurel Lake Road, RT 68
Ross and Larry – Dickley and Richmond Roads
Maureen Blasco – Parts of Norcross Rd, Winchendon Rd., Rt. 68
Gerry Lajoie– Norcross Rd.
Patty Stanko – Winchendon Rd.
Rick and Cathy Martin – North East Fitzwilliam Rd
Team Blinky – Phil L. and Ray – Taft Hill Rd., Deland Rd, and points south
Linda Alger – School Street and River Road
Kathy Chencharik – River Rd.
Norah Dooley and Robert Fairchild – parts of Winchendon Rd.
Carla and Phil Rabinowitz – parts of Athol Road
Kristie Schellie and Jeff Wright – Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd.
Chase / Gospodarek – Athol / Richmond Rd. – finished late – missed chili and hotdogs
Dave Williams – Rt. 68, Falls Rd.
James Taylor – Warwick Rd.
Jan Ray Vaccari – North Fitzwilliam Rd.
Ginny Moore’s daughter, Holly, and family – So. Royalston

Thanks to all the volunteers who help keep Royalston beautiful.

Thanks to town of Royalston for disposal of collected trash.
**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

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**Donations to the Friends**

Elizabeth and Clarence Rabideau
Ken and Danielle Langan
Lynne and Tom Kellner
Richard and Rose Lawrence
Kris and Danielle Langan
Ruth Suyenaga and Mark Shoul
Pat Kelley
The Village School
Vyto and Pat Andrelunas
Pat Worth and Michael Young

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**Thank yous**

Ryan Darling and Savannah Basso for volunteer help
Keith Newton and Michelle Devine for help with the broken furnace and Chief Eric Jack for giving us an opinion on the oil tank
Galen Nelson for advice on the heating system and asking for a hole to be drilled in the wall and Tom Musco for advice on the heating system and drilling a big hole in the Library wall.
Jeff Wright for trying to figure out our printing problems.

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**Yoga:** Join Jess Schanz on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the upstairs of the Royalston Town Hall for Community Yoga. Please bring your own mat. There will be bonus yoga Friday mornings at 9:30 on the Common starting June 10. Yoga is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and is free but donations are appreciated.

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**Art Exhibit**

During June the multi-faceted art of Caleb Chase and Kelly Chen will continue to be on display. Stop by and delight in the unique and original exhibit ranging from a self-portrait that Caleb drew when he was 4 to paintings, drawings, mixed media, and mosaics. During July and August, Grace Hoefmitt will be displaying her paintings.

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**Restoring the Library**

The Library needs a new roof. The existing shingles were put on the building at least thirty years ago and maybe even before that. They are showing their age and more than that, curling up and letting some water into the building. We applied for Community Preservation Funds to restore the roof and the request was approved. The Community Preservation Act allows towns to raise money through a surcharge on the real estate tax levy on real property with matching funds coming from the State. This way it allows to towns to undertake different types of projects without having to raise and appropriate the money. However, use of the funds still needs town meeting approval and we ask for your support for the project. The project also received the approval of the Historic District Commission.

The Library also needs a new heating system. The 35-year-old oil burner will no longer function. We are in the process of investigating our options and ways to fund them. There will be an amount on the town meeting warrant to meet some or all of the cost of the system.

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**Summer Reading Program starts in July**

The theme this year is “Read Beyond the Beaten Path” and we will be including a flyer with all the activities next month. We can tell you we’ll be having some great programs including making a coiled clay bowl, a camp backpack, wall hangings, a tree book and yes, a new Animal Adventures program with the ice cream truck beforehand. There will also be a flower arranging class for young adults and adults. And, there is going to be a Tiny Art Project. Starting July 1, anyone can pick up a small canvas, some paints, and brushes and create a tiny piece of art and return it to the Library (labeled with your name on the back). Then during September and October, all the tiny artwork will be on display at the Library.

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**Hotspot Update**

The Mobile Hotspot Lending Program that granted us ten T-Mobile hotspots since last August will end on September 30. We have had continued usage of the hotspots and are gratified for being awarded the grant. Prior to that we had already secured three Mobile Beacon Coolpad hotspots which were through Sprint. Since T-Mobile has acquired Sprint these hotspots are being discontinued but will be replaced by a newer model of the ones from the Hotspot Lending Program, Franklin T-10. We have already received the replacements and will be putting those into service soon. We hope that they will cover a wider range than the Franklin T-9 model and will be adding more of those to our supply utilizing some of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.
Some of the new materials at your Library

**Adult Fiction**

Ali, Monica  
*The Marriage*

Andreas, Mary Kay  
*The Homewreckers*

Baldacci, David  
*Dream Town*

Baume, Sara  
*Seven Steeples*

Black, Holly  
*Book of Night*

Bohjian, Chris  
*The Lioness*

Crowley, John  
*Flint and Mirror*

Diaz, Hernan  
*Trust*

Glass, Julia  
*Vigil Harbor*

Henry, Emily  
*Book Lovers*

Hoover, Colleen  
*It Ends with Us*

Lupica, Mike  
*Robert B. Parker’s Revenge Tour*

Monae, Janelle  
*The Memory Librarian*

Paretsky, Sara  
*Overboard*

Patterson, James  
*22 Seconds*

Quick, Amanda  
*When She Dreams*

Smith, Ali  
*Companion Piece*

Stuart, Douglas  
*Young Mungo*

Steel, Danielle  
*Beautiful*

Thayer, Nancy  
*Summer Love*

Trigiani, Adriana  
*The Good Left Undone*

Van Pelt, Shelby  
*Remarkably Bright Creatures*

Weiner, Jennifer  
*The Summer Place*

Winslow, Don  
*City on Fire*

**Audio book**

Allende, Isabel  
*Violeta*

Clear, James  
*Atomic Habits*

Hurwitz, Gregg  
*Dark Horse*

**Young adult**

Case, Jonathan  
*Little Monarchs*

**Children’s Nonfiction**

Andral, Dolores  
*Athletes for Social Justice*

Barnett, Mac  
*The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza*

Duling, Kaitlyn  
*Coolest Collections*

French, Jess  
*Bella Loves Bugs*

Evans, Gabriel  
*Tiny Dino*

Freedman, Deborah  
*Mr. Lemonecillo’s Very First Game*

Grabenstein, Chris  
*The Blur*

Le, Minh  
*Mr. Lemonecillo’s Very First Game*

Lehrhaupt, Adam  
*There was a Hole*

Martin Jr., Bill  
*Armadillo Antics*

Parachini, Jodie  
*Hero Rat!*

Parker, Amy  
*Night Night, Farm*

Perdomo, Juliana  
*Sometimes, All I Need is Me*

Pumphrey, Jarrett  
*It’s a Sign!*

Smith, Lane  
*A Gift for Nana*

Verde, Susan  
*Tortoise and Hare*

Watt, Maelanie  
*Scaredy Squirrel Gets a Surprise*

Williams, Margery  
*The Velveteen Rabbit, Or How Toys Become Real*

Woodson, Jacqueline  
*The World Belonged to Us*

**Children’s Fiction**

Ashman, Linda  
*I Like This, You Like That*

Cronin, Doreen  
*Click, Clack Rainy Day*

Evans, Gabriel  
*Norton and the Bear*

Freedman, Deborah  
*Tiny Dino*

Grabenstein, Chris  
*Mr. Lemonecillo’s Very First Game*

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*Little Monarchs*

**Book and Plant Sales are June 4 outside the Post Office**

**Books** - A big variety of titles for all ages as well as 100s of dvds will be available.

**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, astilbe to zinnia, basil to brussel sprouts. **Donations sought** - Pot up your thinnings or shed your surplus seedlings by bringing them to the sale early on the 4th or dropping off 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 welcome!
Going Underground

Maureen Blasco

Over fifteen years ago the Friends of the Library spent a few autumns planting daffodil bulbs all around town. As I drove past Doane’s Falls the other day, I saw a still vibrant group of them. Then I passed the Post Office and more appeared. Unfortunately, most of our daffodils have died out, probably due to speedy mowing over the years.

When I moved to this area, one of my first efforts was to plant bulbs - daffodils and tulips. The tulips were gone within 2 years, but the daffodils thrived. Where did the tulips go? It turns out that of all the bulbs, only the tulip is eaten by animals. I think the voles got mine.

Bulbs are “stem adaptations”, underground food and water storage organs. Vegetable bulbs include onions and garlic. Though all of these plants also make seeds, an easy way to make new plants is to dig and separate the new bulbs that grow each year.

Other adaptations are “fleshy rhizomes”, which you see when you dig up irises and daylilies. If you dig up a crocus or gladiola, you have found a “corm”. Sweet potatoes and dahlias grow what is called a “root tuber”. And regular potatoes are “stem tubers”. All can be used to grow new plants.

Irises and daylilies can be dug up in the spring, and separated to make new plants. Garlic, crocus and most bulbs should be dug up in the fall, separated and re-planted. Potatoes can be stored through the winter and then cut up in pieces, each with its own “eye”, for spring planting.

Dahlia tubers, like potatoes in this area, are not frost hardy and need to be dug up in the fall and stored through the winter. I’ve never grown them, because it seemed like a lot of work for no food! Last year my neighbor grew incredible dahlias, and I thought maybe I would give it a try. After all, there are dahlias available at the Library plant sale every year, so they are easy enough to get. When I mentioned this to my friend, she said- “bad news- our storage methods were not good enough, almost all of our dahlia tubers rotted”. Well, maybe I’ll stick to daffodils.

Summer Fun around Here in 1860

“One day Colonel Whitney’s son Charlie and I went with “Old Bill”, the colonel’s horse and an ancient vehicle which was stored in our barn to see a circus and menagerie at Athol. This was before exhibitions of that kind had begun to move from place to place over the steam railways, and this one came to Athol over the highway from Baldwinville, where it had exhibited the previous day. We mingled with the crowd, saw the procession, consisting of the usual golden chariot, carrying animals, reptiles and birds; an elephant, camels, ponies, and other surprising and amusing features - quite unimportant when compared with the aggregations that have been railroaded all over the country in later years; but to us boys the parade and the following performances were a wonderful and stupendous exhibition.... After Charlie and I had seen the parade, we noticed Fred Bullock standing at the door of the bank, and he asked us if we would like to see some money; and he went behind the counter, pulled out a drawer, and turned up the piles of bills in it, amounting to 100s of dollars.”

Reflections on Royalston by Hubert Bartlett, 1927, p 317 - 18.
Got something to crow about? Let us know at the RCN. Drop at the library or email chasegos2@gmail.com.

Elizabeth West recently graduated, cum laude, from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She will continue on to pursue a masters degree to be a Physician’s Assistant. To help with her medical training, Elizabeth earned her EMT license. Her parents, Kristen and Andy West, are extremely proud of her strength, resilience, and accomplishments!

As a junior, Samantha West achieved high honors for the 2021-2022 school year at The Winchendon School. Samantha was inducted into the National Honor Society and served on the school’s Model United Nations. Samantha achieved a leadership role, teaching a project based learning class. Samantha also continued her pursuit of musical theater and dance. Kristen and Andy West continue to be in awe of her drive and achievements.

Obituaries

Steven E. Savoy of Royalston died on May 24, 2022.
Steve was born on January 7, 1955 at Athol Memorial Hospital to Clifford J. Savoy and Sylvia E. (Smith) Savoy. He lived in Athol until 1979 when he married Cynthia May and they moved to Royalston.

Following school, he went to work at General Automotive in Athol, transferring to the Gardner store where he became store manager. In 1992, Steve returned to the Athol store which he and his wife purchased and it became Athol Automotive Supply. Steve took great pride in helping local residents and garages with their cars. Steve had a passion for cars and was most proud of his Oldsmobile Cutlass, which he had restored.

Steve enjoyed gardening and working in his yard, antiquing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing, and spending time at his camp on Watatic Lake in Ashburnham. He also looked forward to the yearly vacations on Martha’s Vineyard.

Steve is survived by his wife Cindy; his beloved daughter Kelsey Savoy and son-in-law Kelsey Graham of San Diego, CA; and his mother, Sylvia Savoy of Athol. He also leaves his brothers, Richard and his wife Joyce, of Athol, and Brian and his wife Deanna, of Athol; he leaves several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Clifford J. Savoy.

Calling hours will be held on June 9, 2022 from 5-7 p.m. at Witty’s Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange.
A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on June 10, 2022 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 101 Main Street, Athol, with Fr. Mateus Sousa officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Royalston Fire & EMS, P.O. Box 53, Royalston, MA 01368-0053.

Virginia (Ginny) M. (Harris) Cloutier, 93, passed away on Thursday, May 19, 2022 in Pineville, North Carolina. Ginny was born in Orange, MA on December 26, 1928 to Frederick and Gladys (Stanford) Harris. She grew up in Orange and graduated from Orange High School in 1946. Ginny married Wilfred C. Cloutier on May 1, 1948 and enjoyed 72 years together golfing and traveling.

Ginny resided in South Royalston where together with her husband she owned and operated Pete and Henry’s until retiring in 1987. She was an avid golfer and even claimed a couple of “holes in one”. Together they traveled extensively and tried many different golf courses in their travels. After her husband’s death, Ginny moved to Waxhaw, North Carolina to live with her daughter.

She is survived by her five children, Christine Taylor of Waxhaw, NC, Suzanne Strong and her husband Kent of Athol, MA, Sandra Allard and her husband Edward of Lisbon, ME, John Cloutier and his wife Terry of Summerfield, FL, and Gene Cloutier and his wife Beth of Orange, MA. Also her brother William Harris and his wife Jean of Warwick, MA; ten grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.

Ginny was predeceased by her husband Wilfred Cloutier and son Robert Cloutier. There will be a graveside service for Ginny, her husband Wilfred, and son Robert, on July 9, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in South Cemetery, 585 South Main Street, Orange, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl, Memphis, TN 38105 or to the donor’s choice.
Superintendent Selected in the ARRSD
Matthew Ehrenworth of Rutland, Assistant Superintendent for the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, has been selected as the next Superintendent for the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. The 20-year educator rose from more than a dozen candidates to become one of four elevated to finalist by the Search Committee. The ARRSD School Committee conducted additional extensive interviews, and public meet & greet sessions. The ARRSD School Committee is, as of press time, working on a compensation package and contract. Mr. Ehrenworth is expected to be on-board by July 1 and has agreed to an interview for a future RCN.

What’s Happening at the Village School
Saturday Morning on the Common June 4 from 7:30 - 11. Pancakes, silent auction, birds of prey, and more.

Summer Programs at the Village School for ages 4-10 led by Sofie Vieira and Lily Thompson
Choose your week(s) for outdoor fun, including art, crafts, nature walks, scavenger hunts, singing, yoga, water play, fort building, fairy houses and lots of free play. It’s an outdoor program. Go to https://www.villageschoolma.org/programs/summer/ to see the full Summer Program brochure.

What’s happening
Congratulations to the 5th-6th grade class on writing and performing an engaging and delightful play, Greeced Lightning, based on its year-long study of ancient Greece. The video will be shown on AOTV. The kindergarten, and 1st-2nd classes finish the year with Theme Share Celebrations, including singing, playing recorder and sharing their writing. On Wednesday June 8, the 5th-6th class shares artwork portfolios at 6:15, followed by graduation at 7:00 p.m.

Wildlife Sightings
Mark Shoul and Ruth Suyenaga looked out their window and spied a bear a couple of weeks ago. Later Mark saw many scrapings on nearby trees and surmised that the bear was hunting for grubs in the bark.

Janace Wamboldt has been watching three small blue eggs in her browned bush. Mother bird has been sitting patiently.

Monty Tech
Mary C Barclay, representative
Royalston vaccination rates were not supposed to be included in the May report, however, due to a noteworthy increase in positivity rates, increases in hospitalizations and deaths, and the fact all areas of MA are considered high risk for transmission, it was not dropped. Royalston 12-15-year-olds, sadly, are still the least-vaccinated cohort in the Monty Tech District (Still at 31%.)

Monty Tech’s in-school Workers’ Credit Union Branch has been converted to a “Video Teller ATM,” the next generation of ATMs, with Monty Tech Business Technology students working out of the main facility, and serving as the “face on the ATM when “Video Teller Assistance” (available from 8a-6p, M-F) is needed. Members of the Monty Tech Community and general public will be able to withdraw cash in $1, $5, $20, and $50 denominations; make a WCU loan payment; transfer money between WCU accounts, and more.

Congratulations to the 22 Health Occupations seniors, who ALL successfully completed the Certified Nurse Assistants’ practical exam. The 100% CNA pass rate speaks to the quality of education and commitment of students, all of whom will be able to find immediate employment at any number of public and private sectors.

Superintendent-Director Dr. Sheila M. Harrity has been included in a project by the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, in collaboration with the MA Association of Vocational Administrators, publishing a book entitled, Hands-On-Achievement… Massachusetts’ National Model Vocational Technical Schools. Dr. Harrity will be a guest speaker at the release event which will feature segments filmed at Monty Tech in early May.

Advanced Manufacturing seniors – all of them – are receiving awards of Gene Haas Foundation toolkits and scholarships, courtesy of a $12,000 grant. This foundation’s mission is to expand high-quality, manufacturing technology training.

Monty Tech students raised $3,755, providing $1,615 to the American Cancer Society from Daffodil Days; $1,055 from Penny Wars to the Seven Hills Foundation; $200 to the Gardner Emergency Housing Mission from a bowl-a-thon; and $2,500 to the International Red Cross for Ukrainian Relief, proceeds from bake sale. Paying it forward – the Monty Tech way!

Sixty Marine Jr. Reserve Officer Training students will travel to Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA June 11-17, to attend the annual MCJROTC Annual Summer Cadet Leadership Camp. Trip expenses are covered by the Marines; no tax dollars are used for this training program.

Royalston Fish and Game Club Suppers
Chicken barbecue plans are underway. Watch the Royalston F&G Facebook page for up-coming dates and prices.

Memberships for 2022 are $50 and available during suppers at the Club, and during their open hours. 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.

Royalston Fish and Game Club
**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 978-248-9828.

**Photography Services:** Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowherestudios.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.

**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 Kreation. Single pieces or sets; totally kool kid’s cups. Krys and Keith Swan at swankkreation@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.villageschool-ma.org/shop/ to put in your order.
**Garden Notes**  
**May 22, 2022**

May 12 was one of those milestone moments. Screen doors replaced storm doors, windows were opened, the small table hauled into the kitchen to serve as winter’s dining ‘nook’ was hauled out, the wood cookstove laying idle. Spring, a touch of summer even, had finally arrived. It was followed a few days thereafter with an extended stretch of winds, gusts at their gentlest, squalls at their ungentlest. So, while temperatures were moderate and the sun high in the sky, outdoor activity was a challenge. There was an upside: black flies were blown into oblivion. For the first time I transplanted my eight hundred or so onions and leeks black fly-free. A blessing of monumental proportions.

The garden proceeds at a most inauspicious pace. My mid-April plantings of peas and spinach failed to appear and were re-planted three weeks later. They serve as our principal post-asparagus grub, still will, though it will be three weeks later. Potatoes, at least, have emerged and, thankfully, the potato beetles have not, providing a window of opportunity for uncompromised growth. The next phase commences in about a week’s time. Tomatoes, peppers, brassicas, celery/celeriac, basil and parsley will be transplanted and the first planting of the frost-sensitive crops, the beans and squash and cucumbers, will occur. To jump start the season, I start about one-third my corn indoors. The seedlings, when set out, require special attention. Crows, displaying an intelligence we usually do not ascribe to birds, know what it is, pull it up, and eat the corn kernel. Row covers are effective, though it wouldn’t surprise me if sooner or later the crows figure out a way to lift them up.

A couple of months ago, I mumbled something about the possibility that we might (gulp) be obliged to buy some vegetables. It has not come to pass. While there remain a couple of handfuls of onions and potatoes (and two leeks) in the root cellar and a dozen or so bags of assorted vegetables in the freezer, the principal reason we’ve avoided the produce section of the supermarket is asparagus, which is the centerpiece of most every evening meal (and will continue to be so until June’s end). Its growth rate is extraordinary. Spot an emerging spear and two days later you’ll be harvesting it. Compare to the tomato: spot a wee, green tomato and it will be six weeks before it is large enough and ripe enough to consume. All the asparagus is eaten fresh; the thought of frozen asparagus is singularly unappealing to me. I thinly slice the spears on the diagonal and stir fry (where they will maintain a measure of texture).

This and that: (1) I am bemused in regard to the ups and downs of various shrubs. From year to year some shine and some do not and in the following year, they are reversed. This year, a so-so forsythia season was followed by a dramatic display of lilacs. Hydrangeas are considered to be indestructible. One of ours is mostly dead. A rose, which year in and year out, winter-kills to the ground, is thriving. (2) Plenty of peach blossoms. Luck be with us (and porcupines not), there will be plenty of peaches. Eight mature apple trees: four flowered, four did not. Go figure. (3) Rabbits abound, none so far in the garden. Stay tuned.

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**Sentinels**

North and east of our house the woods stretch as far as we can see. These woods have deepened over time. Saplings seem to become trees overnight. The undergrowth thickens and creeps closer to our yard. I notice the deepening shadows and the moss-covered ground where grass once grew. Slowly, it seems, the woods are closing in.

This has us worried. Windstorms and microbursts, more powerful and frequent of late, have brought down giant limbs perilously close to our house. Tree tops snap and dangle for months until another storm brings them crashing to the ground. Clearing out some trees seemed prudent, so a decision was made. We would push the forest back so that air and light could come through. We would keep our home safe from the danger of falling limbs.

In late winter Tom’s forester walked the woods with his can of blue paint, marking the trees that would come down. As his work continued, I began to have doubts. So many marked trees! What animals are counting on these trees for food or shelter? I know about the underground network that connects this living community, tree to tree, sharing resources and warning of danger. Our actions will disrupt all of this. What were we thinking?

For weeks we looked at our marked trees with mixed feelings. We consoled ourselves with the knowledge that these felled trees would become timber for new homes and cordwood for our stove. We reminded ourselves of windstorms and trees snapped in two. We knew that the newly opened spaces would provide habitat for different birds and woodland creatures. I looked to see if the trees that had become my favorites would survive the cut. Most would, but the ones closest to the house would come down. In the end, we stayed the course.

The logger came and walked among the trees. The buzz of his chainsaw and the crash of falling trees became the backdrop to our days. When his work came close to the house, I watched from the kitchen window as he brought down a line of trees that fell like dominoes. Slowly, over several days, the woods retreated.

Now the forest floor opens wide, and I wonder who will make a home here. The morning sun shines in newly found corners of our home. Even the wind moves differently, finding its way through new openings of light and sky.

On a recent morning I rose early to work in the gardens before the mayflies woke. Stooped over flower beds in the predawn light I was suddenly aware of something like a tap on the shoulder. I stood and looked east. The rising sun shot rays of light that moved, like fingers, through newly opened spaces. A low mist softened the ground. Then I saw them – three giant pine trees standing at the new forest edge. No longer hidden by oaks and maples their presence was solid, regal. Far enough from our house for safety they stood, like sentinels, guarding at the edge of our worlds. I thought of the Japanese poem by Mizuta and smiled: “The barn has burnt down – now I can see the moon.”

*Larry Siegel*

*Deb D’Amico*
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Happy 80th Birthday
Michael Young
Royalston
Poet Laureate
The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01368

Rachel’s Kitchen Food Pantry - Thanks
We would like to thank everyone who has supported the pantry and meals. There are so many, I can’t mention everyone. We so appreciate all your giving. God Bless. In particular, Beth Hastings has made a generous donation in memory of her husband, Glen, who is missed in our community. We plan to put up a plaque in Glen’s honor.

Our pantry serves 20 - 30 meals/ week on Thursdays (note the new day). Please let us know if you know of someone who could use a meal. Thank you. Blessings.

War and Peace
Distant thunder rolled like the sound of big guns, artillery in celestial realms. Then the storm breached the walls of heaven, cascading onto forests and farms. The lawns, almost embarrassingly sensuous in green, became covered with wildflower floral patterns. My wish - that all tumultuous conflicts become blanketed in such peaceful beauty.

Michael Young
Royalston Poet Laureate

LIKE THE SUNFLOWER
Like the sunflower, stand tall, Ukraine. Don’t let them take your freedom away.

Like the sunflower, stand strong, Ukraine. To dodge bullets like the flower you must sway.

You did nothing to deserve such a fate, your country you really must defend. Although it’s hard to believe right now, this war will eventually end.

Soon the rain will replace the bombs and bullets, that have fallen down on you from above.

Then the sun will replace the smoke and fires, to shine down on you and the country that you love.

Kathy Chencharik

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Royalston Resident
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