Calendar of Events

September 2 Friday
No classes ARRSD schools

September 5 Monday
Labor Day – Post Office, P. S. Newton Library, all schools closed

September 6 Tuesday
7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Primary Election and vote on debt exclusion at Town Hall.

Ballot QUESTION
# 1
“Shall the Town of Royalston be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to paint and repair Whitney Hall, purchase a new DPW dump/sander cab and chassis, and purchase a new DPW pickup truck?”

This is a follow up to the Actions of the Annual Town Meeting on June 11, 2022, in which:

Townspeople voted to borrow the sum of $310,000 for the purpose of funding the projects and purchases listed below, including all incidental and related costs; and to authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, section 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and provided further, however, that borrowing authorized hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town of Proposition 2 1/2, so called, debt exclusion question.

Approved Purchases:
Whitney Hall painting and repairs $50,000
Purchase of new DPW dump/sander cab and chassis $200,000
Purchase of new DPW pickup truck $60,000

Save the date:
October 12 Wednesday
The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Town Hall, 13 On The Common

October 15 Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Autumn on the Common organized by the Royalston agriculture committee. Hayrides and fun. Fire Department chicken bbq at 2 p.m. in Town Hall.

Celebrate

with the Royalston Historical Society at its museum at the head of the Common

Saturday, September 10, 2022 • 10:30 - noon

* See the beautiful upstairs restoration.

* Thank the donors.

* Enjoy a slide show about the restoration process, including 19th century schoolboy graffiti and an up-close look at the ship-shaped framing from huge local trees.

* Peruse a few new acquisitions, such as a receipt with a Royalston connection signed by John Hancock.

* Discuss the plans to continue improving the museum. Hear about our digital inventory and grant-funded collaboration with a Massachusetts Historical Commission archivist to conserve and evaluate our collection.

* Eat some lovely refreshments and meet your neighbors.

September 12 Monday
2 p.m. Preschool story hour meets at its new time. Continues Mondays at 2 p.m. going forward.

September 21 Wednesday
International Day of Peace
No classes ARRSD Full day professional development

September 22 Thursday
9:04 p.m.
Autumnal Equinox – First Day of Fall
3 p.m.
Library book group meets

September 24, Saturday
10:00 am – 4:00 p.m.
Up in the Air Fair at the Royalston Fish and Game Club with aerialists, bloodhound demo, antique car show, vendors, music, and food.

1 p.m.
Mushroom Walk and Talk with expert Noah Siegel to learn about Royalston mushrooms. Meet at Library.

September 25 Sunday
Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year 5783 – begins at sundown
5:55 p.m. New Hunter’s Moon

September 29 Thursday
6:30 p.m.
Ladies’ Benevolent Society meeting at Theresa Quinn’s home on the Common. The program will be “Dispelling the Myths of Hospice”.
Select Board Notes

Rick Martin, clerk

Reception for Keith Newton: On September 1st, Keith Newton will be retiring after over 30 years of service to Royalston’s Department of Public Works. Keith brought his love for the town and his commitment to public safety to his role as DPW Supervisor. We will be honoring Keith at an open house reception on Saturday, October 1st, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the upstairs of Town Hall. A brief ceremony of appreciation will take place at 1:45 and light refreshments will be served. Please join us to thank Keith for his dedication to our town.

Upcoming Elections: Scheduled for September 6th is the state primary elections. This will be taking place at the Town Hall on the second floor. Voters will also receive a town ballot question concerning the debt exclusion that was voted on at the annual town meeting in June. This vote is to approve the debt exclusion for a total of $310,000. The three items making up this total are $200,000 for a new sander/plow truck for the DPW, $60,000 for a new pick-up/plow for the DPW, and $50,000 for upgrades to Whitney Hall. Please come out and make your voices heard!

Road Construction Coming Up: Chapter 90 money from the state is about to be used on the Neale/River Road corridor in the coming months. Preliminary work will begin in August and the balance of the work will be done in the fall. This work will be the grinding of the old surface and then laying new surface layers, like what was done to Norcross Road a couple years ago. Check the town website for upcoming dates; electronic signs up on the road will also announce construction times.

DPW Superintendent Search: With Keith Newton joining the ranks of the retired, on September 1st, The DPW Search Committee is hard at work looking for a replacement. By this writing the committee will have received applications, interviewed candidates, and forwarded its recommendations on to the Select Board. Interviews with the Select Board will take place early in September. With luck and a favoring wind, a new superintendent will be at work by late September to early October. Be on the lookout for notifications on the town website.

Volunteers for Town Boards and Committees: Recently, a notification was placed on the town website listing the many open seats the town has on its boards and committees. There has been a great response to this, and we thank you all very much. But there are still many other open seats. Remember that the town runs with the huge help of volunteers. So, if you are interested in helping the town and letting your voice be heard, check out the website and see if there is a board or committee of interest to you – who knows, you may have fun at the same time.

If you want information about the various boards, check out the Handbook of Boards and Committees in the New Residents section of the website.

Special Report on September 6 Primary Election

Christine Long, Select Board Vice Chair

While primary elections usually draw a smaller turn-out than general elections, the Select Board strongly urges all voters to “speak their minds” at this one, September 6, 7 am-8 pm, at Town Hall.

Voters will receive two ballots at this election: the actual primary ballot for choosing candidates for various state and national offices AND a ballot that seeks voter approval of a debt exclusion to fund an article overwhelmingly approved at the annual town meeting. That article asked for $310,000 for three projects: $200,000 for a new DPW dump/sander cab and chassis; $60,000 for a new DPW pickup truck; and $50,000 for Whitney Hall painting and repairs. All three projects were unanimously recommended by the Capital Planning Committee and the Select Board. The article, however, was passed contingent on voters approving a debt exclusion to pay for them – hence, the second ballot voters will receive on September 6.

A debt exclusion is a special kind of Proposition 2½ action. It raises taxes for the stated purposes, not permanently, but only for the term of the loans – each project will likely be financed separately. We won’t know what those terms are until we actually seek the financing, but it’s typically three to seven years. The 2022 annual town meeting also authorized the final payment on a DPW sander, closing out that debt exclusion, so taxpayers will see little change in their actual tax bill.

All three projects are extremely important. Some years ago, capital planners developed a replacement schedule for all town vehicles, but we’ve almost always pushed those replacements out an extra year or two. Now these proposed new DPW vehicles are at the critical stage. And as to the work at Whitney, residents at a well-attended forum on town buildings strongly urged that we take steps to stabilize the exterior of Whitney. Again, the Capital Planning Committee and the Select Board agreed that the need and the value of all three is very high.

Now it’s up to voters.

DPW News

After 36 years of service to the Town of Royalston, it is time to step down. The move comes with a combination of happiness and sorrow. The opportunity to do good things for the Town that truly means so much to me will be hard for me to replace. I never knew what would be on the messages each day when entering my office. Most time we could resolve the issue and get back on the schedule of work that kept us busy.

The time has flown by and I feel it was just yesterday that the B.O.S., Vyto Andreiunas, Kate Collins and Richard Corser had asked me to manage the DPW. Wow!!! After agreeing to the conditions, I was in for an incredible ride. I got a front row seat to witness to some incredible weather events that were historic in nature and are recorded as some of the most devastating damage on record. All challenges were met and this brings me to where I would like to thank all those very talented DPW workers who answered the call and kept traffic moving in our little Town. I must also thank the various Select Members over these years for their guidance and support. My story would not be complete without mention of my wife Deborah, who managed to raise two very good children and took care of the farm while I spent days away plowing and treating roads.

I say goodbye in this capacity as Public Works Supt.. Now onto being a RESIDENT for the first time in, .................All My Life!

Keith R. Newton
Town of Royalston Broadband Update
Rick Martin

It has been approximately six months since the town signed the contract with Charter Communications to build Broadband and Cable access in the town. The following is a listing of the progress made as reported by Charter Communications in that time frame:

Approximately 25% is designed and the remainder is due to be completed early Sept.

Construction began 8/01 on the main transport fiber from the Athol hub. The crews have over-lashed approximately 50,000’ of fiber so far.

Construction will begin on Athol-Richmond Rd next. We have an existing interconnect here that will allow us to over-lash new fiber to feed the area. Homes along this route are expected to be completed earlier than the rest of the project.

Remaining areas are in the Make Ready process.

All permits have been in for 2+ months. Invoices have arrived from Verizon for 6 of them already and they are being paid as soon as they are processed.

Invoices from National Grid are expected to start flowing in the next 10 days. Once paid, the work will be scheduled with National Grid and Verizon and will begin.

This is exciting news, and a great deal has been done with more planned in the remainder of this year. This was planned to be a two-year project but as you can see some areas of town will be available earlier. More updates to come!

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair

The annual household haz/mat collection day will be held on Sept. 24th from 9-noon at the Orange Transfer Station in Orange. Residents need to pre-register at franklincountysolidwastedistrict.org or call 413-772-2438. First come, first served. Please no latex paints, these can be dried up with cat litter and disposed of in solid waste. Or better still, use it up. Paint a shed, fence or barn etc.

A rebuilt cardboard compactor has been purchased for the transfer station and now we await cement pad construction scheduling.

Stay tuned for updates for the installation.

A reminder that the reusable shed is open and curated by Alan Vieu, a volunteer. Please do not bring broken items or junk for exchange. See Alan for an assessment prior to leaving an item. Satisfaction guaranteed or double your stuff back!

We also have 2 textile collection boxes in front of the building. Don’t trash textiles please.

Reminder that new vehicle stickers are now due for access to the facility. See Tony for a new one.

COVID is still circulating around the area. Vaccines are readily available at most pharmacies. Flu shots are also available. Free COVID test kits are available at the Town Hall, Library, and Post Office.

The Council on Aging will be having their annual flu clinic at Town Hall on Oct. 12th from 10-11:30 a.m.

Ticks and mosquitoes are still active. Check yourselves prior to coming in.

Royalston South Village Revitalization News
Hello Royalston neighbors,

VOTE FOR WHITNEY

In our continuing efforts to improve the Village, the Royalston South Village Revitalization Committee was very happy that the funding to paint Whitney Hall was approved at the last Town Meeting in the spring. Now we need it to pass at the election on Sept. 6!

Many of you have seen the beautiful painting done at the Town Hall this summer. We would like to see the same consideration put forth to help in our efforts to revitalize the Village and preserve this beautiful, historic landmark.

The future of Whitney Hall is not clear at this time. What is clear though is the need to keep the building in good condition for whatever lies ahead. If it is to be sold at some point, no one will consider it if it is in total disrepair. A small price now makes sense for a potential financial gain down the road. We are asking for your vote to approve funding to make Whitney Hall a town building we can all be proud of again.

OTHER NEWS:

--Many thanks to Loryn Killay, who donated her talents to create the poster for the Up in the Air Fair on September 24 from 10-4 at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Thank you to the Club for hosting the Fair. Luann Simula is coordinating the food, beverages and beer that will be available at the Club all day.

--Our thanks go also to the Royalston Cultural Council for funding the two aerialists, Molly Baechtold and Leah Abel, who will perform at 1:00 p.m. They have performed above crowds in Boston at the Museum of Fine Arts, Fenway Park, House of Blues, New England Aquarium, and Museum of Science, as well as Mohegan Sun and the Lyric Opera. In addition to performing, they teach aerial skills and coach at schools including Boston University and Commonwealth Circus Center. Following their performance, there will be a hand-on activity for children and families with stilts, balancing plates, hula hoops, etc.

--We are still looking for artists, craftspersons and people with farm goods to be vendors...call Janice Trask at 978-249-2510 or Rose Lawrence at 978-249-6814 for more information and if you would like to volunteer. Thanks to artists Gordon Morrison, Sonja Vaccari, Laurie Truehart and Amy Newland for donating artwork to our raffle table, as well as business owners Bob and Lorraine Cascierno, Tom LeRay, Rainbow Crown Bakery, Kitchen Garden, Kate Collins, and Kathy Morris for donating items to the raffle table. There will also be a basket raffle table with a lottery ticket basket, movie night basket, family game night basket, art basket, Christmas basket, candle basket, wine basket and many others. Raffle proceeds will go to future RSVR projects.

--Thank you to Jeanne DeBruin and to Gordon and Judy Shaw for donating to bring in musician Joshua LeVangie (we hear he has the Johnny Cash sound). The North Quabbin Cruisers will have an Antique Car Show as well.
**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**

Kathleen Pirro

Antonia and Jack Petrash

For Royalston Shakespeare Theater – Ellen Salvatore in memory of William Brosham, a longtime supporter of the performance workshop

**Thank you**

Royalston Academy for funding all the Summer Reading Programs; Royalston Cultural Council for funding the Shakespeare Theater Workshop; and the Friends of the Library for funding prizes, refreshments, and extras.

Maureen Blasco who went above and beyond, helping with Shakespeare and most of the summer programs.

Kelly Chen, Caleb Chase, and Beth Gospodarek for help with Shakespeare.

Amy Newland, Kristi Schellie, and Patti Stanko for help with summer reading programs. Thanks also to these workshop presenters: Brooke Coleman, Jenny Rodriguez, Bride Johnson, Barbara Richardson, Lydia Musco, and Josh Doub.

MBLC Hotspot Program Ending – Devices Available!
The Franklin T-9 hotspots received through the MBLC Hotspot Program will cease working on September 30. We will need all hotspots returned by September 22 so that we can unlock them. Otherwise they cannot be used again. We advocated for and received 10 of them based on the lack of internet service in town. The program was more popular than we expected, especially at the beginning of the program and lately. They were in constant usage throughout the program. After we have unlocked the devices, which must be completed before September 30, we will be offering them to people for free. First choice will go to those who have used them during the 12 months they have been in circulation. After that we will have a raffle if there are more names than hotspots. These will just be the device and will not work until you purchase a plan from a provider. If you would like to have your name on the list for a hotspot, contact the Library.

**Hotspots Still Available**
The hotspots we have through Mobile Beacon, which are the newer Franklin T-10 hotspots and also use T-Mobile, are still available to borrow. Currently we have three of them that can be borrowed for two weeks. We hope to contract for a few more in the next month. Due to the heavy usage, no renewals will be allowed on these hotspots as we will be going from loaning 13 to 3 hotspots in October.

**Preschool Story Time Changing Times**

Beginning September 12 Preschool Story Time with Brooke Coleman will be resuming on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. rather than 10:00 a.m. We hope this new time will allow more people to participate. Brooke is now teaching preschool and is not available in the mornings. Join in for crafts, healthy snacks, stories, and comradery. No pre-registration is necessary; come when you can.

**Yoga Continues**

On Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the upstairs of the Town Hall, join in for a refreshing, relaxing yoga class, suitable for all skill levels, with certified yoga instructor Jess Schanz. Gain flexibility and balance in your life! Bring your own mat. The class is sponsored and funded by the Friends of the Library and free-will donations are accepted.

**Tiny Art Show Exhibit**

During September and October paintings from the Tiny Art Show Project will be on display in the children’s room. Come see all the different original paintings created during the summer. Thanks to Gina Verrelli for putting all the kits together. (And if you haven’t returned yours yet, you can still bring it in.)

**Mushroom Walk and Talk**

Join expert Noah Siegel for a guided mushroom walk to learn about Royalston mushrooms. Meet at the Library at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 24.

Noah’s field mycology skills are extensive – he has spent over three decades seeking, photographing, identifying, and furthering his knowledge about all aspects of macrofungi. He’s hunted mushrooms throughout the United States and Canada, as well as multiple expeditions to New Zealand and Australia and Cameroon. He is one of the premier mushroom photographers in the nation, having won numerous awards and his photos have appeared on the covers and featured in articles in FUNGI Magazine, the primary mushroom publication. He authored with Christian Schwarz, Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast, and A Field Guide to the Rare Fungi of California’s National Forests. He is currently working on Mushrooms of Cascadia to be published in 2023. With the Monadnock Mushrooms Ltd, he hosted a Fungi Fair held at the Millers River Environmental Center for several years. We are fortunate to have him lead this walk in between trips to Alaska, Montreal, Canada, and California. Wear appropriate clothing for venturing in the woods.
Some of the new materials at your library

**Adult Fiction**

Baldacci, David  The 6:20 Man
Brown, Sandra  Overkill
Center, Katherine  The Bodyguard
Chambers, Becky  A Prayer for the Crown-Shy
Chiaverni, Jennifer  Switchboard Soldiers
Child, Lincoln  Chrysalis
Coulter, Catherine  Reckoning
Dark, Alice  Fellowship Point
Dean, Sunyi  The Book Eaters
Dodd, Christina  Point Last Seen
Fielding, Joy  The Housekeeper
Ford, Jamie  The Many Daughters of Afong Moy
Garwood, Julie  Grace Under Fire
Gerritsen, Tess  Listen to Me
Green, George  The Kingdoms of Savannah
Guntz, Tess  The Rabbit Hutch
Francis, Felix  Iced
Hamid, Mohsin  The Last White Man
Hoover, Colleen  Ugly Love
James, Holly  Nothing But the Truth
Jewell, Lisa  The Family Remains
Koontz, Dean  The Dark Sky
Maberry, Jonathan  Kagen the Damned
Macomber, Debbie  The Best is Yet to Come
Marra, Anthony  Mercury Pictures Presents
Miranda, Megan  The Last to Vanish
Patterson, James  Shattered
Pearse, Sarah  The Retreat
Silvia, Daniel  Portrait of an Unknown Woman
Thompson, Jean  The Poet’s House
Ware, Ruth  The It Girl
White, Adam  Midcoast
Wiggins, Marianne  Properties of Thirst
Wiggs, Susan  Sugar and Salt
Woods, Stuart  Black Dog
Zevin, Gabrielle  Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

**Adult Non-Fiction**

Alexander, William  Ten Tomatoes that Changed the World
Buck, Rinker  Life on the Mississippi
Hernandez, Kelly  Bad Mexicans
Lemire, Jonathan  The Big Lie
Sedaris, David  Happy-go-Lucky
Sedaris, David  A Carnival of Snackery
Woodward, Bob  Peril

**Audiobooks**

Baldacci, David  The 6:20 Man
Burke, James Lee  Every Cloak Rolled in Blood
Evanovich, Janet  The Recovery Agent
Jenner, Natalie  Bloomsbury Girls
Ware, Ruth  The It Girl

**Children’s Nonfiction**

Blabey, Aaron  The Bad Guys in the Open Wide and Say Aarrgh!
Eason, Sarah  An Egg Thief?
Eason, Sarah  Dinosaur Eater
Pizzoli, Greg  Pizza!
Swift, India  The Girl and the Glim

**Children’s Fiction**

Driscoll, Laura  I Want to be a Firefighter
Goade, Michaela  Berry Song
Griffith, Evan  Manatee Summer
Harmony, Cynthia  Mi Ciudad Sings
Heti, Sheila  A Garden of Creatures
Johnson, Dinah  H is for Harlem
Lyall, Casey  A Spoonful of Frogs
Shea, Bob  I am a Baby

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**

Aidarlo  Toilet-Bound Hanako-kun
Tian, Xixi  This Place is Still Beautiful

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**Royalston authors release first childrens’ book**

*Maizy & Charlie’s Germ Book* by Annie and Gilly DeCosta (and their young daughters Maizy and Charlie) is now available for pre-order through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other retailers. It is set for release on September 6, 2022. It can also be checked out at the library.

The pandemic has been difficult for most, including the DeCosta family. Both Maizy and Charlie were home from school, learning virtually, while their mother, Annie, was also home, navigating nursing school. Annie’s father was also sick with cancer and lived with the family.

Annie’s nursing school assignment was to formulate a teaching activity to teach children about staying healthy. Annie wrote a little book, and Maizy helped by drawing germs for it. They presented it to a classroom over Zoom and it was a hit. Inspired, Gilly went to work on the illustrations and getting the work published. The book is now published and dedicated in loving memory of Annie’s father, who passed away from cancer in April of 2022.

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**Library Book Group**

The Library Book Group will be meeting September 22nd at 3:00 to discuss the book, *The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell*, by Mark Kurlansky. Copies of the book may be borrowed from the Library. The group meets monthly. To sign up, call the Library. You are free to attend whenever the book sounds interesting to you.

Young readers can join sisters Maizy and Charlie to learn to be wary of scary germs!
Obituaries

**Kyle “Elyk” Gardner Fiske**

Royalston, MA — Kyle “Elyk” Gardner Fiske, 47, of Royalston, formerly of Somerville, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 4th, 2022. He was the loving husband and best friend of Chyle Lillanna Crossley.

Kyle was born in Athol on July 21, 1974, to George F. Fiske III of Brockton and Barbara (Kuniholm) Bellar of Baldwinville. He graduated from Fitchburg State College while doing graphic design for artist development firm the Planetary Group. He was also a director at Fitchburg State’s radio station. He later worked for the Dodge Chemical Company for 18 years personalizing funerary urns.

Kyle was a DJ, music producer, visual artist, and independent filmmaker. He enjoyed playing Hacky Sack with his sister and basketball with his brothers. Kyle adored his pet turtles Kaiju, Nessie, and Goo Goo Muck. He took great pleasure in time spent in nature, and loved living in the woods. He was also a tie dye aficionado, dug going to raves back when, and always appreciated a good toke. And if you knew Kyle, you knew of his epic adventures in his Subaru Brat.

In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by his stepson Aidan Crossley of Alamosa, Colorado, two brothers Drew Fiske and Dwight Fiske and wife Nicole of Brockton, sister Jennifer Gilman and husband Jamie of North Brookfield, niece Erica Hinkle and husband Michael of North Brookfield, step-father Don Bellar of Baldwinville, father-in-law James Crossley and wife Marie of Wrentham, many aunts, uncles, cousins, and many good friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved brother Lance P. Fiske, grandparents George and Barbara Fiske Jr., and Fran and Harold Kuniholm.

In accordance with Kyle’s wishes, a celebration of life party will follow at a later date.

Please consider a donation to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust in Kyle’s memory (mount-grace.org/donate).

Peace out.

**Bonny S. Moore** passed away on July 14, 2022, in the former bedroom of her grandmother, Pearl May (Fenner) Harrington peacefully in her sleep from cardiorespiratory failure, as a result of being a long-term smoker.

She was the daughter of Richard and Virginia Moore, sister to Holly and aunt to Goldie, Luke, Caleb, Joshua, Joseph, James, Samuel and Jedidiah.

Having grown up in Royalston, but then traveling around the world, Bonny returned to Royalston where her family has lived since the early 1800’s. Bonny was a talented artist and singer, but her greatest gifts were in her ability to train animals. Beginning with horses, she later raised and bred Dobermans, and American and English bulldogs. Her latest joy, from whom she loved to be smothered with kisses, was her mother’s dog, Pearl.

Bonny had assured her family that she was trusting solely in Christ’s full and final payment on the cross for all of her sins. If Bonny could talk to you now, she would urge you to put away your pride and trust Jesus now to forgive you. She did not know when she said goodnight to her dogs Wednesday night that she would never awaken again. You are not guaranteed tomorrow!

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Second Congregational Church, So. Royalston.

**James P Kelley, EdD (95),** son of the late John and Mary (Sullivan) Kelley of Dorchester, Massachusetts, died on July 21, 2022 at his home in Nantucket.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marlys (EFtefield), and by his daughters, Patty and her husband Chris Bierley of Maui, HI and Kathleen Feeck and her husband John of Pembroke, MA and his granddaughters Brianna and Fionna Feeck. He was predeceased by his brothers John of Annapolis, MD, Joseph of Duxbury, MA, Francis of Marco Island, FL, Timothy of Leavenworth, KS, and Leo of Chatham, MA.

Mr. Kelley was born in Dorchester and was educated in St. Peters Elementary School, Cathedral High School, The University of New Hampshire and Nova University. A WWII Veteran of the Navy, he served in the Marine Corps after the war. He served many years in the Naval Reserve and retired in 1980 as a Lt. Commander. He was also a Blue and Gold officer for the US Naval Academy.

From 1955 to 1960 he was a special agent with the FBI, where he met his wife Marlys. He was a teacher in the Cohasset and Duxbury School systems and was responsible for restarting the Duxbury football program in the early 1960’s. Mr. Kelley also served as Superintendent of Schools in Nantucket from 1964 to 1967 and Athol-Royalston from 1967 until his retirement in 1994. He lived most of his adult life in Royalston, MA until he moved to Nantucket full time in 2007.
Herve J. Bosse, 60, died Thursday, August 4, 2022 at his home after an illness.

He leaves his wife Janice R. (Sterbinsky) Bosse; his mother, Odette (Lavoie) Bosse; three sisters, Martha McDonald of Gardner, Lorraine Roy of Gardner, and Norma Bruinsma of Clinton; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He is predeceased by his father, Yvon Bosse and a sister, Diane Bosse. Herve was born on January 27, 1960 in Edmonston, New Brunswick, Canada. Herve was a 1980 graduate of Monty Tech and with an associate’s degree in Criminal Justice and a Nursing degree from MT. Wachusett Community College.

He worked as a corrections officer at NCCI Gardner and the Max at Sousa Baranowski in Shirley, he was a police officer in Royalston and as a nurse at Athol Memorial Hospital in the emergency room and at Deven’s Medical. Herve was a Ham Radio enthusiast and enjoyed shooting, traveling, exercising, listening to music, tinkering on heavy equipment, and working in the outdoors. His favorite thing was the time he spent with his family and friends. He was a human jungle gym for his nieces and nephews.

Warren Marcy, 96, passed away on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Warren was born in Royalston on November 1, 1925, son of the late Lester and Florence (Hunter) Marcy.

He was a lifetime resident of Royalston and attended Royalston schools. Prior to his retirement in 1990, he worked as a millwright for Erving Paper Mills in Baldwinville for 39 years. He was also a member of the Athol Lodge of Masons.

Warren is survived by a sister, Geraldine Robison of Royalston; a niece, Linda Robison of Baldwinville; a nephew David Gasek and his wife Bernadette of Somers, CT, two great-nephews, Miles and Nathan Gasek of Somers, CT and a brother-in-law, Louis Gasek of Ellington, CT. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by a sister, Ruth Gasek.

Private graveside service will be held at Center Cemetery, in Woodstock, Connecticut. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to Athol Animal Control, 450 Thrower Road. Athol, MA 01331.

Joseph A. “Jack” Kacian, 64, of Deland Road in Royalston, died at home on July 12 with family members by his side. He had lived with Parkinson’s Disease for many years.

He was a talented multi-media artist with a long, varied and stellar career, most recently as co-owner of 42 Design Fab of Indian Orchard, Mass.

Jack was born in Gardner on June 8, 1958, the son of Joseph J. and Stella (Doucette) Kacian. He attended Gardner public schools and graduated from Gardner High School in 1976. He began his artistic career in his teen-age years, teaching himself illustration and air-brush painting. He launched his professional life air-brushing motorcycles and vans, and he painted graphics and illustrations on many buses for Wilson Bus Line of Templeton. In the 1980s, he attended the New England School of Art and Design in Boston, excelling in various creative media. He graduated with a degree in graphic design and a concentration in illustration. At graduation, he received awards for Best Illustration and Best Airbrush Artist in his class. He worked for the Holbek Group in Turners Falls before moving on to become co-owner of 42 Design Fab. These companies specialized in designing and fabricating museum displays, dioramas, and nature center exhibits in many New England locations, as well as props for movie sets. Jack’s talents enabled him to create interactive displays, murals and sculptures large and small. His colleagues in the art world recognized his exceptional array of talent and skills.

Jack became a licensed pilot of small aircraft and also developed an interest in model airplanes, becoming increasingly enthusiastic about this field. He entered into competition with his planes which were constructed to scale and powered by rubber bands. His achievements in modeling were written about in Flying Models magazine. He had musical talent as well, playing lead guitar with friends in a local garage band and on rare occasions did Elvis Presley impersonations. In addition, he taught himself carpentry and built his own home in a forested region of Royalston where he lived with his wife of 37 years, Cynthia (Melanson) Kacian, and their daughter Hannah.

While he was widely recognized by his peers for his talent, Jack was notably humble, never bragging about his achievements. He was kind and considerate to everyone. He was loved and respected by his family and friends as well as his fellow artists. Jack had no enemies.

He is survived by his wife and daughter, as well as his brothers and sister – Dennis Kacian of Idaho, Janet Peterson of Ashburnham, Stephen Kacian of Gardner and David Kacian of Gardner – and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Jack is pictured here painting a mural in the kindergarten room at the Royalston Community School in 2001.

To his friends at Butterworth Farm, Elvis has left the building.
Emergency Management
Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay
ema@royalston-ma.gov or phone 978-249-2904
Royalston Emergency Management Deputy Tom Musco
tgmusco@gmail.com or 978-249-9633

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. This year’s theme is A Lasting Legacy, focusing on preparing for unexpected unpleasant happenings in a way that creates a lasting legacy for you and your family.

Awareness is the first, and most important aspect of emergency preparedness. It’s hard to prepare for (or against) something if you don’t know about it. To that end, Royalston is a member of the CodeRED™ emergency alert system. It is used only with the authority of Royalston’s Emergency Management Agency (REMA) in consultation with the Select Board. It’s not a newsy info service, but a way to alert residents, property owners, and others with a vested interest in Royalston of situations that may threaten personal safety and property. To register your landlines and other devices to receive notifications, please go to www.royalston-ma.gov and follow the CodeRED™ link. Our Annual CodeRED™ TEST is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 6 p.m. If you do not receive a call on that date at that time, please contact ema@royalston-ma.gov or 978-249-2904.

In the “olden days,” EMA used to prepare for disasters that involved the elements: water (precipitation, flooding, snow); fire (wildfires, housefires); and air (tornadoes, straight-line winds, hurricanes), but nowadays, we must include the final two, space (cyber issues) and earth (climate change-related issues). All of the unpleasant happenings involving any of the five elements can cause physical injuries, separate us from our property, ruin our personal belongings, and in the case of cybercrime, ruin our financial integrity, and even our personal and professional reputations. FEMA’s website, www.Ready.gov offers a comprehensive look at personal, family, and business emergency preparedness, with print-out fill-in-the-blank forms, lists for emergency supplies, and how to engage with Royalston’s EMA to reduce chances of damage and accelerate recovery from unexpected events. There’s a children’s page with an entire, ready-to-go preparedness curriculum for teachers and homeschooling families.

Royalston’s public safety leaders continually assess potential for damage and ways to accelerate recovery. This month, on September 7, 2022, Royalston will participate in a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-led program about flood control dams in general, Emergency Action Plans (EAPs specific to Birch Hill and Tully Dam), inundation map tutorials, and a National Inventory of Dams (NID) review. A site visit to one of the dams will be offered to enhance the classroom portion. The purpose is to develop relationships between the USACE and MEMA, REMA, local public safety and service personnel, and to ensure operational readiness during any safety emergency involving dams in Royalston.

If ever there was a time to put some effort into preparedness, it’s NOW!

BLAST FROM THE PAST
LESLIE BURGESS AND THE THREE C’S
Kathy Chencharik
On March 31, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, with the help of Congress, passed many bills. One such bill, the Civilian Conservation and Reforestation Act resulted in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The Corps, sometimes referred to as the three C’s, provided jobs for young men on federal conservation projects during the Great Depression. Leslie Burgess was one of those men. He had been with the Tewksbury Fire Department when the Fire chief asked if he wanted a job with the three C’s. And so it was through the fire chief that Leslie became a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The reference point for the three C’s camps had been in Lowell at the time. The men were processed through Fort Devens, split up, and sent to different places. Leslie ended up in Royalston. A little driveway near Priest Brook took them into camp. The camp consisted of three living barracks with bunks, a hospital, mess hall, and a maintenance shop. Leslie was an assistant leader with five or six men under him. They knocked down and cut brush out from the good trees, which they called weeding, laid out roads, hauled gravel, and fought forest fires. One such fire was in the Lake Dennison area. Once one road was finished they’d go on to another. During his time with the three C’s Leslie met his future bride, Teresa Flematti, at an amphitheater in the area. The amphitheater sloped up from the ground and people could sit and watch boxing and wrestling matches down below. Years later, Leslie had gone to FBI school and had become a special police officer, a constable for the Town of Royalston. He and his wife had resided on Neale Road in South Royalston. The area in which Leslie worked so many years ago for the three C’s is now called the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area. Today it is run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

New Superintendent in ARRSD, Mary C Barclay
An enthusiastic WELCOME to Superintendent Matthew Ehrenworth, who comes to ARRSD from Blackstone/Millville RSD. Superintendent Ehrenworth’s passion for children came early - in tenth grade – as a volunteer with The Association for Children with Down Syndrome. He enjoyed a rather circuitous route to classroom teaching, which included pre-med at Boston University, moving on to psychology, and during his early 20’s, earning emergency licensure in teaching, in response to a desperate shortage in New York City classrooms. He discovered his calling: Mr. Ehrenworth LOVED teaching. He earned the various education components necessary for permanent licensure, and earned a Master of Science in Education, specializing in Supervision and Evaluation. Fast forward a couple of decades, and we now will enjoy the benefits of his broad experiences.

Superintendent Ehrenworth is happily married to his wife, Anne, of nearly twenty years. They have three children, all in the Wachusett School District: Ava, 17, a senior; William, 15, a sophomore and member of Wachusett’s baseball team; and Zoe, 11, who’s entering sixth grade. The four-footed family members are dogs Sam and Ginger.

We wish you great success, Superintendent Ehrenworth, and offer support.
Classifieds

**Wanted:** PCA needed for a 36-year-old woman in Royalston at her home. $18/hr. 20-40 hrs/wk. Call 978-737-8996

**Services Available**

**Babysitter available.** Completed Red Cross Babysitter Training. Please call Hailey Dilg at 978-248-9828.


**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 Suzanne 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.

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

**“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 at 978-249-4491.

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**First Congregational Church of Royalston Outreach Marion’s Food Pantry:**

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. Pantry hours: Saturday 10 - 12

Please contact: Debbie Conrad (978)895-3505

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**for sale:**

**Organicall Grown Potatoes.** Reds, whites, yellows, and purples. $2/quart. Buy from the garden that inspired “Garden Notes.” Call Larry, 978-249-4260.

**Sweets from Teenie’s Sweet Shop:** Family-owned Sweet Shop that bakes up large size cookies, brownies, whoopie pies, pocket pies, and many other sweet treats. All items made to order. Special orders welcomed. 413-768-1614 email teeniessweetshop@gmail.com also on Facebook and Instagram


**Custom thermal travel cups** by Swank K reations. Single pieces or sets; totally kool kids’ cups. Krys and Keith Swan at swankcreations@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

**Sweetwater Sugar House** at the Le Rays’ has local syrup available. Call 978-249-3464.

**Royalston Maple Syrup from Divoll’s sugar house.** Prices: pints $15, quarts $20, half gallons $35 and gallons $55. Text/Call John 978-894-5109.

**Pork Cut Packages available.** Variety packs. 10 lbs- $55 20 lbs- $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.


**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

**Squire Davis Farm** has a limited number of one pound jars of honey. Call 978-249-4000 and leave message if you want some. $10.00 per jar. I will leave on porch for you to pick up. Ignore “No Honey This Year” sign. That is for the rest of the world!
Garden Notes

The garden is a far cry from that described sixty days ago. There are many open beds previously occupied by spinach, peas, garlic, potatoes, and onions. I use the term 'open' advisedly since weeds were quick to populate the available space. Weed-of-the-year honors goes to purslane, a ground cover that is covering every available bit of un-mulched ground. It is an annual but sets seed so prodigiously it might as well be perennial. In spite of my best efforts to hoe it up before that occurs, I have no doubt that purslane will permeate next year’s garden.

It’s been a dry August (though rain is forecast this week) but here-tofore rains have been timely. Three hit-or-miss storms in the third week of July hit and contributed mightily to the monthly total of five plus inches. The garden does not appear to be suffering from August’s dry spell; the grass, on the other hand, has a decidedly brown cast and we fret as to where the steers will find their next meal.

As in years past, there are winners and losers. The spectacular top growth (described in the previous newsletter) of the potatoes and onions had a winner and a loser. The onions, green and vibrant one day, were brown and declining the next. Since bulb formation was in its early stages yields were pitifully small. Potatoes, on the other hand, performed as well below ground as they did above. Yields were prodigious and I will be peddling potatoes throughout the winter. Cherry tomatoes are thriving; having reached the top of six-foot chicken wire they are climbing down the other side and showing every indication they will return to ground level. A winner. The cucumber vines, after yielding moderately, are dying (an affliction other Royalston gardeners have experienced as well). A loser. One hundred thirty or so brassica seedlings were set out. Rabbit heaven: thirty or so remain. Mid-August is corn and peaches and melons. What could be better?

Most of the ‘garden’ work is occurring in the kitchen. Putting food by, the preservation of foodstuffs for later consumption, continues on a daily basis. There are tomatoes to cook down to a puree, pickles and salsas to can, and fruits and vegetables to freeze. All of it is time consuming. A case in point: I will cut and haul to the house thirteen stalks of corn. The ears will be removed, husked, immersed in boiling water to blanch, transferred to cold water to cool, and dried. The kernels are stripped from the cob using a devise called, coincidentally enough, a corn stripper, packed into bags and frozen. Finally, there is cleanup, processing corn being a messy affair. An hour after I’ve begun, I have frozen the ‘magnificent’ total of forty-two ounces of corn. This is not a get-rich-quick scheme. (Nor is any other aspect of gardening.) The principal beneficiaries are the steers, who eagerly anticipate the stalks and the husks and the cobs.

In recognition of a bum leg, advancing elderliness, and too much product, I am obliged to significantly cut back on this gardening life. Next year (I’m ever the optimist), most everything I grow will be reduced by one-third to one-half. It is due (perhaps overdue).

Larry Siegel

East Window

High up on our second floor, under the back gable, a window faces east. Stopping at this window to look and listen has become a ritual that opens and closes my days. And, every time, the world it brings to me is new.

Sometimes the world the window brings is very close. On a recent sultry evening its open casement brought in the cool night air. A faint clicking sound summoned me to the screen where, on the other side, several bright green insects moved in cautious circles. They were katydids who sing to us from the night forest. But these had been drawn away from their trees by the room’s lamp light. I stopped for a long time, admiring their translucent wings, their faceted eyes, and their long legs with knees that face backwards to ours. They did not sing. Instead, they clicked softly as they crept slowly around the screen. Click-click-click. I worried that this bedroom light they could not reach was confusing them, so I turned it out. Within moments they were gone.

At dawn the open window brings me the songbirds’ calls. As I listen, I begin a mental list: Robin, Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, Wood Peewee, Jay. Our hummingbird feeders are far from this window, on the south side of the house. Yet, as the hummingbirds make their way to the feeders in the day’s first light, the east window brings me the whirr of their wings.

Sometimes the east window’s world is far away. At night, the window brings in the call of Barred Owls, deep in the woods. Often, it’s the plaintive cry of a lone owl. Other times the window brings me a cacophony of calls as the owls search for each other in the forest dark.

Recently, just before dawn, I woke and looked out the east window. Peeking back at me from among the trees was an orb of bright light. This was the wrong place and at the wrong time of night to be the moon. Surrounded by stars, it glowed with the steady reflected light of a planet. This was Venus, low in the east. Too vast to be contained within the window’s frame, the celestial world beckoned. So, I crept downstairs, opened the back door, and stepped outside to stand under a pre-dawn sky filled with stars. I scanned the sky in an arc, from Venus south. There was Jupiter, above the southern horizon. Tracking back toward Venus I found bright Mars. The vastness of what I saw filled me with wonder. How lucky I was to be awake at this moment, to see these far-away worlds with such clarity.

I stayed outside for a long while, watching the sky, feeling the night air, and listening as the day awoke. This is the world that the east window frames for me – as far away as the cosmos, and as close as a katydid’s eye.

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It was a rare blue diamond day.  
Cotton puff clouds on silk threads,  
Suspended from a glass sky,  
So clear and deep you could not see the end.

A perfect summer Sunday evening,  
Air sweet and soft as baby’s breath,  
Moon, just past full,  
Rising over beyond the tree line.

Time to shift the scene.  
Nighttime insect chorus  
Changed its summer tune to  
Segue into fall.

Leaves, still green, but brittle,  
Grasses brown to burnt.  
Weather fever broken,  
Yet little wet moistens the brow.

Sun’s still on the scene.  
Humidity scrubbed from the air  
Leaves us high and dry  
Save for thunderstorm tantrums.

Guess we’ll have to wait and see  
What September brings.  
*Michael Young*  
*current Royalston Poet Laureate*

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**Wildlife Sighting**

Janace Wambolt had a toad living in her potted herbs from July 14th to August 9th.