## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Saturday 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Reception to honor long-time DPW superintendant Keith Newton upstairs of Town Hall. A brief ceremony of appreciation will take place at 1:45. Light refreshments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Sunday 100th Fire Prevention Week begins 4:55 p.m. Full Hunter’s Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Monday Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Wednesday Farmers’ Day 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic at the Town Hall, 13 On The Common.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Saturday Autumn on the Common, organized by the Royalston Agriculture Committee. Hayrides and fun. Nature crafts at the Library 10 - noon. Fire Department chicken bbq at 2 p.m. in Town Hall. midnight Cultural Council grant applications due. (<a href="https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/royalston/">https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/royalston/</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Friday 7 p.m. Quarterly meeting of the Royalston Historical Society at the museum (Old School House #1). All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Saturday 2 p.m. Corn Hole and Paint “Night” to benefit Chet Hall Memorial Scholarship at Royalston Fish and Game Club. Call Emily 978-467-5568 to participate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Tuesday New Beaver Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Wednesday 6:30 p.m. The Ladies Benevolent Society meeting will be about “The Healing Power of Crystals” with Elizabeth Leonard at the home of Pat Worth, 6 Gulf Road, Royalston. All welcome, regardless of gender identity or level of benevolence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Saturday 7 p.m. Spooky and Classic Silent Movie from 1920, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, with a live improv score by multi-instrumentalists Kelly Chen and Caleb Chase at Town Hall. Popcorn and snacks. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Monday 5:30-7:30 p.m. Trick-or-Treating, and Trunk-or-Treating on Common and in South Village park. Library open for treats.</td>
</tr>
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## Save the date:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Sunday 2 a.m. Daylight Savings Time ends – Change your clocks! Change your batteries!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Tuesday Election Day Election November 8, 2022- 7 AM- 8 PM@ Town Hall</td>
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### Election Schedules from the Town Clerk
Election November 8, 2022- 7 AM- 8 PM@ Town Hall

In addition: Early in-person voting and voter registration will be held at the Town Clerk’s Office, Whitney Hall, 5 School Street, Royalston

**early in-person voting** October 22nd from 1-5PM

Wednesday, October 26th 10 AM- 2 PM

Saturday, October 29th 9 AM-1 PM

Wednesday, November 2nd 10 AM-2 PM

**Voter Registration** Saturday, October 29th 9-11 AM and 3-5 PM

There are contests for Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, District Attourney, Sherriff, and Representatives in Congress on the ballot. In addition, there are 4 ballot questions:

- **Question 1** would create a 4% tax on the portion of a person’s annual income above $1 million and require – in the state constitution – that the funds be spent only on transportation and public education. Only people who earn more than $1 million annually would pay more taxes.

- **Question 2** pertains to profit limits on dental insurance and **Question 3** concerns liquor sales license expansion.

- **Question 4** would affirm approval of a law already passed by the Massachusetts legislature and then voted on again to override Governor Baker’s veto allowing residents who cannot provide proof of lawful residence to obtain standard drivers’ licenses (but not REAL ID). Because all seeking licenses will have to present passports and other verifying identification, provide proof of insurance, as well as pass their Massachusetts drivers’ tests to get a license, the law is seen as a way of improving highway safety. It is favored by a majority of police chiefs as well as state legislators. The law is explicit that these licenses do not confer voting rights.

A **Voters’ Guide** will be sent to each household from the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s office with more information about everything on the ballot with the exception of Question 4. For pro and con arguments and the full text of the law at the center of Question 4, you will need to visit: https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/ele22/information-for-voters-22/quest_4.htm
Select Board Notes
Rick Martin, clerk

Election Results
The debt exclusion was passed at the election in September. This means that $310,000 is available to be borrowed for the three targeted projects: the painting and winterizing of Whitney Hall, the purchase of a new pick-up truck/plow for the DPW, and a 10-wheel sander and plow for the DPW. These projects and purchases may not happen immediately, but we will keep you informed.

King Street Bridge Complete Shutdown
The Select Board and the DPW were informed by the state that the old King Street Bridge will have to be more securely cordoned off and posted for no traffic whatsoever, including foot traffic and snowmobiles. A recent scheduled inspection of the bridge by the state revealed the extent of the deterioration. The DPW will be placing additional signs and concrete barriers to comply with the state’s request. We ask that everyone adhere to this change in the future for your own safety. No additional plans have been formulated for the bridge at this time.

DPW Superintendent Search
The DPW Search Committee completed its work in August and referred three candidates for interviews with the Select Board. Those were conducted on September 9 and a decision made on September 19. After negotiations with the chosen person and notifications to the candidate’s present employer, we will have a new DPW superintendent. Those final details are not complete, so please watch the town website and Facebook page for the announcement!

Reception for Keith Newton
We will be honoring our long-serving former DPW superintendent at an open house reception on Saturday, October 1, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM 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.

Volunteers for Town Energy Committee
Last month you saw in this space an appeal for volunteers for all the openings that are available on boards and committees in town. But this month we are specifically asking for volunteers to join the Energy Committee. We have several immediate opportunities with the state for services and grant money that will help the Town in many ways. But the time is now, and we have to get to work right away. If you have an interest, please contact the Select Board at 978-249-9641 or bos@Royalston-ma.gov

Agricultural Commission Fall Fair
The Royalston Agricultural Commission has organized an “Autumn on The Common Fall Fair”, taking place on Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Farm animals, hayrides, games, and hot apple crisp will be available throughout the day, along with music by Ryan Hood. The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is hosting a Chicken BBQ at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall. The Library will have cool nature crafts from 10:00 to noon.

Royalston Flu Clinic 2022
Gary Winiter

The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th from 10 AM to 11:30 AM at the Town Hall, 13 on The Common. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free of charge and is for Royalston residents who are 18 years of age or older. The vaccination is free. Health insurance is not required. If you have insurance, please bring your card. This year’s flu vaccines have been updated for this season. Pneumonia vaccines, Prevnar 13 (PCV13) and Pneumovax 23 (PPSV23), will also be available, and Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine for those over 65. For the safety of all, this year’s clinic will be conducted in the Assembly Hall (second floor) at the Town Hall. Everyone participating must wear a mask or face covering. Participants will enter through the rear door and be pre-screened. After successful screening, participants will go to second floor by stairs or elevator, then complete paperwork and the vaccines will be administered. At the end, enjoy a snack or proceed to join the lunch in first floor dining room.

Forms can be downloaded from Royalston’s website: www.Royalston-ma.gov Vaccines will be provided by Athol Pharmacy, 290 Main Street in Athol. Assistance will be provided by Royalston Board of Health and nurses from the Wachusett Medical Reserve Corps.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair

The new pad for the compactor is poured. Thank you Hopkins Masonry for a job well done. Thank you RDPW for the prep work. The compactor unit will be installed by printing time. Electrical work will proceed after. So that being said, look before you dump. The roll-off container positions have changed. Metal and demo boxes have moved up a slot. There is signage. However, if unsure, please ask a worker. Once the new compactor is operational, all paper and cardboard will go into the hopper of that container. Stay tuned...

We are looking for reusable shed volunteers to help keep the area organized and free of junk. We have a couple of folks that can assist a Saturday a month. If interested, let Tony know.

The new COVID Omicron booster is now available at most local pharmacies. Most have online sign-ups. Fairly easy to find and book an appointment. Flu vaccine is also available via local flu clinics, pharmacies, and local health care providers. COVID tests are still available. We will be getting more supply. Town Hall, Library, and Post Office will be restocked.

Mosquitoes and ticks are still active. Ticks will continue to be active after first frost.

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
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

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and marks the National Fire Protection Association’s 100th Annual Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15, 2022! The NFPA has been sponsoring this week since 1922, and in 1925, it was adopted as a national observance by President Calvin Coolidge. As such, it is, “...the longest-running public health observance in our country!”

“Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape.” Is NFPA’s 2022 theme. That theme along with EDITH, an acronym for “Exit Drills In The Home, have been promoted in school (very effectively, I would add) by our Fire Department for decades. Chief Eric Jack and his dedicated and well-trained firefighters have that aspect well in hand, and will be conducting programs at the Royalston Community School towards the end of October.

Emergency Management’s job is to support our FD members, to keep them from risking their health, safety, and yes, LIVES while responding to events...and if we can do so by preventing events that shouldn’t have happened in the first place, all the better. Here are a number of quick-and-easy task to greatly reduce chances of fire:

- Matches and lighters need to be out of the reach of children – and if the kids are climbers, lock them up! Clean the lint trap in clothes dryers every single load. The dried lint is highly combustible, and responsible for thousands of house fires each year.
- Properly dispose of paints, removers, oils, etc. rather than store them in a basement or garage. If they are stored, ensure they are properly closed, and completely away from any possible source of ignition – look carefully for heat sources, such as a furnace or a lamp.
- Space heaters need to be safely located and should not be used when everyone is sleeping. Propane heaters – unless plumbed properly, do not belong in an enclosed space. Electric heaters can’t be exposed to rain. Appropriate distance from the heat to flammable materials is important. One of every six house fires is caused by a heating device! P.S.: Gas burners and ovens are not acceptable sources of heat!
- Turn pot handles away from the front of a cook top, keep towels and mitts away from burners, and if you have loose sleeves, roll them up! Slow cookers, food warmers, portable griddles – all more common come the holidays – should be on safe, stable surfaces, and secured on the surface, not draped over an edge.
- Electrical cords should be in A#1 shape, should never be run under floor coverings, and should always be plugged into appropriate outlets. If a specific device, or plugging into a particular outlet causes a breaker to blow, take the hint! Call an electrician!
- Battery-operated lights are the safest method of lighting during a power outage. Lamps with chimneys need to be placed on a secure surface, and where they’re not going to be bumped. Candles in holders are safest, and should never be near fabrics like curtains, towels, etc.
- Inspect wood stoves, chimneys, and other furnaces and boilers before the heating season begins.
- And while this suggestion doesn’t actually prevent a fire, it can save lives while waiting for the FD to respond: When the time changes, change their batteries! (Use the removed batteries for kids’ toys or something that isn’t going to cost a life if it fails.) Carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors make a difference!

Police Department News
RPD PR Officer Christopher Deveneau – 978-249-5838 (leave msg.)

Extra patrols will be on duty Halloween night for Trunk-or-Treating from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on both The Common and at the South Village Park, and for Town-wide Trick-or-Treating, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Motorists are advised to operate with extra care. Trick-or-Treaters are advised to wear costumes that do not obstruct view and hearing, and carry flashlights to warn motorists they are on the roadsides.

The RPD is pleased to announce the promotion of Sherry A. Miner to the position of lieutenant, and promotions of Chris Deveneau, Nicholas Trinque, and Joshua LaMarche all to the rank of sergeant. Lt. Miner has been with Department since 2002, and among other duties, served as the D.A.R.E. Officer for Royalston schools from 2005, until she passed the baton to Sergeant LaMarche, who began with the Department in 2017. Sgt. Deveneau has been with RPD since 2012, and Sgt. Trinque, since 2016.

Last month, RPD Sergeants Deveneau, LaMarche, and Trinque successfully completed a three-day training program on leadership styles and management, offered by the MA Municipal Police Training Committee, a division of the MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. The MPTC Front-Line Leadership Training was provided in the MPTC space within the Southbridge Innovation Center. Opened in January, the leadership training program’s purpose is, “...to deliver standardized officer training, as part of a regional approach to support implementation of the 2020 Police Reform Law.”

Greetings from the Fire Department,

I am pleased to announce that the Royalston Fire Department was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of $38,026. These grants are extremely competitive, nationwide less than 15% of all fire departments are awarded these grants. Funds will be used to install a diesel exhaust system at our station 1. Cancer is one area in which firefighters experience higher risk than the general public, as well as other occupational groups. Studies on firefighter cancer risk have focused on exposures encountered while fighting fires and do not account for potential additional carcinogens they may be exposed to at the fire station. Firefighters spend large portions of time at the station while waiting for calls and doing equipment and apparatus maintenance. Trainings take place in the apparatus bay, during which firefighters can be exposed to diesel exhaust, a known carcinogen. The new exhaust system will greatly reduce our firefighters exposure to these harmful substances. We hope this system will be installed in the station within a few months. Thank you to the residents of Royalston for their continued support with matching funds for this grant.

I would also like to remind everyone that small campfires are allowed as long as they are supervised at all times and there is a water source nearby. We have had several calls regarding unattended fires and also for large bonfires. Please make every effort to follow the burning rules for everyone’s safety. Conditions are still very dry and the fall brush fire season will be here very soon. Reminder that open brush burning begins January 15th and a permit is required, which can be obtained on Royalston-ma.gov and search brush permits.

Hope to see everyone at the Fire Department chicken BBQ October 15th on the Common.

Chief Jack
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Jeffrey Mangum, Jennifer Basso, Theresa Quinn
Open and pick up hours: Mondays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursdays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 - 8 p.m.; Saturdays: 9:00 am-12 noon
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends
Luann Simula
Royce and Jennifer Johnson
Tony Ferragamo and Jean McCurdy

Thank you
Stephanie McClure for beautiful mums for the Library

Ebooks and Eaudiobooks in Our Collection
When reviewing our circulation data for FY22, I discovered that 22% of our adult circulation of books and audiobooks was in electronic format. I must admit all of us were rather surprised. The Library is fortunate to be members of the Commonwealth eBook Consortium and have access to thousands of titles already. But for anyone who has searched for a bestselling book or audiobook can affirm, sometimes there are hundreds of holds on that item. By purchasing books and audiobooks for our collection, when you place a hold on a title we own, it will automatically place you first in line for the item.

Reliable Medical Information
I recently ‘attended’( remotely) a small libraries forum where Margot Malachowski, the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Network of the National Library of Medicine, described the resources available at http://medlinelpus.gov. This website, put together by librarians, provides well-researched health information, where you can look up specifics on health topics, drugs and supplements, genetics, and videos and tools. Each section has links to related topics and you can even look at original scientific papers. Plus, there is pet health information. And, unlike WebMD and other sights, there is no tracking or advertising.

Preschool Story Time
As you know, preschool story hour has moved to Monday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. It’s a great opportunity for small children to interact with each other and for caregivers to share experiences. Brooke Coleman’s inclusive warmth holds the children’s interest while they do a craft, read a book together and share a snack. Join them whenever you can.

Art Exhibit
The Tiny Art Show will continue during the month of October. Stop by to see the amazingly creative works of art on the tiny canvases. The diversity and talent of everyone is a delight to experience. The paintings by Grace Hofsmut blend beautifully with the Tiny Art Show. Consequently, we have extended her exhibition through the month of October.

October events:
Library Activities During the Harvest Festival
On October 15, as part of the Agricultural Fair, there will be a craft project of creating leaf rubbings while creating a small tree book and a tie-dye leaf backpack craft drop-in workshop at the Library.

Spooky 1920 Silent Movie Night with a Live Score
On October 29 at 7 pm, come to town hall for a screening of the quintessential work of German Expressionist cinema, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari. It tells the story of an insane hypnotist who uses a somnambulist to commit murders. The film features a famously fantastic visual style, with landscapes that lean and twist in unusual angles, and shadows and streaks of light painted directly onto the sets.

During the silent film, multi-instrumentalists Caleb Chase and Kelly Chen will perform a live improv score. The pair frequently perform together at The Firehouse in Worcester and recently created a soundtrack for an installation at Ponyhenge in Lincoln, Mass. Residents may remember Caleb created the live music and sound for this past June’s Royalston Shakespeare’s Co’s performance as well as created the sound track to the Historical Society’s video about the 1930’s floods.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating
The Library will be open for Trick-or-Treating. Stop by and grab a treat and maybe check out a book or something else. As it’s a regular open day, there will be treats available from 10:00-8:00 on the 31st.

Future Events
We will be having two holiday craft programs: one on making German paper stars and the other creating a straw Finnish Himme- li. During the winter we plan on having an adult clay program with Lydia Musco and Josh Doub and a cooking class with Ashley Levi, an animal program for kids during school vacation, and a Native American storyteller and birchbark basket-making program. Stay tuned for more information.
Some of the new materials at your library

Adult Fiction
Allen, Sarah Addison: Other Birds
Armast, Elena: The American Roommate Experiment
Barnes, Julian: Elizabeth Finch
Barrett, Andrea: Natural History
Beck, Hazel: Small Town, Big Magic
Boyle, T.C.: I Walk Between the Raindrops: Stories
Buckley, Christopher: Has Anyone Seen My Toes?
Clevees, Ann: The Rising Tide
Donoghue, Emma: Haven
Escoffery, Jonathan: If I Survive You
Galbraith, Robert: The Ink Black Heart
Gurnah, Abdulrazek: Afterlives
Hazelwood, Ali: Love on the Brain
Hoover, Colleen: Reminders of Him
Johansen, Iris: Captive
Johnson, Craig: Hell and Back
Kellerman, Faye: The Hunt
King, Stephen: Fairy Tale
Kruerar, William: Fox Creek
Lupica, Mike: Robert B. Parker’s Fallout
Maden, Mike: Clive Cussler’s Hellburner
McCall-Smith, Alex.: A Song of Comfortable Chairs
McEwan, Ian: Lessons
Mills, Kyle: Vince Flynn’s Oath of Loyalty
Montgomery, Selena: Rules of Engagement
O’Farrell, Maggie: The Marriage Portrait
Patteson, James: Blowback
Rankin, Ian: A Song for the Dark Times
Reid, Taylor Jenkins: Carrie Soto is Back
Rimmer, Kelly: The Things we Cannot Say
Slaughter, Karin: Girl, Forgotten
Theroux, Paul: The Bad Angel Brothers
Thompson, Alicia: Love in the Time of Serial Killers

Adult Non-Fiction
Beaton, Kate: Ducks
Borowitz, Andy: Profiles in Ignorance
Faloyin, Dipo: Africa is Not a Country
Kirtzman, Andrew: Giuliani
Mayes, Frances: A Place in the World
Miller, Tim: Why We Did It
Munroe, Randall: What If? 2

Audiobooks
Clevees, Ann: The Rising Tide
Donoghue, Emma: Haven

Children’s Nonfiction
Campbell, Sarah: Infinity: Figuring Out Forever
Cangelosi, Donna: Mister Rogers’ Gift of Music
Chau, Chan: Jessi’s Secret Language
Eason, Sarah: Bones in the Cliff
Jenkins, Steve: The Animal Toolkit
Schertle, Alice: Little Blue Truck Makes a Friend
Guinness World Records 2023

Children’s Fiction
Blackall, Sophie: Farmhouse
Elliott, Rebecca: Missing Magic
Gemeinhart, Dan: The Midnight Children
Gibbs, Stuart: Spy School Project X
Heder, Thyra: Joe Boat
Jenkins, Steve: Sometimes Love
Penfold, Alexandra: All Are Neighbors
Reynolds, Aaron: Big Nate: Destined for Awesomeness
Shannon, David: Creepy Crayon!
Taylor, Jessica: Gold!
Walker, Alice: How Do Satellites Stay in Space?
West, Tracey: There is a Flower at the Tip of My Nose Smelling Me
Guinness World Records 2023

Library Book Group
The next meeting for the Library Book Club will be Thursday, October 20 at 3:30. October’s book is The Soul of a Woman by Isabel Allende. Copies to borrow are available at the Library. Join in for lively discussion and refreshments.

Resident expert Noah Siegel’s recent mushroom walk at the Library was informative about the importance of fungi (no healthy live trees and no decaying of dead trees without fungi), the beauty of fungi (look at the variety on the table and imagine the colors and smells), and the best ways to choose (and not to choose) wild mushrooms if you plan to eat them.

This October, Noah is being awarded the North American Mycological Association Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology, which recognizes a person who has contributed extraordinarily to the advancement of amateur mycology. He is the youngest person ever to receive this lifetime achievement award.

Fall Sky Viewing
There are lots of planets with great visibility during October. If you’d like a close-up view, borrow the Orion Starblast telescope to see them even better. It’s a great time of year to view the moon and evening sky. Nights are cool but not freezing and the earlier sunsets make viewing times earlier than during the summer. The telescope is easy to use and powerful enough to see lots of detail.
Congratulations and Good News

Kudos to 2022 Monty Tech grad Brady Killay, who earned his high school diploma and a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency this past May in HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning), while working the last year and a half as a co-op student for Hutala Oil & Propane in Templeton. He is now a full-time Huhtala Service Technician, fulfilling a goal he set eighth grade. Brady, son of Kevin and Kristen Killay of Toney Road, is shown with his sisters Loryn (left) and Rachel (right).  

Congratulations to 2022 Athol High grad Owen Jeffrey Willhite, a three-sport athlete, participating in volleyball, ice hockey, and baseball. He earned membership in the National Honor Society, as well as numerous local scholarships, including Chet Hall Memorial, Cindy “Cinny” Hager Memorial, Helen C. Ellsworth Memorial, Royalston Ladies’ Benevolent Society, Royalston Community School, and South Royalston Reunion Association awards. Owen, son of Chris and Jessica (Hopkins) Willhite, and grandson of Jeffrey and Brenda Hopkins, all of North Fitzwilliam Road, is attending Worcester State University, majoring in Environmental Science, with a minor in Criminal Justice.

Amy Putney and equine partner, Bugs (AKA: Invtd Ona Impulse), wrapped up the NH Quarter Horse Association Annual Show in August, returning with a number of impressive titles, including High Point Amateur, High Point Level 1 Amateur, Reserve Champion in Non-Pro Equitation Challenge, and fourth place in Non-Pro Horsemanship challenge. Congratulations to the hard-working pair!

Peter Kraniak was awarded a citation from the State Legislature by Rep. Susie Whipps for his decades of service and dedication as president of the Royalston Historical Society at the recent reception to show off the newly restored upstairs at the museum. The effectiveness of the donations from Kay Shodek for restoring the cove ceiling and Fair Alice McCormack for improving the cupola was highlighted as well. Both Bob Casinghino and Kathy Morris spoke about new and exciting elements in the collection, including a receipt book which shows the importance of hat making in our town, especially for women with little access to cash, and a newly aquired document with John Hancock’s signature in a Royalston context. The event was well attended and the community very supportive.

Blast from the Past

Mina Crandon (Famous Medium- aka the “Witch of Beacon Hill”) had a Summer Place on Neale Rd.

Kathy Chencharik

Mina Stinson was born in Princeton, Ontario in 1888. She moved to Boston in 1904, according to the book “Margery” by Thomas R. Tietze. She had an older brother, Walter, who died in 1911 when a boxcar overturned and crushed him while working for the railroad. In 1904, Mina married Earl P. Rand and in 1913 they had a son. She filed for divorce in 1918 and married Dr. Le Roi Goddard Crandon, a sophisticated Boston surgeon who had operated on her in 1917. The Crandon’s, living at Number 10 Lime Street, where the Back Bay meets Beacon Street, hired a maid named Lydia and a Japanese valet, Thomas Nokouchi. In 1923, they had invited some friends over. As they all sat at the Crawford-Table, named for psychic investigator, William Jackson Crawford, the table began to move, rising on two legs and then crashing to the floor. Dr. Crandon, wishing to know who the medium was had each person leave the room one at a time. The table continued to move, but became inanimate when Mina left. Eventually, Mina became known as Margery the Medium, the witch of Beacon Hill and a famous psychic whose “control” was her dead brother Walter. She was admired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but the world’s most famous magician, Houdini, was a skeptic.

In the 1930’s Mina purchased a home on Neale Road in South Royalston. According to Teresa Burgess, a neighbor, she came up for the summer. They had a yacht. Her husband was a surgeon and he hated bugs. She was Nova Scotian and down to earth. She had a pump and a chemical toilet and that was the way she wanted it. In 1937 when Teresa and Leslie were married and getting ready to make a down payment on a house, Mina asked if they would stay at her house until Memorial Day as someone broke in the winter before. They stayed there for two winters. In 1950 Lillie Dobson and her husband Bill bought the place from Charles Eklund who had something to file for divorce in 1918 and married Dr. Le Roi Goddard Crandon, a sophisticated Boston surgeon who had operated on her in 1917. The Crandon’s, living at Number 10 Lime Street, where the Back Bay meets Beacon Street, hired a maid named Lydia and a Japanese valet, Thomas Nokouchi. In 1923, they had invited some friends over. As they all sat at the Crawford-Table, named for psychic investigator, William Jackson Crawford, the table began to move, rising on two legs and then crashing to the floor. Dr. Crandon, wishing to know who the medium was had each person leave the room one at a time. The table continued to move, but became inanimate when Mina left. Eventually, Mina became known as Margery the Medium, the witch of Beacon Hill and a famous psychic whose “control” was her dead brother Walter. She was admired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but the world’s most famous magician, Houdini, was a skeptic.

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Skip Ciccarelli — beloved father, brother, and uncle — left this earth on September 11th, 2022 at 74 years young, (he would tell you 29) after a 3 year battle with squamous cell cancer, surrounded by loved ones at Franklin Baystate Hospital. If you knew Skip, you know he cracked the code on what it means to really live. Surviving multiple near death experiences, three 8+ hour surgeries in two years, a heart attack, a stroke, and multiple rounds of cancer (maintaining a positive disposition throughout), it was often said he had more lives than a clowder of cats. But it wasn’t just what he survived that led to having a full life, and instead how he chose to live.

A born and raised “Cantabridgian,” Skip was proud of his roots. Although he lived the majority of his years in the woods of Royalston, his love for Cambridge, Massachusetts came through in his speech: “horses” were always “hawses” and “California” was always “Cali-phone-ya.” The phrase “Oh you Stinkah” could often be heard at his worksites. When he was six years old, Skip’s father, Rico Ciccarelli, taught him carpentry. Over the years, he became a skilled craftsman and artist. His woodworking and photography was featured at the Fitchburg Art Museum and it was hard to leave a conversation with Skip without knowing that one of the wooden bowls he had made was sitting on the desk of a Fortune 500 CEO in China. Skip’s life changed when he began teaching high school students carpentry at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School. Working with young students softened him and made him more patient. Under his coaching, the students formed a state champion team, won multiple second place state titles, and secured one second place National title — all within five years. After Shawsheen, he taught woodworking to K-8th graders at The Applewild School. He found incredible joy in this experience, struck by the magic of being able to — in his words — “start from the beginning.”

From sky to sea, Skip always had a fierce love of nature. A tree-hugger and self-proclaimed Waterfallologist he went missing on many short hikes: veering off course when he spotted a good tree to “vibe with.” He passed this appreciation of nature onto his three children — their youth, marked by annual camping trips to the White Mountains where he would teach them about constellations, plant types, and meteor showers. As technology advanced, Skip scowled at cell phone towers popping up and interrupting the natural landscape.

Skip was half social butterfly and half hermit. He enjoyed a good party just as much as being alone with his thoughts in nature, especially at his home of 40+ years in Royalston. A few years before his death, he reached out to the Legacy Tree Program to assess one of the apple trees on his land. Convinced it was one of the oldest he’d ever seen, he was proud to learn he was living alongside the largest domestic apple tree in Massachusetts and the 6th largest in the country. He continued to call this tree the oldest in the state.

In 2004 — after a surviving prostate cancer and a heart attack — Skip became an avid kayaker. In 2008 he completed a solo paddle from Chicago to New York City, paddling 744 miles in 2.5 months to raise awareness for prostate cancer. His best friend Evan supported him with supply drops and along the way, he made a host of new friends. When he paddled down the Hudson into Manhattan on 8/8/08, his community stood along the bank and cheered for him. He went on to kayak competitively and loved placing not only in his age bracket, but with kayakers far younger. When triathlon training season began, he competed on a team with his two dear friends Arne and Kevin. They aptly called themselves Two Crazies and a Loon. In July of 2011, Skip set the record for the fastest through-paddle of the Northern Forest Canoe trail. In the years following that win, he would return to sections of the trail again and again, committed to enjoying every bit of nature he had initially sped through.

The world lost a bright light the day Skip passed. But the thing about people who truly live is that their legacy of light lives on. In spite of everything, Skip always said yes to life — to adventure, to challenge and to everything this planet had to offer. No doubt, he will continue to shine on from the other side. Skip is predeceased by his parents, Margaret “Franny” Ciccarelli and Henry “Rico” Ciccarelli, and by his sisters Francine Ciccarelli and Henrietta “Honey” Hackett (Ciccarelli). He is survived by his three children: Indra Ciccarelli and wife Lisa Nunez, Aaron Katz- Ciccarelli, Rosetta Katz-Ciccarelli and her partner, Colleen Teti. He is also survived by his two-day old grandson, Cosmos Teti-Katz-Ciccarelli, who Skip “met” on FaceTime minutes before he took his last breath. He is survived by his siblings, Carolann “Chickie” Courtney (Ciccarelli) and her husband Gerry Courtney, Julianne “Juju” Ciccarelli, Marlo Christakis, Michael Noone. His nieces: Tiffany Ciccarelli-Moore and Francine Carroll. Nephews: Peter Parise, Mark Parise, Kevin Courtney, and Gerry Courtney, and many beloved grand nephews and nieces. His best friends: Evan Thayer and John Bagni. His Grandogs: Stella, Leeloo, Jacques, and Charlie. And by his own beloved dog, aptly named “Deehogee.” So many other loved ones — family and chosen family — are left behind to mourn his passing. In lieu of flowers please send donations in Skip’s name to the following organizations: The Trustees: thenow.org (To help Skip’s love of nature make a difference), The Jimmy Fund (To help others fight cancer), or Sisters of Notre Dame De Namur (For his sister, Francine.)
**ARRSD Updates:**

Superintendent Matthew Ehrenworth

Greetings Athol-Royalston Community Members!

As the incoming Superintendent of Schools, I thank you all for the warm welcome I have received from so many of you. It is a privilege and a pleasure to have joined this community, and I pledge that I will do my best to keep our schools an integral part of it.

There are so many wonderful things happening in our schools that it might be difficult to keep up with all of them. I encourage you to visit our District website, our school Facebook pages, and my own social media (Facebook and Instagram). Below, I’ve shared some news about our school openings as reported by their school principals:

RCS had a successful opening to the 2022-2023 school year with some familiar faces and classes, as well as some new faces and classes. One of the most exciting additions to RCS was the movement of one of the district preschool classes from its prior home in ACES to RCS. A new developmentally appropriate playground was recently installed to support the social and gross motor growth of students and is being enjoyed by the preschool and occasionally our kindergarten students. While RCS has welcomed many new faces this year (students and staff), what hasn’t changed at RCS is the commitment to being a Respectful, Cooperative and Safe school that strives to create a sense of community, belonging and learning. Everyone at RCS is looking forward to a great school year together!

The Athol Royalston Middle School began the school year with great success. In our front foyer hangs an artifact created by our new fifth graders when they visited in the spring. This colorful banner exemplifies our commitment to fostering a strong sense of belongingness for everyone at ARMS, students and staff. Each grade level is settled into its new routines as teachers work to build strong connections. Students are successfully engaging in many different areas of content.

Athol High School welcomed back 410 students for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. This is a 12% increase in students from last year and up 25% in student population since the 2018-2019 school year. Students and staff genuinely seemed happy to return to the building in what we hope to be a return to more of a normal school year. In the first few weeks, the school is working hard to establish routines and rituals that will optimize student learning. Lastly, the school has seen a 100% increase in the number of students enrolled in college level courses. Last year, 18 students participated in the early college experience. This year the number has grown to 41 students. With this latest trend, the school has applied to become an Early College Academy school which will make these college level courses available to even more students next year.

**What’s happening at the Village School?**

It’s outdoor time! Classes eat lunch and snack outdoors at the picnic tables and the fire circle. Science classes are outdoors. Classes are hiking Camp Caravan trails, and doing tree and habitat studies in the woods. Reading Buddies are building fairy houses together along the trail to the pond. Our resident chickens wander the playground in search of bugs and other treats, and greet the children at recess. Check out www.villageschoolma.org for the latest newsletter and happenings.

**Upcoming events**

Thursday October 6 Kindergarten Reading Morning 8:30 to 9:30. Thinking of sending your child to the Village School? Come in for a hands-on presentation on our engaging Kindergarten Reading and Writing Curriculum. It’s the start of children becoming lifelong readers.

Saturday November 12 Open House 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, tour the new building, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children, they will enjoy activities in the classrooms just for them. Preschool starts filling up for next year.

**Monty Tech**

Jessica Putney Schanz, Royalston Rep. j-schanz@montytech.net

Royalston has nine students attending Monty Tech this year, two freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors, and three seniors. There are 369 incoming freshmen among a total of 1410 students in 9-12th grades.

On September 16th the grand opening of the Monty Tech Freight farm took place. They are looking forward to hands on learning for the culinary students as well as many bountiful harvests and increased food security in North Central Mass.

The Superintendents Dinner took place on Sept 21st to raise money for student tool grants and scholarships.

Summer renovations include ongoing projects funded by a pre-COVID, $385,000 Skills Capital Grant. Of that award:

We are happy to announce the completion of an Automotive Technology update, accomplished with $204,000 of the Skills Capital Grant. Equipment and simulator technology were updated, instructors overhauled the tool crib, and have been working to bring that vision to their students and program.

In FY22, we were awarded a $150,000 Skills Capital Grant, to update equipment and technology in the Dental Assisting program. With additional funding from the District, three instructional spaces were updated, providing much-needed storage, state-of-the-art student work stations, and an all-new clinic. We are awaiting installation of four, Midmark electric dental chairs within the month.

The Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) machine will be installed in the coming weeks, which will allow students to take 3D images. This technology is what is being used in area clinics, so our training program now better aligns with industry standards.

**Chet Hall Scholarship Fundraiser- Paint Night and Corn Hole Tournament**

Come join us for a Paint Night/Cornhole Tournament fundraiser for the Chet Hall Memorial Scholarship. Both of these events will begin at 2:00 pm at the Royalston Fish and Game Club on October 22, 2022. Local artist, Bride Johnson, will lead the beginners paint class inside where we will be painting a fall scene on a wine bottle with twinkle lights. Please contact Emily Hall at 978-467-5568 or Emilyrd3@gmail.com, if you would like to participate in either the painting or the tournament. The Chet Hall Memorial Scholarship is given out to local students each year who are furthering their education after high school. We hope to see you there!
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for sale:


Custom thermal travel cups by Swank Kreations. Single pieces or sets; totally kool kids’ cups. Krys and Keith Swan at swankkreations@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 LeRays’ has local syrup available. 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!

Dean’s Beans Coffee You can order fresh roasted coffee once a month through the Village School, ground or whole beans. Order online and pick it up in the hallway at the school the following Friday. Go to https://www.villageschoolma.org/shop/

Royalston South Village Revitalization News

Thank you so much to all the people who voted for last month’s debt exclusion article that will allow for Whitney Hall to be preserved and painted and to all the people who got the word out about the vote.

Our thanks to Dick Brown for help with electrical service on the Gazebo and to Tom Musco and Josh Doub for work on the weathervane prototype. Also, thank you to Jessica Barrett for maintaining our FaceBook page, Welcome to the Village of South Royalston.

At the time of the writing of this article for the Newsletter deadline, the Up in the Air Fair has not yet occurred, but we hope that it is a fantastic event for families in Royalston and the region. Our special thanks to the Royalston Fish and Game Club, who donated the use of the Club and grounds, and all of their volunteers who helped with the Fair. We would like to thank all of the following: Royalston Arts Council for funding the program; aerialists Molly Baechtold and Leah Abel for performing and holding the children’s activity afterward; the Fair Planning Committee members: Kelly Dolan, Sonja Vaccari, Luann Simula, Rose Lawrence, Janice Trask, Nancy Monette, Linda Alger, and Ruth Suyenaga; and thanks to Laurie Truehart for all of the fair planning advice. Thanks to Gordon Morrison, Sonja Vaccari, Laurie Truehart and Amy Newland for donating artwork to our raffle table, as well as Bob and Lorraine Casinghino, Kitchen Garden, Kate Collins, Kathy Morris, Marlene Jarvenpaa and vendors Carolyn Cullen Massage Therapy, Erin Girouard of Rainbow Crown Bakery, Meagan Brockelbank of Mother Hen Organic Farm/Apothecary, Divoll’s Sugar House, Mary Jane Swaim Luminary Jars, Mae Williams Mosaics, Gina Agnelli Wreaths, Tom LeRay of Sweet Water Sugar House, and Dale Monette Nature Prints and Books. Special thanks go to Officer Bill Chapman and his bloodhound General, Officer Tim Wright and his bloodhound Briar for their demonstration. Also, thank you to DARE, the North Quabbin Cruisers Car Club, musician Joshua LeVangie, and in the Children’s Area: Julie Crosby of Julie Balloonie balloon animals, Chyle Crossley – hula hoop fun, and face painters Rachael and Loryn Killay. Also great signs were made by Sonja Vaccari and we would like to thank volunteers Maureen Blasco, Kristi Schellie, Christine Cheney, Chyle Crossley, Cathy Offutt, Bunni LeBouef, Ellee Bronnes, Dickie Lawrence, Mark Shoul, Rick Martin, Scott Monette, and Larry Trask.
Garden Notes
September 17, 2022
The observant among you may note that this column is being penned a bit earlier than usual. I am about to embark on my annual mushroom retreat to the rugged and remote environs of western North Carolina. (Mount Mitchell, twenty miles distant from where we will gather, is the nation’s highest peak east of Mississippi. It is my first absence from the garden since the season commenced in late March. I leave it in a state of disarray, weeds having gained a significant foothold, only a handful of crops continuing to thrive. That handful includes peppers, brassicas, carrots, and leeks. Tomatoes, beans, squash, and beets persist, but, like their gardener, have seen their better days.

With but a few melons remaining, we are about to become freshfruitless. This is not the norm. We ought to be in the midst of the fall raspberry harvest. The deer thought otherwise. There is nary an apple, the other fruit we might be consuming. I may yet unearth an abandoned pear tree in somebody’s yard and we generally harvest some to many grapes in October, but, beyond that, we turn to the freezer. Fortunately, it is stuffed with strawberries and blueberries, and peaches.

Food preservation continues apace. To date, one hundred seventy bags of vegetables and fruit have been frozen. There will be more. Vegetables must be blanched, either by immersions in boiling water or steamed. Fruits do not, though preparing them for the freezer is not a simple task. Strawberries must be hulled; peaches skinned and sliced. Cleaning up the wild blueberry harvest can take as long as picking them. Raspberries are the exception: pour into bags and freeze. Pity we have none. Make no mistake: the quality of the frozen food stuffs pales in comparison to the fresh. Vegetables will not be eaten as a side dish; rather, they will be incorporated into soups and stews. Fruits generally adorn cereal or yogurt.

Then there is tomato processing. Recently I crushed sixteen pounds, brought them to a boil, and gently simmered. At a certain point, the skin and seeds are removed from the liquidy pulp. Any number of devises can perform this task; we use a perforated cone with a wooden follower. Seven hours later (that is not a misprint), the sixteen pounds had been reduced to four pints (‘a pint is a pound’) of puree. (The tomato, after all, is over 90% water.) There is a certain craziness to this homesteading way-of-life; puree ing tomatoes is one of them.

Nighttime Storm
The storm arrived an hour before dawn. I was aware of the lightning even before I woke, its flashes creeping behind my eyelids. The roll of thunder followed, and then torrents of rain that drummed on the skylights and poured down the eaves. Wide awake now, I watched the storm unfold. This was the kind of storm I love: heavy rain, enormous thunderclaps, and lightning so bright it leaves a split-second shadow-shape after it’s gone. And it was a nighttime storm. I got up, pulled on a sweater, and began my vigil.

There is a difference between a daytime storm and one at night. Daytime storms come when we are out and about, busy with our lives. The sudden rush to seek shelter might involve the company of others, perhaps total strangers, who have gathered under a nearby awning or huddled in a store, waiting out the worst of it. We are connected by this shared experience which, in turn, requires at least a polite comment, if not an extensive conversation about the rain, the lightning, and how long it will last. Its power is measured and quantified. It is “out there”, separate from us, a thing to be endured. We observe it, tolerate its interference and, when the storm abates, we venture forth into its sprinkling remnants and continue our busy lives.

A nighttime storm is different. Its power is not diminished by conversation or constrained by human measures of rainfall or time. Already safe inside and free of distractions, we can simply watch. A nighttime storm invites our full attention yet requires nothing more. In this way, nighttime storms can feel very personal, like something that is ours alone.

On this late-summer night, I sat vigil as the storm continued unabated. The murky predawn light shimmered with rain, and the thunder rolled on. The gloom of the storm made its way into the room as if there was no margin, no border between the storm and me. It was a physical presence now, and I could feel its energy. I watched and listened as the storm erupted, abated, and began again. I watched to the very end. In a world that requires so much of us, it was a comfort, in those gray-light, water-drenched moments, to bear silent witness to a nighttime storm.

Recipes of the Month
Christine and David Cheney recently retired to Royalston, and lucky for us, Christine likes to cook. The Cheneys are really enjoying the natural beauty and friendliness of the residents in Town. Wild cranberries grow in certain squishy corners of Royalston (including very close to the Library) and are ready to be picked in early October, which is perfect for Christine’s easy and tasty brunch recipe.

Cranberry Squares
Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine 2 sticks melted butter 2 cups flour 2 cups sugar 3 eggs 2 tsp almond extract 3 cups cranberries (If using frozen, do not thaw.) Bake for one hour.

A couple of readings in the 40’s the last two nights reminds us that autumn beckons. Bring it on.

Larry Siegel
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Wear Orange in the Woods
Massachusetts Archery/Deer and Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons begin October 17 and continue through November 26th. There is no hunting on Sundays.
On the threshold

I stand on the threshold
between what was and what will be.
The door is open.
Summer morphs into fall.
Sun baked gardens welcome storms,
lapping up tardy moisture.
Abundant rain comes too late for
some crops.
Equinox makes me ponder,
have I gleaned what I set to sow?
Have I left ripe fruit on the vine?
What can I preserve from summer’s bounty
to store up for the winter?
Memories in a photograph
like good times in a glass jar.
In times of darkness,
remember the light.

Michael Young
current Royalston Poet Laureate

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01368

Spooky? Wildlife Sightings

Patti Stanko, Ruth Suyenaga and Maureen Blasco looked up from
their yoga mats to see an owl outside the window. It stayed for
over 20 minutes looking for mice in the scattered mulch hay.

Participants in the recent Library mushroom walk found many
fungi as well as “Ghost Pipe”, a plant that does not need sunlight
to grow. It is related to the blueberry but lacks chlorophyll. In-
stead of getting its food through photosynthesis, it parasitizes my-
corhyzal fungi that have a beneficial relationship with the roots
of nearby trees. Through the fungi hosts, ghost pipes ultimately
get food from photosynthetic trees. They can grow in very dark
corners of the forest.