

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hello, Colrain neighbors!

Welcome to the March, 2021 issue of the Colrain Clarion.
Stay safe!

HAPPY St. Paddy's Day!

(Trying to bring in any fun we can to get through this winter with Covid!!)

To place a Want ad, please contact [Betty Johnson](#).

Please see instructions at bottom of newsletter as to how to submit.

after last night's
snowfall

from my door
to yours
an elegant chain

of fox tracks

by Larry Kimmel



NOTE: Biweekly updates are posted [here](#)).

FIRST COLRAIN HOME GETS BROADBAND!

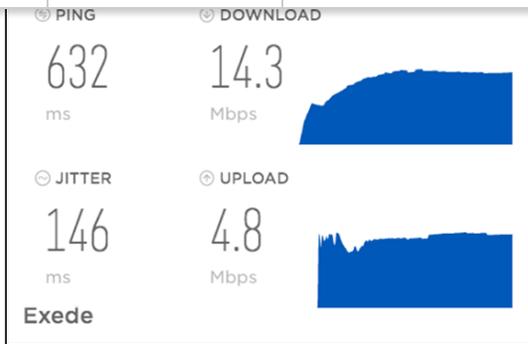


*490 Colrainers have signed up so far
out of 874 households.*

So sign up now [HERE!](#)

Blazing Fast Internet

Colrain Broadband is **1 gigabyte** to the home. That's **1,000 Megabytes**,



That's 500 - 1,000 versus 14 for satellite! *Just sayin.'*

Broadband Construction Schedule

Progress continues! The Internet connection coming from the ‘outside world’ has been installed in the communications hut on Main Road. This service is provided through the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) and KCST. (More detail [here](#).) Testing of the hut electronics will begin as early as next week!

Crews continue to install fiber on overhead lines — give them a wave as you pass by! (And they probably wouldn’t turn away any home-baked goods while they’re working away in the cold.) The winter weather has caused a few lost days but construction is still close to being on-schedule (see Timetable below).

Since the ground and existing conduits are frozen and not easily accessible, underground work (where subscribers have/request underground service to their house) has been suspended until spring.

All Colrain residences are expected to be connected by mid-summer. See regular updates [here](#).

		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Strand	Wire attached to poles that will support fiber	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Cable Placement	Main line fiber optic cable placed on utility poles		X	X	X	X	X	X		
MST Placement	MST are devices to attach main line fiber drops		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fiber Splice construction	Splicing/connecting fiber cables to form network			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Network testing	Make sure all connections are solid and correct			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Network certification	Engineers test and sign off that network is ready				X	X	X	X	X	X
Drops/Installation	DROPS; ACTUAL CONNECTIONS TO HOMES				X	X	X	X	X	X>

As described in the [Drop/Installation Policy](#), the Town is offering a \$2,000 allowance toward the cost of connecting to each home **for those who**

*If you have specific questions regarding the project,
please send them to info@colrainbroadband.net
or leave a message by calling (413) 624-3454, then press #.*

Be sure to read the
[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)_page](#)
for answers to your many questions
about the service and installation process,
speed, and TV options.

Village Intersection Improvement Project Coming this summer!

Seven years in the making, Colrain “Center” will receive a make-over starting this spring. This federal and town-funded project calls for new paving, curbing and sidewalks. Proposed work includes reconstructing the intersection and its approaches, creating an accessible network of sidewalks, ramps, and crosswalks. The intent is to enhance safety and to promote pedestrian mobility. For more information go [here](#).



Town of Colrain—Highlights

See the Town [website](#) for more information, including the latest news on the Town's response to COVID-19.



Town Offices remain closed to the public but still “open for business.”

Foyer is open 24/7 and has public notices, minutes and forms

Please transact business by phone, mail and email.

Town Elections Coming Up Nomination Papers Deadline March 15th

Nomination papers may be obtained from the Town Clerk and must be returned by March 15th. Call 624-7100 to make arrangements to collect paperwork.

Selectboard - 1 member

Moderator

Library Trustees - 2

Assessor -1

Constable -1

REMINDER

Please send in your updated Street Listing form!
These were sent to every home last month.

Excise Tax - Due March 17th

The 2021 excise tax invoices have been mailed to residents and are due March 17, 2021. The Town Office is closed; so please make payment by:

- [Online](#): Click on "Pay Collector"
- Town Office dropbox: located in the second set of doors to the town offices (the first set of doors are unlocked 24/7)
- Mail: using the Post Office

NO CASH IS ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME. If you would like a receipt, please return a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope and both parts of your bill with your payment.

If you have any questions please contact
Paula Harrison, Treasurer/Collector, at 413-624-5549

Key Town Committee Openings

There are a number of town committees that need members. All committee members except for the Finance and Planning Boards are appointed by the Selectboard. Finance and Planning Board members are appointed by the Town Moderator.

contact the committee chairs directly:

Finance Committee (2 needed): [Chair Doug MacLeay](#)

Planning Board (2 needed): [Chair Bobby Slowinski](#)

Colrain Energy Committee (3 needed): [Chair Peter Brooks](#)

Personnel Committee (1 needed): [Chair Ellen Weeks](#)

Board of Registrars (1 needed): [Chair Eileen Savageau](#)

Note: a member of the Board of Registrars must be a registered voter, may hold no other office in town, and cannot serve as an election worker. They register voters and operate voter registration sessions, assist with street lists, certify signatures on nomination papers and petitions, and more. “We could use a Republican as the Board of Registrars is supposed to have equal numbers of each party if possible.”



DOG OWNERS!

Remember, dogs must be licensed by March 31st to avoid late fees. NO EXTENSION THIS YEAR!

All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed every year with the Town Clerk. 2020 licenses expire March 31, 2021.

To renew a dog license, include:

- A renewal check made payable to the Town of Colrain (or pay [online](#)).
- A copy of the current rabies certificate (required to obtain a new license)

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like the license and tag mailed back to you.

Because the Town Office is closed, you may drop an envelope in the mail slot at the town office foyer, or send it in the mail. The Town Clerk will mail your license

License Costs:

- Spayed and neutered dog licenses are \$5.00
- Dogs not neutered or spayed are \$10.00
- Kennel (1-4) \$20, (5-10) \$35, (over 10 dogs) \$50

NOTE: There is a late fine of \$10.00 per dog after April 1, 2021, rising to \$25.00 after May 1st.

THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSION TO LICENSING DOGS THIS YEAR.

Electricity Bills

Colrain residents have been receiving several letters in the mail from different companies offering “cheaper” electric rates. Any ratepayer is free to change whom they get the “generation” (or “supply”) portion of their electricity from, but we all are required to pay the “distribution” portion to Eversource.

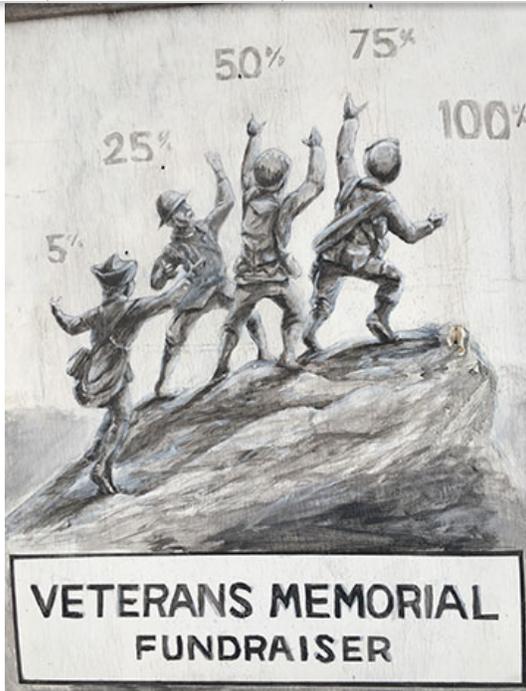
As you consider these, keep in mind that last summer Colrain, in concert with 13 other area towns, combined our purchasing power to provide an alternative electricity supply through Dynegy/Colonial Power Group, in which subscribers are expected to save about 11% on our electric bills during the 3.5-year contract term.

There was a lengthy review process and this was felt to be the best offer to our residents, and also allows a 100% green option (at a slightly higher price).

If you didn't opt in at the time letters were sent out last summer, you can still do so at colonialpowergroup.com/colrain OR call Dynegy at (866) 220- 5696 and ask to be enrolled.

The Selectboard continues to meet via conference call; see the meeting agenda and call-in number posted in the Town Office entryway and on the Town website [here](#) (Home page under “Calendar of Events”).

“Thank You and we look forward to and appreciate everyone's cooperation and assistance during this emergency situation.” ~ Town of Colrain Selectboard



The Colrain Veterans Memorial Park Committee are raising money and pooling ideas to create a park that will include plaques placed on stones, an American flag, a Prisoner of War flag and two benches. The new Memorial Park is expected to be completed next spring or summer alongside the Village Intersection Improvement Project. Veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War will be recognized on the plaques. An extra stone is planned for veterans from 1975 and later.

Anyone who wishes to donate to the project can send a check payable to Colrain Veterans Memorial Park via Joan McQuade PO Box 25 Colrain, MA 01340.



Colrain Police News

Stay in touch with the latest news from Chief Chris Lannon and his team [here](#).

Colrain Firefighters

Open burning season has begun! Permits are required for any burns. Details and burn permits may be requested [here](#).

suspended on a particular day by the state or the department due to fire, weather conditions or air quality as determined by the Department.



Keep in touch with our dedicated team on their Facebook page [here](#).



Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Association

A nonprofit all volunteer Paramedic level emergency ambulance service serving the towns of Colrain and Heath, MA. along with Greater Franklin County. Keep up with us [here](#).

U.S. Marshals warn the public of Sophisticated Phone Scam



The U.S. Marshals and the FBI are alerting the public of sophisticated imposter scams involving scammers claiming to be U.S. marshals, court officers, or other law enforcement officials.

Scammers use many tactics to sound and appear credible, using information like badge numbers, names of actual law enforcement officials, federal judges, and courthouse addresses. They attempt to scare a victim into handing over

Scammers tell people to trust no one else — not even bankers or the police — with their personal information, and they then give them a working phone number to call them back.

Before calling, scammers will often comb through a victim's social media accounts to scout for personal information and relationships that can be used as bait.

If you receive such a call: take notes, hang up, call the local police department and alert your bank. NEVER divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers. Report scam phone calls to your local FBI office and to the FTC.

See a statement from the U.S. Marshals Service on Greenfield Savings Bank's [website](#).

Help for Families during the Stay at Home Order

Click [here](#) for this page of resources FRCOG has shared with towns:

- The Look4Help Resource Directory – up-to-date information on local resources for families in need.
 - An updated list of emergency food support available in the region.
 - Resources for families on: talking with children about COVID-19, stress and anxiety, educational resources for kids while schools are closed, volunteer opportunities, and more!
-

Help with Rent/Mortgage Payments

Are you or someone you know having difficulty making rent or mortgage payments because of the Covid-19 pandemic? If you fall within certain income guidelines there is help.



- If you have a disability, call Stavros at 413-256-0473 x 201. ([Flyer](#))

(413) 475-1570 (Flyer in [English](#), [Spanish](#))

Also, zero-interest deferred payback loans are available for rehabilitating homes with health and safety violations and for energy efficiency improvements. Call Jen Morrow at 413 863-9781 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Small Business Assistance

News from the Franklin County CDC

We are still helping to distribute Forgivable Loans through the CARES ACT MICRO ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: FRANKLIN COUNTY AND NORTH ADAMS. These are FORGIVABLE LOANS FOR UP TO \$10,000 for businesses with fewer than 5 employees who have experienced a loss due to COVID.

- Franklin County and North Adams [Information](#)
- Franklin County [Application](#)

OTHER NEW FUNDS:

MassDevelopment's **Commonwealth Places** supports projects that create destinations for residents and visitors to shop or dine. Non-profits and other community groups can apply for seed grants (between \$250 to \$7,500) or implementation grants (up to \$10,000 unmatched, or up to \$50,000 matched by crowdfunding donations). Applications accepted on a rolling basis until June 30, 2021. For more details, go [here](#).

National RURAL RELIEF SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS Program. Rolling applications can be submitted from Jan 26-Feb 2. Small businesses in rural communities are eligible. Go [here](#).

In addition to these funds, we always are available for business counseling, business assistance, and links to business development.

Looking forward to working with you and making 2021 a much better year.
Amy Shapiro [email](#)

StopTheSpread initiative. Go [here](#) to sign up.

NOTE: Masks will still be required, even after vaccination.
The vaccines are not 100% effective.
A person can be vaccinated and still be a carrier
of the virus and spread it to others.

COVID 19 resources

[Franklin County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Franklin County Community Development Corporation](#)

[Look4Help Public Resource Directory, a program of Community Action](#)

[Pioneer Valley](#)

What can I recycle?

Use these handy resources to check
what is accepted for recycling:

Springfield Material Recycling
Facility's [Updated recycling guide](#)
and the [2020 Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle Guide](#)



News from Our Schools



Mohawk Trail Regional School Districts

Always get the most up-to-date (and rapidly changing)
information directly from the district: [website](#).

For all topics surrounding COVID-19, go directly [here](#).
Follow us on [Twitter](#).

Community members can also view the superintendent's monthly virtual

Colrain Central School

For the latest news and updates, visit us at our [Website](#) and on [Facebook](#).



The CCS 5th Graders in Melissa Norwood's class have created their own community "newspaper" and are trying their hand at local reporting! Link to their first edition [here](#).

For **PTO News**, please go to our [Facebook](#) site.

SPRING INFORMATION SESSIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 7PM • SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 3PM

Rolling admission for select grade levels now open!



FIND YOUR VOICE, SPEAK YOUR MIND

The Academy at Charlemont is an independent day school offering a one-of-a-kind educational experience for grades 6-12, complete with rigorous academics, diverse electives in the arts and beyond, inclusive athletics, personalized college counseling, our spacious campus located along the Deerfield River, and our warm and welcoming community. Generous financial aid is available.

Rolling admission for select grade levels for the 2021-22 school year is now open! Register to join us for a virtual Information Session in March [here](#), and fill out an inquiry form [here](#). With questions, or to schedule an on-campus or virtual visit, contact [Katherine Anderson](#), Admission Associate. Several of our current families are from Colrain—let us know if you'd like to be put in contact with one of them!

**connected,
even in isolation!**

Curbside service hours

**Our building is closed, as a precautionary
measure, but we're still here to serve you!**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 10:00-5:00
Saturdays: 10:00-3:00**

Call 413-624-3619 or [email](mailto:griswold@colrain-ma.gov) griswold@colrain-ma.gov with requests.
You can also peruse our catalogue and place holds [online!](#)

GML ♥s Poetry

Join us for the

Carol Purington Poetry Collective

in memory of Carol Purington, 1949-2020.

Bring a poem to share or come to listen,
via Zoom the first Friday of each month,
at 6 p.m. Call 413-624-3619 or email
griswold@colrain-ma.gov to register.

Call or swing by for our

Poem of the Week!

We're always honored to
share a handpicked poem. Call
413-624-3619 or ask us in person.

GML Stories & Songs Online!

[YouTube](#) page!

Ms. Betty's Take & Make Crafts

Swing by GML during curbside service hours to pick up this month's Take & Make Craft kit and instructions. Our February craft is yarn hearts, and kits are still available. The March craft will be rainbow shamrock sun catchers—stay tuned for further details!

Watch the video to get crafting with Ms. Betty! Each month via [GML Colrain on Facebook](#), or subscribe to the [GML YouTube page](#)!

GML Trustees approve new strategic plan!

Check out the library's [new strategic plan](#)! This important document will guide our decision making for the next three years.



Movies to get us through

Check out the film **“Wonder”**, a family film that is smart, witty and kleenex-worthy. Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson star in this 2017 film about a ten-year old who is “different” navigating his first year at a new school.

DVD available at the Library.

Send in your short suggestions of movies (etc.!) getting you and your family through this pandemic.

Please note if they are available through our library, as with our still-limited internet, that's often the best option for many residents.



Griswold Memorial
GML
LIBRARY
COLRAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Email: griswold@colrain-ma.gov.

Website: colrain-mass.gov/GML

(413) 624-3619

Browse what's new in our collection [here!](#)

Colrain Historical Society

[Facebook](#)

The Historical Society preserves stories of the town's past such as this newspaper clipping which appeared soon after the devastation of the Hurricane of 1938.

Colrain Cow, Swept Over 3 Dams By Flood, Survives the Ordeal

COLRAIN, Oct. 1—Belated news regarding the flood of last week deals with a cow which belonged to Glen Brown of Adamsville that was swept a considerable distance down the North River, over three dams, and survived the ordeal, although somewhat exhausted when rescued. The animal was grazing in the pasture when carried away by the swift waters. It passed over a dam at Adamsville, another at Gilchrist's mill and a third at Griswoldville. It landed near the Griswoldville bridge, where it was brought to shore by Foster Streeter and others and was later claimed by Brown.

Tracking and reporting the weather was nowhere as developed a science as it is today and nearly everyone was caught unprepared. This hurricane is still considered to be the most powerful and deadly one ever recorded in New England.

Friends of the Arthur A Smith Covered Bridge

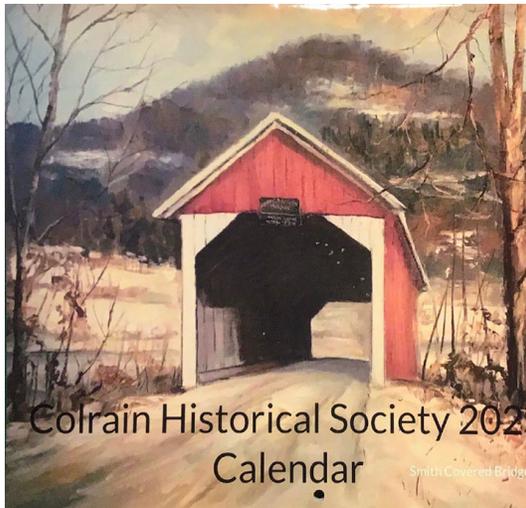
Colrain Tote bags and Tee Shirts and Colrain Historical Society calendars are

Market, Pine Hill Orchards and the Catamount Country Store.

For ordering with local pickup OR delivery OR shipping, please [email](#) your request.

Totes and tees are \$20, and Calendars are \$15.

Shirts are available in Youth X Small through Adult 3X Large.



“Be part of this community effort. Help us grow,”
asks Board Chair Belden Merims.
To lend a hand—or an idea—
call Belden at 624-3453,
Joan McQuade at 624-8818,
or Debby Wheeler at 624-8800 (or [email](#)).

West County Kindness Project

believes that our rural communities should be safe & welcoming places to people of all races, ethnicities,



We commit to actions to amplify the voices of oppressed people & work towards justice with kindness.

Follow the **West County Kindness Project** [here](#)

Colrain Council on Aging

Hopefully box lunches will begin again in March...it's unsettled just like the weather. **Order by 3/11 & pick up on 3/18.**

Pick up site may be different; if there is a pick up location change, seniors will be told when they place their order.

Colrain residents only.

Sign up by calling Elaine at 624-3604 or Kathy at 624-3351.

Groceries for Elders

The Western MA Food Bank's Brown Bag program is for people over the age of 55 who meet certain income guidelines. Click [here](#) to see if you qualify. Pickup is at the Senior Center in Shelburne Falls the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 12-1pm. For more information call (413) 625-2502.

Colrain Churches



Colrain Community Church

306 Main Road

413-624-3808

[Facebook](#)

Join us for our Sunday worship service at 10:30 am, either in person (**socially distanced, of course**), listening in the parking lot on 97.1 FM, or on [Facebook](#) livestream.

First Baptist Church of Colrain

81 Foundry Village Road

413-624-8886

[Facebook](#)

Indoor 11 am

Sunday worship service

Tune in to FM 100.1 for those who are sitting in their cars.



Radios tuned to this frequency are in the downstairs Fellowship Hall and in the Coffee Time/ Classroom area for those not wanting to brave the cold but still wanting more physical distance.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask.

Indoor seating is at socially distanced spacing.

River Valley Christian Church



413-774-7169

[Facebook](#)

Sunday worship service at 9:30 am.
There is Sunday School, with social distancing.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask. Seating is spaced 6 ft apart with a separate room for those who feel the need to further distance.

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

Church Street

413-625-6405 [Website](#)

Masses on Saturdays at 4:00 pm.
Due to the Covid-19, **masks and 6ft social distancing are required.**



For those uncomfortable returning to Mass for any reason, we will be continuing to livestream 10:30 a.m. Masses every Sunday [here](#) as well as on our YouTube [channel](#).

Local Shopping Opportunities

Catamount Country Store

113 Main Road, Colrain

413-624-9611

[Facebook](#)

Monday – Saturday
6am-8pm

Order cut off time for the
deli is 5 pm on Sunday;
7 pm Mon-Sat.

Masks required.



Call in your order for curbside pickup (413) 624-9611



Graves Glen Farm

104 Wilson Graves Road,
Shelburne

store: 413-624-3972

cell: 413-522-9786

[Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Farm store is open 7 days.

7am-7pm on the honor system.

Cash or check accepted.

This Centennial farm sells grass fed beef, farm raised pork, maple syrup, hay, straw, compost, eggs, milk, cheese and more.

Hager's Farm Market

1232 Mohawk Trail,
Shelburne

413-625-6323

[Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Hours:

Market Monday-Sunday

7:30 am - 6:00 pm



We are a family farm, offering maple products, cheese, our own meat, produce, and much more. **Shop our [online store](#) today and pay when you pick up.**



Parsons Family Farmstand

88 Jacksonville Rd.

Colrain, MA 01340

(646) 799-6686

[Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Closed for the season

Providing farm fresh produce for over 50 years from our family to your table.

Pine Hill Orchards

248 Greenfield Rd, Colrain

413-624-3325

Farm Store Winter hours:

Wednesday – Monday 9 am to 6 pm

Closed Tuesdays

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED
AT ALL TIMES!**



Window pick up available again. We now accept SNAP.

We offer hot and cold grab and go options until Food Trailer opens up this spring.

We slice Boars Head Meats and Cheeses to order Daily till 4pm.

We offer Personal Shopping...

You can find our weekly updated product lists in the "Latest News" section of the [website](#).

Call (413) 624-3325, [email](#), [Facebook](#) message us your order.

Walk-Ins Welcome!

“Want Ads” and “Services.”

Instructions for submitting at the end of this section.

Services

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: People call our help line to ask for a ride, a reference, or other assistance. Please feel free to call, and we will do our best to help you out as needed. Indoor chores like light housekeeping, meal prep, rides, and minor indoor repairs. Outdoor chores like snow shoveling or yard help.

We are compiling a list of people of all ages willing to lend a hand occasionally for seniors or disabled persons, helping people without family nearby.

This can be a volunteer or fee for service. Our goal is to help seniors and people with disabilities on limited incomes to be able to age in place and stay in their homes. Contact: Amy 774-6907

Colrain Center for Conservation and Wildlife

If you find orphaned, injured, or ill wildlife and need help, please call 413-768-8928.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, send a check payable to CCCWR, 107 Hillman Rd., Colrain, MA 01340

Or make a donation by going to the [website](#).



Fruit tree pruning: We can help you restore abandoned fruit trees & maintain trees of any age. One-on-one lessons and consults available. Contact Ruth and Robin 413-773-8325, robinc23@yahoo.com

Franklin County & Southern Vermont. Contact Ruth Ayers at ruth.a.ayers@gmail.com or 413-773-8325 about references & rates.

**HELP WANTED?
A SERVICE to offer?
FOR SALE or FREE?**

IS THERE A DEADLINE? Be sure to state it.
WANT TO RUN IT IN MORE THAN ONE ISSUE? Let us know.
If you don't, it will only run once!

Please use this format:

State Category: **FOR SALE or FREE or SERVICE or HELP WANTED**

Name of item for sale/service offered or desired:

Short Description (one to two lines, if possible):

LINK/name/contact info:

The DEADLINE for contributions is the 14th of the month.

Please send your listing to [Betty Johnson](#).

A few links to cultural resources outside Colrain

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

<https://franklincc.org/tourism-home>

Great Falls Discovery Center

<https://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/events-calendar/>

Hawks and Reed Performing Arts Center

<https://www.facebook.com/HawksAndReed>

Artspace

The nonprofit arts education center, Artspace Community Arts Center in Greenfield, invites you to explore complete lists of classes and faculty members on our website at ArtspaceGreenfield.com.

<https://www.shelburnefalls.com/>

Valley Advocate Events

<https://valleyadvocate.com/events/#/>

Valley Arts Newsletter

<https://www.valleyartsnewsletter.com/>

Verse by Larry Kimmel

prism colors
from the frost-starred
windows

brown sugar melting
in a bowl of

steaming oatmeal

We are heading towards Spring!!!

Thank you for reading!!
Until next time!

Sincerely,
Robin Brooks
Lynn DiTullio
Betty Johnson

*Painting of the Covered Bridge at top by Marshall Looman of Colrain
Photograph below taken by or gifted to Bill Cole of Colrain.*



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