

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2016



Volume XVIII, Issue VII

A Publication of the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library, Royalston, Massachusetts

Calendar of Events

September 1 Thursday **New Harvest Moon**

September 5 Monday **Labor Day**

September 6 Tuesday **School re-opens** in the ARRS and at Monty Tech

September 8 Thursday
7 a.m. – 8 p.m. **State Primary.** Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

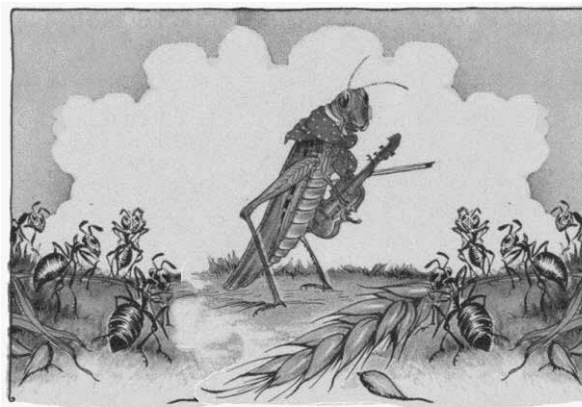
September 10 Saturday **Country Fair on the Common**
7:30 to 10:30 **pancake breakfast** at town hall
8 am **flea market** and craft show on common
9 a.m. – noon **Historical Society museum** open
10:30 - noon: **hula hoops and games** at library. Free coffee
11 am: **hot dogs and hamburgers** grilled up right
11 am - 5 pm: Events committee selling **beer and pizza**
1 - 5 pm **Windfall- relaxing live music**
11 a.m. – noon **Royalston Common guided tours.** Meet at the historical society museum
6 p.m. **local foods supper** Get your ticket at the post office, from a board member, or on-line at www.royalstonhistorical.org. Info? Call 978-249-0358.
For more information, see page 3

September 11 Sunday **Grandparents' Day**
Patriot Day

September 13 Tuesday
7 pm **Fall yoga classes** begin at the Town Hall. Free. Sponsored by the Friends.

September 15 Thursday
Owen Wormser will give a talk on low maintainance, sustainable design with native plants at the Millers River Environmental Center through the North Quabbin Garden Club

September 16 Friday
Full Harvest Moon



Saturday September 17

Two Breadmaking workshops at Camp Caravan:

9 a.m.- 1:15 pm **Breadmaking for adults, includes lunch.** Concoct a rye bread in time for lunch, prepare a dough for foccacia and make a sponge for bagels. \$20 pp.

2:00-4:00 p.m. **Bread making with parents and children.** Arrive a little early, or right on time. Donations are accepted. To sign up, email registrar@campcaravan.org or call 978 249 3505.

September 19 Monday

3:45 pm **Friends of Library meeting.** All welcome.
4:30 pm **Library Book Discussion Group meets** to talk about Willa Cather's *Oh Pioneers!* All welcome. Copies of the book are available at the library.

RCS Open House

September 20 Tuesday
7 p.m. **Selectboard Meets** at Town Hall

September 22 Thursday
10:21 a.m. **Autumnal Equinox – FALL**

September 28 Wednesday
10:15 to 11:30 pm **Roots and Sprouts: A free parent-child group for infants and toddlers** up to age 3 meets at the Village School on Royalston Common. Continues for 6 weeks.

September 30 Friday
8:12 p.m. **New Hunter's Moon**

Save the Date

October 2 Sunday
noon **South Royalston School Reunion** at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Social hour followed by potluck at 1 pm.

October 12 Wednesday
Annual Council on Aging flu clinic at senior lunch

October 15 Saturday
Deadline for submitting grant requests to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for 2017. Grant forms are available on-line at www.mass-culture.org. The council will meet November 15th to award the grants.

Select Board Notes:

Linda Alger

Pretty uneventful summer for the Select Board. The inflow and infiltration portion of the Waste Water Treatment plant has been completed. We are beginning the interview process for the Administrative Assistant to the Board. We are thankful that Helen has agreed to stay on a bit longer to train the candidate. We are hoping to make a decision in the month of September.

Annual appointments have been completed; that said, if you have an interest in a committee, please let the Board know. We are always looking for volunteers. We still have vacancies on several committees.

The Events Committee will be having a Country Fair on September 10th, On the Common. Crafters, Tag Sale, Pancake Breakfast, Local Food Supper, Live Music, Hot Dogs, Burgers, the Village Improvement Society will have the museum open. Should be a great family event.

Town Clerk News

Melanie A. Mangum, Town Clerk
978-249-0493 P.O. Box 127

www.royalston-ma.gov

Information below can also be found on the Town Clerk's page at royalston-ma.gov, under the pages "Voting information" and "2016 Election Information". At the Voting Information page, you will find links to check your voter registration status online, and options to register to vote online.

STATE PRIMARY – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

The State Primary is on a Thursday this year! On Thursday, September 8, polls are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

NEW!! EARLY VOTING FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

This year the state passed legislation to enact early voting, and an early voting period will be active for the Presidential Election that will be held on November 8. It will work similar to Absentee Voting, (which is still in effect) with a few differences. All registered voters have the option of early voting, during regular town clerk business hours, two business weeks prior to election day. This means that early voting days will be held on Monday October 24 and Monday, October 31, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and 6-8 p.m at the Town Clerk's Office at Whitney Hall. No application is required if you are voting in person on those two days. However, **if you would like an early ballot mailed to you, an application is required and must be received by Friday, Nov. 4, before noon.**

Absentee voting is also still available, for those voters who will be absent on election day or have a physical disability or religious belief that prevents them from voting at their polling place. You may submit a signed absentee ballot application, and have a ballot mailed to you, or vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours. Absentee ballots will be available prior to the early voting period.

If you have questions about early voting, absentee voting, or wish to check your current voter registration status, please contact the Town Clerk's office or visit the Voting Information page on the town website.

Royalston MLP Town-wide Broadband Network Update #8

Jon Hardie

The Royalston Broadband Committee, MLP Team, Selectboard, and I have been working together over the summer to complete Royalston's MBI Broadband Network Readiness Assessment Documents. These enable us to move forward with the final Town-wide Network grant application to obtain DOR and MBI funding approval. Then, expect a Special Town Meeting to approve funding for our self-sustaining network. There will be no need to come back to Town meeting for money every year, like we would've had to, if we had run fiber to every home.

We've completed our network coverage & engineering as well as capital and operating budgets to serve more than 350 households. There will be seven 90-120' towers broadcasting to our own 28 (55ft) neighborhood telephone pole Access Points, and then to small wireless receivers on each home. We have nearly 300 families who have signed the Tech Access Easement Form. Dozens and dozens of folks have donated \$49 to help defray start-up costs ... and get their first month free. You can too!

Want affordable high speed internet in your home? it's not too late to Pre-Register & be ready when we're in your area.

- 1) Go to the Royalston town website at www.royalston-ma.gov
- 2) and (over on the right) click on the Broadband signup.
- 3) Complete the Tech Easement Form, then
- 4) Read and Click the Terms and Condition, and
- 5) Pre-Register (over on the right). We'll confirm via email.

We'll notify you when we are installing in your neighborhood to set up a site visit - with you - to select the best antenna location for your home.

We will begin the buildout of our town-owned High Speed Wireless network with a fiber backbone - this fall. Our network will serve everyone ... everywhere in town, with wireless high speed internet. This is a big deal and has required years of hard work and advocacy. Twenty months ago we began the South Village High Speed Wireless Pilot Grant application. Eight hundred emails and dozens of conference calls and documents later, we received (on August 1, 2015) a total of \$50,248 for two grants to prove the concept. We began building our pilot network in last September, serving about 40 residents across the South Village.

We learned a lot from the South Village pilot as folks in the pilot program were incredibly helpful, supportive and responsive. We used every bit of data and customer feedback to design and engineer the town wide network.

In September we are launching the monthly Royalston Network E-Newsletter to give you detailed buildout progress, including specific goals for which areas we will serve each month and answers to frequently asked questions. If you pre-register, you are signed up for the newsletter.

Again ... Thanks for your help. Together we'll get it built. If you have any Questions, Please call Jon Hardie Project Lead on his cell 978-790-8474 from 8AM to 10 PM or 24/7 for emergencies.

ROYALSTON COUNTRY FAIR
ON THE COMMON
September 10, 2016
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Applications - Questions? Call Marlene 978.249.4491

Corn on the Cob 10:30 - 6:00
Ice Cream 11:00 - 6:00
Games at the Library 10:00 - 2:00
Tour The Common 11:00 - 12:00
Pancake Breakfast 8:00 - 10:30
Hotdogs 10:30 - 6:00
Hamburgers 10:30 - 6:00
Beer 11:00 - 6:00
Pizza 10:30 - 6:00
Wine & Cheese with
Guitarist Carl Kamp 6:00 - 6:30
Local Foods Supper 6:30
1930's Home Movies
Maple Syrup
Music by Windfall 1:00 - 5:00
Honey
Visit the Historical Society Building 9:00
Tag Sales All Day
Crafts All Day
Basket Raffle All Day

Country Fair Schedule of Events

Geoff Newton and the Events Committee

7:30 - 10:30 am: PANCAKE BREAKFAST by the members of the 2nd Congregational Church

8:00 am: FLEA MARKET and CRAFT SHOW.

9:00--noon HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

11 am: Guided tours of the common

10:30 - noon: HULA HOOPS and Games at the library. Free coffee all morning.

11:00: Royalston Fish and Game Club members will be grilling up HOT DOGS and HAMBURGERS, and whatever else they decide to please the hungry crowd.

11:00 - 5:00: The Events committee will be selling BEER and PIZZA and hopefully some CORN ON THE COB.

1:00 - 5:00 WINDFALL, a cover band from Worcester back by popular demand after a successful gig at the 250th celebration. All are invited near and far to come and listen, have a beer or two and relax to the sounds of the music and enjoy the peaceful little town fair.

6:00 LOCAL FOODS SUPPER: Tables groaning with tasty foods from local gardens by talented cooks. Wine and gnoshing accompanied by the classical guitar of Carl Kamp to open; copious dessert accompanied by a showing of 1930s home movies from the estate of Minnie Lemmon (including floods, the Roosevelt parade, and church picnics), digitized and stablized through Boyd Estus and then edited

and set to original music by Caleb Chase. Good company and good food in between.. Silent auction with beautiful local products and the hot-off-the press, completely revised Royalston 250th Celebration book on the block. Tickets (\$15) are on sale at the post office, from Historical Society members and for the first time ever on-line (www.royalstonhistorical.org. Click donation and earmark it for the supper.) The funds from this supper will help with the restoration at the OLD #1 SCHOOL HOUSE, south end of the common. Call 978-249-0358

The events committee is looking for anyone interested in bringing vegetables and other farm product to have a FARMERS MARKET during the day. VENDORS OF ALL ITEMS crafts, flea market, produce if you would like to set up on the common call Marlene Jarvenpaa at 978-249-4491. Again, ALL ARE WELCOME to make this a great event

Board of Health News *Phil Leger, chair*

Royalston Recycling and Transfer Station, aka. RRATS, has new signage reminding folks of annual sticker requirement for all vehicles using RRATS. The first vehicle sticker cost \$15. Second family vehicle sticker cost \$5. This fee is whether you use recycling services or waste services. Even though we don't charge for many recycling services, there are transportation and handling costs. This annual vehicle sticker fee, helps keep those free services free. So, we are all chipping in to cover those costs. Thanks to all who have their stickers.

Available for groups and or families to borrow for their gatherings: can and bottle recycling bins. Those nice blue plastic 55-gallon drums with can and bottles top are available for that family picnic. Just let Tony know at RRATS you want to borrow for a weekend. Come that weekend, pick them up, bring them back when finished and then, empty the contents into the roll off.

Mosquitos and ticks are all very active with this humid weather. People are outside at dusk. Take precautions. I love my screen room. Get the night air, and no bugs! We are in the midst of a severe drought, which actually started last fall with diminshed rains and lack of winter snow pack. Don't assume your well is secure. Use water as needed. As my grandmother used to say, "waste not, want not".

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Jeffrey Magnum, Clarence Rabideau

Mondays: 10:00 am- 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends

Leslie Williams

Deb and Joe Nunes

Tony Ferragamo

Benny and Susan Gronowicz

Cheryl and Dan Mahoney for the Little Free Library

Thank you

Robert Fairchild of Fairchild and Daughters Electricians for fussing with all our cables and getting the new copier/printer attached to the right places.

Oren Santillo for setting up a lemonade and cookie stand to raise money for the library (and thanks to his grandmother, **Patience Bundschuh**, for baking the cookies).

Tayah Neale and Brittney Brown for running a really great, popular summer Dance Camp.

Royalston Academy for generous support of our summer reading programs.

Friends of the Library for purchasing supplies and refreshments for the Royalston Shakespeare Workshop, Dance Camp, the mushroom talk with Noah Siegel and all the Summer Reading Programs.

THANK YOU!!

Summer Reading Program Winners

This summer we had more contestants in the adult reading contest than children! Lots of prizes were won by many. The top \$50 prize winners were: Adult: Emma O'Connor; and Teen: Nathaniel Belmont. The winners of the Big E tickets were Charlotte Mercier and Lacey Hermes and the winners of the wax hand prints from Yankee Candle were Aubrey Hautamen and Noah Linsky. Every participant at the ice cream social received a prize as well as a poster from the Boston Bruins. If you participated in the summer reading challenge, stop by the library to pick up your certificate and Boston Bruins poster. On Your Mark, Get Set ... READ! was sponsored by the Phinehas S. Newton Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and supported by a generous grant from the Royalston Academy and the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

Fall Yoga Classes

'Bit of Bliss' yoga classes led by Janet Bettey will begin on Tuesdays, beginning September 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. No previous experience is required. If you have a mat, block, and strap bring them to class. If you don't there are extras available for use.

Library Book Discussion Group meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months. It is taking a summer break in July and August and will meet September 19 with Willa Cather's *Oh Pioneers*. All welcome. Copies of the selection are available at the library.

The Library Clock in Miniature

Recently the library's grandfather clock, donated by the Hill family in 1910, needed service, so we called John Fitzwilliam of Clocks on the Common who has always fixed it in the past. When he arrived, he brought in a small clock that he had found at auction in Keene a couple of years ago. It is a replica of the library clock with the same gargoyles, leaded glass, and even the same seal on the bottom of the clock. It originally had an electric clock and a light behind the leaded glass.



On Sunday, October 23rd, at 4:00 pm Carl Kamp and Deb Nunes will present a concert in the historic ballroom of The Maples on Royalston Common of classical guitar and piano music.

The concert will last about an hour, followed by refreshments. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

For more info call Deb at 978-249-4000

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“Surviving Middle School” Book Review

The book “Surviving Middle School” by Luke Reynolds is very effective for students going through or going into middle school. In each chapter, the student reading is assigned a small task that will be recorded on a piece of paper or in a notebook (I recommend a notebook so that all your work stays together and in order). The book covers many points, such as, “Comparison is the thief of joy. A series of very well known important people said things like this, along with many other statements. The student reading will learn things about teachers, themselves, and bullies. The author, Luke Reynolds, is an English teacher at a middle school. He gives you inside views at his own real life stories. He references real things about students and teachers that he’s experienced. This was a really great book to read, seeing as I’m going to ARMS next year. I think every middle school student needs to read this book.

With Thanks, Alexis Reynolds

Some of the new materials at your library

Adult fiction

Bennett, Claire	<i>Pond</i>
Butler, Robert	<i>Perfume River</i>
Card, Orson Scott	<i>Swarm</i>
Castillo, Linda	<i>Among the Wicked</i>
Close, Jennifer	<i>The Hopefuls</i>
Coleman, Rowan	<i>We Are All Made of Stars</i>
Coulter, Catherine	<i>Insidious</i>
Duffy, Erin	<i>Lost Along the Way</i>
Eggers, Dave	<i>Heroes of the Frontier</i>
Fairstein, Linda	<i>Killer Look</i>
Gregory, Philippa	<i>Three Sisters, Three Queens</i>
Hawley, Noah	<i>Before the Fall</i>
Hood, Ann	<i>The Book that Matters Most</i>
Ivey, Eowyn	<i>To the Bright Edge of the World</i>
Lindsey, Odie	<i>We Come to Our Senses</i>
McGinniss, Joe	<i>Carousel Court</i>
McInerney, Jay	<i>Bright, Precious Days</i>
Miller, Louise	<i>The City Baker’s Guide to Country Living</i>
Miranda, Megan	<i>All the Missing Girls</i>
Moriarty, Liane	<i>Truly, Madly, Guilty</i>
Paris, B.A.	<i>Behind Closed Doors</i>
Parkhurst, Carolyn	<i>Harmony</i>
Patterson, James	<i>Bullseye</i>
Patterson, James	<i>The Games</i>
Ryan, Anthony	<i>The Waking Fire</i>
Scottoline, Lisa	<i>Damaged</i>
Steel, Danielle	<i>Magic</i>
Steel, Danielle	<i>Property of a Noblewoman</i>
Ware, Ruth	<i>The Woman in Cabin 10</i>

Adult Audiobook

Jones, Darynda	<i>The Curse of Tenth Grave</i>
Kellerman, Jonathan	<i>Breakdown</i>

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Rowling, J.K.	<i>Harry Potter and the Cursed Child</i>
Silvey, Anita	<i>Let Your Voice be Heard</i>
Sutherland, Tui	<i>Darkstalker</i>

Adult Non-Fiction

Forkner, Lorene	<i>Handmade Garden Projects</i>
Isenberg, Nancy	<i>White Trash</i>
Kardaras, Nicholas	<i>Glow Kids</i>
Klein, Jessi	<i>You’ll Grow Out of It</i>
Schumer, Amy	<i>The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo</i>
Siegel, Noah	<i>Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast</i>
Toobin, Jeffrey	<i>American Heiress</i>

Children’s Fiction

Angleberger, Tom	<i>Fuzzy</i>
Angleberger, Tom	<i>Inspector Flytrap</i>
Angleberger, Tom	<i>Inspector Flytrap and the President’s Mane is Missing!</i>
Barnhill, Kelly	<i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i>
Becker, Aaron	<i>Return</i>
Dahl, Roald	<i>Matilda</i>
Dahl, Roald	<i>BFG</i>
DiCamillo, Kate	<i>Where are you Going, Baby Lincoln?</i>
Evans, Sandra	<i>This is Not a Werewolf Story</i>
Hirsch, Rebecca	<i>Plants Can’t Sit Still</i>
Pak, Kenard	<i>Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn</i>
Schertle, Alice	<i>Little Blue Truck’s Halloween</i>
Watson, Tom	<i>Stick Dog</i>
Watson, Tom	<i>Stick Dog Wants a Hot Dog</i>

Children’s Non-Fiction

Barrons	<i>Rocks, Crystals, and Gems</i>
Barrons	<i>Space</i>
Barrons	<i>Wonders of the World</i>
Helberg, Berit	<i>Sniffer & Tinni</i>
Rockliff, Mara	<i>Around America to Win the Vote</i>



DVDs:

The Angry Birds Movie, Batman v Superman (DVD & Bluray), The Boss, Hello, My Name is Doris, House of Cards Season 4, Mother’s Day, Much Ado About Nothing and Three Amigos

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Recipe of the Month

Mary and David Flagg have lived in Royalston for the last 32 years. Before that they lived in Athol. They raised 6 boys and a girl in both towns, and have just celebrated a milestone – their 50th wedding anniversary. Now retired, the Flaggs are regulars at the Royalston Senior Luncheon. They also like to travel, especially to visit family and friends. When they do, they are often asked to bring this recipe for banana bread, passed on from Mary's mother:

Banana Bread

Combine: 2/3 cups shortening
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
3 cups flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla
3 cups mashed banana (approximately 6)

Pour into greased loaf pan(s), bake at 350 for 50 minutes.

To change it up you can add- 2/3 cup blueberries or chopped nuts

Two Bread Making Workshops

September 17 at Camp Caravan

2 sessions:

9 a.m.- 1:15 for adults, includes lunch. We'll make a rye bread in time for lunch, prepare a dough for foccacia and make a sponge for bagels. \$20 pp.

2:00-4:00 Bread making with parents and children with Professor Bread, making whole wheat raisin or cranberry bread together. Educator and social worker, Dr. Gary Gomer, a/k/a Professor Bread, created the Breadmaking-in-the-Schools program and has taught thousands of students and hundreds of parents in New York City all about bread and how simple it is to make at home. The family program will culminate with sharing warm bread and homemade butter. This workshop is designed to give parents the confidence to begin baking bread at home with their children. Please arrive on time. \$15 per family or \$5 per person. To sign up, email registrar@campcaravan.org or call 978 249 3505.

Gardening with Low Maintenance Native Plants

On Thursday, September 15, 2016, at 7 pm at the Millers River Environmental Center, Owen Wormser, who received a degree in landscape architecture from UMASS and went on to found two landscape/design companies in Pioneer Valley, will discuss low maintenance design with native plants. We will learn how to design unique garden spaces that strengthen our connection to our wonderfully varied New England landscape. Discover important functional and aesthetic qualities of native plants that can provide the building blocks for creating easy-to-care-for, sustainable gardens.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings Members are currently working on a wildlife habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center. All welcome. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a donation.

Royalston Police Department News

Mary C Barclay

contact the Royalston PD at the non-emergency number, 978-249-5838

Jes (Hopkins) Willhite is one of the estimated 450 wives of Massachusetts State Police Troopers spreading the word about that group's project to "Cover the Commonwealth with blue" ribbons in a show of support for all Law Enforcement Officers – LEOs. The message is spreading quickly in Royalston, with new ribbons appearing daily in front of homes and along rural roadways. She is inviting everyone to show their appreciation for our hometown LEOs – and we have many officers on the Royalston PD, troopers with the Mass. State Police, officers with the Departments of Correction and Environmental Management, and myriad federal agencies. Quoting Connie Sartini of the Groton Herald, "Behind every badge is a family!"



Community Programs at the Village School

To sign up or get more information about these programs, call 978-249-3505 or visit the school website: www.villageschoolma.org

Music Lessons in Town: The Village School offers private and group music lessons after school throughout the year on piano, guitar, flute, and ukulele, with a new session beginning the week of September 26th. Students of all ages can learn a new instrument or work on improving their musical skills in an encouraging atmosphere. Call or email Jocelyn at jocelyn@villageschoolma.org.

After School Program for Royalston children

If you are looking for after school care, the Village School has a great After School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS school bus and get dropped off at the Village School on the common. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting!) run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair.

Roots and Sprouts: A parent-child group for infants and toddlers

up to age 3 at the Village School on Royalston Common FREE. Meets Wednesdays, starting September 28 for 6 weeks. 10:15 to 11:30. Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator. Gather with other parents and their young children in the lovely preschool classroom for singing, movement and art, and outside play. Learn more about child development, how to build a healthy parent/child relationship, and enjoy a simple snack with your child. Come to the first session to try it out. Preregistration preferred. Call or email info@villageschoolma.org



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send your accomplishments and milestones to the Royalston Community Newsletter (chasegos2@gmail.com)

Obituary

Ralph A. Serre, 89, of Athol Road died peacefully at home on Thursday, August 11, 2016, with family at his side.

Born in Royalston on February 6, 1927, he was a son of Ralph and Evelyn (Newman) Serre and grew up in Royalston and Gardner.

At the age of 17, Ralph enlisted in the United States Army during World War Two and served in Germany before being honorably discharged.

On November 19, 1965, Ralph married the sweetheart of his life, Beverly M. (Lefrancois) and have been blessed with over 50 years together.

Ralph was a skilled furniture finisher and had worked for the Albert Locke Company in Gardner as well as many years for the N. D. Cass Company in Athol before retiring from there. He was often sought after by other furniture manufactures to assist with custom finishes.

An avid fisherman, he loved being outdoors catching fish. Ralph also enjoyed day trips and picnics with family and friends.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Beverly Serre; a son, Lonnie Serre; grandchildren, Natasha Frazier and her husband, Chris, and Abigail B. Serre and her companion, Larry Bunker, all of Royalston; great grandson, Nicholas J. Serre of Royalston; a sister, Shirley Putney and her husband, David, of Royalston; and many nephews and nieces.

Calling hours will be Tuesday, August 16, 2016 from 4-6 p.m. at Witty's Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 11 a.m. in the Lawrence Brook Cemetery, with Rev. Tim Oja of the Royalston First and Second Congregational Churches officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to Gardner VNA, 34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA 01440.

Fred and Marsha Charest of South Royalston are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, James Charest to Pegga Ghofrani, daughter of Molly Faraji of Walnut Creek, CA. James is an alumnus of the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and is the District Team Lead at Extra Space Storage. James oversees 15 stores in Columbia, SC and surrounding areas. Pegga is an alumna of San Francisco State University and is an Event Planner & Sales Manager for 1208 Washington Place and The Medallion Conference Center in Columbia, SC. The wedding is planned for May 2017, in Charleston, SC.



Happy 30th to Royalston-raised, long-time Pete & Henry's employee **Alex Cruz**, whose birthday was celebrated August 19th. Co-workers and customers offered up a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday as he made his wish and blew out the candles on his cake, which he shared with restaurant patrons.



Heather (Barclay) Johnson was recently named Operations Manager for Quantitative Economic Solutions, LLC in Boston. Heather joined QES a year ago as Executive Assistant and Office Manager, returning to Massachusetts after more than a decade in Washington, D.C. metro area, where she co-founded and served as C.O.O. of a highly successful language services company. She is now living in Acton, in the

home where her late grandparents' raised her mother.

More good news from **Caitlin J. Barclay**, who returned to Royalston for the week surrounding her birthday. She visited Sherry Miner's retired K-9 Rocky and Roland Hamel's retired K-9 Reba – likely for the final time – two of the first Search and Rescue dogs she worked with as a teenager. She was guest of honor at a literary-themed party at the Royalston F&G hosted by her sister, Heather. It was attended by more than 40 guests, who each gifted a favorite book inscribed with birthday greetings. After several unplanned lay-overs and weather-related delays, Caitlin made it home to Texas, going right from the airport to work – late. Apparently she was forgiven: Caitlin was just promoted to the ranks of Senior Animal Trainer at SeaWorld



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Open Letter from Jan Williams, new principal at RCS

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, staff, and friends of Royalston Community School, It is with great pleasure that I have been allowed to become a member of the RCS learning community. My goal is to be able to continue in the tradition of welcoming, enthusiastic principals who put children and families first in the school community.

As a teacher and principal, I believe in an active, hands-on, inquiry based education that challenges each child to want to learn as much as possible. I believe that a strong foundation in content skills of reading and math, allows students to have more capacity to learn, to make mistakes, and to persevere with challenging problems and projects. I believe that school should be a place that students, parents, and staff want to go to spend important hours of the day. I believe that students should be active learners who love the arts and physical challenges. And, most importantly, schools should be fun places to learn.



I am beginning my 11th year as a school administrator. 8 of those years, I have been an elementary school principal. The first two years, I was the Dean of Academic Affairs at Quabbin Regional Middle School. While I have taught all major content areas, my primary background is in reading and writing instruction. And, as a classroom teacher, I taught for 16 years in primarily fourth, fifth, and sixth grade.

I am the mother of three soldiers in the United States Army. My sons and daughter-in-law have completed 13 deployments and I am looking forward to keeping them on American soil for a while! I have 6 grandchildren and two elderly Jack Russells with whom I share a house, camper, and garden.

I love to camp, garden, draw, paint, cook and go to Patriots' Games. But, most of all, I love my job as a teacher and principal. My door is always open and I try to help with any problems to the best of my ability. Please drop by to say, "Hello." Best wishes for a great school year in 2016-2017!

Sincerely,
Jan Williams

Monty Tech News

Mary C. Barclay

Congrats to Monty Tech seniors presented with awards at the conclusion of their high school careers. Rhiannon Fletcher, Allisyn Mowrey, and Taryne Swan all earned Monty Tech Foundation awards. In addition, Miss Fletcher received the Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Scholarship. Melissa Persson was presented with awards for being the "Most Outstanding Student" in Graphic Communications and Physical Education. Loryn Killay was named Masonry's "Most Outstanding Student." Derek Bates received the "Most Outstanding Student" designation in Business; also in business, John Knight was cited for "Student Achievement."

Class of 2016 Stats: Approximately \$100,000 was awarded to the Class of 2016, with more than 225 awards to more than 150 students. Some 64% of the graduates will attend post-secondary schools; 32% are entering right into the workforce and 4% are enlisting in various branches of the armed forces.



Monty Tech's school meal prices have been voted by the SchoolCom and are as follows: Student breakfast: \$1.50 paid/\$.25 reduced; Student Lunch: \$3.00 paid/\$.40 reduced; Adult breakfast: \$2.00; Adult Lunch: \$4.00.

Fundraising:

The 29th Annual Superintendent's Dinner saw the largest turnout ever, with 380 guests and raised more than \$50,000 to be used for student scholarships. Governor Charlie Baker addressed the audience via video, and wished Superintendent-Director Dr. Sheila Harrity continued success in preparing students for both college and careers.



ROYALSTON PTG
Mary C. Barclay

Once again, Royalston's Parent-Teacher Group is hitting the ground running! Meetings with officers and administration through the summer, a couple of family fun events including an August 31st popsicle party made the summer fly by. Packets of information and forms from the PTG are being readied for the opening week of school, fundraisers for the year have been roughed out, plans for the open house on September 19 are in process and the initial planning for the first ever, combination Royalston Police Association and Royalston PTG Halloween party has begun. The PTG has decided to undertake a major, multi-year project to create an outdoor playground that will serve the recreation and exercise needs of our children for years to come. The PTG is hoping to enlist the support of not only the RCS family, but the community at large.

RCS calendar

- Sept 6 first day of school for grades 1-12.
- September 8 Kindergarten orientation for parents of students with a last name beginning with letters A-N (9:00-11:00),
- September 9 students with the last name beginning with O-Z (9:00-11:00)
- September 12- first day of school for kindergarten and ARRSD preschool students
- September 19- RCS Open House
- October 12- school closing



Village School Openings:

Preschool openings this fall at the Village School. Young children enjoy art, music, story, immersion in nature, play and more. Play is work and work is play for preschoolers, and they are learning all the time. Call 249 3505 for more information.

Openings in K-1 and 2nd-3rd this fall In K-1, children get excited about reading and writing, learn at their own pace and engage in nature exploration daily. The 2nd-3rd class is immersed in a year-long study of Colonial America, including many field trips statewide.

Classifieds

Free:

Beautiful paint mare available on free lease to a home with love and green grass. She can go from a trail ride to a show ring. For information please phone. Pat at 978-249-2722.

Coal – free for the pickup. About a cubic yard. Convenient, easy access. Nut sized, loose in an indoor bin at ground level near the common. Call Hugh – 781 438-5032 for details.

Services

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

Horse Board: Closed shed w. turnout available in Royalston at Black Horse Farm for one or two horses. \$300 monthly per horse, advance pay discounts available - secure space, arena, nearby trails. Breed your mare to your stallion of choice. Call 978-249-9880 or suzannagaits@gmail.com

Laurie Truehart: private wood carving lessons. 978-249-3291.

Graphic digital artist. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Barbara 508.364.3339 or brguiney@wildblue.net.

House cleaning. 4 hr - \$60.00. Royalston resident. Call Fran: home 249-4596 or cell 978- 895-0817.

Need help **cleaning your house, outdoor work, or other odd jobs?** \$16/hr. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Justice of the Peace. Mariah Mallet 249-9410.

Affordable horseback riding lessons. C + R Ranch on the Royalston border in Winchendon. All ages; beginner and up. Call Cindy 978-894-5611

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

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

If it's true a leaky roof should be addressed when it's sunny, so true is the fact heating systems concerns should be addressed while it's warm. Now is the time to engage a reputable business to inspect, clean and possibly repair or improve your oil, gas, and wood heating devices. National Fire Prevention Association's site www.nfpa.org, and many helpful articles and printouts are there to help you with preparedness at www.Ready.gov. Resources for wood burning include the Royalston Building Inspector, the Royalston Fire Department, or contact Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay at e-mail ema@royalston-ma.gov or phone 978-249-2904.

Help Wanted:

Looking for housing: 64 year old woman on Social Security, non-smoking, non-drinking, no drugs, one elderly housecat, and one itty-bitty dog. Prefer washer and dryer hook-up. 413-326-0369

Child care: Looking for adult woman in Royalston or Athol to care for friendly 10-year-old girl after school 2 days/wk. Call Sara: 248-9828

For sale:

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables from Ted's Neale Farm, 1 Neale Place, 978-249-6872

Electric Brake Control & cable for a Chevrolet. \$25 Call Fred 978-249-3879

Baby Einstein Pack N Play w/carrying bag, 2 sheets & some toddler toys. \$25. Call Marsha 508-735-4447

Recumbent Bike - EDGE 595r top quality for fitness workout program or rehab. AC monitor charts your progress. Excellent condition. \$200. Call Pat at 978-249-2722.

Computer Armoire: Lt. cherry finish, 38" wide X 23" deep X 54 1/2 high. Slide out printer shelf, slide out keyboard shelf and other storage. Excellent condition-\$250. Call 978-249-7691

Royalston-raised Pork Sausage: \$4.00 per pound. Packaged in 1 lb. packages. Breakfast, Hot and Sweet Italian available. Please call. Chet 978-249-2183

Squire Davis Farm honey \$7.00 lb. Available in 1 and 2 lb jars. Call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000. Cash only.

Three barn stalls available. Some tack available Companion mare available. Call Suzanne at Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880 or cell: (413) 336-1263.

Mulch your garden - Fertilize by the load or by the bag from Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880, (413) 336-1263 or email suzannagaits@gmail.com

Hand-knitted baby sweater sets, etc. Call 978-249-4013.

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale, Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062

Wildlife Sightings

Mary Barclay was coming into Royalston by the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club one late evening last month and was a little more than surprised by a VERY large bull moose which trotted across the road no more than a car-length in front of her. He was VERY tall, and sported a VERY large rack.

Garden Notes

July 31, 2016

The observant among you have noted that the by-line date above is weeks early. There are two factors at play: first, with the newsletter abed last month, I am itching to get started; and, second, on the due date for submission, I will be off searching for the elusive mushroom at my annual retreat in North Carolina.

Potato yields declined about one-third from recent years. Rainless conditions during the bulking-up stage was a significant factor. The potato beetle was a more significant factor. In spite of herculean efforts, it was the potato beetle which emerged victorious. My weekly cruise of the potatoes morphed into a bi-weekly cruise, culminating into an every-other-day cruise. Still, there remained a seemingly unending population of adults and larva. And, for the first time, a second generation of adults have emerged. With the first generation effectively de-nuding the remaining potatoes, these new adults have been obliged to move on to a close cousin, the tomato. I continue to pick off potato beetles. (Let's call them tomato beetles.)

Astonishingly enough, the garden (with some notable exceptions) has not only endured the rain-challenged summer, it has thrived. Lawns may be brown but the garden is not. Go figure. Those exceptions? Poor germination during the sunbaked days of June, particularly the beans and carrots. The garlic did not attain the sizes I've come to expect. Flea beetles are more than active; the brassica leaves exhibiting more holes than leaf. On the other hand, beets have never been finer. The corn and tomatoes have seemingly thrived in the hot, dry conditions. To be continued...

August 23, 2016

Continued...One day late for submission, but I have never missed a column (and I began in March 2005) and assume a spot remains open for me. The news, the big news since I last wrote, was the opening of the skies. It rained. And rained. And rained. 6.3" in the last three weeks. To put that in perspective we had less in the three months prior. As good as the garden looked before my five day absence, it looks that much better now. The potatoes and garlic may not have bulked up, but the onions, most of which have been pulled, have. This remains one of life's mysteries since the prevailing wisdom suggests that onions, more than most crops, require large inputs of water. The best onions are grown in muck land.

The fruits of my labor (and the garden gods) are apparent everywhere. With nary a sign of tomato hornworms and minimal early blight damage, the tomatoes are groaning with fruit. The corn is in full production; I have been harvesting two ears from many plants, a rare event. After a slow start, I am buried in cucumbers (fair warning, attendees at the senior luncheon). Self-seeded sunflowers dominate the over-story. And this is but the summer garden. An entirely different set of crops will mature in the fall and there is no compelling reason to suggest they will not. Carrots. Radishes. Leeks. Winter squash. Cabbage. Brussels sprouts. Broccoli. Cauliflower. Late plantings of beans and cucumbers (like I need them) will extend their season into October (I no longer consider a September frost to be likely.)

The garden has reached its turning point. No more planting. Minimal weeding. It's all harvest, time-consuming to be sure, but eminently satisfying.

Larry Siegel

Summer Storm

This hot, dry summer has produced precious little rain and even fewer thunderstorms. But when they come I am entranced. From our windows I watch the wind turn the leaves backwards, which, our mother taught us, is a sure sign of rain. The sun disappears and the birds become even more frenetic as they race for shelter among the trees.

Against all wisdom I venture outside. I want to watch the enormous clouds come from the northwest, feel the wind, and hear the first rumblings of thunder. It is often only Tom's increasingly urgent pleadings that finally bring me in. He cannot understand such lunacy – but then he never met my Grandpère.

Grandpère was my mother's father, raised on a farm in Canada. As a young man he made the trip across the border and settled in the manufacturing towns north of Boston. He met and married my grandmother, also from Canada, and was husband, father, and laborer in the shoe mills of Beverly.

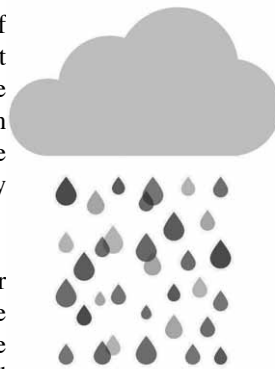
By the time I came along Grandpère had retired from the mills. He and Grandmère lived on the other side of our small duplex in Mansfield. I remember him as soft-spoken and kind with snow-white hair and a brown coat that smelled of tobacco. Unlike my grandmother, he was quiet and solitary, spending hours in his basement workshop or in his vast garden behind our house. If I saw him out there on a summer morning I would beg my mother to let me join him. Then I would trail after him among his strawberries, beans, and corn. In the evenings my sister and I would get in our pajamas and "take the subway" to visit Grandmère and Grandpère, which meant we would go through the cellar to their apartment.

Then Grandpère would smoke his pipe, drink a small glass of whiskey, and tell us stories in his mix of English and French. With a twinkle in his eye he would chide us as "cochon" for our sloppy table manners, or greet our petulant pouts with "Quel face! Comme un singe!" Even so, there was never a moment when I did not believe that my siblings and I were the center of his universe.

My dearest memory of Grandpère was our shared experience of summer storms. I don't know what prompted him to spend those times with me. What I do remember vividly is our front porch, a rocking chair, and Grandpère. Snuggled safely on his lap I listened as he wondered aloud at the storm's beauty and power. Sometimes the wind whipped the rain through the screens and we'd laugh together at the sudden splash. When the thunder got too loud he held me close and reassured me that there was nothing to fear and that, once the storm was over, we could go see what it had done to his garden.

The first storm of summer always brings Grandpère back. As it approaches it is my memory of him that draws me outside. I hear his wonder and feel the safety of one who watches with respect and awe. If it is true that people die only when we forget them, then my Grandpère lives in summer storms.

Deb D'Amico



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editorial comment: *The risk and commitment involved in maintaining our security by our law enforcement officers and their families richly deserves public acknowledgement, all the more so since these officers are woven thickly into our community as friends, neighbors, collaborators, protectors, and teachers. We care deeply about them as individuals. The blue ribbons on town spaces reflect this support. At the same time, during this long, hot, sad summer, pause to remember there is another side in the issue, even if it is not prevalent in Royalston. Those same ribbons may make some feel unwelcome in our town.*

The Black Lives Matter movement knows that all lives matter. However, it wants the lives of brown-skinned people to matter equally with light-skinned people within the U.S. justice system. The movement has strong reasons to work for change. There is inarguable national data about incarceration rates, traffic stops, and sentencing practices which are consistently harsher for people of color.

Clearly, it is not mutually exclusive to both support the police and want a more fair justice system for all races. (Indeed, law officers come in all skin colors and those people experience both sides daily). Our blue ribbons in civic spaces represent a part of a complicated, interconnected situation. Simultaneously, "Black Lives Matter" and "Police Lives Matter", but we need to tunnel further than a polarizing catch phrase and acknowledge our common humanity and desire for justice.

Showing our love for our neighbors who keep us safe is very fitting, but it is not simple. Ribbons and signs can be a the beginning of a complex conversation about these issues. Ideally, thoughtful words can lead to actions which are heart-felt, intentional, and inclusive.

Beth Gospodarek

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
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Phone: 978-249-0358 (newsletter)

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Winners of the Recent Events Committee 120 Club

The following individuals were the winners of the cash that was awarded from the 120 club drawn at last summer's Musicfest: \$20.00 winners were #95 Patricia Bushey, #114 Diana Newton, #85 Linda Alger, #73 Lisa Bushey, #87 Duane Neaale. \$50.00 winners were #73 Lisa Bushey, #8 Bryan Melanson, #91 Alice Leonard, #100.00 winners were #96 Keith Newton, #44 Linda Vaidulas. \$200.00 winner was #17 Irene Gingras. and the \$500.00 winner was #18 Donna Pollock.