

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2005



Volume VIII, Issue III

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

April Fools Day: In France, New Year's used to be celebrated for eight days, starting around the equinox on March 25. Friends exchanged gifts. April 1st was the last day of the celebration. Then, the calendar changed and January 1st became the start of the New Year. A person who still celebrated the New Year on April 1st was called an "April Fool." In France, April 1st is called "Poisson d'Avril," which means "April Fish." Children tape paper fish to each other's backs like "kick me" signs. In England, it is bad luck to play a joke after noon. Brits call a person who has been the butt of a joke, a noodle. In Scotland, he is an "April Gowk" (cuckoo). The Portuguese throw flour at their friends on this day. Interesting? All this information was in a 30 sentence "Rookie Reader" picture book at the Phinehas S. Newton Library. No joke. Drop by the library to make your own discoveries this month.

Calendar of Events

April 1 Friday
7:00-9:00 p.m. **Dance of Fools Family Contra Dance** at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. (optional public potluck supper beforehand at 6:00 p.m.) Very cool door prizes. Free.

VOTE VOTE VOTE
April 4 Monday
10:00 am to 8:00 pm **Town elections**, Precinct I – Town Hall on the Common. Precinct II – Whitney Hall in South Royalston. **Bake sale** to benefit the Ladies' Benevolent Society at Town Hall from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. or until sold out.

April 7 Thursday
noon **Early dismissal RCS/Talent show dress rehearsal**
3:30 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. Discuss upcoming newsletters, library events, fundraising, and other Library support. All welcome.

7:00 p.m. **Murder Mystery at Monty Tech** drama club presentation (also on the 8th and 9th, at 7 p.m.)

April 8 Friday 4:32 p.m. **New Pink Moon**
6:00 p.m. **Spaghetti Supper** followed by **Talent Show** at 7:00 p.m. at RCS. 120 Club tix and super tix available at 249-2900.

April 14 Thursday
7:30 p.m. **Open Space Committee meeting** Public is encouraged to attend and help decide strategies and sites for preserving land with particular recreational, historic, environmental or scenic value in our Town.

15 April Friday
after school **ARRSD April Vacation begins.** Noon dismissal for Monty Tech students

3:00 p.m. **Cultural Council meeting**, at the Bundschuh's.

April 16 Saturday
Butterfly Symposium presented by The Mass. Butterfly Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club. North American Butterfly Association president Jeff Glassberg heads the list of speakers and details are at the symposium web site www.butterfly.millersriver.net

April 18 - 21 Monday - Thursday
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. **Improv comedy workshops** with Norah Dooley at Town Hall. (Mon. and Tues. for grades 3-6; Weds. and Thurs. for grades 7 and up.) Free. Space limited. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Call 978-249-3572 to register.

April 22 Friday **Earth Day**
7:00 p.m. **Ha-Ha Sisterhood Improv Comedy Troupe** at Town Hall. Opening act: comedy workshop participants. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library with Cultural Council funding.

24 April Sunday
6:06 a.m. **Full Pink Moon**

25 April - May 1 **National Turn Off the TV Week**

27 April Wednesday
7:30 p.m. **Ladies' Benevolent Society** meeting and program "**Re-searching the Hidden Life of Emily Dickinson**" with Royalston author and biographer Polly Longworth. All members of the community welcome. Hostess: Andrea Lively (978-249-2705). Light refreshments will follow.

April 29 Friday
7:30 p.m. Film Premier, *Some Mournful Bird*, at the library. Award winning film by Royalston's own Taj Musco with a cameo performance by his dad, Tom. Refreshments. Free. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council

April 30 Saturday
9:00 - noon **Royalston Roadside Clean Up.** Pick up and bag roadside litter; bring to dump for free disposal. Picnic following at Bullock Park. Call Charlie Scribner for details or to reserve a street: 249-2649.

May 4 Wednesday
9:00 am **May Day Celebration** at the Village School on the common. Traditional May pole dances, songs, crowns of spring flowers, Morris Dancers. All welcome to come and welcome spring.



May 6 Friday
7:00 pm – **Annual Town Meeting**, place still to be determined.

May 14 Saturday
7:00 p.m. **Royalston Follies** at Town Hall.

Fire, Police, and Highway Departments: Braving the Elements



Royalston firefighters, police officers and rescue squad members train all year long in order to help the citizens of Royalston. Just after the March newsletter was put to bed, for example, on a four-below-zero morning, fifteen RFD members (Chief **Wayne R. Newton**, Deputy Chief **Keith R. Newton**, Captain **James M. Putney**, firefighters **James M. Barclay**, **Kelly Newton**, **Scott A. Newton**, **Elizabeth I. Phelps**, **John Phelps** and **Gary Winitzer**, all of whom are EMTs or First Responders, and new recruits **Jarrod Chalke**, **Anthony Lake**, **Joshua Siegel**, **Nathan Thomas** and **Mark White**, along with fifteen-year-old junior trainee **Emily Putney**, bundled up and spent the morning practicing ice rescue techniques on Tully Lake. That same morning, RPD Sergeant **Roland G. Hamel**, RPD Officer **Sherry A. Miner** and teen volunteers **Caitlin Barclay** of Royalston and **Melissa Frost** of Athol, braved the cold so K-9 trainee **Reba** and K-9 **Rocky** could practice searching in the cold and snow.

When winter weather is so bad that the risks of braving the elements outweigh the benefits of going out in it, the Royalston Highway Department kicks up a notch to answer another set of needs. Highway Superintendent **Keith R. Newton**, **David Valliere**, **Robin Mowrey**, and **Rodney Cleveland**, and host of local and imported subcontractors have worked, around the clock in many instances, to see that roads are at least passable at all times. They have contended with blinding snow and sleet, relentless drifting, ice-encrusted tree limbs falling as well as sagging and downed wires as they traveled the town's 70+ miles of roads. Many thanks to all the members of the Royalston Highway, Police and Fire Departments.

Memorial Day Committee

The Memorial Day Committee has markers – the metal symbols of various wars and conflicts that serve as American flag standards - to replace missing or damaged ones on the graves of veterans. If your loved one's grave should have a marker, contact Brenda Putney at 978-249-7787 or bputney@crystal-mtn.com. She will see to it a permanent marker is installed, and that Town records reflect that the veteran is to be remembered during this year's and future years' Memorial Day exercises.

Royalston Roadside Clean Up

After the snow melts and before the weeds grow, beer cans, fast food debris, and an impressive assortment of strange and miscellaneous items stand out on the bare roadsides. Once again, on April 30 at 9:00 p.m., Charlie Scribner is organizing the Royalston Roadside Clean Up to pick up this litter to keep our Town beautiful. Individuals or groups can meet at Bullock Park to get trash bags and a road assignment. Alternatively, residents can pick up trash on their own roads. Bring all collected trash to the transfer station at noon for free disposal. Then, proceed to Bullock Park for well deserved hot dogs, beans, chips and soda. Wear bright clothing and gloves. Call Charlie for more info 978-249-2649. Pitch in. Do your part. Every day is Earth Day. Ultimately, this is our home, our responsibility.

DPW Seeks Funds for Rt 32

Recently, the Department of Public Works lost its position for state funding in 2007 for improvements to Rt 32, the main route between Athol and Richmond, NH in West Royalston. The project is tentatively approved by the state, but it cannot move forward until the Town shows a commitment by appropriating \$200,000 for engineering plans and designs, which would also secure easements. Once the project is given a priority, the estimated 2.5 million dollar construction costs of this project should require no Town money. The improved road would follow the footprint of the current Rt 32, but improve the surface and the drainage. The current road is so deteriorated that it is considered unsafe. The DPW realizes that \$200,000 for engineering is a big chunk of the town budget. However, there are no other big projects on the Town's plate at the moment. The new school was built, the landfill capped and a new fire truck purchased relatively recently. During this small window of fiscal opportunity, voters will be asked to raise and appropriate funds for the engineering plans for improvements on Rt 32 at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. The DPW is asking for voter support.

Assessors News

The assessors are pleased to announce the appointment of Jen Barkus, of town, as our new clerk. We are confident that she will be able to fulfill the duties of the office in the same efficient, professional and courteous manner as her predecessor, Mary Ann Lizotte. The board wishes to thank Mary Ann for her years of hard work and wish her all the best as she utilizes her freed-up time in the pursuit of other interests including family and travel.

ERV Fundraising

The Royalston Firefighters' Association is coming down to the wire with their goal of raising \$100,000 to purchase a desperately needed Emergency Rescue Vehicle. During the past three years they have brought in more than \$75,000 of their goal, but with ERV prices rising so quickly, they need to commit to the purchase as soon as possible. The Royalston Fire Department will be looking for additional money at our annual town meeting to make this purchase; the more donations that come in, the fewer tax dollars that have to go out. If you're in a position to make your first or a repeat donation to the Royalston Firefighters' Association ERV fund, please try to do so before the end of this month. **Donations are welcome at any time**, and are tax deductible to the full extent of the tax laws. Donations may be mailed to James M. Putney; 185 North Fitzwilliam; Royalston, MA 01368.

Who Are the People in Our Neighborhood?

Melanie Mangum

Jim Bennett, a 5-year Royalston resident, tenor and alto sax player, and a former biochemist and electrochemist, lives on Prospect Hill Road in a home his family shares with business partner and friend Mary Hoag. Jim and his wife Denise have three children: Carolyn, 22, Stephanie, 17, and Mackenzie, 13.

Searching for a dream place: Jim lived with his family in North Andover for 25 years, where they began the "two household family" with Mary Hoag. Because of a development boon that marred the character of the town, they decided to search for a new place to live. Over 15 years, they looked for a place that had all the characteristics they wanted - outlined in a four-page list. The first house they looked at in Royalston was at the end of Prospect Hill Road, but that was sold. Then the home they now live in came up, and it matched the four-page list "almost 100 percent," Jim says, including the blueberry bog. Jim practices and teaches primal therapy with business partner Mary Hoag. "It's difficult to encapsulate" primal therapy in a few sentences. "We've spent 25 years trying to figure out what makes it work," Jim said. They act not as therapists, but as teachers. They supply the process and you provide the content. "You try to find and begin to express the actions and words that you've locked up inside. It basically frees your awareness."



Athol High School Theater

Marsha Charest

Mrs. Sibley's class performed three One Act Plays on March 11th, 2005 at the High School as a fund raising event. The students had one month to prepare for the plays. The focus was on voice projection, blocking, costuming, set design, and teamwork. The night's proceeds went to purchase a camcorder which will be used to improve and document student acting technique. The plays were thoroughly enjoyable as the casts did a superb job. The first two were comical and the last a melodrama. The first play was A Marriage Proposal; it starred Steve MacAloney, Mandy McLaren and Ben Otto. The second play was "CARWASH" with James Charest, Josh DeVault, Erin Shaughnessy with a brief appearance by Steph Pandiscio. The interaction was incredible given all the lines they had to learn in just one month. The character played by James Charest lost his car in a carwash. The third play "Sorry, Wrong Number" was suspenseful. The audience was on the edge of its seat with every ring of the phone. The lead character, Mrs. Stevenson was particularly excellent. The cast included Sara O'Neil, Steph Pandiscio, Tom Ramirez, Josh DeVault, Theresa Cross, Jamie Henrich, Carlton Buscemi, Steve MacAloney, Chris Patten, Allie Boucher, Erin Shaughnessy, Laura LaFountain and Kyle Winters. Between the one act plays as the sets changed, Kyle Winters and Ben Otto performed comic antics.

Mrs. Sibley's class will be performing "Our Town" in early May.

Theatre at the Mount

Theatre at the Mount presents "Honk! Jr.," being presented as part of the Broadway Junior Collection. This musical version of Hans Christian Anderson's popular children's story, The Ugly Duckling, will feature local students, including Asher Chase and Benjamin West, who represent more than 20 public, private and home schools. Most performances are for school groups. Performances for the general public are Saturday, April 9 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. All seats are \$6 and are available by calling 978-632-2403 or at <http://theatre.mwcc.edu>.

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!

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, 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

Thank You Ice Sculpture Program

*John McClure for loaning us an ice saw

*David Putney for putting such a human touch on ice harvesting with stories of his personal experience.

*Tom Kellner for a great sculpting program, and an impressive dragon sculpture enjoyed for weeks

*Sharon Hood for help with the ice sculptor program

*Susan Moore for great photos of the ice event..



Cross Culture Club

Many thanks to Ruth Suyunega, Lily Carra, and Peter Kraniak for bringing educational and entertaining Cross Cultural Club programs. to our library.



Josefina and Francisco Carra perform a traditional Argentine folk dance



Elizabeth West and Eric Duffin try on traditional Japanese clothing.

Slide Show

*Thanks Noah Siegel for a wonderful, informative program with beautiful slides and Sharon Harmon and Barbara Willhite for the tasty refreshments.

*Also, thanks to John Divoll for shoveling all the snow from the library steps. Simple acts help a lot.

High Speed Internet Up and Running

If you'd like to see how fast satellite internet service is, stop by the library. Unlike the shared telephone service we had previously, all computers may be used at the same time. We even have a connection for a laptop for people who want to use their personal computer in the library. All you need is a library card to use any computer.

[What's new at www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

The library web-site has a lot of cool updates this month thanks to our web-guru, Jeff Mangum. Look for:

- *excellent photos from the ice sculpting event and x-culture club
- *unabridged candidates' statements from everyone running for a contested seat on the ballot in the upcoming April 4th town election.
- *archival newsletters

- * the complete list of the new books at the library

- *information from Town boards and groups: the Open Space Committee approached the Friends for some web-space to get the word out about its mission and methods. The Friends agreed as long as the information could be presented as easy to use "pdf" files. This information should pop up on our web-site in the near future. If other Town boards and groups would like to use our web-site to disseminate helpful information, there is potentially space in the ether. The info has to come to us in a web friendly format, and the Friends retain a right to refuse submission based on appropriateness, space and amount of work for the Friends it causes. Despite these caveats, it would be practical and neighborly to have more information about our Town on this web-site and the Friends are hoping more groups join us at this spot in cyberspace. Call the library for more information

Library Tick-tock Trivia

It's a rare day at the library when someone doesn't remark on the beautiful and stately grandfather clock that graces the foyer. It was donated to the library for its dedication in 1911 by Miss Bertha Lee, Mrs. Evelyn Converse of Newton, and Mr. Wallace Pierce of Boston in memory of John Howard Lee, who summered in Royalston. Made by the A. Stowell Company in Waltham, the clock stands over 8' tall with graceful lines, crests and imposing carved heads guarding the face. The face is beautifully filigreed in gold and is topped by a half circle framing a painted scene that rotates to denote the phases of the moon. It chimes on the hour and at half past. If the cake is library services, high speed internet access, many thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, books on tape, inter-library loans, computers, friendly staff, and diverse programs, the chime and tock of this gorgeous clock are the icing, whipped cream and sprinkles.

Upcoming Library Events

Dance of Fools Contra Dance

Pre-TV, in the 30s and 40s, the Royalston Town Hall held a dance a week and residents came out and danced with their neighbors, family and sweethearts to live music. Join this tradition 7:00 p.m. Friday April 1st for a free Dance of Fools Contra Dance sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The No Name Band, with a plethora of fiddlers, a drummer and whoever else shows up, will provide the music while Norah Dooley teaches and calls traditional dances like Red Wing, the Virginia Reel, or Dive for the Oyster, Duck for the Clam. Kids love the dance "Zodiac," which lets them strut down the alley, Soul Train style. A few waltzes are thrown in for the romantically inclined. Everyone who comes will be entered in a contest for fabulous door prizes. An optional public potluck supper will be held downstairs in the Town Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m., which is a fine way to meet or catch up with your neighbors now that snow has melted. Tradition, fun, food, and prizes: it would be foolish not to come.

HaHa Sisterhood Performance and Comedy Workshops for Kids and Teens during April Vacation

You have seen it on TV shows like "Whose Line is it Anyway?" Now, improv comedy is coming to the Town Hall. Friday night, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m., the HaHa Sisterhood, an improv troupe from the Springfield area featuring Royalston's own Maile Shoul, will crack up the audience with a free performance sponsored by the Cultural Council. *The opening act could be you and/or your kids!* Norah Dooley will run free improv workshops for local youth vacation mornings from 10:00-11:30 culminating in an optional performance opening for the Ha Ha Sisterhood that Friday night. Monday and Tuesday, 4/18 -19, workshops are for grades 3 - 6; Wednesday and Thursday 4/ 20- 21 are for grades 7 -12+. Register by calling the library: 978-249-3572. Workshops sponsored by the Friends of the Library

Some of the New Books

ADULT FICTION

Beaton, M. C. *Death of a Bore*
 Brisbin, Terri *The King's Mistress*
 Crais, Robert *The Forgotten Man*
 Delaney, Frank *Ireland: A Novel*
 Evanovich, Janet *Love Overboard*
 Gentry, Georgina *To Tempt a Texan*
 Goodkind, Terry *Chainfire*
 Graham, Heather *Killing Kelly*
 Kadohata, Cynthia *Kira-Kira*
 Mackler, Carolyn *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*
 McLarty, Ron *The Memory of Running*
 McCall Smith, Alexander *At the Villa of Reduced Circumstances*
 McCall Smith, Alexander *The Finer Points of Sausage Dogs*
 McCall Smith, Alexander *Portuguese Irregular Verbs*
 Nix, Garth *Drowned Wednesday*



Nixon, Joan Lowery *The Haunting*
 Oates, Joyce Carol *Freaky Green Eyes*
 Robb, J. D. *Survivor in Death*
 Roberts, Nora *The Calhouns: Suzanna and Megan*
 Silva, Daniel *Prince of Fire*
 Steel, Danielle *Impossible*
 Stroud, Jonathan *The Golem Eye*

Friends Membership Drive

You recently received our letter requesting support for this newsletter and all the other projects of the Friends of the Library. Although this letter just went out, we have already received a wonderful response. As of this newsletter's deadline, we have received membership contributions from the following friends:

Bob & Lorraine Casinghino	Elizabeth Denniston
Fred & Marsha Charest	Ruth & Harold Fagal
The West Family	Betty Woodbury
Mary Eliot Jackson	Alan & Teresa Bowers
Mary Hoag/Jim & Denise Bennett	Catherine Guiney
Patricia Andreliunas	Allen Young
Charles & Polly Longworth	Liane Brandon
Virginia Gingras	The Boucher Family
Ernest & Linda Leblanc	Larry Snider
William & Phyllis Clark	Ken & Andrea Lively
Bill Richard & Suzanne St. Germain	
Dwight & Barbara Stowell	

Many thanks to these people, as well as to those who have given in recent months. If you have not yet joined the Friends this year, we ask you to consider returning that membership form and making a donation to help the Friends support the Phinehas S. Newton Library. Thanks in advance!

New Items from the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System

The library has received groups of 30 each of adults' books-on-tape, adults' books-on-CD, young adults' books-on-tape, children's books-on-tape, and DVDs for everyone. These will remain in the library for 3 months and are available for borrowing.

ADULT NONFICTION

Peterson's Four Year Colleges
 Tarte, Bob *Enslaved by Ducks*
 Hammond, Lee *Lifelike Drawing with Lee Hammond*
 Smith, Jeff *Out from Boneville*
 Jordan, Jennifer *Savage Summit: The True Stories of the First Five Women Who Climbed K2*
 Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, *Massachusetts Coast Guide to Boston & the North Shore*
 Gleick, James *Isaac Newton*
 Lamott, Anne *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*

Book-on-CD

Updike, John *The John Updike Audio Collection*

CDs

Bocelli, Andrea *Romanza*
 Various Artists, *The Tenors of the Century*

School Committee Candidates Statements

Statements from the contested selectman's seat candidate and the Royalston school committee seat appeared in the March newsletter and all candidates for contested seats in the April 4 Town election have statements available (in larger type) on-line at www.royalstonlibrary.org. The Hazen and Chauvette statements are slightly abridged for space. Full text is available on the web site.

Royalston voters will be asked to vote for 2 of these 3 candidates for the ARRSB School committee (3 year term)

Hi, my name is **Karen McNiff** and I am running for reelection to the Athol Royalston Regional School Committee. At the present time, I am employed at the Athol Public Library and I am married with two children living here in Athol. As far as my education and experiences go, I am a graduate of Framingham State College with a degree in Elementary Education. I taught elementary school for six years before deciding to stay home to raise a family. As my children began to grow, so did my involvement in community activities here in Athol. While my children attended Athol Middle School, I was a member of the school council for three years. I truly believe that parents must take an active role and get involved in their children's education. For the past four years now I have been a member of the Athol Royalston Regional School Committee. During that time the committee has worked together in hiring new administrators that have helped to move the district forward. We have established yearly of the Superintendent. Most importantly, the committee has worked cooperatively in planning for the future of the school district. It has been a honor to serve you and with your support on April 4th I look forward to another 3 years of service.

My name is **Bruce F. Hazen** and I am asking for your support on Election Day 2005. I currently hold a seat on the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee. As a resident of this area for the past 30 years and with a student currently in the district, I have many concerns and hopes. One of the districts biggest concerns needs to be *adequate space* for an equal opportunity education. The conditions of our elementary schools in Athol are in dire need of major refurbishment or replacement. As the chair of the facilities Sub-committee, I can state with out any reservation that the need for improved elementary space needs to be continued as a priority for this District. The high school is in need of upgrading as well. These are issues that are going to take a great deal of time and thoughtfulness. As a member of the committee, I will continue to support the upgrading of all our facilities. During my three years as a member of this committee I have gained considerable knowledge on the *financial aspects* of supporting the districts funding Needs. The district currently receives almost 90% of their financial support from state funding with the remaining 10% coming from the local communities, this rate of apportionment causes yearly struggles with the overall budget of the district. Very little of our yearly budget is in the hands of the local school Committee... We should all want our children to strive for a better opportunity in life then what we as parents had. As a parent and a member of this community I will do everything in my power to see this goal achieved. Thank you.

My name is **Susan Gatautis** and I am running for a three-year seat on the school committee. I live in Athol with my three children ages 16, 18 and 20. I have been involved with the Athol-Royalston School System for 30 years both as an employee and a volunteer. While substitute teaching in all of the schools in Athol I have gained first hand experience in the classroom. I have taught all grades including special education classes. While being a substitute secretary I experienced the day-to-day administrative aspects of the school. As my children progressed through the school system I was a long-standing member of school councils, the PTA, chaperone and fund raiser. The most important issues identified recently by the Council of Councils were Athol facilities and the curriculum. We need to have a long range plan for facilities so that when funding becomes available we can jump on it. With Ed Reform, No Child Left Behind and the requirement to pass the MCAS, we need to have a coordinated curriculum K-12 that is aligned with the state frameworks. If elected, I will advocate for the education our children deserve.

Royalston voters will be asked to vote for 2 out of these 3 candidates on the ARRSB School Committee (2 year Term)

My name is **Jacqueline Doherty**, and I am a candidate for the 2 year seat on the Athol Royalston School Committee, on which I have served since last summer. In my work with the Facilities, Policy, and Budget sub-committees, I have grown to appreciate how complex and challenging this work is, and how dedicated the members are to making the system better for our students. I have lived in Athol for ten years and have had occasion to substitute teach in our elementary schools. I particularly understand the special needs of many of our kids, and the importance of not failing them in their formative years. As a member of the Committee, I hope to be able to help and ensure that the interests of our town continue to remain focused on education and the future of these children. In the past year, the Committee has taken important steps in addressing the serious questions raised about student performance and regaining accreditation. We have made a commitment to strong leadership and to educational goals, and are solidly behind our superintendent, who has mapped out a path to future success for our students. I am proud to have served with this team, and hope that you will allow me to continue.

Brian Paul- I have been a resident of Athol, since 2001. I got involved in the School Committee as a concerned parent and citizen. I had serious concerns on how our School Committee was operating and moving forward with our children's future. Then, I was appointed to Athol-Royalston School Committee in December 2004. My goal is to help reconstruct the school districts ability to better our children's education. I feel that it is our social obligation to make available to our children good schools, faculty, and educational materials. As well as make the school district financially responsible for their actions toward improvements, and revisions to the educational program of The Athol-Royalston School District. I, Brian Paul dedicate myself to the improvement of the school system for my child and for the children of my fellow citizens of The Athol-Royalston community. I look forward to your support in the election on April 4th, 2005.

Lee E. Chauvette: Once again, I am seeking election to the ARRSB School committee. I served a 3 year term and only left the committee due to employment opportunities. I was born and raised in Athol and attended the Athol-Royalston School system. I graduated from Athol High in 1983. I spent nearly 21 years in public safety, the last 5 years in management. I currently own and operate the Daily Grind in Athol and am a licensed real estate agent. I have budget experience in both the private and public sectors as well as personnel and business management skills. I believe I am very qualified to return to the school committee now, especially with the apparent tough fiscal road ahead. The school district is complex and many issues need the committee's attention. Foremost, once again the committee will need to wrestle *budget cuts*. The process in which the cuts are made needs to be dealt with professionally. A lot of attention is given to insurance costs. This is a good place to start; however, the expense is not necessarily the benefit levels, but rather management styles and the costs of the product. I have worked hard in the past in regards to the budget of the school district. In fact, I voted against the current fiscal year budget because I was not satisfied with the process regarding questions and examining line items. This is an elected duty of any school committee member and I took it very seriously. I have experience in union negotiations from both sides of the table. Experience counts. It is often said that committee members must be advocates for "the children." I look at it rather as being an advocate for responsible school spending that provides a quality education for the students, while recognizing needs of taxpayers and their communities. This committee cannot afford to head back down the road of infighting and disharmony when faced with such crucial decision making. I am asking for your support. I hope that you will consider my previous experience and dedication when casting your vote. Thank you.

Royalston Community School News

Bobbie French, Principal

We are very busy at school. Talent show practice and preparations are well under way. Please join us on April 8th for a spaghetti dinner and talent show. The students are sure to delight you. We are predicting a full house, so get your tickets today. Also, please join us for our next Parent Teacher Group meeting on Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30 in the café. Funding field trips and school improvements will be discussed. The MCAS is upon us. This is the state mandated testing which resulted from education reform. Grades 3-6 have had reading testing. Grade 4 will work on a long composition this month while everyone prepares for the math portion of the test to be given in May. The results of these tests are used to inform instruction, develop curriculum and identify and student's individual strengths and weaknesses.

The staff has been hard at work on professional development. We recently spent a day learning about the legal and civil rights of students as well as working with diverse learners by accommodating different learning styles in the classroom. Our Kindergarten has gone through the first step of Accreditation. We are in need of outdoor play structures. If you have an outgrown Little Tikes climbing structure or Big Wheel ride-on toys in good condition that you'd like to donate to our playground, please let us know. The accreditation is a long process through the National Education Association of Young Children. It looks at all facets of our program to assure we are meeting the children's needs emotionally, physically, educationally and socially.

Monty Tech News

As of the middle of March, Monty Tech had received seven applications from Royalston freshmen. The top three applicants (Royalston is entitled to just three freshmen seats each year) should receive their acceptances shortly after March 31. Other applicants who make the cut-off score of 45 out of 100 will be placed on a list by score.

Monty Tech tries to fill empty seats in classes left vacant when students move out of the area or, for whatever reason, leave school. Although a waiting list is maintained for freshmen seats and sometimes for sophomore seats, upper class slots are rarely filled due to the difficulty of a student catching up on missed academics and shop time. The possibility exists for mature adults who have earned their high school or grade equivalency diploma (GED) to enroll in these empty "shop" seats, and complete, in one or two years, the requirements necessary to earn a "Certificate of Occupational Proficiency." Seats and shop choices are limited. Interested residents can contact School Committee Member Mary Barclay.

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Spaghetti, Raffles and Talent

The family fun night on April 8 at RCS promises to be stupendous. Get spaghetti super tix quickly for the 6:00 seating as they are going fast. (\$10/ adult, \$4.00/kids). All proceeds support field trips and other enrichment activities at our local elementary. There will be a Chinese Auction and a 120 Club drawing that night as well. 120 Club tickets are available at the school or call 249-2900.

The Really Big Talent Show is free and begins at 7:00 p.m. There will be over 15 acts, which include: Dahlia Wright as well as Brianna James dancing, Emma Finnochio, MacKenzie Wilson, and Annie Reynolds singing patriotic songs, Shelby Bronnes tickling the ivories, Caleb Chase picking guitar, the whole darn Kindergarten being cute, the Campos Sisters offering a rendition of "It's Raining Men", Tobey Chase, Katie Robinson, Tiffany Lusco and Elizabeth West as well as Cady Boucher and Ashley Guyer flipping through choreographed gymnastics, Dana Nicholas performing magic, Allyna and Corey Baker mystifyingly manipulating numbers, Dustin Mallett and Andrea Hubbard giving brother/sister comedy and Asher Chase offering Improv, the Chess Club reenacting the chess scene from Harry Potter, the Spanish Club (led by Josefina Carra) dancing tango ballet, the Poetry Club reciting like beatniks, Allie von Liegh singing Amazing Grace, Nick Powell presenting a puppet show, Principal French twirling a baton, Nick Krasowski shooting a basket from a unicycle, and Dante Divoll juggling. The 6th grade will serve as MCees. That's a lot of free family entertainment crammed into one small town gymnasium. With dinner, gambling and a spectacular show, April 8th is a night not to be missed.

After School Art Programs

The following programs which are open to the public will be offered at the Village School this spring:



Clay Fun with Kerry Stone, Grades K-2, Mondays 3:30-4:30 pm, April 25, May 2, May 9. Imagination comes to life through clay — we'll make gnomes, fairies, dragons, castles and tiny tea sets. Your own ideas are gladly welcomed! Cost: \$30.00 includes all materials.

Clay Explorations for Grades 3-6, Mondays 3:30-4:30 pm, May 16, May 23, June 6. For those who love working with clay — this class will be an open studio ... time to create your own unique creations. Fun! Cost: \$30.00. Please call the school at 978-249-3505 to register.



Congratulations and Good News

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

John and Helen Divoll of Birch Knoll Farm recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Congratulations.

Marsha Charest recently hosted a Baby Shower for **Christie (Smith) Chiappetta**. Christie is the daughter of Roy and Donna Smith of 12 New Boston Road and is expecting her first child on April 15th. Christie now resides in Providence, Rhode Island with her husband, Jeremy. Several of Christie's relatives and former neighbors attended the shower. Her mom baked and decorated the shower cake and provided ample treats.

Kudos to the Gatautis twins, both of whom earned places on the Dean's Lists at their respective schools. **Maria Gatautis** is a communications major at Boston University. **Margaret Gatautis** is an art major at the Rochester Institute of Technology. They are the daughters of Robert Gatautis and Rosemary Magee.

Tracy Buddington was named to the Dean's List at Westfield State College.

Caitlin Barclay, Satunino Cruz, Ferron Dooley Fairchild, Karylan Frazier, Katherine Germain and **Dayna Lovely** were named to the fall Dean's List at Mt. Wachusett Community College. Former Royalston resident **Katelyn Chenausky**, granddaughter of Gert and Richard Corser, was also named to the list.

Hats off to **Amber Jarvenpaa**, who was named to the fall, 2004 Dean's List at her school. She is attending Southern New Hampshire University, studying culinary arts.

Congratulations to the many Royalston students who achieved honors status at the Athol High School for the second semester. Ninth graders earning honors are **Andrew Martioski, Brendan Mastaler, Mieka Melbourne**, and **Daniel Seco**. Tenth graders are **Stephanie Campos, Dustin Short**, and **Daniel Vaccari**. Eleventh graders listed are **Skylar Ryll** and **Brendon Kellner**. Seniors making the grades were **Amanda Bassett** and **Kim Wessels** and high honors went to seniors **Shannah Lively** and **Elizabeth Wheeler**.

Eric Blasco, a junior at Brandeis University and son of Maureen Blaso of Norcross Rd., is studying in Madrid this semester. He will live with a local family and study Spanish and other courses as well as travel to Seville, Grenada and Barcelona.

Shannah Lively was recently selected to receive the Athol Royalston High School girls varsity basketball Most Valuable Player award for the second year in a row. Shannah finished her AHS career as the third all time female leading scorer with a total of 976 points and was selected to play in the Senior All-Star game for Franklin County.

Asher Chase, Francisco Carra, Derek Wheeler, and **Samantha Hutchins** took the top four places in the recent RCS Chess Tournament. Thirty five students participated and the competition was very close.

There are some big smiles over at 5 Stone Road, where **Andrew Paul Fitzpatrick** has been welcomed home by his parents, **Christopher Fitzpatrick and Christina McGivern**. Andrew arrived on March 11, 2005 at 1:55 p.m., at Heywood Memorial Hospital. The bundle of joy weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz., and measured 20" long. Also thrilled are grandparents John Fitzpatrick of Winchendon and Margaret McGivern of Gardner.

Memorials

John L. Drouin died March 3, 2005. Born December 18, 1914 he grew up in Gardner and lived in Winchendon, Phillipston and Gardner for a short time. He lived 45 years in South Royalston and was a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven and the Royalston Fish and Game Club. He served in WWII and was on Normandy Beach following D-Day. He was a P.O.W. in Germany. He worked as an upholsterer for many years in area furniture factories. His wife of 60 years Genevieve (Cullen) Drouin died Jan 30, 2004. Mr. Drouin is survived by sons John, brothers George and Alfred, and sisters Pauline Murray, Rachel Brouillet and Ann Richards, all from this area. A burial will be held in the spring at Joseph Alleine Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Athol Memorial Hospital, 2033 Main St. Athol 01331

Donna Marie (White) McKnight, died March 6, 2005 after being struck by an automobile while walking on Rt 2A in Templeton. She was born in 1966, grew up in South Royalston, attended Montachusett Technical School and graduated from Gardner High School in 1985. She enjoyed bowling, camping at Lamb City Campground, and crafts. Growing up, she attended the 2nd Congregational Church in South Royalston. She was a substitute teacher in the Narragansett School District. She leaves her father and step mother, Florence and Francis White Jr and her grandparents, Francis Sr. and Eleanor White of South Royalston; a husband, Scott McKnight; a son, Justin; two daughters, Sammantha and Courtney in Templeton; and step children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles cousins and friends in the area. Memorial contributions may be made to Gardner animal shelter, c/o Gardner Board of Health, Gardner MA 01440.

Condolences to the friends and family of **Stephanie Kirkman**, 82, of Florida, who died February 21, 2005 in Clearwater, FL. The long-time Protestant Youth Center child care worker and former South Royalston resident leaves behind a daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Brian Perkins of Maryland, three granddaughters, her sisters Helen Perry of Orange and Sophie Cramm of Baldwinville, and several nieces and nephews.

Heartfelt condolences are offered to those who knew and loved **Joseph Y. Gelinias**, 81, a 30-year resident of Royalston. Mr. Gelinias, who died March 19, 2005 at his home on Neale Road, leaved his son Royalston Police Sergeant Wayne J. Gelinias and his wife, Louise E. Gelinias; grandson Keith W. Gelinias and his wife, Sheila, and their sons Keith, Jr. and Nicolas, all of South Royalston. He also leaves a granddaughter and her husband, Tracey and Michael Jablon, and a great-grandson, Sean Jablon; two brothers, three sisters and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service date had not been announced as of press time. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Lung Association of Central Mass; 35 Harvard Street; Worcester, MA 01609-2873.



In Your Own Backyard

Jeff Mangum

The first time I ever saw a bald eagle was in Royalston. Wow! How exhilarating to see such an impressive bird for the first time. Since then I have seen bald eagles again, and much more frequently in the past few years. I'm still excited each time.

In mid-March I visited Chet Hall of Royalston, who invited me to see bald eagles on his property on Beryl Hill. He said they have been coming for the last 3 years to feed on animal carcasses, such as roadkill deer, which he places in his fields. He has seen as many as 9 eagles at one time. It was a chilly blue-sky morning as I sat waiting for eagles with Chet. As we were waiting, we watched a coyote feed on a cow carcass in the snow-covered field. Before long, I was rewarded by an immature eagle flying in and perching in a birch tree, in perfect view with a spotting scope. My concentration was so focused that I didn't notice an adult bald eagle in all its majesty fly in until I turned and saw it already perched in a tree to my right. This was cool.

The bald eagle is currently classified as "threatened" on the federal endangered species list, but the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed removing it. Now growing throughout the United States, the bald eagle population was once nearly decimated by people due to intentional killing, altered habitats, and chemical pollution. It is still listed as endangered in Massachusetts by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife). The bald eagle population disappeared from Massachusetts in the early 1900's and did not return until the 1980's, when MassWildlife brought eagles from Michigan and Canada to start a breeding population. The largest population in the state is found at the Quabbin Reservoir.

March is breeding time for the bald eagles, who mate for life, and can live up to 30 years. Eggs are usually laid by late March (1-3 per mom) and hatch about 35 days later. Thanks to a video camera on a Connecticut River island you can get an intimate look at an active eagle nest on the property of Northeast Utilities. Just visit their web site "<http://www.nu.com/eagles/default.asp>". For more bald eagle information, visit "<http://www.nwf.org/wildlife/baldeagle/>".

Wildlife Sightings

- * In the first week of March, the Linnus family saw a **Barred Owl** near their home on Tully Rd and another "medium sized owl with huge eyes" on Winchendon Rd.
- * The Richardsons have had a very dark, **nearly black squirrel** frequenting their feeders at their home near Doane's Falls.
- * Jeff Mangum spotted an **American Woodcock** on Doane Hill Road, and his first **Great Blue Heron** of the season on March 19th; sure signs of spring.
- * Max, Marsha Charest's Golden Retriever, reports running into a **baby skunk** on the tracks at Birch Hill Dam as well as **2 deer** in his yard in the early morning hours. He is excited about his new neighbors, a huskie and big black dog.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

When our family moved here twenty eight years ago, the primary motivation was to tend to our food needs. Long ago, we became vegetable (and berry) self-sufficient; we have no need to purchase either over the course of a year. In addition, with twenty-some years as a vendor at the Amherst Farmers Market, we have generated a significant share of our family income. One way we accomplished this was by extending the Royalston garden season. Typically, a garden in town is a Memorial Day to Labor Day affair. However, it is possible to plant in April and harvest through November, effectively doubling the season.

I plant peas and spinach by mid-April (or as soon as the snow melts), Both reliably germinate in the cool, wet conditions of early spring and perform best before summer's heat. Importantly, these crops will be out of the ground by early July, providing space to set out a fall crop of brassicas like broccoli and cabbage. I used to divide pea plantings among shell, edible podded, and sugar snaps. Now, because of better yields, easier processing, and versatility in the kitchen, I primarily plant sugar snaps. Semi-permanent beds, four feet wide and of varying lengths are intensively planted: a bed of peas will have eight rows, a bed of spinach, five. The peas will need brush in order to climb. Ideally, set it at the time of seeding, but practically, setting it after peas emerge will suffice.

Indoor activity continues as well. By the tenth, seed tomatoes, basil and annual flowers. I secure a spot for them on a tepid edge of our cookstove. Coddle the peppers, parsley and celery begun in March by thinning, transplanting to bigger containers, and moving to the sunniest windowsills.

Take advantage of every moderate day. I clean the garden, spread manure and compost, re-work the beds, and track mud into the house. Any task complete in April will take some pressure off the busy gardening requirements of May.

ROYALSTON FISH & GAME CLUB NEWS

The F&G is finishing up their spring spruce-up with professional cleaning of all floors. The freshly painted facility will be open on May 15, on the occasion of the Walter Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby. Thanks to generous donors and dedicated volunteers, children can catch a number of prize-winning fish, and enjoy a barbecue of hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages. Children of members participate for free; non-members participate for a nominal fee.

Massachusetts Butterfly Symposium
Saturday, April 16, 2005



Hosted by: Athol Bird and Nature Club & Massachusetts Butterfly Club

Register online at
www.butterfly.millersriver.net

\$40.00 registration includes: coffee and pastry, noon meal, and entrance to speakers & exhibits.

Register early as space may be limited

Diverse Poetry Events: Local Readings, Kids' Haiku Workshops, and in-your-Face N.Y. Funny/Tough Chick Howl

Since April is National Poetry Month, Bruce's Browser in uptown Athol, is having a diverse poetry weekend. Friday April 15th at 6PM: Royalston's Sharon Harmon and friends will be sharing their poetry. Come, join them and contribute something of your own. Saturday April 16th at 10AM: Storyteller Norah Dooley will present a children's haiku poetry workshop followed by a sidewalk display in chalk of the new creations. Sunday April 17th at 7PM: Linq's friend, Bitch, is coming from New York City to do her cutting-edge poetry, some with musical accompaniment. She's out, loud, in-your-face political, sexual, funny, and she's like no one you've ever seen. This is an adult oriented show.

Follies Tickets Available

Deb Nunes, Cultural Council

Tickets for this year's Royalston Follies, to be held on Saturday, May 14, 2005, at 7 p.m., will be available April 1st at the Post Office, or through Cultural Council Members Patience Bundschuh (978-249-6081) or Chris Black (978-249-4643). These days where else can you get, for the paltry cost of only \$5.00 per ticket, an delightful evening of memorable entertainment, and desserts, coffee and tea? Beer, wine, and soda will be available for purchase. Our limited ticket sales of 120 always go very fast, so don't delay!



Past Folly "The Town Fathers" Allison Zettel (a serving wench), Vyto Andreliunas (John Hancock), George Northrop (George Winthrop), not pictured Dick Corser (Isaac Royall). Rumour has it that The Town Fathers will be in session on May 14 to deliberate pressing matters

ROYALSTON COMMUNITY COOP

The April orders (green and white price lists) are due on Thursday, April 21. Delivery will be the morning of Thursday, April 28 at the Putney residence, 185 N. Fitzwilliam Road. There are a limited number of openings for Royalston residents who wish to join the Royalston Community Coop, which is considered a buying club affiliated with United Natural Foods, Inc. of Brattleboro, Vermont. Contact Mary Barclay at royalston_community_news@yahoo.com or 978-249-2598.

Recipe of the Month

Doreen Sawyer of NE Fitzwilliam Rd. is a nurse who is also known for making amazing quilts, hatching parakeets, and cooking up great food. She has run several craft programs at the library summer reading program and she and her wonderful children Christeen, Ashley and Ryan, are frequent library patrons. Doreen has an infectious laugh, especially when she and her sister, Sandy Knight of Frye Hill Rd., get together. Ray, her husband, is aptly named "Sawyer." He sells cordwood and other wood products.



Mocha-Chocolate Chip Coffee Cake

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 2 C flour | Dash vanilla |
| 2 tsp baking powder | 2 eggs, beaten |
| 1/2 tsp baking soda | 1/4 C melted butter |
| 3/4 C sugar | 1/3 C coffee with 4 tsp instant added to make stronger |
| | 1 C sour cream |

Topping

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 C chocolate chips | 2 Tbs soft butter |
| 1/4 C chopped walnuts | 3 Tbs flour |
| 3/4 C sliced almonds | 1/2 C brown sugar |

Mix dry ingredients. Mix wet ingredients and add to dry (stir-do not beat). In separate bowl, cut flour and brown sugar into soft butter (for topping) till crumbly. Add chocolate chips and nuts. Pour batter into 9x14" greased baking pan. Pour topping over top and press into batter slightly with spatula. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

Wednesday Night Yoga Classes at Town Hall

Every Wednesday night until the end of May, Brandy Lefsyk of Om Yoga will be holding beginning yoga classes at the Royalston Town Hall, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The fee for those who drop-in is \$10 per session. If you come to all 9 sessions, the fee is \$81. Everyone is encouraged to come. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information, inquire at the Library.




Lynn Divoll
BWFA CERTIFIED FARRIER
CERTIFIED EQUINE SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPIST

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RCS Poetry Club

Mushroom: *a Haiku*
Soothing, white mushroom
Silky, orange or brown spores
Found in the damp woods

*Coopertively composed by:Jaryth,
Katie, Tobey, Tiffany, Chelsea, Ben, Emily*

Robert Frost

Oh Robert Frost, Oh Robert Frost
The best poet on earth
You think so hard, but you
don't write a short poem.
You make a big long poem.
You say to yourself,
"I have too much in my mind."
You just let it out in a minute.
Katie Robinson, grade 2

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

In person: Drop off at library

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