

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2008



Volume XI, Issue II

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

## Calendar of Events

March 1 Saturday  
5:30 dinner; 6:30 pm dancing **Family Contra Dance and Soup Social** with the No Name Band and Norah Dooley. Sug. donation \$5/adult; \$3/kids.

March 2 Sunday  
**Birthday of Alexander Hamilton Bullock**, born in Royalston in 1816. Bullock became the 26th governor of the Commonwealth, serving just after the Civil War, from 1866-1869.

7 – 11 a.m. **Fire & EMS Association Buffet Breakfast** at Winchendon Rod & Gun (Tickets are \$8/adults; \$5 for under 12).

March 3 Monday  
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Monty Tech senior portraits** for juniors.

March 5 Wednesday  
by 5 p.m. **Last day to object/withdraw from Annual Town Election**  
7 p.m. **Monty Tech SchoolCom** meets in conference room

March 6 Thursday  
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. **Cross Culture Club visits Thailand** at the town library  
3:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting**

March 7 Friday  
12:14 p.m. **New Worm Moon**  
7 p.m. **Open Mic at Town Hall**

March 8 Saturday  
**Pancake Breakfast** to benefit RCS 5th and 6th grade trips to Nature's Classroom at Town Hall.

March 9 Sunday  
2 a.m. **Daylight Savings Time begins** – CHANGE BATTERIES in smoke, carbon monoxide and radon detectors.

3 pm **The Amandla Community Chorus**, free concert at Royalston Town Hall. Sponsored by the Cultural Council

March 10 Monday **Eastern Orthodox Lent begins**

March 11 Tuesday  
noon early dismissal at RCS  
7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** at Town Hall

March 12 Wednesday  
**No Classes at Village School** for In-service Training  
7:30 p.m. **Royalston F&G meets**; directors meet at 7 p.m.

March 13 Thursday  
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. **Cross Culture Club visits Colombia** at the town library.  
6 pm **Cake Dance** at RCS  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Last day to register to vote** in Annual Town Election at Town Clerk's office in Whitney Hall

March 15 Saturday  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Volunteer Hot Dog Roast** at Tully Lake Campground. Those attending are encouraged to bring gloves to help build the fire, from campground brush. Hot dogs provided – free.

March 17 Monday **St. Patrick's Day**

March 20 **Maundy Thursday**  
1:48 a.m. **Vernal Equinox** – It's SPRING!

March 21 **Good Friday**  
2:40 p.m. **Full Worm Moon**

March 22 Saturday  
10 a.m. sharp **Easter Egg Hunt** on the Royalston Common. Meet at Town Hall; Dress for weather; bring basket labeled with name. Donations of candy sought. See p 6.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Annual Rabies Clinic** at the Center Fire Station. Gardner Animal Hospital will be offering rabies inoculations for pets; Town Clerk Melanie Mangum will have dog and kennel licenses.

March 23 **Easter Sunday**

March 25 Tuesday  
7 p.m. **Selectmen Meet** at Town Hall

March 28 Friday  
1:45 p.m. **D.A.R.E. Graduation ceremony** at RCS.

March 29 Saturday  
7 pm **"2 plus change"** performs at the 1st Congregational Church. Refreshments. Free-will offering.

March 30 Sunday  
2 p.m. **Visit with Peter Zheutlin, author of *Around the World on Two Wheels*** at library. Refreshments. Free.

April 1 Tuesday **All Fools' Day!**  
7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** at Town Hall

April 3 Thursday  
7:30 pm Town Hall: **Heritage Landscape Inventory** discussion. All welcome!



## News from the Selectboard

*Andy West*

The Fiscal 2009 budget season is well underway. The Selectmen have been collecting budget proposals and working with department heads and the Finance Committee to iron out the details for fiscal year 2009, beginning July 1. This year, Selectmen asked departments to submit goals along with budget requests. Also this year, the Selectmen have started the budget process earlier in order to create a consistent (and calmer!) annual process.

Low interest loans are available for homeowner housing rehabilitation. This money is made available to Royalston residents through a grant. Visit [www.royalston-ma.gov](http://www.royalston-ma.gov) or call the Athol Planning Office, 978-575-0301 for more information.

The Board of Selectmen continues to support the Athol-Royalston Regional School District strategic planning and rejuvenation processes. It participates in the All-Boards process. It also meets regularly with the Athol Selectboard in very cooperative and productive meetings intended to unify our support for the School Committee.

**Internet Update:** A swarm of residents are now up and running on DSL. Verizon has done a good job of keeping ahead of the pile of orders. Service is available within 3 miles of the center. Also, the South Royalston wireless Hotspot is online! Spare internet service from the Whitney Hall offices is being transmitted to the surrounding neighborhood. There is no cost to residents for this service. Many residents in the village proper should be able to access the system. Reception depends on distance, location, and interference from trees or buildings. If you are interested, please email Selectman Andy West at [awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov) or call the Selectmen's office, 978-249-9641 for more information.

**Rt. 32:** The 25% plan for Route 32 rehabilitation was submitted to Mass Highway in late December. This hurdle is basically the "Go" or "No Go" approval for the project. A "25% plan" is essentially a description of the entire project that does not include detailed construction documents. If we receive approval from Mass Highway, our engineers will move ahead and complete the more detailed plans. Mass Highway responded quickly with questions last month. Our engineers and Mass Highway are meeting to iron out details. We are hoping for a "Go" really soon. After the Route 32 plan is approved, we will aggressively pursue funding. Funding for these projects comes from Federal and State transportation money, prioritized by a regional committee of area towns, including Royalston. We are currently slated for the 2010 construction cycle. Our hope is to convince the committee that we need to start construction in 2009 (bidding would start late 2008). Community support for projects shows the committee the urgency of a project. Here is where you can help. **The Selectmen are collecting letters from residents to bring to the regional committee. To help us show community need for this project, please write a letter of support for the project and mail it to the Selectmen at PO Box 125, email it to [awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov), or drop it by the Town Hall. We need letters from all areas of town, not just Rt. 32 residents.**

The Selectmen's office daytime hours are now M, T, W: 8am-1pm and Thurs: 8am-12pm. The administrative assistant has a new email address: [admin@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:admin@royalston-ma.gov). The Selectmen also have new email addresses: Linda Alger, chair, [lalger-bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:lalger-bos@royalston-ma.gov)  
Jon Hardie, [jhardie-bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:jhardie-bos@royalston-ma.gov)  
Andy West, [awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov)  
or reach us all at once, [bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:bos@royalston-ma.gov)  
Be sure to check out the "What's New" section of the Royalston Home Page, [www.royalston-ma.gov](http://www.royalston-ma.gov)

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## Royalston to Inventory its Heritage Landscapes

The Selectboard, the Historic District Commission, and the Open Space & Recreation Committee invite you to join us on Thursday evening, April 3, at 7:30 pm in Town Hall, for a public meeting and discussion of Royalston's "Heritage Landscapes". Heritage landscapes are special places in town that have been created by interactions between people and our natural environment and that define the character of our community and best reflect its past. Heritage landscapes are the special places that you think of as defining Royalston. Some examples of heritage landscapes include (but are not limited to) farms, burial grounds, the town common, rural roads, estates and homes of famous past and present town residents, recreational areas, and sites of historic importance to individuals and cultural or ethnic groups. The product from this meeting and discussion, which will be facilitated by landscape architects from the firm of Dodson Associates, Ltd., of Ashfield, Massachusetts, will be a planning document that identifies the heritage landscapes in town and will help the Town to seek grant funds to allow for their permanent protection. Protection of heritage landscapes also can be accomplished using funds from the Community Preservation Act, which Royalston will be voting to accept at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

This one-evening meeting and the work of the consulting landscape architects is supported by a grant to the town from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). With the support of our state senator, Stephen Brewer, the North Quabbin Region was included in this year's round of Heritage Landscape Inventories (this is the sixth year of the program state-wide, and the first year outside of eastern Massachusetts). The Selectboard and the Open Space & Recreation Committee together applied for this grant, and we hope that many townsfolk will participate in the discussions and help plan the future of Royalston. For more information about DCR's Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, and to see examples of previous reports and projects, visit the Heritage Landscape website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland>.

## Royalston Emergency Management

*Mary C. Barclay*

A "Reverse 9-1-1" agreement between the Town of Royalston and Worcester County Sheriff Guy Glodis' office was finalized at a February Board of Selectmen meeting. The system, the \$250,000 initial installation costs of which have been paid for through the Federal Department of Homeland Security, is based in West Boylston at Glodis' office. It provides the Town of Royalston and Sheriff Glodis' office with the technology necessary to call the home phones of residents – the entire County, whole town, a specific area of Royalston, or select groups of residences – in just minutes with a recorded, emergency or urgent (non-routine) message. Potential applications within Royalston include rapid notification of Town water and sewer customers of a problem, an alert for an imminent emergency, or a "be on the lookout" request. Messages would be initiated by the Emergency Management Director. At the present time, cell phones cannot be included, but that capability should be available in the not-too-distant future. Future costs to the Town of Royalston will not be assessed for at least two years – longer if additional grants are received – after which approximately 33 cents/person (about \$400 for the current population) would be Royalston's expected contribution.

## Town Election News

Annual Town Election, Monday, April 7!

Last day to register to object or withdraw – March 5 (Wed)

Last day to register to vote in this election – Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Special voter registration hours will be held at Whitney Hall from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

**These positions will appear on the ballot along with candidates who have decided to run for re-election or have returned nomination papers.**

The only contest on the Royalston side is one for Selectmen. Gary Winitzer and Andrew West will be running for a 3-year term. On the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee - Athol side, there are two contests: Karen McNiff will be running for reelection to her 3-year seat, challenged by Ranee Lapointe and Wayne Whitfield. A one-year position on the committee has 2 candidates: William J. Caldwell and Keith P. Truehart.

The other positions open:

Assessor James M. Richardson

Cemetery Commissioner – open

Board of Health- 3 years Philip D. Leger

Board of Health – 1 year Eugene Walter Kolimaga

Library Trustee - 3 year Mary O. Longworth

Planning Board – 5 years Thomas G. Musco

Planning Board – 2 years – Kimberly MacPhee

Sewer Commissioner 3 years – Vickie Paine

Board of Public Welfare – open

Athol – Royalston- Royalston – Kelly Newton

Trustee of J. N Bartlett - Mary Barclay, Donna Caisse, Roland

Hamel, one position open

Tree Warden – open

## Statements from Candidates for a Contested Seat on the Selectboard in April 7 Town Election

### Andy West

It has been my pleasure to serve Royalston as Selectman for the past 3 years. My record is reflective of my commitment to the Town. I have supported each department in the town government while challenging them to make improvements. I have asked them to be more accountable with detailed budgets and goals. I helped show departments the benefits of long-term strategic planning.

I have been instrumental in some key improvements during this time. I played a lead role in bringing High Speed Internet to Town Offices, DSL to residents in the Center and along Rt 32, and Wireless to South Royalston.

When our Rt 32 project was bumped from the funding list, I led the revitalization of the project. I am currently the liaison to the Board for the project. I continue to drive all parties to work for the earliest possible funding. I have kept the public informed and continue to look for temporary repair solutions.

I continue to support the Athol Royalston Regional School District revitalization project. I participate in the All Boards process and I believe that the Board of Selectmen's involvement is crucial to the success of the District's Strategic Plan. With a continued cooperative spirit, I will help keep the School Committee on task to move forward with the action plan.

As Selectboard chair, I created the Selectmen's news article in the Royalston Newsletter to keep the public informed. I continue to write the article for the Board.

I created and continue to author the Town of Royalston website. I have made vital information more available to the public, including minutes of past Selectboard meetings.

I have an excellent working relationship with the other members of the Board, Linda and Jon. We share a common drive to improve Royalston Government in a thoughtful and logical way.

Overall, I have helped modernize and standardize the departments of Royalston Government. I believe I have represented all citizens of Royalston equally. I have listened to your concerns and acted swiftly and fairly on your behalf. I bring honest, fair, and equitable judgment to the position of Selectman. I work with people through a cooperative process, not confrontational. I will continue this even-handed approach toward improvement of Town Government.

### Assessors' Notes

FY 08 Real Estate tax bills will be out soon after a lengthy delay. There is a thirty day period to file for abatements after which the assessors cannot act. Exemptions are available for veterans, surviving spouses, disabilities, and those over age 70 who meet income guidelines-but you must file. Contact the assessors office if you think you may qualify. 978-247-0337.

### Gary Winitzer

Since almost 400 voters cast ballots in the presidential primary, I look forward to campaigning for the seat on the Board of Selectmen in the Annual Town Election.

When I am elected, I promise to work with the other Board members to discharge our responsibilities in a manner that is fair, open and consistent with laws, regulations and the votes of the Town Meetings. I will suggest that we stay focused on our responsibilities to administer the Town's business. We must show leadership by setting an example by demonstrating fiscal restraint and completing our tasks in a timely and effective manner. I am aware of the commitment of time and energy required of Selectman.

We are all aware that, over the past several years, our budget has grown and our slow cash flow have had an impact on the Town operations and finances. I have the knowledge and experience to passionately face the challenge this poses.

Most of you know me. I served as Selectman for almost two years, now serve on the Sewer Commission and regularly help at the Senior Luncheon Club. You know that if I say I will do something, I do. You know that I have a unique way of getting any job done.

Please be in touch if you would like discuss specific issues or ask any question: 249-8957 or e-mail at glw110@gmail.com, stop by and meet Kelly and Maggie, my friendly canine companions, at 110 Athol Road.

With respect, I ask you to vote for Gary L. Winitzer for Selectman on April 7th.

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### Board of Health News

Our main transfer station attendant, Bryan Bassett, has taken a full time position with the DPW. We will miss him, but wish him well in his new position. We would like to thank the DPW for all the work they do behind the scenes to keep our facility open. The DPW crew has plowed, sanded, crushed down our roll offs, and helped clean up. Without them, we could not function. We are still trying to clean up from the back up with the cans and bottles. Hopefully, by the time you read this, things will be back to normal. Reminder, do not leave paint until we reopen that collection in May. We will be doing a spring cleaning in the building in the next couple of weeks. Please do not leave items in the building unless the attendant has given the okay. We seemed to be collecting alot of junk. We then have to throw it away, costing you the taxpayer money. What may seem still good, really sometimes is not. Thanks for your cooperation.

# Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

## Thank yous

**Rise Richardson** for a book-on-CD

**Janet Bettley, Wade Harmon, Marcia Flanagan, Emma**

**O'Connor, Beth Thompson** for books

**Andy West** for help trying to rectify our DSL problems

**Ben West** for making posters and signs for the library

**Jim and Pat Kelley** for craft supplies

**Marcia Flanagan** for a magazine subscription

**Frances Graziano** for an informative and fun look at Germany for the Cross Culture Club

**M.E. Kane** for instructive art lessons during school vacation

## Recent Donations to the Friends

**Chris & C.B. Long**

**Donald and Evita Richards**

**Buddy Dyer**

**George Bodman**

## Art Exhibit

**Lorraine Casinginho** will exhibit several of her paintings during March and April. **Melanie Mangum** will exhibit her photographs during May and June and **Lynn Anair** will have a fiber exhibit during the last part of April.

## Movie Ticket Winners

Winners of the movie tickets donated by Marsha Charest for the Cabin Fever Contest were won by **Hannah Seghir** and **Colby Eastman**.

## Dept. of Corrections and Clarifications:

*ed. note: The last newsletter was a particularly juicy one with lots of news of Royalston past, present and future; however, there were some rather egregious errors as well. We sincerely apologize to our readers and regret making the RCN look foolish.*

First, much to the Friends of the Library's relief, Barbara Willhite is not stepping down as treasurer (although the part we wrote about her being a reliable and stalwart treasurer for the group for nearly a decade is absolutely true).

Next, for generations, Carolyn Labonte has lived on Stone Rd and Jean LeRay has lived on Brown Rd, not the opposite as we reported.

Similarly, the Royalston Academy funded the line dancing workshops which just wrapped up at RCS, not A-REF. The Athol-Royalston Education Foundation is funding some upcoming line-dancing classes to be held in the RCS gym intended for all ages throughout our community. Watch for more info.

We should have also known that the country Colombia, the focus of an upcoming Cross Culture Club, is spelled with two "o's. Aye carumba.

## Author Talk at Library:

*Around the World on Two  
Wheels; Annie Londonderry's  
Extraordinary Ride*

**A Biography of a Female Adventurer  
who Passes through Royalston while  
Circumnavigating the Globe on a Bike  
in 1894**



Join us for the second Pat Poor Memorial Lecture on Sunday, March 30th at 2:00 p.m. at the Phinehas S. Newton Library for an afternoon discussion with Peter Zheutlin as he talks about his new book, *Around the World on Two Wheels: Annie Londonderry's Extraordinary Ride*, which includes reference to Royalston and Athol. The book follows the amazing story of Annie Kophovsky, a Jewish immigrant whose sense of adventure led her to abandon her husband and two children and embark on a trip around the world on a bicycle. The trip was the result of a high-stakes wager between two wealthy men, who, in 1894 bet that a woman couldn't circle the globe on a bicycle. Annie took the name of one of the adversaries in the wager, Londonderry, and set off on an unheard of journey for a woman, passing through Royalston and Athol on the way.

Zheutlin is a freelance journalist and author whose work regularly appears in the Boston Globe and the Christian Science Monitor as well as several other publications. He is an attorney who lives in Needham with his wife, author Judith Gelman, and their two sons. Another book co-authored with Thomas Gabroys, M.D., *Life in the Balance: A Physician's Memoir of Life, Love and Loss with Parkinson's Disease and Dementia*, will be published in April. Peter is also the author of "Wild Man of Royalston," about a yellow journalism hoax from the late 1800s involving the Richardson family. Curiously, Zheutlin is related to both Annie and the journalist who covered the story for the New York paper on the Wild Man. He will discuss the book, show documentary photos, and take questions about his work. Copies of the book may be borrowed from the library and will also be available for purchase at the program.

Funds to support this program are from donations to the Pat Poor Memorial Fund and the Friends of the Library. Delicious refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the library.

## Stay Tuned for Circus Information

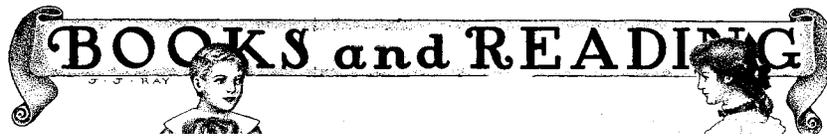
Save the date of April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to learn how to put on a circus and to see some real circus pros perform. Silver Lining Circus will light up the stage with a must see performance and help us get started on our own circus for the Summer Reading Program. Performers Jackie Davis, who worked with Marcel Marceau, and Rick Davis, a former Ringling Brothers Clown and founder of the Institute of Totally Useless Skills, will cause the audience to marvel.

## Cross Culture Club Continues in March

from 3:30 - 4:30 at the library. ( RCS students can take bus 302 with a permission note.) Snacks served. Free!

March 6 Thailand with AHS exchange student Trong  
 March 13 Colombia with Eduardo Ramirez

Pre-registration not necessary. Call the library for more information.



**Resident Reviews:** Read any good books recently? Watched an interesting DVD? Turn it into a 2-3 sentence review and the RCN will try to publish it as a guide to others browsing the library stacks:

Louann Brizendine's *The Female Brain* is a must read by a practicing neuropsychiatrist. She offers experience from her UCSF clinic and the latest science about the very different structures of male and female brains. New ways of testing the brain and its activities allow Brizendine to correct our Victorian and feminist distortions of gender differences. She validates our intuitions. Recommended by Pat Jackson.

*Service Included: 4-Star Secrets of an Eavesdropping Waiter* by Phoebe Damrosch is suggested by Mary Carnie, who says, "It is a wonderful story about the inner workings of a fabulous restaurant, an entirely different planet from teaching second grade."

Just what is healthy eating these days? Where is the most nutritional bang for the grocery buck? Darlene Willhite suggests reading Michael Pollen's latest, *In Defense of Food*, to find out. The book factually dissects some of the tangled webs woven by advertisers and agribusiness regarding our food supply.

Theresa Quinn enjoyed the dvd *The Painted Veil*, a historical drama set in the politically turbulent 1920s in rural China during a cholera outbreak. The protagonist, a doctor in the British Empire's service, is played by Edward Norton and his estranged wife is played by Naomi Watts. Part medical thriller, part period piece, part love story, the film also has incredible landscapes.

## Some of the New Books at the Library

### New Adult Fiction at the Library

Alexie, Sherman *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*  
 Anam, Tahmima *A Golden Age*  
 Barker, Nicola *Darkmans*  
 Barnholdt, Lauren *Two Way Street*  
 Barrett, Jo *This Is How It Is*  
 Beaton, M.C. *Death of a Gentle Lady*  
 Brown, Rita Mae *The Purrfect Murder*  
 Cabot, Meg *Princess Mia*  
 Coetzee, J.M. *Diary of a Bad Year*  
 Colfer, Eoin *Airman*  
 Compestine, Ying Chang *Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party*  
 Cornwell, Bernard *Sword Song*  
 Crider, Bill *Of All Sad Words*  
 Delinsky, Barbara *The Secret Between Us*  
 Divakaruni, Chitra *The Palace of Illusions*  
 Enright, Anne *The Gathering*  
 Estleman, Loren D. *Gas City*  
 Evanovich, Janet *Plum Lucky*  
 Grisham, John *The Appeal*  
 Hannah, Kristin *Firefly Lane*  
 Harrison, Lisi *Bratfast at Tiffany's*  
 Harrison, Lisi *Bratfest at Tiffany's : A Clique Novel*  
 Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia *Harte's Desire*  
 Harvey, John *Gone to Ground*  
 Higgins, Jack *The Killing Ground*  
 Hobb, Robin *Renegade's Magic*

King, Stephen *Duma Key*  
 Kinsella, Sophie *Remember Me?*  
 Krentz, Jayne *Sizzle and Burn*  
 Lahiri, Jhumpa *Interpreter of Maladies*  
 Limb, Sue *Girl Barely 15 Flirting for England*  
 MacHale, D.J. *Pendragon Book 7: The Quillan Games*  
 McBride, James *Song Yet Sung*  
 Millet, Lydia *How the Dead Dream*  
 Millhauser, Steven *Dangerous Laughter*  
 Palmer, Michael *The First Patient*  
 Parker, Robert *Stranger in Paradise*  
 Parker, T. Jefferson *L.A. Outlaws*  
 Patterson, James *7th Heaven*  
 Patterson, James *Double Cross*  
 Prachett, Anne *Run*  
 Read, Cornelia *The Crazy School*  
 Rice, Luanne *Light of the Moon*  
 Robb, J.D. *Strangers in Death*  
 Scottoline, Lisa *Lady Killer*  
 Sewell, Kitty *Ice Trap: A Novel of Suspense*  
 Stabenow, Dana *Prepared for Rage*  
 Von Ziegesar, Cecily *Lucky An it Girl Novel*  
 Westerfeld, Scott *Extras*  
 White, Stephen *Missing Persons*  
 Wideman, John *Fanon*  
 Willig, Lauren *The Seduction of the Crimson Rose*  
 Wright, Richard *A Father's Law*

## Hold on to your hats, Royalston...It's time for The Follies!

That quirky,  
one-of-a-kind  
local spoof  
and talent  
show!  
Fun for the  
whole family!  
Dessert and  
drinks!



**Saturday, May 10th at 7 pm Royalston Town Hall**

Tickets \$5. Available after March 1 at Open Mic nights  
(7pm March 7 & April 4, Town Hall)  
or by calling Lorraine Casinghino at 249-5151.

**Get yours early...they won't last long!**

Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## Amandla Community Chorus comes to Royalston

*Elizabeth Farnsworth, Amandla Community Chorus*

The Amandla Community Chorus, based in Greenfield, has been thrilling audiences with their amazing harmonies for twenty years. They will give a free concert at Royalston Town Hall on the Common on Sunday, March 9 at 3pm.

Amandla's diverse repertoire includes over 100 songs from all over the world, including original compositions and arrangements by Eveline MacDougall, music director. Over the years, they have sung in Xhosa, Japanese, Swedish, Arabic, Croatian, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Spanish, Sotho, Zulu, and other languages as well as English. Their styles include traditional folksongs, hymns, spirituals, lullabies, rounds, and much more. While they sing most of these songs a cappella, they also incorporate drums and other instruments. For more information and music samples, visit [www.amandlachorus.org](http://www.amandlachorus.org). Pete Seeger says, "If you have not yet heard Amandla, you are in for a treat!" The chorus encourages audiences to sing along, so performances are high-energy, wonderful events for the whole family! Join the Amandla Community Chorus for a very special event on March 9. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council.

## "The history of the Garden Hose... ahem... I mean the French Horn".

As told by Quattro Cor.

Sunday afternoon April 6 at 3 PM Town Hall

Featuring Royalston resident Becky Hardie, along with Jean Jeffries, Chris Mortensen, and Margot Rowland, the quartet takes a fun and lively look at the horn and its rich history from forest to the concert hall. Complete with garden hoses, conch shells, and, well, horns, this interactive experience will delight all. Please come enjoy the free show, and stay for refreshments. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council.

## Congregational Churches News

*Deacon David Williams*

Pastor Jeff Francis will be speaking at both churches on March 22nd. This will be his 4th Sunday as a candidate for the vacant pastor position. He and his wife, Judi, were also active in a recent all night "lock-in" (fun, games and all-night party) at the center church attended by many teenagers. On Sunday March 9th, immediately following worship at the center church, a meeting is scheduled to see if members will vote to pursue Pastor Jeff as our new pastor. Our former pastor, Dr. Ginger Asel, leaves for Africa on June 13 as a missionary.

Saturday, March 29 at 7 p.m. is concert night at the center church featuring "2 plus Change", which includes free food and homemade root beer for all. There will be an open guitar case in the foyer for free-will offerings. The church is growing and there is excitement in the air. Please attend. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

## Royalston's 10th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting / Candy Making

The 10th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Royalston Common will begin from the steps of Town Hall promptly at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 22. In the event of heavy rain, the event will be moved inside. Some 2,000 plastic eggs will be hidden for the participating children to find. Following the Easter Egg hunt itself, children will have an opportunity to make their own chocolate creations with melted candy.

The Easter Egg hunt is the creation of Rene' Lake of town who has been organizing it, as well as underwriting much of the cost since its inception 10 years ago. Volunteers have cheerfully helped with stuffing the plastic eggs, hiding them on the Common, and helping to supervise on the day of the hunt.

Once again, Rene' welcomes contributions and volunteers. She reports, "We do not need any more plastic eggs as the event has accumulated more than 2,000 over the years. However, I would **welcome donations of individually wrapped candy that will fit into the plastic eggs.**" Candy can be left at the Royalston library, the post office, or the South Royalston General Store by Saturday, March 15, allowing time for the eggs to be filled. The event is entirely supported by volunteers and donations. "This is not a Town supported event. We don't have a budget or do fund raising," Rene' said. "While I am happy to donate my time and contribute as much as I can to the cost, every donation and every volunteer is very much appreciated. And we all have fun in the process."

Children should arrive before the 10:00 AM start and dress appropriately for the weather, remembering boots, mittens, hats, etc. Please bring a bag or basket, labeled with the child's name, to put eggs in.



**Geo. Lemon, Founder of High View Farm  
(now known as Camp Caravan) , Featured in Glass  
Negatives Photo Exhibit at Gardner Library**

The Gardner library is showing its small collection of glass negatives from the Lemon family, who used to own what is now Camp Caravan on Rte. 68. Many of the photos were taken at what was then called High View Farm, and later High View School. Before moving to Royalston, the Lemons lived in Gardner.

Four Seasons in North Worcester County: 1898-1924:  
the Glass Negatives of George Lemon  
Levi Heywood Memorial Library, Volunteer Room  
55 W. Lynde St. Gardner  
April 8 – May 6

Available library hours: Mon. and Wed. 9 – 8  
Tues., Thurs, Fri. 9 - 5 Sat. 9 – 1  
Closed April 21 for Patriots' Day

**Garden Design with Unusual Native Plants**

Join members of the North Quabbin Garden Club on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center at 100 Main Street in Athol to learn about gardening with native plants. Landscape designer Tysh Tilt McGrail specializes in selecting a wide variety of native plant material for her garden designs. She enjoys spending her spare time seeking nature's best vignettes and looking for new ways to design with native materials. This month we look forward to Tysh sharing her finds with us.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions. Members are currently working on a wild-life habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center and planning their annual spring sale of perennial plants and specialty items. Guests and new members are always welcome, so join the club this month and learn something new about gardening.

**Yoga at the Town Hall on Wednesday Mornings**

The Village School is participating in a grant from the Center for Democracy and Humanity at Mount Wachusett Community College by accepting one of its Community Scholars, Jessica Putney, a Royalston resident. MWCC awarded Jessica a full scholarship. As a Community Scholar, Jessica has made a commitment to work in community service, so she has been assisting in the classrooms and teaching phys ed. this fall and winter, developing communication and leadership skills at the Village School.

Jessica is a skilled yoga teacher and will teach a free weekly yoga class for adults to the local community on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to noon in the upstairs Royalston Town Hall now through Mar. 26. Come at your convenience. Beginners are very welcome. This is a great opportunity to beat the winter doldrums with healthy activity. Bring a mat or a blanket. For more information, call the Village School at 978 249-3505.

**Royalston Community School Dates to Remember**

March 8 Pancake Breakfast 8 - 11 am at Town Hall:  
Benefits 5th and 6th grades' trips to Natures Classroom.  
March 11 Half day for students. Noon dismissal.  
March 13 Cake Dance 6 - 8 pm  
TBA Meet the Candidates for Town Offices Night  
April 26 Returnable bottle and can drop off at fire station  
to benefit RCS library.

*Don't forget to recycle used printer cartridges, cell phones, video games, DVDs and the like at RCS. Watch for a box in the recycle room at the transfer station to leave specified e-waste to benefit RCS as well.*

**Monty Tech Open House**

Royalston Community and Middle School students considering Monty Tech for high school should save Wednesday, March 26 for the Annual Monty Tech Open House. Fun and food takes place beginning with a 6 p.m. Freshmen Ice Cream Social, and continues with hands-on activities and demonstrations in many of the school's 22 shops. Given the fact two or three students apply for each of the 300-350 freshmen seats each year at Monty Tech, it is important to prepare for the application process. Application scores are heavily affected by attendance and behavior in the final two sixth grade marking periods, all of seventh grade and the first two terms of eighth grade. Grades from those terms play almost as important a role, and some consideration is also given to reports from the sending school and interviews with guidance at Monty Tech.

**Upcoming Events at Athol High School**

*Joy Cutter, school nurse*

Athol High School has several events worth noting on your calendar scheduled for March 2008:

\*Avalon Entertainment will be hosting karaoke on Saturday, March 1 and Saturday, March 8 from 6 PM to 10 PM.

\*Donna Lajoie is running a Volleyball Jamboree on Saturday, March 22 from 8 AM to 3 PM.

\*MCAS testing dates for sophomores are Tuesday, March 25, Wednesday, March 26 and Thursday, March 27. There will be a delayed opening time for all other students.

\*AHS is hosting the Home Show in the gymnasium on Saturday, March 29 from 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, March 30 from 11 AM to 4 PM.

**At the Village School**

*An invitation to preschool and kindergarten parents for a curriculum night Thursday evening, March 6 at 7 pm:* Come to the school for an overview of the curriculum for K-6 students, including math and reading. Visit each classroom, listen to a teacher presentation, and see students work that exemplifies their learning. See how learning spirals through the classrooms, building from grade to grade. Please arrive promptly at 7, so as not to miss any of the presentations. If you are considering sending your child to the K-6th, you don't want to miss this.

*Science Night Wednesday evening March 19 7:00 pm*

4th-6th grade students have chosen a topic to investigate, and with the help of scientist Cathy Szal, designed experiments to prove or disprove their initial hypothesis. Students will enthusiastically display their work and be ready to discuss it. All welcome.

## Back-to-Back Benefit Breakfasts

### Both with a Big Local Bang for your Admission Bucks

Sunday, March 2, from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club the EMS and Firefighters' Association will sponsor an All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet. Profits will be used to purchase equipment and supplies and pay for firefighter, first responder and rescue training. This is a good way to support this branch of public safety without seeing it in your tax bill. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for those under 12. Contact any firefighter for tickets or call Jim Barclay at 978-249-2904

Saturday, March 8 the Royalston Community School 5th and 6th Grade families are cooking up a pancake breakfast to defray costs for a week long trip to Nature's Classroom, an extremely fun hands-on science center in Wells, Me. Fundraising (like this breakfast) ensures that scholarships are available so that no child in the class gets left behind. Tickets \$6/ adult and \$3/ child. Also one of Marlene Jarbenpaa's famous afghans and a basket of spring goodies will be raffled. Call Becky 249-3158 for more information.

## New Entry in the Town Scrapbook



**Mary Elizabeth Raymond** was born in 1866 and grew up on the "Old Hutchinson Farm about half a mile northeasterly from the Common," according to *Reflections on Royalston*. Her father served as Selectmen, Assessor, Library Trustee and primary officer of the Worcester Northwest Agricultural Association, a livestock breeding group. Her grandfather, Joseph Raymond, was also a pillar of the community

as a founding director of the Millers River Bank and the primary financial contributor to the 1st public lending library in Royalston, which was housed in the Town Hall for many years before the Phinehas Newton Library was built. Mary Raymond was one of the first women from Royalston ever to graduate from college; she was a member of the Smith class of 1891. As an adult, Mary Raymond lived in Cleveland, Ohio with her sister Caroline Willis Raymond. These sisters traveled widely in foreign lands, but kept their grandparents' home on the Common, famous for its beautiful formal garden, as a summer residence. It was the Raymond sisters who donated the land for the Raymond School (now the Village School) to the town in the late 1930s. Thank you to Bob and Lorraine Casinghino, the current owners of the Raymond family manse, for donating this photo to our Town Scrapbook.

## Recipe of the Month

### Lynn Anair's Oatmeal Fudge Bars

*Lynn Anair grew up in New Hampshire and has lived in Royalston for 10 years with her husband and daughter. She runs the after-school program at the Village School and loves all things woolly, particularly when they're already washed and ready to be turned into something wonderful via the dyepot, spinning wheel and knitting needles.*

Says Lynn, "These bars are an anticipated staple when a certain group of friends and I get together. Everyone in the group has a specialty and this is mine. When one of the friends had her last child, she had a homebirth and I was there watching her older children and baking. One of her most vivid recollections of that day was the smell wafting up through the house. They're the original birthday cake of her son."

Ingredients:

1c butter	2 eggs
1c white sugar	1 1/2 c all purpose flour
1/2c brown sugar packed	1 c quick oats
1tsp baking soda	1 bag chocolate chips
1tsp salt	1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 1/2tsp vanilla	

nuts optional (almonds or pecans are particularly good)

\*Preheat oven 350

\*Put chocolate chips in saucepan with can of condensed milk, over low heat. Melt chocolate slowly, stirring occasionally until chocolate is completely melted.

\*While that's melting, mix up remaining ingredients as you normally would for Toll-house cookies.

\*Spread 2/3 of the dough evenly on bottom of a 9x13 pan. Pour chocolate sauce on dough, then drop spoonfuls of remaining dough randomly on top of chocolate. If you choose to add the nuts, mixing them into the remaining 1/3 is what I've done.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes- the chocolate should have a nice sheen to it and the top dough golden. If you're not sure, a toothpick in the middle to check the bottom layer will work. Allow to cool completely, cut into bars and enjoy immensely!

## PBS Documentary Partially Filmed in Royalston

Asher and Caleb Chase are featured in a sledding sequence filmed recently in Royalston by Director of Photography Boyd Estus (with the assistance of Sonja Vaccari) for a PBS television program about the music of the American composer Charles Ives. The program is part of a series on music with the San Francisco Symphony and their conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, called "Keeping Score," produced by InCA Productions of Mill Valley, California. This Ives program focuses on his "Holidays Symphony" (July 4th, Memorial day, Thanksgiving, and Washington's Birthday). Ives described the music as being a boy's memory of these holiday times, set in New England during a non-specific Americana past. Ives grew up in Danbury Conn., 1874-1954. Estus has been shooting material in Royalston and elsewhere that evokes imagery suggested by the music. He's revisited some locations in each of the four seasons (e.g., Doanes Falls, Walden Pond, etc.). Of course, Royalston is a perfect location for many of these shots, given the unspoiled beauty of its architecture and landscapes. The Ives show won't be broadcast until 2009. For info: <http://www.pbs.org/keepingscore/>



## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

*Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at library.*

### New Grandchildbabies:

**Scott Hardie** and **Rebecca Roman Hardie** of Harrisburg, PA are delighted to announce the birth of their second son, Cullen Edward Hardie on Saturday, Feb 16th, and the second grandson of (Tax Collector) **Becky Krause-Hardie**, and (Selectman) **Jon Hardie** of Royalston.

**Emily Bundschuh Santillo** and **Chris Santillo** are pleased to announce that their son **Oren** was born on Thursday, February 21 at 5:11pm. He's a little guy, weighing 5 lbs 1oz, and is 18 inches long. Both mom and baby are doing well. Happy grandparents are **Werner & Patience Bundschuh, Sharon Santillo** and **Tom Santillo**.

**Bilious Greetings:** **Heather D. Barclay** is recovering from emergency gallbladder surgery performed February 15. Her parents are sure that get well wishes from Royalston family and friends would cheer her up. Mail can be addressed to her at 500 Foxhall Place, SE; Washington, D.C. 20032, and get well calls can go to her cell phone 978-407-1655.

### Obituaries

Many are mourning the loss of lifelong Royalston resident **Bernice O. Chiasson**, 91, of 8 South Royalston Road. The wife of Gerard L. "Gerry" Chiasson, passed on Thursday, February 7, 2008 in the Baldwinville Nursing Home. Bernice was born June 6, 1916 to Lynwood A. and Mabel E. (Grant) Crumb. She attended Royalston schools, and was a communicant of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel in South Royalston. She was a 33 year employee of the Micrometer Division of the L.S. Starrett Company and an excellent bowler on the Starrett Bowling League. She and Gerry were happily married for 54 years and traveled extensively during that time. Bernice's death marks the end of an era; all of her siblings – the Royalston Crumbs – predeceased her. They include brothers Joseph Crumb, Lynwood A. Crumb, Jr., and sisters Amy Irene (Crumb) Rushford, Helen Pauline (Crumb) Smith and Clara Althea "Dodo" (Crumb) Ferry. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made in Bernice's memory to the Baldwinville Nursing Home; 51 Hospital Rd.; Baldwinville, MA 01436. The online guest book is as [www.murphysfuneralhome.com](http://www.murphysfuneralhome.com).

Condolences to **Kristina Baker** of town, whose boyfriend Andrew S. Castonguay, 20, of Petersham, was recently killed when he stopped to help a motorist in distress during an ice storm.

### RCS Poetry Club

I'd like to have a snowball fight  
Especially with you, tonight

Abigail Divoll                      Snowflakes falling in the night  
I can't see you until it's light

Rhiannon Fletcher

### Where all the Children are Above Average....

#### Mid-year Academic Honor Rolls

**Royalston Community School:** *Straight As:* **Michael Campos, Nathan Tisdale, Mary White and Kariana Tobias;** *As and Bs:* **Devin Bates, John Divoll, Chalia Euvrard-Brewington, Brandon Tisdale, Lainey Wright, Tobey Chase, Beau Guimond, Sean Lacki, Emily Mangum, Jessica Mann, Amber Parker, Kane Perini, Nicholas Powell, Damion Pratt, Katelyn Robinson, Ryan Sawyer, Annikah Skorko, Delaney Selanis, Dahlia Wright, Melissa Persson, Allisyn Mowrey, Kyle May, Kiley LeBlanc, Alicia Lachance, Loryn Killay, Katelyn Holden, Rhiannon Fletcher, Deijah Euvrard-Brewington, Abigail Divoll, Emma Finocchio, Derek Bates, Thomas Bickford and Taryne Bousquet.**

**Athol-Royalston Middle School:** **Allison Bergquist, Serene Bousquet, Colleen Boutell, Francisco Carra, Sydni Ayers, Ashley and Alexis Javier, Jacob LaJoie, Micheal Persson, Michele Thompson, Josh Roberts and Megan Degnan.**

**Athol High School:** *Straight As:* **Chester Hall, MacKenzie Bennett, Hillary Whitcomb and Ashley Guyer,** *As and Bs:* **Ellee Bronnes, Dana Griffith, Rhetta Guimond, Brian Hartin, Marrison Kellner, Christine Sawyer, Kimberlee Thompson, Alyssa Bergquist, Catie Brighenti, Noah Easton, Larissa Erikson, Colby Easton, Krista Erikson, Dylan Hall and Joseph Ridell,**

**Narragansett High School:** **Cady Boucher**

**Brendon Kellner** made the fall semester Dean's list at Northeastern University.

**Dahlia Wright** achieved a perfect score on her spring 2007 3rd grade MCAS examination.



*Dahlia Wright  
photo: Grosky*

**Sarah LeRay and her Trusty Steed Simba Year End Winners** Mufasa's Son (Simba) and partner Sarah LeRay were this year's CMHSS (Camp Marshall Horse Show Series) Adult Hunter Champions and 4th in Schooling Hunters. The team was Barre Riding and Driving Open Year End Champions as well. Simba has been part of Sarah's life for a year now. Together, this pair will chase the Granite State as well as the Massachusetts's Horsemen's Council Medals and hope to show strength, courage and determination to succeed at any level for years to come. Sarah is saving and planning for the 2010 FEI Equestrian World Games in Kentucky, which will be held in America for the first time ever. Sarah thanks her family for getting up at the crack of dawn as well as spending long days at shows.

## Fire and EMS Raffle Association Raffle

The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is currently selling chances on an incredible, 38" Sunrise rotisserie grill and cabinet valued at \$3,000, with proceeds going to the fund established to assist retired Fire Chief Wayne R. Newton with medical expenses. Tickets for the Rotisserie Grill Raffle are available from any member of the fire department for a \$5 donation to the fund.

Thanks to those who participated in the February roast beef supper fundraiser at the Royalston F&G Club – more than 100 people were in attendance. Thanks also to the 120 Club Raffle participants. A special thanks to the generous people who turned over their winnings to the fund, including grand prize winner Joann Deacon (\$500 & \$50), Police Chief and Mrs. Curtis A. Deveneau (\$200), Marie Humblet (\$100), and any others whose names were inadvertently omitted.



## On your own Sunny Windowsill

Ladybugs bombarding beds from above? Cluster flies clumsily careening on the counter? Wasps on the way to the W.C.? A recent sign of spring is the emergence of insects from between the walls where they've been hibernating since fall.

Paper wasps (polistes) seem especially plentiful this year. All the wasps dazedly stumbling around the house now are queens. Last fall, they mated with late season males, and soon after, the whole colony abandoned its nest to find winter shelter under tree bark, leaf litter or soil cavities. Wall voids in older houses make fine overwintering sites for paper wasps. The males and non-mated females die in the winter freeze, but when the temperature is consistently warm in the spring (+/- 60 degrees in the sun), the queens stir, crawl out from sash cord holes, gaps in the trim, or other opportune cracks and lethargically head towards the light seeking a place to begin a new annual nest where they can lay their fertilized eggs. Inside the home, that usually means toward a windowsill. These wasps are not highly prone to sting as they are not yet defending a nest or in a mating mood; however, neither can they get out of the way if a bare foot descends. Not all wasps sting, but the queens' stings smart and leave a lingering itch. The problem of wasps in the house should be over in a few weeks, but some immediate solutions for those who can't wait are: careful relocation, caulking cracks where wasps enter the house, vacuuming and/or regicide by force.

Distressingly, the problem may get more painful both for humans and native paper wasps in the near future. A similar, but bigger and more aggressive species of wasp, the European paper wasp (*Polistes dominulus*), came to Massachusetts around 1980. It tends to come out of hibernation earlier and get a jump on claiming the best nesting sites and food sources. It is much less shy of human activity. Unlike native paper wasps, this exotic species has yellow stripes on its abdomen. Entomologists suspect it is displacing the native species.

## Garden Notes

*Larry Siegel*

We are in the midst of what is generally referred to as an old-fashioned New England winter. As I write (February 22) it is, what else, snowing. It is the twelfth such snow event I have recorded. Throw in innumerable flurries, several ice storms, and a couple of rainy days, and it has been one wet winter. In prior years I have often begun outdoor garden work in March; this year any such work might well involve shoveling snow off beds to see what survived the winter.

Seeds have arrived; I continue to fine-tune the garden layout. I am tugged in two directions. Part of me, the orderly part of me, nudges in the direction of neat rectangles, squared corners, beds filled with but one type of crop. Another, the other-than-orderly part of me, suggests I lighten up a bit. Those rectangles have begun to curve; flowers freely mix with vegetables; volunteers, self-seeded annuals, find spots throughout the garden. A touch of 'wildness' results. Orderly maximizes production, but it is the other-than-orderly which appeals to my aesthetic pleasures and I strive to balance the two.

Indoor seeding begins in early March: onions, leeks, parsley, celery, and celeriac require at least ten weeks of indoor growing. Onions and leeks are planted directly into 12" x 18" wooden flats; the others are started in small pots, then divided and set out into those same flats. Sprinkling the onion and leek seed into the flats simply does not work. They become far too crowded and fail to grow well. I attempt to set out each (painstakingly small) seed so it sits a quarter inch or so from its closest neighbor. Despite every effort, some thinning is required. The final seedling population per flat is around four hundred. Onions are particularly troublesome for me and sometimes I wonder if the reward exceeds the effort. Invariably, at some point during the growing season, the onion leaves will turn black and die. This has been described to me as botrytis, a fungal disease which seems to follow the onions regardless of where I set out the plants. Depending upon the timing of its onset, yields will range from moderate to miserable. On those rare occasions when the season is botrytis-free, yields are magnificent, but those occasions are rare indeed. Ironically, the onions and shallots appear susceptible to the disease while the garlic and leeks do not, despite the fact that all are members of the same (*allium*) family.

Gardening may be on hold this March; but not so the sap in the sugar maples, beginning its flow from roots to buds. Tapping into that flow, hauling the sap off to the 'sugar-house' (no walls, no roof), and boiling down, remain, for me, a rite of spring. From a practical point of view, it probably makes as much sense as seeding the (botrytis-to-be) onions, but I would no sooner give up either than I would breathe.

Stored food quantities remain comfortable, although they all needed to be moved when the root cellar turned into a pond in mid-February. (Did anyone in Royalston have a dry cellar?) The goal, as always, is to have enough on hand to see us through to the first of the new harvest (parsnips, spinach, asparagus), and, in the absence of an influx of rodents consuming the roots, we will meet that goal. Oh, and I still await the brew master's okay to tap into the still-fermenting jugs of apple hooch.



### Classifieds

**House Cleaning Service:** Special reduced rate for Feb and March. 4 hours for \$49.95. Please call Fran, Royalston resident. Cell: 978-895-0817 or home 978-249-4596.

**Dog Walking:** \$15.00 total. Will walk twice a day. Cell – 978-895-0817 or home – 978-249-4596.

**Free – Amana 17 cubic foot stand-up freezer.** Works like new. Just come to my house in Royalston and pick it up. Call Steve @ 978-973-2791.

**Good food and Good Company:** The Royalston Luncheon Club meets every Wednesday at 11 am at the Town Hall. Contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by the Monday prior to make a reservation . The suggested donation for the meal is \$2/senior and \$2.50 for up-and-coming seniors. Local grocery stores and farmers often provide additional baked goods and produce, all free to take home.

**Be a newsletter sponsor:** \$25 per issue or \$200 annually buys a business card sized ad in this newsletter. Call the library or zap chasegos@ gis.net for more info. Be sure to thank the sponsors who support the RCN as well.

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

Royalston Resident  
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Royalston MA 01368

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Submission deadline for April issue is: March 22

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