

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2004
January 2005



Volume VII, Issue X

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PHINEHAS S. NEWTON LIBRARY, ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



Calendar of Events



December 2 Thursday
3:30 p.m. Friends of the Library meeting at the library. Plan library support, upcoming events, newsletter web-site, high speed internet access, winter art classes for adults, Valentine contra dance? and your ideas. All welcome.

6:30 p.m. **Toy Bingo** at RCS. Family fun and photos with Santa.

December 3 Friday
7 – 10 p.m. Open Mic at the Town Hall. For a performance slot, musicians should pre-register by calling Josh 978-249-4260 or arrive by 6:45. Refreshments available. Free.

December 4 Saturday
9:00 a.m.- noon Librarian Appreciation Day at the Phinehas S Newton Library. Kathy Morris has been our Library Director for 10 years this month. Stop by the library to congratulate and thank her for all she has done to make the Phinehas S. Newton Library such a warm, welcoming, helpful small-town library. Coffee, tea and muffins served. (P.S. It's a surprise!)

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Athol Royalston Middle School Craft Fair** to benefit 8th grade trip to Washington DC.

December 8 Wednesday **Chanukah begins**

6:00 p.m. **Live Nativity** followed by **Tree Lighting** at 6:30 on Royalston Common. Featuring the RCS band and beginner band led by Bev Chadwick as well as Deb Nunes on accordion. Refreshments and a "surprise" guest.



December 9 Thursday
11:00 a.m. **Council on Aging meeting** at the home of Dorothy Newton on Athol Road.

December 11 Saturday
10:00 a.m. **A Walk in the Town Woods.** Join town forester, Glenn Freden, and selectmen for a walk in the Town-owned 78 acre property down "Dump Road" to find out plans about selective timber harvesting and discuss future financial and recreational uses for this public resource.

8:29 p.m. **New Cold Moon. Geminid Meteor Shower. Look to northeast.**

December 12 Sunday
11:00 a.m. **Royalston Fish & Game Club business meeting**, followed by annual meeting; **Christmas party** for members' children begins at 2 p.m.

2:00 p.m. **Cultural Council Meeting** at Deb Nunes, 350 Athol Richmond Road (Route 32). The council is seeking new members. Call Deb at 249-4000 for more information.

December 13 Monday
10:30 a.m. **Holiday Storytelling.** Norah Dooley, children's author, storyteller, and Royalston resident, will entertain the preschool story time with holiday stories. All preschool children and their caregivers are welcome to attend and no pre-registration is necessary. Refreshments served. The story time is funded by a grant from the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children.

December 15 Wednesday
7:30 pm **Holiday Basket Packing** at the **Ladies Benevolent Society** meeting. Packing baskets with home made goods and gifts for Royalston's shut-ins. If you would like to contribute a home made item for the baskets or if you know of someone who should receive a basket, please contact Kristen West at 978-249-5993. Held at the home of Theresa Quinn. Also election of LBS officers for 2005. New members always welcome at the LBS.

December 16 Thursday
7:00 p.m. **Library Trustee Meeting**

December 17 Friday
Last day of school (**half day**) for the **Village School** before the holiday break.

December 21 Tuesday
7:24 a.m. **Winter Solstice** – the longest night of the year; days start getting longer from this day the northern hemisphere heads towards spring.

December 23 Thursday
Public School Holiday Vacation : ARRSB begins at end of school day. Early dismissal from Monty Tech.

1:00-5:00 and 6:30-8:30 **Holiday Open House at the Library** : stop by to browse, check out items, and munch on festive goodies

December 24 Friday
7:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service** in Second Congregational Church, South Royalston

December 25 Saturday **Christmas Day**

DPW Update

Keith Newton, DPW Supervisor

The School Street stabilization project is in full swing. The contractor found good soil and the work is going quicker than expected. The retaining walls resemble granite and are quite handsome. The project is funded by the Small Town Road Assistance Project.

As the snow begins to fly, keep in mind:

Town Parking Ban: From December 1st through April 30th, parking is prohibited on public ways at all hours because of snow plowing concerns. Cars in violation will be towed at owner's expense. Also, please remember it is unlawful to place snow removed from driveways and walkways into public ways. Police will assist with enforcement of these Town bylaws.

Town Tree Lighting and Live Nativity

Deb Nunes



The Cultural Council is sponsoring the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Town Hall on Wednesday, December 8th, beginning at 6 p.m. with the live nativity scene in front of the Congregational Church, followed at 6:30 p.m. with the tree lighting and music by Royalston Community School musicians led by Beverly Chadwick. There will be caroling, a special guest arriving by fire engine, and hot chocolate and homemade cookies inside the Town Hall afterwards.

The Cultural Council is looking for new blood. In addition to the awarding of the annual Mass. Arts Lottery grants, other Council activities include the biennial Royalston Follies; the summer Music Festival; and the Holiday Tree Lighting. The Council has purchased and maintains the lighting and sound equipment in the Town Hall, and has overseen the establishment and continuation of the popular and successful Open Mike nights. We meet for about an hour about six times per year, not a huge commitment. Council members include Patience Bundschuh, Sonia Vaccari, Deb Nunes, Mary Anne Lizotte, Ann Kussey, Bob Cromwell and Pat Andreliunas. Come have fun with us!

Our next meeting will be on Sunday afternoon, December 12 at 2 p.m. at Deb Nunes, 350 Athol Richmond Road (route 32). Call Deb at 249-4000 for more information.

A Walk in the Town Woods

Tom Kellner, Selectman

Join town forester, Glenn Freden, and selectmen for a walk in the Town-owned 78- acre property down "Dump Road" on December 11th at 10:00 a.m. Meet at the Post Office. This easy walk will provide opportunities to find out about current plans to selectively harvest town timber on the land. After hiking, participants are encouraged to give input regarding future financial and recreational uses of this public resource.

The election results are in...

Surprise: the Bush / Cheney ticket won the 2004 presidential election, and Royalston backed the loser. Here, the Kerry / Edwards ticket won in town with 338 votes compared to Bush's 272, Badardnik's 7 and Cobb's 6. State Senator Brewer got a real mandate with 492 votes compared with 83 for Gaucher and 29 for McMahon. In the unusually heated race for Worcester County Sheriff, Glodis took a resounding 336 votes; McCarthy: 181 and Beshai: 41. The Royalston Community School's mock elections accurately reflected the presidential election results, but was off on most of the rest.

Former Town Clerk Barbara Richardson reported a "very smooth election for such a large turnout" with a 71 percent of Royalston's 887 registered voters (74% of Precinct #1 and 69% of Precinct #2) participating on November 2. Approximately 50 residents registered specifically to vote in this election and 34 absentee ballots were cast.

The LBS held a successful bake sale a precinct #1 in conjunction with the elections, bringing in more than \$200 for their various memorial scholarships. Election workers for precinct #1 were Warden Nancy S. Bolton, Inspectors Roberta Newman and Helen Williams, Clerk Nancy E. Newton, Tellers Brenda L. Putney and Theresa Quinn and Royalston Police Officers Drew Duplessis and Scott Landry. In precinct #2, workers included Warden Kathy Chencharik, Inspectors Karen LeBlanc, Barbara Denis and Louise Gelinias, Royalston Police Officer Sherry A. Miner and Royalston Police Sergeant Wayne Gelinias.

Like the rest of the country, Royalston residents held particularly strong and uncompromising opinions about the candidates in this presidential election. Functioning democracy requires accepting majority rule and moving on. It should also mean staying informed and taking action to affect good policy for the greatest number of citizens. Like the Red Sox and Christmas, democracy requires a little naivete and a lot of hope.



Votes being counted at Precinct #1 after the recent presidential election.

Assessors' Notes

The tax bills should be out sometime in December after final certification from the state Dept. of Revenue. Valuations took a big jump as previously reported. If your figures don't look right, read the back of the bill carefully because there is only a 30 day window of opportunity in which to file for an abatement. Office 978-247-0337.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:00noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Oh, Where did the Time Go?

Kathy Morris, Library Director

This December marks my tenth year as Library Director. Thank you seems a meager offering for the gratitude I feel towards all the wonderful people who have been a part of the library through these years. To all of you thank you for your support, your physical and mental labor, your friendship, and for making the library such a special place.

Librarian Appreciation Day:

Saturday, December 4th during Library Hours (9:00 a.m. – noon)

To mark the 10th anniversary of Kathy Morris' service, the Friends of the Library are sponsoring Librarian Appreciation Day. The library is useful and well used. It disseminates important information about local and world affairs. It is cozy and welcoming to all. Excellent trustees as well as committed staff and volunteers help, but Kathy is the center. Come by and shake her hand, pat her back or otherwise express appreciation. Coffee, tea, and muffins will be provided to fuel the celebration.

Librarians of Royalston: We Salute You

Of course, Kathy is one of a series of librarians who have worked hard and well in Royalston. In 1778, Rev. Lee began a subscription library from the parsonage and by 1881, under the persuasion of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, the first public library was opened in what is now the Selectman's Office. **Elizabeth Waite Chase** was the first town public librarian, and she served until her accidental death six years later; in 1897, **Emma Pierce, Maria C Bragg,** and **Hattie Walker** took brief turns. They were followed by **Mrs Emmeline MacKenzie**, who served 23 years and was librarian when the Phinehas S Newton library was built in 1910. The library had room for book collections and a mini-museum of natural history. The glass cases in the front room that currently hold Town histories contained collections of rocks, birds, nests and other wonders. The stuffed Bluefooted Boobies that perch on top of the case are artifacts from this museum. Past patrons remember a stone box full of local minerals, including a huge chunk of Beryl, which sat on the fireplace mantle at this time. (The library would love to hear if any readers know what happened to that box.) When library commissioners asked if the library served children, Mrs MacKenzie replied that there were very few children in Royalston.

Certainly, **Elsie B. Jewett** was the most tenacious of all Royalston librarians. She served as director from 1928-1973 without a stop until she died at age 88. Patrons never took books off the shelves. Instead they requested them from Mrs. Jewett who would find them and hand them over the counter. At a party given in honor of her 80th birthday, she reminisced about the library pre-electricity when she searched the shelves by candlelight.

Suzanne Bosco took over in 1973; **Marita Cauthen** served from 1979 to 1983; **Lillian Newton** was librarian for a short period, and she was replaced by **Millie Clement**. **Darlene Willhite** served twice, which may have been in her blood as she later discovered that her grandfather had briefly been married to Elsie B Jewett. Darlene was librarian from 1986-88 when she was succeeded by **Cynthia Clifford** and **Noreen Farwell**, and then she returned from 1991-94. **Kathy Morris** began in 1994, which makes her the 3rd longest serving Royalston public librarian. Our library has always been a wonderful resource. Many of these women had very little training in their vocation, yet they have all brought knowledge and light to a small, rural and often underfinanced town, which is certainly very noble. Thank you



MISS ELIZABETH WAITE CHASE



MRS. EMMELINE (WHITE) MACKENZIE



Suzanne Bosco



Marita Cauthen



Millie Clement



Kathy Morris

Unbelievably, even after 45 years as librarian, there is no photo of Mrs. Jewett in the library or Historical Society. If a reader has a likeness of Mrs. Jewett or any of the past librarians not pictured above, please contact the library so that they can be properly remembered.

Thank You

Ferron Dooley Fairchild for weekly and productive volunteer help
Stephanie Bennett for help prepping books for circulation
Janet Bettey, Tim Smith, and Marsha Charest for donations
Barbara Willhite, Jen Bartkus and Patience Bundshuh for program refreshments
Gary Lippincott for another wonderful program and the gracious loan of so many extraordinary paintings
Jon Hardie and Rebecca Krause-Hardie for CD-Roms for the library's computers

The New Books

Adult Fiction

Atkinson, Kate. *Case Histories*
Demille, Nelson. *Night Fall*
Evanovich, Janeat. *Metro Girl*
Hayes, J.M. *Plains Crazy*
Kaminsky, Stuart M. *Now You See It*
Kellerman, Jonathan. *Twisted*
Kerstan, Lynn. *Dangerous Deceptions.*
Krentz, Jayne Ann. *Falling Awake*
Savery, Jeanne. *The Christmas Matchmaker*
Sheldon, Dyan. *My Perfect Life.*
Smith, Martin Cruz. *Wolves Eat Dogs*
Steel, Danielle. *Echoes*
Toews, Miriam. *A Complicated Kindness.*

Adult Non-Fiction

Horstmeier, DeAnna. *Teaching Math to People with Down Syndrome and Other Hands-On Learners*
Damerow, Gail. *Barnyard in your Backyard: A Beginner's Guide to Raising Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Rabbits, Goats, Sheep and Cattle*
Morgan, Diane. *The Thanksgiving Table.*
Aidells, Bruce. *Bruce Aidells's complete book of pork*
Sabuda, Robert. *America the Beautiful: A Pop-up Book*
Spiegelman, Art. *In the Shadow of No Towers.*
Watterson, Bill. *The Authoritative Calvin and Hobbes*
Housden, Roger. *Ten Poems to Last a Lifetime.*
Ehrlich, Gretel. *The Future of Ice: a Journey into Cold*
Richards, Kenneth G. *Memories of a Small-Town Yankee*
Hegel, Claudette. *Randolph Caldecott.*

Books on Tape/CD

Brown, Dale. *Storming Heaven (AC)*
Chernow, Ron. *Alexander Hamilton (AC)*
Coonts, Stephen. *The Intruders (AC)*
Follett, Ken. *Lie Down with Lions (AC)*
Follett, Ken. *Pillars of the Earth (AC)*
Grisham, John. *The Client (AC)*
Higgins, Jack. *Toll for the Brave (AC)*
Higgins, Jack. *Angel of Death (AC)*
L'Amour, Louis. *Valley of the Sun (AC)*
McBain, Ed. *Kiss: A Novel of the 87th Precinct (AC)*
McCall Smith, Alexander. *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency (AC)*
O'Brien, Patrick. *Desolation, #5 in the Aubrey/Maturin series (AC), The Fortune of War, #6 in the Aubrey/Maturin series (AC), The Surgeon's Mate, #7 in the Aubrey/Maturin series; (AC), and The Ionian Mission, #8 in the Aubrey/Maturin series (AC)*
Palmer, Michael. *Fatal. (CD)*

New Circulation Coordinator at the RCN

Thanks to Jim Kelley of Deland Road, who is the new circulation coordinator for the Royalston Community Newsletter. He will be organizing the collating and mailing of this newsletter to the 576 households in Royalston that receive this newsletter 10 times a year. He will still need the help of all the regular volunteers at the monthly "foldings" and would appreciate any offers of help from new folks interested in pitching in as well. If interested, email Jim at jekelley@crystal-mtn.com. Also, our web guru is back in town, so **the RCN should be back on-line** this December.

Upcoming Library Events:

Preschool Story Time Holiday Party

On Monday, December 13th at 10:30 a.m. Norah Dooley, children's author, storyteller, and Royalston resident, will entertain the Preschool Story Time with holiday stories. Holiday treats will be served after the program. All preschool children and their caregivers are welcome to attend and no pre-registration is necessary. The story time is funded by a grant from the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children.

Cross Culture Club

The after school program that explores other cultures, Cross Culture Club, will return to the Phinehas S Newton Library the last two Thursdays of January and the first two Thursdays of February. The plan is to bring a little Poland, Puerto Rico, Japan, and Argentina to Royalston this winter. Participants find new places on the globe, learn a smidgen of language, taste special foods, make a typical crafts and discover the similarities and differences between their lives and those of inhabitants of other lands. Details are being finalized. Watch for information in kids' backpacks or call the library 249-3572 for information in January.

Visual Thesaurus at the Library

Thanks to Jon Hardie and Rebecca Krause-Hardie the library's computers are equipped with the new CD-Rom, *The Visual Thesaurus*. It provides an animated display of words and meanings through visualization and helps you explore the fascinating inter-relatedness of the English language. So if you need that perfect word in a letter, report, or retort, stop by the library and use this great new resource.

DVD (unless noted VHS)

Against All Odds (R)
Around the World in 80 Days (PG)
The Big Easy (R)
Blazing Saddles (R)
Calendar Girls (PG-13)
The Gods Must be Crazy (PG)
It's the Rage (R)
Jersey Girl (PG-13)
Larry the Cable Guy – Git-R-Done (unrated)
One Night at McCool's (R)
Raising Helen (PG-13)
Red Fury – VHS – unrated
To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday (PG-13)
The Sicilian (unrated)

Ladies B. does it Again (And Again, and Again...)

As the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Royalston closes out its 180th year of continuous service, they proved they can turn out a public supper as well as their many predecessors. November 13th saw about half of the 30 LBS members either contributing baked goods or working at the supper, and more than 100 supporters filling seats at the Town Hall or picking up to-go orders. More than \$600 will go towards scholarships for Royalston residents. The ladies will meet at the home of Theresa Quinn on Wednesday December 15 at 7:30 p.m. to pack goodie baskets for shut-ins. If you know of a resident who would like to receive a basket or if you'd like to furnish a homemade treat, please call president Kristin West at 249-5993. If you have a benevolent bent, please come to help pack or feel free to attend any LBS function. The LBS is an ecumenical group committed to "good works for those in necessitas circumstances."

Rene Lake wowed the crowd recently in the Pat Poor/Maxine Wilcox Ladies' Benevolent Society memorial concert. This annual classical piano event includes wonderful



music, neighborly company and plentiful refreshments. Plan to attend next year, whether you are a lady, benevolent or otherwise.

weave

On November 4th, Royalston's Becky Krause-Hardie and the four other members of the singing group Weave, were featured at a dinner and fundraiser for the Minetta Brooks Foundation at the Whitney Museum of Art, in New York City. Weave is an improvisation a cappella group whose work encompasses overtone singing, shape note singing ... and a lot in between. Several members have been singing together, in the Harmonic Choir and in other forms, for almost 20 years. The evening was "curated" by Ann Hamilton, a MacArthur Foundation recipient, and an exceptional artist, whose work was recently featured at Mass MoCA. The Friends of the Library are trying to bring Weave in concert to Royalston in the coming months

Welcome Yule!

Norah Dooley, program co-director

Music, Dance, Songs and Stories of the Yuletide Season! At the Frontier Regional Auditorium in South Deerfield, MA. This is the 20th Anniversary production of Welcome Yule: A Midwinter Celebration. Come join us in a musical journey from England to Appalachia. Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11 at 7:30pm, and Sunday, December 12 at 2pm

Tickets will be available in advance at the Jones Library in Amherst, the Broadside Bookshop in Northampton, and the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield. Tickets are available at the door, but we won't be able to accept credit cards. Cash and checks are fine. You may also reserve tickets by calling 413-665-3206 and leaving a message. Adults are \$10. Under 16 and Seniors are \$5; under 4 are free.

Royalston Community School News

Bobbie French, Principal

Winter is upon us. The children were excited by the first snow fall of the year. It is also a reminder for all of us to dress warmer. Students are encouraged to come to school dressed for winter weather. We are in need of extra winter clothing for those less fortunate and more forgetful.

December is a busy month at school. The PTG's annual Toy Bingo sponsored by Kindergarten will be held on December 2nd. The Middle School is hosting a craft fair on Sat. December 4th. On Dec. 7th @ 5:00 is our school council meeting, all are welcome and @ 6:30 is our PTG Meeting. The Thayer Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by the Royalston Academy, will play for us on December 8th. That night, RCS band will play at the Town Tree Lighting. Christmas vacation is from December 23rd until January 3rd.

The Sixth Grade Class is very busy planning their trip to Nature's Classroom for May. They are deep in fundraising efforts. Available now at RCS and the Post Office and South Royalston Store are homemade Holiday Cards created by the class. They are also selling raffle tickets for a Holiday Basket and a Cord of Wood (thank you to the Sawyers). For tickets, ask your nearest sixth grader! There is a lot of community support to help reduce the cost of this trip for each family. We are also accepting donations toward scholarships.

The teachers in the district have settled a new contract. This brings the addition of art and music to our students on a weekly basis. They are excited about having the arts back on a regular schedule.

Monty Tech News 1-800-853-6689 ~ www.montytech.net

Mary C. Barclay, 249-2598 ~ royalston_community_news@yahoo.com
While shopping this holiday season, drop by the Monty Tech Tea Room for lunch, open full school days from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.. There's plenty of parking behind the school (look for the glass block windows) near the rear entrance, and it's easily accessible for those using wheelchairs and walkers. The Tea Room is a working shop for culinary arts students, who, with adult supervision, run the business. Students set the dining room, plan and prepare foods, seat guests, wait tables and shut down the operation each afternoon. The food is fabulous, the service unequalled and the prices absolutely incredible. The daily menu offers everything from appetizers through desserts. I recently enjoyed a cup of the most delicious seafood chowder I've ever had (better than my own, I'm a little sad to say!) which was served with home baked rolls. The baked haddock that followed had a lightly spiced, buttered crumb topping, and was served with glazed carrots, tangy coleslaw and perfectly prepared rice pilaf. I managed to finish the unsweetened iced tea, but had no room for one of their delectable desserts. I paid the student cashier for my meal, left a 20% tip, and came away with some change from the \$10 bill I used.

Scholarships for Royalston Students

Winter break is THE time to start investigating scholarships and authoring scholarship essays. Make sure to obtain a list of scholarships and requirements from your high school or college BEFORE you begin winter break. More may be added later, but many are due by 3/1!

Shop Locally this Holiday

For a little town, there are a lot of cool things to purchase in and around Royalston. Some even benefit our library. Spend locally this season. Help out your neighbors and support organization which enrich our community.

Natural Wonders of Royalston Poster:



Featuring the falls, flowers, fungi and other scenic wonders of Royalston, the Friends of the Phinehas S Library have produced a gorgeous and glossy 18x24" poster, suitable for framing, that celebrates some of the many natural riches of our Town. With photos donated by award - winning nature photographer, Noah Siegel, and technical layout assistance from Barbara Guiney, computer graphics genius and library trustee, this poster is a beautiful and affordable gift. Available at the library, the Post Office and the Millers River Education Center nature store at 100 Main St, Athol.

Local History in a Local Book: "North of Quabbin Revisited: A Guide to Nine Towns North of Quabbin Reservoir" by Royalston author Allen Young is a uniquely informative and enjoyable local book that remains in print. The book has a great deal of interesting information about Royalston history, wildlife and contemporary community life, including many beautiful photographs. It is an excellent source of information about the entire region, including the Quabbin Reservoir and the "lost towns" of the Swift River Valley. Arrangements can be made with the author for obtaining personalized autographed copies of the book, ideal for holiday giving, by phone, 978-249-7612, or Email, aaayoung@aol.com. It is available at Bruce's Browser and at Haley's of Athol. Also, *signed copies are available at the Phinehas S. Newton Library with a percentage of the profits benefiting the Friends.*

CDs and Videos: The library has about 20 duplicates of CDs that we received from the anti-trust settlement against the record companies that we are selling for \$5.00 and many videos that we have withdrawn from the collection for \$1.00 each. Stop by the library to see what's available.

Hand-made Holiday Cards: Linoleum print and rubber stamp cards with home-made envelopes to benefit the Royalston Community School 6th grade trip to Nature's Classroom, a week long environmental education center on the Maine Coast, are on sale at RCS, the Post Office and the South Royalston Store. \$5.00/pkt.

Classy Apparel from Alpacas: Royal Pines Alpaca Farm at 30 Brown Rd has incredibly soft and beautiful sweaters, scarves and socks made from alpaca yarn. Not at all itchy. Also pillows, slippers, and wicked cute finger puppets. Prices \$10 and up. Call Ginger May, 249-7629.

Pete & Henry's: Alas! No more chicken nuggets until January 6, when Pete & Henry's re-opens following their winter hiatus. Last-minute holiday gift certificates, however, will be available during the closed weeks by calling and leaving a message at 978-249-8375. Calls will be returned within a day or two, and arrangements made for certificate payment and pick-up or mailing. Hours after the January 6 re-opening are Thursdays from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m., Fridays from 4 p.m. – 10 p.m., Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Local Wood Products: North Quabbin Woods has a new showroom on Rte 2A in downtown Orange featuring bent wood baskets, wooden toys, furniture, photo frames, musical instruments and more made by local artisans from local wood. Store hours: Tues-Fri 11:00 am-6pm. Open house: Sat. Dec 4, 10 am-6 pm.

Bulk and Natural foods: Royalston Community Co-Op
mcb Barclay@royalston_community_news@yahoo.com or
bputney@crystal-mtn.com

Christmas orders are due from members to Mary and Brenda no later than Thursday, December 2. Delivery is on December 9. Members should check out the "yahoo groups" site to see what splits have been posted.

Stained Glass: It's probably too late for the December holidays, but call Brenda Putney to order a little delicate something for your valentine. 249-7787

Bruce's Pharmacy, Inc. to Become Bruce's Browser
Diane Lincoln, President

On December 1st Bruce's Pharmacy, Inc. will become Bruce's Browser, Inc. The pharmacy department and the health and beauty aids inventory is being sold to CVS. The business will expand its magazine/ paperback book section into an actual book store while keeping the card and gift departments intact. Gourmet coffee from Dean's Beans, cappuccino, and espresso will be added to existing soda-fountain selections to enhance what will become a cyber café at the front of the store. The back corner of the store, where the pharmacy department is currently located, will be opened up into educational/performance/meetingspace with a focus on enhancing the community.

Bruce's will not close during this transition, which will probably take around six weeks. I will need to spend some time at the new CVS location helping with the pharmacy transition throughout December. Donna King will be managing Bruce's while I'm at CVS. I'll be back to focus on the new Browser in January. Watch for our grand opening.

Ed note: Bruce's Pharmacy of 1497 Main St in Athol is owned by Royalston resident and rising rock star, Diane Lincoln, She has been a consistent supporter of this newsletter and most community organizations.



Congratulations and Good News

Got something to crow about? Drop the news by the library or e-mail chasegos@gis.net .

Congrats **John and Millie**; your happiness shows.

Ginny Gingras would like to thank donors who recently gave to the United Way Campaign in Town. She exceeded her goal in collecting donations thanks to your generosity.

Best wishes for a long and safe career to **Vermont State Trooper William C. Deveneau**, of Bennington, Vermont, who recently graduated from VT SP Academy. He was one of two troopers in his class to receive their first choice assignment, a privilege granted based on academic performance. Trooper Deveneau is currently undergoing four weeks of specialized tactical training and will begin working out of the Shaftsbury Barracks in January. He is the son of **Laurie (Clark) and Royalston Police Chief Curtis A. Deveneau**, brother of **Christopher Deveneau**, and has many other proud relatives and friends in and around Royalston.



Kevin Nunes will graduate on December 15th from Basic & Military Police Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He will be home on leave for several weeks, and in January will be deployed to Korea for a 15 month assignment. Kevin is a 2004 graduate of Murdock Middle/High School and is the son of Deb and Joe Nunes.

Norcross Road's, **Norah Dooley** recently traveled to Chicago to discuss her book, *Everybody Cooks Rice*, which was selected as the children's picture book for the Mosaic Project, an awareness project on diversity, which encompassed five Chicago suburbs

Rebecca Krause-Hardie, town tax collector and wonderful website designer, just had her website for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra (<http://www.nyphil.org>) selected as one of the top ten Websites in the Arts. This site is designed for children to learn about symphony orchestras: the instruments, the music and the artists.

As you digest one feast and prepare for another, consider:

RCS Poetry Club:

Thanksgiving

Our turkey feast is in the fall. Rice and turkey, I like it all.

A few days off, A biscuit too; of the pies, I eat a few.

Mashed potatoes in gravy sauce

Cranberry stuffing is to eat, not toss.

All of this is so much fun

I'm always sorry when Thanksgiving's done.

Was it the first Pilgrims' creation

that became our Thanksgiving celebration?

by Poetry Group One: Kadasia LaJoie, Austin Kinsman, Tiffany Lusco, Chelsea Sanderson, Derek Bates, Emily Mangum Tobey Chase, and Katelyn Robinson

Shannah and Heather Lively, and **Stephanie Bennett** recently finished up their fall Athol High School volleyball season at 5-13. As a sophomore, Heather Lively was selected as the team's MVP for the second year in a row. Shannah Lively and Stephanie Bennett received the Sportsmanship Award and were the co-captains.

Ferron Dooley Fairchild has been accepted into the Honor's Program at Mt Wachusett Community College.

RCS Academic Honor Roll (grades 4-6) for fall '04: *Straight A's*: **Cady Boucher, Nicholas Krasowski, and Caleb Chase**. *All A's and B's*: **Tasey Chartier, Dylan Hall, Kourtney Frazier, Krista Erikson, Asher Chase, Derek Wheeler, Ashley Sawyer, Samantha Hutchins, Allison Berquist, Megnan Degnan, Sydni Ayers, Allyna Baker, Andrew Demboske, Benjamin Boudreau, Dillon Britt, Alexis Javier, Jacob Lajoie, Katey Lanie, Amber Simmington and Michele Thompson**.

Athol Royalston Middle School Honor Roll (grades 7-8) for fall '04: *Straight A's*: **Kimberlee Thompson, MacKenzie Bennett, Alyssa Bergquist and Patrick Scribner**. *All A's and B's*: **Dylan Bates, Catherine and Sofia Brighenti, Justin Cascone, Chester Hall, Marissa Kellner, Alexandra Krasowski, Blue Otto, Christine Sawyer, Travis Stevens, Hillary and Natalie Whitcomb, Michael Demboske, Dante Divoll, Hannah Kacian, Rebecca Paine and Amanda LaRoche**. *All A's and B's but one high C*: **Steven Robinson, Kirstie Short, and Kyle McCorquodale**.

Recipe of the Month

Sally Wheeler of Athol Richmond Rd makes amazing sugar cookies that stir up all kinds of sweet memories of past happy holidays. It can't be proved, but there is suspicion that these cookies could be part of the reason Sally's husband, Ed Wheeler, is able to cheerfully go about his complicated and prickly duties as head of the town Finance Committee year after year, or that her three children, Elizabeth, Derek, and Corey are so smart, well behaved and kind. Sally is not sure of the recipe's origination. It came from her aunt, Edith Turnbull. In parenthesis, next to the aunt's name on the recipe card, it says "(avon)", but Sally doesn't know if that means the cosmetics company or if it's someone's name.

Holiday Sugar Cookies

1 cup softened butter

1 1/2 cups confectioner's sugar

1 egg

1/2 teaspoon vanilla (the real stuff is best)

1/2 teaspoon almond extract

2 1/2 cups all purpose flour*

1 teaspoon baking soda

Mix thoroughly butter, sugar, egg, vanilla and almond extract. Blend in flour and baking soda. Cover, chill 2 to 3 hours. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Divide dough in half. Roll each half 1/4 inch thick on lightly floured board. Cut into desired shapes. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until light brown on edge. Yields approximately 4 dozen 2 to 2 1/2 inch cookies. *If using self-rising flour, omit soda.



Congregational Church News

Kelly A. Newton

The service was too wonderful for words! The First Congregational Church of Royalston welcomed their new members: Shelley Graham, Mike and Sue Veilleux, Kyle Stoddard, David Williams & Kelly Newton. We were blessed with such a beautiful sermon, ministry of music, prayers, testimonies and praises. Incoming members conducted the entire service including the preaching by Mike Veilleux. Participants all welcomed and would like to praise God for supplying us with spectacular music through Wayne Newton.



Also, that evening there was a Harvest Party for all friends and families from Royalston and beyond. Attendance was tremendous. We started with a glorious Pot Luck Dinner. The children had an "AWESOME TIME!" with all the fun & games (so did the adults).

Church Calendar Reminders:

Youth Christmas Choir will be starting from Nov 7 – Dec 12, last practice, after the 11:00 AM service at the First Congregational Church. All Welcome.

Bible Study: Tuesday 10:00 AM South ~ 7:30 PM at the parsonage
Choir Practice: Wednesday 7:30 PM South Church

Bible Club: Wednesday 3 PM - Royalston Community School,
Live Nativity – December 8th – at 6:00 in front of the First Congregational Church featuring the Newton-Paas family with Connors as baby Jesus.

Youth Christmas Choir - dress rehearsal - Dec 5 & 12, First Congregational Church

Couples' Christmas Pot Luck -December 11th at the Jahl's; 30 Queen Lake Road, Phillipston

Youth Christmas Choir Production & Potluck Dinner- December 17 - 6:30 pm. First Congregational Church

Christmas Eve Service Dec 24th at 7 pm – 2nd Congregational Church
New Years Eve Night Watch Service with potluck dinner starting at 9 pm - Dec. 31

It Took a Village...

Sue Veilleux

....And the Village came through. Thank you all who helped physically and spiritually with the firewood cutting on the afternoon of October 24th at the house of Sue and Mike Veilleux. We were able to deliver one dump truck load of wood to Pastor Ginger and one to Wayne and Kelly Newton. Lynn and Tom Jahl were able to fill the back of their truck also. Thanks to all who were involved. A special thank you goes to the Divoll Family who supplied the tractors and splitters and the Putney Family who supplied the dump truck and logging truck which made the job much easier. Mike was very thankful that he didn't have to eat chili all week.

History of the Live Nativity

Dr. Rev. Ginger Asel



The town's first Live Nativity was planned in conjunction with the lighting of the town's Christmas tree in 1994. Tom Musco constructed a timber frame stable. Fifteen- day-old Kelsey Savoy, daughter of Cindy and Steve Savoy, was baby Jesus. She slept peacefully in the manger for the entire display. Craig Divoll and Sara Lefsyk portrayed Joseph and Mary. Kate Collins and Birch Knoll Farm provided the sheep and farm animals respectively.

The following day, Patience Bundschuh and Pastor Ginger transformed the fall hay figures seated on the town bench into Mary and Joseph. Stuffed nylons were used for the faces and hands. In 1995 Lydia Musco crafted life-size figurines for the Holy Family. The Arts' Council provided funding for their construction.

After the first year as much as possible the Holy Family was played by family members of the baby. This year we hope to gather all the children who have been baby Jesus in the past. They will be invited to appear as angels and shepherds in the Live Nativity. They will also be honored at the Christmas Pot Luck Pageant on December 17th. The following is the historic roster:

1994 – Kelsey Savoy (Cynthia & Steven Savoy)

1995 – Michele Thompson (Mark & Beth Thompson & Kimberlee)

1996 – John Divoll (Randy & Becky Divoll)

1997 – Tobey Rose Chase (Beth Gospodarek & Steve Chase)

1998 - Abigail Sue Divoll (Randy & Becky Divoll)

1999- (doll) – cold and mother was concerned

2000 – Jaclynn Fortunato (Jason & Jen Fortunato); Coleen Spear (Kelly Newton & Kevin Spear) in South Village

2001 – Natalie Lawrence (Ivers and Irene Lawrence) ;Shaelyn Dushion (Terri and Kevin Dushion)

2002 –Hannah Mikayla Bean (Brian, Tracy, Joshua Bean)

2003 – Jaden Softic (Adrian & Amy Softic) – Bill Lefsyk, Jaden's grandfather enacted Joseph, because Adrian was serving in Iraq. A candle light peace vigil and silent prayer held for those serving our country in harm's way.

2004 – Connor Paas (Robert and Jacqueline Paas)



Jingle Bell Church Fair Wonderful Success

Members of the Second Congregational Church are delighted with the final results of their annual Jingle Bell fair, held on November 20. The baked goods table sold out, the pantry was practically bare when the last fair-goer finished his corn chowder, hot dog and cupcake. Brisk business took place at two ticket auctions, a

silent auction, the handcrafted items table, and white elephant table. This hard-working group brought in more than \$1,000 profit for the Church's general treasury and the turnout was far better than last year when the Jingle Bell Fair coincided with the first nor'easter of the season.

In your Own Backyard

Beth Gospodarek

About 500 million years ago, chunks of your backyard were part of South America. Continents were drifting about on the molten core of the Earth. Traveling at a rate of a few inches/year, they were covering great distances over the eons of geology. A chunk of erupting volcanoes from South America, known to geologists as Bronson Hill slammed into the New England coast and forced sheets of rocks to fold up into the Berkshires. Local bedrock was mostly formed at this catastrophic time when soft sedimentary rocks such as slate, shale and schist were caught up in the era's seismic drama and thrust back deep underground. There they were melted by the high temperatures and eventually cooled slowly underground into their familiar hard gneiss and granite states. About 5 million years later, a collision with another land mass, known as Avalon, churned up huge mountains in central Massachusetts. Then, about 280 million years ago, when Royalston's latitude lay somewhere near the equator, Africa piled into the crash and all 7 continents were joined in the formation known as Pangea. The wavy geological striations on Tully Mountain indicate several separate major tectonic crashings, pushings and foldings. The "Athol Fault", a small crack which runs from Spirit Falls, down Long Pond and Tully Brook, and out to Rt 2 was also formed at this volatile time.

All of this bumping and grinding of tectonic plates for million and millions of years caused frequent earthquakes and volcanoes in our region, which in turn, created new rocks and minerals. Rocks traveled from the surface back toward the Earth's molten core. Underground heat and gasses combined with elements in the surrounding rocks to make new forms; for example, sandstone turned into quartz and mud shale morphed into mica, often combined with garnets. Generally, the slower the underground cooling process, the larger the crystals formed. The gasses in the new molten minerals caused expansion, which forced them into any available cracks, called dikes, in the bedrock. Pegmatite, similar to granite but with much larger crystals, is often found in these dikes. The beryl of Beryl Hill in North Royalston is from pegmatite. The magnetically

charged iron found on Butterworth Ridge probably came pretty directly from the Earth's mantle layer through its own dike. Most of the rocks and minerals in Royalston combined with acidic gasses during their formation, which is the main reason local gardens benefit from liberal applications of lime every spring.

Around 190 million years ago, there was a shift in the direction of the continental drift. Europe and Africa headed east. The North American Tectonic Plate began inching its way west until it reached the Pacific Plate +/- 65 million years ago. This collision created the Rocky Mountains, and the recent rumblings of Mt. St. Helens are further evidence that our backyards are drifting very very slowly into the sunset. Because all of the recent tectonic action has been in the wild west, there have been no strong geologic pressures on New England for 190 million years despite periodic dish-rattling small earthquakes.

A series of over 20 ice ages in the last two million years have done a lot to smooth over the rough edges left by these crashing continents. The Laurentide ice sheet was the last great glacier, and 18,500 years ago, it extended from the Arctic into the US reaching as far south as northern New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It had retreated as far as Royalston about 16,000 years ago and back to the Canadian border by 12,000 years ago, (a trip that takes about 4 hours in a car today.) Glaciers are heavy and powerful bulldozers. Like a rolling snowball, they incorporate loose rocks in their path. When they were pushing southward in our region, they took a lot of loose soil. During their retreat, while they were melting, they dropped loads of collected debris and produced floods of eroding water. The topography of Royalston today is due mainly to this glacial sculpting. The natural bridge and potholes on Tully Brook north of Royalston Falls are particularly pretty examples. Some of the plentiful rocks dropped by the glaciers were put to service in local stone walls. There are quite a few erratics in Town, also. Those are boulders and other debris unrelated to local geology brought from the north by the ice and dumped in our backyards.



Millers River Watershed Info and Chances to Spot Birds

David Small, Millers River Education Center

*December 14, Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, -

Watershed Meeting; This is a public meeting held at the Center to share information about the Millers River Watershed.

*December 18, Saturday 7:00 AM – Join the nationwide **Annual Christmas Bird Count**. For information or to join a team, contact: Dave dsmall@gis.net or 978-413-1772. Feeder Watchers contact MREC at 248-9491. Meet 7:00 AM at Cinnamon's Restaurant Main Street Athol; wrap-up and Pot Luck 4:30 PM at MREC

*January 1, Saturday 8:00 AM – Leader's Choice Local Birding with Prospect Hill's Jacob Morris-Siegel. This walk will be a "listers delight". Meet at MREC.

*January 11, Tuesday, 6 - 7:00 PM - Watershed Meeting.

*January 14th, Friday 7:00 PM – Owls with Bill Fregeau. Join our premier local owl expert in search of wintering owls. Pre-registration is required; contact MREC 248-9491 or abnc@millersriver.net (repeat February 11)

Deer Hunting Season continues through Dec 11 with no hunting on Sundays. Hunter's orange is in order when you're out looking for wildlife, harvesting greens and berries for decorations or just out for a relaxing stroll through back roads. Leave the furry hats, coats and mittens in the closet during various deer hunting seasons.

Wildlife Sightings

Turkeys, turkeys, turkeys – toms and hens; large and small – from one end of town to the other.

Mary Barclay reports juvenile red foxes frolicking near the high tension lines behind Bullock Park, just off of the south end of The Common.

Library Preschool Story Time

Fun

Mondays 10:30 – 11:30am

All welcome

For all preschoolers, 0-5, and their parents or caregivers.

Play, stories, snacks and conversation.

Funded by the Athol Royalston Community Partnership for Children

Our December/January Sponsors
Please thank these people and businesses for sponsoring the Newsletter



Athol Memorial Hospital

Quality healthcare close to home

For information about our outpatient services
call 978-249-3511
or visit us on the web at
www.atholhospital.com



STEPHEN CHASE CONTRACTING

RESTORATION CARPENTRY
INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR FINISHES
CABINETS AND WOODWORKING

ROYALSTON 978-249-4860

SOUTH WALL OF N-W ROOM
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

Henry and Sally
Henry and Sally

Compliments of Frank Stearns

Friends Members: The following people have donated to the Friends of the Library recently: **Randall Vining** and the **Barclay Family**. If you would like to join the Friends of the Library or send in an additional end-of-year donation to help with our projects (including this newsletter), just fill in the form below and send or bring to the Library. Thank you!

The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library support this Newsletter and many other activities.

Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
2005 Membership & Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____


Memberships:

Single	\$2.00	_____
Family	\$5.00	_____
Supporting	\$25.00	_____
Donation	\$ _____	_____

I would also like to buy a Newsletter sponsorship ad:
 \$25.00/month x _____ = \$ _____
 \$200/year (10 issues) \$ _____
 (we will contact you for display information)


Tax deductible. Make checks payable to:
 Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

I would like to help with Friends projects

 **Thank You!**

fieldstone press

Athol Automotive Supply, Inc.
 258 South Main Street
 Athol, MA 01331
 978-249-2252



Steven E. Savoy **AUTO PARTS STORES**

NEWSLETTER STAFF

News Staff: Maureen Blasco, Deb Nunes, Mary Barclay
 Sponsorships: Barbara Stowell
 Treasurer: Barbara Willhite
 Circulation: Jim Kelley
 Layout: Stephen Chase
 Editor: Beth Gospodarek

HOW TO CONTACT US

Submission deadline for February issue is: Jan. 22
 To submit news, articles, calendar notices, classifieds:
 E-mail: chasegos@gis.net
 Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston, MA 01368
 Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
 Phone: 978-249-0358
 In person: Drop off at library

RCN reserves the right to edit and restrict all submissions. This Newsletter is provided free of charge to all residents of Royalston as a public service provided by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library with support from the Royalston Cultural Council and the entire community.

OUT OF TOWN SUBSCRIPTIONS
 are available for \$10/calendar year (10 issues)
 by mailing a check to: Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton
 Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

The Royalston Community Newsletter
 Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
 PO Box 133
 Royalston MA 01386

PRSRT STD

**Permit
 No.42
 Athol**

Royalston Resident
 Star Route 80
 Royalston MA 01368