

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2011



Volume XIV, Issue III

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

Calendar of Events

April 1 Friday **All Fool's Day**

7 p.m. Open Mic Season Finale at the Town Hall. Melanie and the Blue Shots will be the house band. Free admission and delicious food on sale; thanks to Royalston Cultural Council.

April 3 Sunday

10:32 a.m. **New Pink Moon**

2 pm **Visit Syria vicariously** with a slide show and talk by Abraham and Halima Sussman at the Phinehas Newton Library. Free. Refreshments served. Sponsored by the Friends.

April 4 Monday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Polls open** Precincts 1 and 2 for Annual Town Election



April 7 Thursday

3:45 p.m. PSN Library- **Friends meet at the library**

April 9 Saturday **River Rat Day in Athol**

9:30 a.m. "Big Cheese" 5K Road Race in Athol

10 a.m. River Rat Parade Kicks off

1 p.m. 48th Annual River Rat Canoe Race begins



April 12 Tuesday

US Civil War began this date 150 years ago in 1861

April 14 Thursday

7:30 p.m. **Birch Hill Rangers meet at Royalston F&G and Raffle Drawing**

April 16 - 25 **April vacation in local schools**

April 17 Sunday **Palm Sunday**

10:44 p.m. **Full Pink Moon**

April 18 Monday

Patriot's Day observed: Massachusetts and Maine holiday marking the day the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired at the North Bridge in Concord, beginning the 1st battle of the Revolutionary War.

April 19 Tuesday **First Day of Passover**

April 20 Wednesday

1:30 pm **Giant puppet making workshop** at Town Hall. Get ready for the library's 100th anniversary parade. All ages are welcome to use materials and get instruction from Bread and Puppet alumnus Manny King on how to create cool, larger than life puppets. Workshops continue the next two Wednesdays at 3:30. It is not necessary to attend each session. Call the library to sign up.

April 21 Thursday

1:30 pm **Kite Flying Day** at the library. Bring a kite or use one of ours. Kite cake served. Opportunities to write spring haiku to celebrate National Poetry Month as well. Sponsored by the Friends.

April 22 Friday **Good Friday and Earth Day**
midnight **deadline for Royalston poet laureate contest entries** by e-mail to chasegos@gis.net or drop at the library.

Pre-dawn hours **Lyrid Meteor Shower**: shooting starts in the south about every five or six minutes.

April 23 Saturday

10:00 am **13th Annual Community Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting on the Common**. Hunt promptly at 10 a.m. followed by chocolate melting and candy making in the Town Hall. Rain or shine. Dress for the weather. Bring basket or bag labeled with name.

April 27 Wednesday

7:30 p.m. **"Wolfstalk" and LBS meeting** with hostess Patricia Worth

April 24 Sunday **Easter**



April 30 Saturday

9 am - 12 noon **Royalston Roadside Cleanup**. Join your neighbors and clean up Royalston. Free disposal of roadside trash. Cook-out to follow at Bullock Park. Call Charlie Scribner for more info. 978-249-2649.

6 pm **Ham and Bean supper** at town hall. Benefits 250th anniversary celebration. See Geoff Newton or a committee member for tickets.

May 1 Sunday

10 am - noon **Walter Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby**, kids catch stocked trout and eat a fun lunch at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Members free; others \$2.

May 4 Wednesday

9 am **May Day Celebration**; the community is invited to the Village School to watch students dance and weave ribbons around a traditional May pole and Morris dancers wake the Earth while driving out winter. All will be encouraged to sing in the spring.

Save the date:

May 14 **The Follies** at 7:00 pm.

May 30 **Memorial Day exercises** on the center common at 2 p.m.

June 11 **Saturday Morning on Royalston Common** from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.. Pancakes, silent auction, plant sale, book sale and more.

June 18 **Library's 100th Anniversary celebration**

July 9 **Congregational Church Fair**

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Linda Alger, chair

The Board has been working diligently on the line item budget over the last month. At present we have a balanced budget with approximately a 2% increase over the last fiscal year. The School District, the Financial Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectman are meeting on March 22 to begin the review process. The Town is allowed to deficit spend in the Snow and Ice account and we will need to transfer the overage from our the Stabilization account. Considering the amount of snow this year our overage is less than surrounding towns and the DPW should be congratulated on a job well done.

The Board continues to work with the Sewer Commission and the USDA Rural Water on grant funding for replacement of the Waste-water Treatment facility.

The Board and the Building Inspector recently met with Glen Eaton from MRPC to discuss the demolition of #1 School Street. The next round of grant funds will be available in December to pursue this project.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Andy West for his 6 years of service on the Board of Selectmen. Andy has assured us that he will continue his volunteerism with the Town web site, Broadband, Energy Committee, and the Historic District Commission (just to name a few) . Thank you Andy for a job well done!

Town 250th Anniversary Committee: Ham and Bean Supper April 30



Geoff Newton and Bobbi Newman spin the wheel to reveal 120 club winners at the recent 250th committee public supper. photo: Ben West

The recent public chicken supper was a big success garnering \$1800 toward the town anniversary celebration's coffers. However, the committee is full of big ideas involving marching bands, hot air balloons, elephants, pageantry, breweries, explosions, art, performers and general memory making. No plans are final, but it's clear it can't hurt to get back to the fundraising grindstone. Hence, a ham and bean supper is planned for April 30 at 6 p.m. at town hall. Tickets available from Geoff Newton or any board member. To get involved in the fundraising or the planning of the celebratory events, attend the next meeting April 7 at 7 pm at Town Hall.

Annual Town Election April 4, 2011

Polls will be open on Monday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are not sure what precinct you vote in or need to know where to go, please call the Town Clerk's office.

Candidate/Office info:

With the exception of the Athol positions on the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee, there are no contests on the ballot. There are also 2 office terms with no candidate currently running. They are Sewer Commissioner – 3 years, and Library Trustee – 3 years.*

* *ed. note: Mary Longsworth is running a write in campaign for the library trustee seat.*

Following are the remaining offices/candidates on the ballot:

Selectman – 3 years – Gary L. Winitzer;

Assessor – 3 years – James M. Richardson;

Board of Health – 3 years – Philip D. Leger;

Cemetery Commissioner – 3 years – Roland G. Hamel;

Cemetery Commissioner – 1 year – Roy A. Smith, Jr.;

Board of Public Welfare – 3 years – Nancy D. Melbourne;

Planning Board – 5 years – Vyto L. Andreliunas;

Athol-Royalston Regional School Comm. Royalston member – 3 years – Nancy D. Melbourne.

There are 4 candidates running for 4, 1-year positions for Trustee of the J.N. Bartlett Fund. They are: Mary C. Barclay, Roland G. Hamel, Wayne Newton, and Roy Smith, Jr. For the Athol positions on the School Committee, there are 3 candidates running for 2, three-year seats. They are, Wayne A. Whitfield, Joao Baptista, and Lee A. Chauvette.

Selectboard Candidates' Statements

Gary Winitzer, on the ballot for selectboard

I made Royalston my home over 28 years ago and want to keep the natural beauty we all enjoy. I enjoyed more that twenty years as a member of the Rescue Squad, and was a Selectman from 2003 – 2005. I continue to contribute by serving on the Sewer Commission, and volunteering for the Senior Luncheon Club every Wednesday. With help and the passage of time, I overcame the challenges I faced last year.

As a Candidate for Selectman, I want to make three promises: I will tell the truth. I will listen to others. If I say I will do something, I will do it to the best of my ability. I respectfully ask for your vote for GARY WINITZER for Selectman on April 4th to ensure a future for a Royalston that all can be proud of. Please contact me with questions, comments or concerns, by phone at 978-249-8957 or email glw110@gmail.com.

Christine Long, write-in candidate for selectboard

To the Residents of Royalston: I am announcing my candidacy as a write-in for the open seat on the Select Board. I am committed to the future of Royalston, and I have tried to stay abreast of its concerns. If elected, I promise to be fair and impartial in decision-making.

As a reporter in another town, I covered the activity of the Select Board and was the recipient of a proclamation honoring my contributions. In Royalston, I serve on the Open Space Committee and the Community Preservation Committee. I am a writer and a former teacher, a member of the board of trustees for the Athol Bird & Nature Club and the co-founder and president of the North Quabbin Garden Club. I have lived in Royalston for eight years.

Please write in "Christine Long" for Select Board on Monday, April 4.

Fire Department News

Change to Open Burning Regulations

Keith R. Newton, Royalston Fire Chief and Forest Warden

The E.P.A. is initiating air quality tests on a daily basis as part of the burning permits process. The intent is to determine if "fine particles", a product of combustion, will meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ground-Level Ozone or Smog. Each day of the burning season a test will be conducted at 08:00 and the results will be made available to Fire Chiefs and Forest Fire Wardens of each community. The data will be used to allow open burning that day or not. Friday's A.M. test results will include the weekend forecast. Please be aware that Royalston will be part of this enforcement and I am asking for all that burn in the open air to cooperate with these new regulations. Thank you all for your continued support and compliance to this request.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, Board of Health Chair

Spring is finally here. Time for that spring clean-up. When spring cleaning, remember that metal, cardboard, and bottles and cans are recyclable. If you have large bulky waste such as couches, chairs, etc., these would go into the demo container and have a fee for disposal. Construction and demolition debris also go into the demo box and have a fee for disposal. See the attendant for an assessment.

Remember town wide roadside clean up April 30th, 9-12 with cook out at Bullock Park with "Checkpoint Charlie". Be safe on the roadside and wear reflective clothing and put your vehicle flashers on. Don't assume that you are seen by passing vehicles. Be especially careful on blind corners and hills.

And, just in case you may have forgotten, "You can't make paper out of plastic. You have to keep it separated!"

Royalston Roadside Clean-up

April 30th 9 am - noon

Give a hoot. Join your neighbors and help clean up Royalston. Pick up litter and bulkier items and bring to transfer station for free disposal or recycling. Hotdogs and chili after cleanup at Bullock Park. Contact long time event organizer, Charlie Scribner, at 978-249-2649 for more information.



Memorial Day Committee

Plans are underway for this year's Memorial Day exercises on Monday, May 30, beginning on the center common at 2 p.m. Anyone willing to volunteer some time to help place flags on veterans' graves should give Brenda L. Putney a call at 978-249-7787. To provide a dish to pass at the town-wide post-parade luncheon at 3 p.m. in the Town Hall, contact Kathy L. Pirro at 978-249-9774.

DPW Mud Season Reminders

Keith R. Newton, Department of Public Works

D.P.W. reminder to those who live on Royalston's gravel roads... With warmer temperatures here, the heavy snow pack has begun to melt, and we are starting to see the mud appear on stretches of gravel roads. Please understand that not a lot can be done to stop this annual event. With time, water levels will stabilize and gravel will dry to the point we can begin shaping them with the grading process. Please remain patient. Thank you for your understanding. Posting of 6 ton weight limit signs on these gravel roads is helping protect them from damage that occurs when larger vehicles with excessive weight travel on water soaked gravel roads. The rutting of the travel surface happens when the sub-soils are saturated with water and give way to heavy vehicles. Please drive safely.

Roads are closed when heavy rains move into an area. Many roads were closed for periods of time mid-March because of high water.

CPC - Community Preservation Committee

Marsha Charest

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall on Monday, April 11th. The committee is requesting citizens submit any and all applications. Last year's applications were reviewed and the two that met the requirements were approved. The warrant articles have been submitted for the town meeting. One is for preserving the two portraits of the Estabrooks in the library and the other is to assist in replacing the fence at the Hillside Cemetery.

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Paul Montero, Chairperson

The Committee would like to congratulate the recent efforts of local landowners and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust in protecting valuable land resources in our town. In 2010, three wonderful projects in Royalston made up part of this great conservation effort.

First, Mount Grace worked with Victoria Shaw to protect two properties with one being in Royalston. Mount Grace acquired the 105-acre Royalston parcel of privately owned land within the Millers River Wildlife Management Area for resale. The Department of Fish and Game then purchased the land. The Conservation Fund, an Arlington, Virginia-based foundation loaned money for this project.

Second, Peter and Sigrid Tishler donated a Conservation Restriction on their land consisting of two adjoining parcels in Warwick and Royalston comprising 85 acres. The land, traversed by a quarter-mile segment of the Tully Trail includes the summit of Bliss Hill, forest and streams.

Finally, the Tully-Stockwell 7-acre woodlot in Royalston, protected by a Conservation Restriction held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation since 2002 sold in a conservation project. Al and Nancy Mollitor of Sharon, conservation buyers, purchased the Tully-Stockwell land that was for resale by Mount Grace.

The Royalston Open Space and Recreation Committee currently meets on the second Thursday of every other month and welcomes the public and potential new members. The next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 7:30PM on April 14, 2011 will be in the Town Hall.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you

Clarence Rabideau, who continues to help weed our collection and who assumes more responsibility each time he volunteers.

Maureen Blasco and Patti Stanko for their help and great refreshments for the Emily Dickinson Film program.

Ernest Urvater and Susan Snively for their enjoyable and educational program on Emily Dickinson

Donations to the Friends:

Ernest Urvater

Polly Longworth:

Write-in Candidate for Library Trustee.

Polly (Mary O.) Longworth was out of town and unable to sign the blanket nomination paper and thus will be a write-in candidate for re-election as a Library Trustee. She has been a trustee for seven years and brings a depth and breadth of knowledge of libraries to her position as chairman of the board that enhances the library's role as a centerpiece of the town.

Upcoming Library Programs

Tour Syria with Abraham and Halima Sussman

On April 3rd, Halima and Abraham Sussman, of Royalston and Cambridge, will present slides and tales from their journey around Syria. In March of 2008, the Sussmans were invited by Syrian friends to visit and travel in Syria for three weeks. Not only did they see many mosques and churches in this ancient, lovely, mysterious, and welcoming land, but also were fortunate to have opportunities to learn of Syria's textile traditions. The Sussmans observed goat hair being spun and woven into Bedouin tents and also visited the home of one of the only Syrian silkmakers to have withstood Chinese competition and maintained its family's 400- year-old silk making process, beginning with the silkworms and ending with sumptuous cloth. This free, educational and enjoyable program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, who will also provide delicious refreshments. For more information call the library or visit its website.



Giant Puppet Making Workshops in April

Thanks to a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council, Manuel King will be helping create giant puppets that can be carried during the library's parade and celebration this summer. At Town Hall, Manny will lead a program on Wednesday, April 20 at 1:30 p.m. and then for the next two Wednesdays after school to produce these whimsical, extraordinary creations. All ages are encouraged to come, get creative, and learn the process of making puppets. Sign up by calling the library. Refreshments.

Annual Kite Flying Day April 21st

Bring a kite or use one of ours behind the library on April 21st at 1:30. Write spring poetry. Eat kite cake. Plan for wet feet.

June 18th: 100th Anniversary Celebration Plans Moving Forward

Plans are well on their way for the 100th anniversary celebration for the library. Mark your calendars, plan your floats or other parade ideas, and get your costume ready for the Literary Ball. Practice your badminton, horseshoes, and croquet. The living history play at the library has been outlined. Want to be an actor for an hour? Contact the library. Politicians will orate; poets recite; and everyone will eat - the Ladies B and Kristin West. are catering the afternoon refreshments and the Fire & EMS Association is putting on a Chicken BBQ in the evening. The Literary Ball has Melanie and the Blue Shots practicing dance music from the last ten decades. All day free fun. Prizes. Join in!

Ongoing

Drop-in Zumba classes on Mondays from 6 --7 pm and **Tai Chi** classes on Tuesdays from 6 - 7 continue at Town Hall in March. Both are sponsored by the Friends and free to participants. (Voluntary donations to defray costs can be put in the jar by the door .)

Preschool Playgroup at the library on Mondays at 10 am. Stories, snacks and socializing for tots and their adults.

Cost over-runs as Phinehas Newton Portrait Spiffed at WAM for Library's 100th Anniversary

Time has not been kind to Phinehas, who is not only covered with 100 years of grime but has also been suffering unbeknownst, yet severe, mold infestation and micro-chipping. Recent cleaning at the Worcester Art Museum has revealed an unexpectedly vibrant and finely painted portrait of the library benefactor. Unfortunately, the damage from dirt, mold and flaking paint has caused the cost of the project to exceed (by a multiple of three) the initial budget. Donations for the restoration of this historic painting would be gratefully appreciated and checks with "Newton Portrait Restoration" on the memo line may be made out to the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.



Phinehas shines again: Birgit Straehle, Assistant Conservator of the Worcester Art Museum brushes away 100 years of grime. Newly mold-free and now partially cleaned, the library's portrait of Phinehas S. Newton is as yet un-restored. Donations are sought to defray costs. Rita Albertson, Chief Conservator, Philip Klausmeyer, Conservation Scientist, and Matt Cushman, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow are assisting Straehle on the project.

Book Review

Read anything interesting lately?

Recommend it to your neighbors using the RCN.

Mary C. Barclay writes, "Biographies sometimes present a rather cut and dried view of a subject's life, but that's certainly not the case with *The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life*, by Alice Schroeder, updated and condensed in 2009 by Bantam Publishing. *Snowball* provides a fascinating look at one of the wealthiest individuals in the world and the investment philosophies that led to that distinction. Schroeder examines this somewhat eccentric and socially uncomfortable man with respect-filled humor. The text is laced liberally with Buffett-isms such as, "winning the ovarian lottery," and analogies like "It's crazy to take little in-between jobs just because they look good on your resume. That's like saving sex for your old age." Colorful commentary also provides insight into Buffett's beliefs about the amassing of wealth, for example, "...to say that Buffett invested to dodge taxes was like saying that a baby drank its bottle to fill its diapers." Moreover, the book is jammed with examples of how minimal wealth and wise investing choices can create "the snowball effect" for anyone, including a man of wealth like Warren Buffett. *Snowball* is an engaging, entertaining and educational (albeit lengthy) read.

Some of the New Materials at your Library

Adult Fiction

Allen, Sarah	<i>The Girl who Chased the Moon</i>
Atkinson, Kate	<i>Started Early, Took my Dog</i>
Binchy, Maeve	<i>Minding Frankie</i>
Bowen, Rhys	<i>Bless the Bride</i>
Boyle, T.C.	<i>When the Killings Done</i>
Brown, Eleanor	<i>The Weird Sisters</i>
Brown, Rita Mae	<i>High Hearts</i>
Fairstein, Linda	<i>Silent Mercy</i>
Fielding, Joy	<i>Now You See Her</i>
Gardner, Lisa	<i>Love You More</i>
Herbert, Brian	<i>Hellhole</i>
Hoffman, Alice	<i>The Red Garden</i>
Just, Ward	<i>Rodin's Debutante</i>
Martin, Steve	<i>An Object of Beauty</i>
Obreht, Tea	<i>The Tiger's Wife</i>
O'Nan, Stewart	<i>Emily, Alone</i>
Paine, Lauran	<i>Iron Marshal</i>
Palmer, Michael	<i>A Heartbeat Away</i>
Picoult, Jodi	<i>Sing You Home</i>
Rankin, Ian	<i>The Complaints</i>
Robb, J.D.	<i>Treachery in Death</i>
Spencer, Sally	<i>Echoes of the Dead</i>
Thompson, James	<i>Lucifer's Tears</i>

Adult Non-Fiction

Ackerman, Diane	<i>One Hundred Names for Love</i>
America's Test Kitchen	<i>Slow Cooker Revolution</i>
Christian, Brian	<i>The Most Human Human</i>
Foer, Joshua	<i>Moonwalking with Einstein</i>
Foner, Eric	<i>The Fiery Trial</i>
Rattle, Alison	<i>Hell House & Other True Hauntings...</i>
Stewart, Arthur	<i>Reflections of Time</i>
Thubron, Colin	<i>To a Mountain in Tibet</i>
Traister, Rebecca	<i>Big Girls Don't Cry</i>

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Billingsley, Franny	<i>Chime</i>
Patterson, James	<i>Angel</i>
Smith, L.J.	<i>Midnight Gangs</i>

Children's Fiction

Emberley, Ed	<i>Go Away, Big Green Monster!</i>
Gantos, Jack	<i>Three Strikes for Rotten Ralph</i>
Harvey, Jayne	<i>Busy Bugs</i>
Larkspur, Penelope	<i>The Secret Life of Fairies</i>
Liwska, Renata	<i>The Red Wagon</i>
McMullan, Kate	<i>Bulldog's Big Day</i>
Vernon, Ursula	<i>Dragonbreath</i>
Vernon, Ursula	<i>Lair o the Bat Monster</i>
Wardlaw, Lee	<i>Won-Ton</i>
Wood, Maryrose	<i>The Hidden Gallery</i>

Children's Non-Fiction

Burleigh, Robert	<i>Night Flight</i>
Hamilton, Lynn	<i>Memorial Day</i>
Hamilton, Lynn	<i>President's Day</i>
Schwartz, Richard	<i>You Can Count on Monsters</i>

DVDs: *127 Hours, Disneynature The Crimson Wing, Downton Abbey, Due Date, For Colored Girls, Gasland, Inside Job, Life as we Know It, Megamind, Open Season 3, The Next Three Days, Unstoppable, and Waiting for "Superman"*

Music: *Now That's What I Call Music 36*

13th Annual Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting



Mr. Bunny and his helpers are busy preparing for the 13th annual Community Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting on the Royalston Common. More than two thousand brightly colored Easter eggs will be available for the eager egg hunters. The hunt will kick off promptly at 10 AM from the steps of Town Hall.

Following the gathering of the eggs, participants will get together in the Town Hall to make their own chocolate candies from twenty pounds of melted chocolate that will be waiting for them. Town Hall will also be the place to recycle the bright plastic eggs for use next year.

Participants are urged to dress for the weather. The hunt will be held rain or shine though if the weather is too inclement, event organizers may elect to move the egg hunt indoors. Each participant should bring a basket or bag with his/her name on it to hold the candy.

Last call for donations of small pieces of individually wrapped candy (suitable to place inside the plastic eggs) is Monday, April 4. Donations may be left at the Library or the Royalston General Store. Cash donations are also welcome. Those who would like to volunteer on the day of the hunt may contact Rene' Lake-Gagliardi at 978-249-4639.

Less is More at Pete & Henry's

Mary C. Barclay

More menu offerings are less expensive at Royalston's Pete and Henry's Restaurant. In response to numerous requests, many dinners, including two-way combos, are now available in smaller portions for \$5 less. The Cloutiers have seen some incredibly busy nights during the economic downturn, but many customers just don't want all those leftovers...and amicably splitting dinners has proven, well, shall we say, less than amicable? Children's portions are also still available and sold to children of any age, and a new 22 oz rib eye steak dinner should take care of more robust eaters. Newest to the menu is cook Alex Cruz's "cheese fries," P&H's usual screaming hot deep fried potatoes with a light sprinkling of seasoned salt and generous blanket of grated American pizza cheese.

Recipe of the Month

Clarence and Betty Rabideau have come to Royalston via Fitchburg, where Betty was a homemaker and Clarence was a long-time art teacher at Applewild School. In 1999, an uncle's house in Royalston was for sale, so they bought it and retired here. Here is a favorite Rabideau recipe that may influence gardeners to plant an extra hill of zukes this summer. Zucchini freezes well and this soup would be delicious anytime. As Clarence points out, "Here's one more use for all that zucchini!"

Zucchini Curry soup - serves 6 -8

Ingredients:

- 1 mid. onion - diced
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp curry powder
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 2 small potatoes - diced
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups chopped zucchini
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

Preparation:

In a kettle, cook onion in butter. Add curry, chicken stock and potatoes and simmer for ten minutes. Add zucchini and cook 15 minutes. Let cool and then puree. Stir in cream.. serve hot or cold. Add a dollop of sour cream or Greek yoghurt. Enjoy!

Bonus recipes: How to cook Easter Eggs

Mary C. Barclay and the National Egg Board

This method produces tender (not rubbery) eggs. The shells do not crack, and the yolks stay a brilliant yellow. Be aware; fresh eggs don't peel as well. The egg board recommends 10 day old eggs.

1. Place eggs in a saucepan large enough to hold them in a single layer. Add COLD water to cover eggs by 1 inch. Heat over high heat just to boiling; then remove from the burner. Cover pan.
2. Let eggs stand in hot water for 12 minutes (medium), 15 minutes (large), or 18 minutes (x-large.)
3. Drain. Serve immediately or cool completely in a bowl of ice water. Refrigerate.

Homemade egg dyes: Have some fun with kitchen science and make your own natural egg dyes. Blueberries, turmeric, coffee grounds all produce beautiful colors. Use your imagination and try different foods and spices. First, add a couple of handfuls of the ingredient to a small saucepan with water and bring to a boil, simmering for about 15 minutes. Then, strain; a coffee filter in a strainer works very well. Now, add 1 tbsp. of white vinegar per cup of dyed water as a mordant. Immerse cooked and cooled eggs in the dyed water. Remove when the desired shade and place on a rack to dry. If a shiny rather than matte finish is desired, dip a cloth/paper towel in vegetable oil and wipe the completely dried egg.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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



Calling all graduates: Puff up your pomp and give the RCN your circumstances. Your community is proud of you. Send graduation news, senior photos and future plans to the RCS for publication in upcoming newsletters.

Patrick Scribner is attending Johnson and Wales University Culinary School and made Dean's List the first two terms.

The Fortwengler's daughter Shauna and her husband James Dozier from Shirley have blessed the family with a sixth grandchild. His name is Quentin Harrison Dozier; he weighed in at 4.5 pounds and was 17 inches long. He joins his big brother Avery.

Mark Suchocki of Falls Rd. and his self-constructed blacksmith shop, Black Dog Forge, received a full page color photo and feature article on page 82-83 in the April 2011 issue of *Popular Mechanics*. Suchocki is quoted as saying, "You know you are a blacksmith when you use one tool to make another."

Obituaries

Frances L. (Boguzis) Hamilton, 78, of Royalston, died peacefully Monday morning February 21, 2011 at her home after a lengthy illness. Frances was born in Gardner October 26, 1932, the daughter of the Late Anthony and Petrona (Clemens) Boguzis, and lived in East Templeton for many years before moving to Royalston in 1993. Her beloved husband James H. Hamilton Sr. predeceased her on September 11, 2009.

Frances was the co-owner and president of Laser Classic Ltd. in Gardner. Frances and her husband were long time members of the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce, Wood Products Manufacturing Association, and Ducks Unlimited. In her spare time Frances enjoyed bowling, gardening, flowers, and spending time outside. Most of all Frances loved spending time with her family.

Frances will be sadly missed by 3 sons; Randy J. Ramsdell and his wife Linda of Ashburnham, Thomas A. Ramsdell and his wife Linda of Royalston and James Ramsdell of Gardner, 2 daughters; Patricia A. Zub of Portland, Maine, and Christine A. Janhunen of Baldwinville, 10 grandchildren, Sarah Melvin, Sean Ramsdell, Rebecca Ramsdell, Kristy Speck, Anthony Ramsdell, Elizabeth Ramsdell, Andrea Ramsdell, Samantha Janhunen, Addie Ramsdell, and John Thomas Ramsdell, 4 great-grandchildren; Hunter Melvin, Hazel Melvin, and Rachel and Aidan Speck, one brother; John Boguzis of Gardner, 7 step-children; Sean Hamilton and his wife Diane of Templeton, Kevin R. Hamilton of Baldwinville, Thomas M. Hamilton and his wife Beth of Maynard, MA, Mary T Mason and her husband Joseph of Baldwinville, Linda A. Gallant and her husband Albert of Royalston, Patricia A. Vaillancourt and her husband Randall of Gardner, and Kathleen M. Jankauskas and her husband Thomas of Phillipston, and aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. Frances was predeceased by her former husband Donald C. Ramsdell, one son, Allan Ramsdell, and two step-sons; Stephen P. Hamilton and James H. Hamilton Jr. *In lieu of flowers donations in Frances' memory may be made to the Gardner Visiting Nurses Association Hospice, 34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA 01440.*

Wildlife Sightings

Yellow spotted salamanders, making their annual pilgrimage to wet cellars in the center of town, were observed in early



photo: Noah Siegel

March in the Nash and Chase-Gospodarek basements. These amphibians, with a poisonous skin glands and "diner beware" coloration, live alone most of the year in disused rodent tunnels or under logs, and only come out to eat meaty invertebrates like slugs, bugs and millipedes. However, come the first rainy night warmer than 45 degrees in spring (dubbed Big Night), they return to the vernal pools of their birth to mate. Here, to anthropomorphize, for one night of the year, they have a swinging party including jostling male one-up-manship, dancing suggestively, and ejaculating and enveloping spermatophores. The DNA is passed. Done, males trek back to a solitary life on the forest floor; the females lay 100-200 eggs in a jelly mass and soon follow. The eggs hatch and grow in relative security in their fish free puddle. At 2-4 months, the survivors' gills transmogrify to lungs, legs form; and a new generation ventures forth. This process has been occurring for millennium and individual salamanders can live for decades, so with a flashlight, rain boots, a vernal pool, and a disposition to stand around outside on the first chilly rainy night of the year, yellow spotted salamanders are not too hard to observe (sometimes by the dozens) in Royalston.

Thomas F. Cooke, 81, died Sunday, March 20, 2011, at Quabbin Valley Healthcare. Tom was born in Athol, March 21, 1929, the son of Harold D. and Florence E. (Freitag) Cooke. He grew up in Athol and Brooklyn, N.Y., graduating from Athol High School in 1947. In his earlier years he worked on the family farm in Athol, before moving to New Jersey in 1957, where he lived until his retirement. He eventually moved to Wilmington, Vt., for several years before making a permanent home in Royalston.

Tom worked as a technician for Exxon-Mobil Research for 35 years until his retirement. His work took him to many parts of the world and aboard many ships.

He was a life member of the National Rifle Association and G.O.A.L. (Gun Owner Action League of Massachusetts), and held local memberships in the Woodsman's Pistol Club, and Petersham, Royalston and Winchendon gun clubs. Tom was a very active trap shooter and avid reloader, participating in many rifle and police revolver competitions, and winning many trophies through the years in the Sharpshooter Class in the Northern New Jersey Police Revolver League. He enjoyed his family and in his retirement years he especially enjoyed spending time with his granddaughter Isabella.

Tom leaves three sons and a daughter, Robert R. Cooke and his wife Carolyn of Springfield, Va., Donald O. Cooke and his wife Millie of Wakefield, and Jeffrey K. Cooke and his wife Cindy of Orange and Roberta M. LeBlanc and her husband Paul of Gardner. He also leaves a sister, Marilyn F. Carlon of Parkville, Md.; a step-daughter, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Start Planning: Summer Day Camp in Royalston

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School

Go to www.villageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the summer programs, which run from July 5 to July 22, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, the Summer Art Intensive for ages 8 and up, and the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up. Scholarships are available to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

Royalston Fish and Game Club

The Royalston F&G will be adding a new event to its offerings this month: an **Easter Meat Raffle**. The raffle takes place Friday, April 15, (yes, the final day to file income taxes), at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse. All spins will be for meat, there's a door prize and an Easter Basket Dinner basket raffle will be held with tickets 2/\$3.00. Beef stew will be available and the bar will be open with a full range of beverages. Contact Marie at 978-249-2836 for more information, or contact the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004.

Also, the **Birch Hill Rangers' Snowmobile Club Raffle** winners will be drawn at the Easter Meat Raffle. Many great prizes including cash, gift certificates from Pete & Henry's (\$50 x 2), Wheels in Motion (\$50), Cycle Design (\$50), Royalston General Store (\$25), Edible Arrangements (\$25) and a half gallon of Sweetwater sugarhouse pure maple syrup. Proceeds will go towards grooming machine for the trails.

It's almost time for the annual **Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby, Sunday, May 1 from 10 a.m. – noon**. Kids can begin registering at 9 a.m. Kids fish in the Club's pond, freshly stocked the night before with a variety of trout, thanks to the Millers River Fishermen's Association. Members' children (under 14 years of age) are entitled to the first two fish and the cook-out lunch at no cost. Guest fisher-children (under 14) can purchase a \$2 ticket which includes their first two fish and lunch. Additional tickets may be purchased by all participants for \$2, to catch an additional two fish. This day is great fun! Be sure to bring your whole family, lawn chairs and cameras.



A quick reminder: the Royalston F&G is open every Tuesday and Friday night. Memberships are available at the bar or at the Royalston General Store.

If you are interested in more information, contact Marie at 978-249-2836 or the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004.

What's Happening at the Village School?

This past month, K-1 students collected sap daily from the maple on the corner. All the classes are visiting the Richardsons' farm in Phillipston for sugaring and lambing field trips. And if on a warm sunny day, you see a big circle of children on the front lawn of the school with teddy bears in their laps, then you have hit upon the annual Teddy Bear picnic, when all the children bring teddy bears to school, sing teddy bear songs and go on a bear hunt!

Tuesday April 26 Biodiversity Day

Each class visits a local habitat and surveys the flora and fauna in that habitat. One class will go to Lawrence Brook, another class to the Camp Caravan pond, and other classes will visit the woods. The classes visit the same habitats each year and keep a log of the species of plants and animals that they find. They record observations with drawings. Results are displayed in the hallway.

There are openings in the 2nd-6th grade next school year. For more information, call 249-3505.

Congregational Churches News

Sue and Michael L Veilleux

Can you see it? Do you smell it? Have you felt it? Do you sense it? Have you guessed IT? IT'S SPRING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! At last, spring has formally arrived. I don't know about you, but winter in Florida is looking better every year. The snow was slow coming this year, but when it finally started it came with a vengeance, and right in the middle of it all my plow broke. Thanks to brother Dave Williams for stepping up to the plate for me.

The snow coming off the church roof only got one windshield this year, not bad! All in all, we fared pretty well. Plans are being made and funds being raised to install new carpet and paint in the sacristy. I bet that old carpet has seen a lot of soles, and cleaned them with a little friction. I know that old Church has touched many souls, and healed them with a lot of loving. Today that Love, the Love of Jesus grows stronger as more and more new brothers and sisters are being saved.

This is the Easter season when all Christians reflect on the sacrifice of one man, for the salvation of so many lost souls. Each and every one of us are born with the Spirit of God. I pray this Easter season that Spirit will be awakened.

Join us on Sundays at 9:00 am in the South Church or at 11:00 am in the Center Church. We would Love to see you .

Youth Group News: On Sunday March 13th our Youth Pastor R.J.Gunn and Youth Group did the entire service. It was a hit with everyone. We and our youth are very fortunate to have R.J. and his wife Michaela on board. Our Youth Group meets every Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm to 6:00pm They are planning on going to an Awakening Conference in Smithfield RI in April the 28th, 29th and 30th. Also planning 2nd trip to Creation Fest in Pennsylvania later this summer.

The date for the annual Church Fair will be Saturday, July 9th. Hope to see you there.

April Calendar at the Royalston Community School

April 05*Afterschool Academy 3 - 4:30pm
April 06*School Improvement Council @ 3:15 pm
April 07*Afterschool Academy 3 - 4:30pm
April 11*Scholastic Book Fair through 4/14 * Public Welcome!
April 12*Afterschool Academy 3 - 4:30pm
April 13*1/2 day - no Kindergarten - Noon dismissal
April 14*Afterschool Academy 3 - 4:30pm
April 15*RCS Students to MWCC to see "The Wiz"
April 18*Spring Break - Return to school on 4/25
April 26*Afterschool Academy 3 - 4:30pm
April 27*FULL DAY OF SCHOOL - * 1/2 DAY CANCELLED
April 27*Hug-a-Tree Program presented by Royalston Police Dept.
April 28*Afterschool Academy 3 - 4:30pm

Writing for Publication Workshop

Offered by published writers: Sharon Harmon & Phyllis Cochran
PLACE: White Elephant Yoga Center/ 19 East Main St., Orange
TIME: Wednesday evenings May 4 & May 11 from 7-9 p.m.
COST: \$45.00
CONTACT: To sign up call Sharon Harmon at
978 249-3040 and preregister by April 27

This workshop will cover:

1. Query and cover letters
2. Manuscript formatting and SASE
3. How to research markets
4. Finding the right market for your work
5. Online sites to check for writers & lots more

Sharon Harmon is a Butterworth Road resident. She has been a published author and poet since 1980. Her stories and articles have appeared in *Highlights for Children*, *Millers River Reader*, *A Patchwork Christmas* and *Birds & Blooms*. Sharon has published over 100 poems.

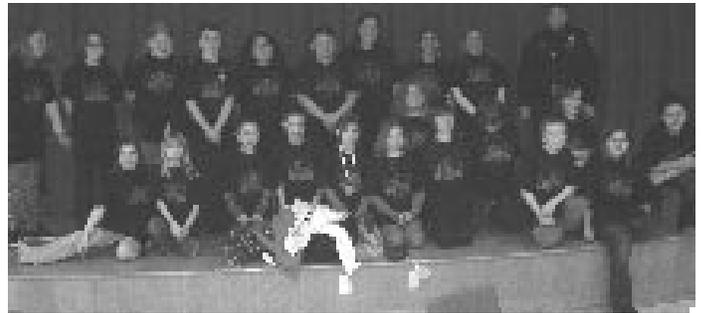
Phyllis Cochran is an author and published freelance writer since 1991. Her stories and articles have appeared in *Women's World*, where she wrote on assignment, in many country and religious magazines as well as *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Phyllis' book, *Shades of Light* was published in 2006.

RCS Poetry Club

The Sneaky Leprechaun

Once there was a leprechaun
Who loved to run and hide
He hid his gold in a deep cave
And about the pot he lied
He said it was beneath his bed
And there is must always stay
I dug and dug and dug
Until I reached the bay
The leprechaun he watched me dig
And laughed into his sleeve
I give up! I said to him
And away, away he weaved.

by Nova Lajoie, Katrina Bullock, Ryan
Darling, Hannah York, Avah York and
Ava LeBlanc



5th graders at RCS recently participated in a DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) course facilitated by the Royalston Police Department.
photo: Jen Bartkus

Monty Tech News

Mary C Barclay, Monty Tech School Committee Member

The FY2012 Budget has been submitted and Monty Tech has come in with a 2.34% increase in the total budget from last year, and just a 1.37% increase in the assessments to communities. If you go back to FY2009, this year's budget is just 1.5% higher than that one! These figures are remarkable given the fact Chapter 70 funding (regional transportation) is 54% of what it once was and required net school spending is up 5.71%. Adding to woes is the fact that stimulus funding goes away this year and the gaps it filled must be covered by the budget. Monty Tech spends approximately \$17,563 per student per year; that rate of spending puts Monty Tech nine spots away from rock bottom spenders in voc-tech education. It's actually pretty amazing – Monty Tech enjoys a reputation as one of the very best voc-tech education institutions in our Commonwealth, is cited as a model across the nation and ranks down the bottom where spending is concerned. Kudos to Business-oriented administrators, extraordinarily talented and committed faculty, and especially to the parents of Royalston's 21 students who ensure their children are well rested, well fed and ready to learn.

Ladies' B.

At their February meeting, the Ladies' Benevolent Society discussed the upcoming year, including what fundraising activities it would undertake to cover charitable donations and scholarships. The group will concentrate on a second "Drive By Pies" sale the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and a "Taste of Royalston" basket raffle for their main fundraisers. It was decided to forgo the usual suppers this year in order to provide assistance to the Royalston 250th Celebrations committee. The 250th has an ambitious schedule of events which includes a number of public suppers. The LBS agreed to donate its time, talents and ingredients to provide desserts for these suppers. More than a dozen homemade pies were donated for the March 26 supper.

The April meeting of the LBS is being hosted by member Pat Worth, at her home on Gulf Road. She will present "Wolftalk" and tell about the wolf sanctuary just hiking distance from her home, the programs offered on wolves, and the retreat center she and Michael Young offer for those in need of spiritual counseling and healing. Non-members interested in attending the program are asked to RSVP with Pat at 978-249-2722 or greenfyre1@gmail.com. Contact LBS President Laurie M. Deveneau at lmdeveneau@msn.com or 978-249-5807 for more information or to obtain the 2011 program guide.

North Quabbin Garden Club

Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Outdoor Digital Photography Program

Garden and flower photography is an art form unto itself. Learn how to improve your photographs in a three part workshop led by photographer Norm Eggert of Phillipston. This evening we will be introduced to taking memorable garden and flower photographs, how to do close-up photography and use natural light, flash and reflectors. During an outdoor session on Saturday, June 11 from 9 - 11 a.m., we will practice techniques in the garden with assistance from Eggert who will be available to answer questions. On Thursday, June 16, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. we will review our photographs. Our meetings are held at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. This meeting will be open to the public for a \$5 guest fee. The follow-up sessions are for members only, but carry a \$10 fee. Pre-register by mail or at our meeting.

Classifieds

Divoll's Sugarhouse is up and running this season. Randy and John have put out over 400 taps and have made over 70 gallons already. Anyone interested in purchasing syrup can reach Randy @ 978 602-5583 or John @ 978 894-5109.

Grass-fed beef - Call Kathy at 978-249-4260 for prices and availability.

Gas fireplace and wood stove for sale: 1) \$549.00 Beautiful gas fireplace, excellent condition, purchased from Feen's Country Living of Leominster for \$1500. 2) \$649.00 Woodstove w/catalytic converter, works great, purchased from Feen's for \$2000. Feen's will professionally reinstall either stove anywhere you want and guarantee its work. 249-0000

Firewood - \$180/170 cubic feet for green, cut, split and delivered locally. Call for prices on limited supply of semi-seasoned and fully seasoned. Also available: Sawdust for bedding or mulch. Leave message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

For sale: **Dining Room Set** seats eight with all leaves and six wooden chairs with cloth seating, incl. China Hutch with lights three glass shelves three drawers and two side doors with two shelves each. Asking 500.00 or best reasonable offer. Also have an **eight man jacuzzi 58 jets 2 six horse power pumps** with auto opening cover. Little used. Mint condition 2500.00 or best reasonable offer. Also have all types of **collector dolls** for sale individually or all for special price - over 50 to choose from. Contact Susan: blisshill202@yahoo.com

Wanted: teenage boy to help with odd jobs and spring cleaning. Call Shirley at 978-249-9401.

Birch Hill Computers - Sales, Repairs and Parts. 978-790-7876. birch-hillcomputers.com.

Seeking other Reiki practitioners (any level, any lineage) interested in forming a Reiki Share once a month. If you'd be interested in getting together, you can contact me at ngriffinnm@hotmail.com or give me a call at 249-4907 and leave a message.

Royalston resident seeks situation as house sitter, companion, or renter of apartment, studio or room. Female, early 60s, no pets, non-smoker with transportation. Please call Sally at 978-249-0000.

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. Mariah Mallet 978-249-9410.

Housekeeping or other odd jobs. \$14/hour. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Garden Notes

March 23, 2011

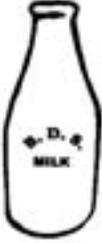
Regretfully, my less-than-rosy predictions for conditions in March came to pass. There has been virtually no garden activity. There were a couple of days which provided a window (peephole actually) of opportunity, but I did no more with that opportunity than dig a couple of parsnips and ascertain that the alliums (garlic, chives, and perennial scallions) had emerged. Any notions I had entertained that the corner had been turned were quickly dispelled by the snow two days ago. The earth, and everything atop it, was carpeted with three inches of white fluffy stuff. As if to add insult to injury, more snow is predicted for this evening, the only redeeming feature being that the twigs and branches littering the ground have been re-covered, out of sight and, almost, out of mind. With no warm-up in the foreseeable future, garden (and yard) work has been set back even further (as if it was not set back enough already). It will all occur of course, but not at last April's leisurely pace. I am comforted by the fact that the ground underneath the snow, prepared last fall, is in plant-ready condition. I'll be busy, but not frenetically so.

Since the first crop to be planted will be peas, this may be a fortuitous time to present my Pea Planting Primer. The pea beds, unlike the others, have been divided into two fifteen inch mini-beds separated by an eighteen inch aisle. (After the peas are pulled, the beds are returned to their previous configuration in preparation for the fall crops.) The mini-beds, formed and enriched last fall and left uncovered are well-raised (augmented by the soil from the aisles), ensuring that they will dry out well before the surrounding territory. Pea planting is something of a ritual for me. Unlike carrots or lettuce or any number of other seeds which must be sprinkled out of the packets, I plant each pea individually. With two rows set about nine inches apart in each mini-bed, there are one hundred feet of rows in each of my twenty-five foot beds. Set one inch apart, there will be twelve hundred peas planted, almost every one of which will germinate. The decision regarding planting depth is a trade-off. Too deep and emergence will be delayed; too shallow and rains are likely to expose the seeds. One inch deep furrows have worked for me. I set out my brush soon after emergence. Since sugar snaps, the only peas I grow, will climb at least six feet, it needs to be tall and sturdy (though it never seems to be tall enough or sturdy enough). Netting is sold as an alternative to brush, but my operating philosophy in gardening is to make-do with materials at hand. There is no netting at hand; there is no shortage of brush.

Mired as we are indoors, the wood cook stove takes on increasing importance. First, foremost, it provides heat. With the wood furnace on-again, off-again, the kitchen becomes the cornerstone of our existence. And something is always occurring on or within the stove. We have yet to boil outdoors but there are always pots of sap on the stove and four gallons of syrup have been bottled. Our first crop. And the sauna-like atmosphere provides a welcome change from the dry conditions of wood heat. Seedlings are being germinated in and around the warming oven. A kettle of hot water is always available for dishwashing. (The hot water heater is an on-again, off-again affair as well.) Dinner is cooking (generally a stew or soup), lunch is re-heating, bread or baked goods are in the oven atop the soapstones which serve as bed warmers whenever desired. A multi-tasking cook stove.

Larry Siegel

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Calling All Talent!

Calling all talented, untalented, foolish and hysterical people to challenge your imagination and come up with an act for the ROYALSTON FOLLIES! The Follies are held every 3 years and will soon be upon us on Saturday, May 14 at 7:00. Acts should be 10-15 minutes long and not limited to singing, dancing, skits, musical acts, recitations, poetry, stupid pet tricks, stupid adult tricks.....well you get the idea. Anything goes; group or individual acts welcome. Not limited to Royalston folks only, so instigate friends with peculiar or particular talents. Please let us know soon! Contact Lorraine Casinghino at 249-5151

Calling All Potential Morris Men:

May Day is not far away. The Millers River Morris Men (who dance the Sherborne and Bampton Morris traditions) are practicing at Camp Caravan weekly. Any able bodied men from the age of 14 to 80+ are welcome to come and learn the dances. For info, call the Village School at 249-3505.

Calling all the historically inclined:

Would you like to play a character in the library's living history walk on June 18th? Do you like dressing in period costumes? There are scripted roles for historical characters important in building our library and community over the last century. Call the library, 249-3572 .

Calling all poets:

Enter the contest for town poet laureate by penning a poem in any style about Royalston and submitting entries to the library or chasegos@gis.net by April 22. The winner gets an actual laurel crown and reads at the library's 100th anniversary celebration. (Why not try? Where else but Royalston are you going to be crowned poet laureate, a title that could add punch to any ego, resume or obituary?)

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
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Submission deadline for May issue is: April 22

Please Contact Us

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net
Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386
Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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