

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2012



Volume XV, Issue I

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

## Calendar of Events

February 2 Thursday **Groundhog's Day**

3:45 p.m. **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome to discuss library support, the newsletter and upcoming events.

7 p.m. **250th Celebration Committee** meets at Town Hall. Come, get involved.

February 3 Friday

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Royalston F&G Ice Fishing Derby**

7 p.m. **Open Mic** at the Town Hall. Houseband is RoadKill Orchestra. Other performers, call Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arrive by 6:30 p.m. Free admission, delicious hot food, and desserts on sale, thanks to the Royalston Cultural Council.

February 4 Saturday

10 am **Village School open house**

February 6 Monday

6 - 7 pm **Zumba** at Town Hall. All ages and abilities welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Free but donations welcome. Continues every Monday.

February 7 Tuesday

4:54 p.m. **Full Snow Moon**

**6-7 pm Tai chi** at Town Hall. Continues every Tuesday. Drop ins welcome.

February 13 Monday

10:00 am **Pre-school Movement Program** with Jenny Nano, "Shake Off the Winter Blues" at town hall, free open to all preschoolers and their caregivers. Part of the weekly pre-school storytime programs run by the library.

4:30 - 5:45 pm **Reading Discussion Group** at the library. Delve into *Unbroken*, a biography of Louis Zamperini, his childhood, participation in the Berlin Olympics and WWII service, in which he barely survives adrift in a life raft and then, endures a Japanese prisoner of war camp. All welcome. Visit the library to pick up a copy of the book.

5 p.m. **Deadline for candidates for office in the Annual Town Election to submit nomination papers** or sign the blanket nomination papers at town clerk's office, Whitney Hall.



February 14 Tuesday **Valentine's Day**  
2 - 4 p.m. **Last chance to register to be eligible to vote in the March 6 Presidential Primary.**

February 16 Thursday

3:30 p.m. **Visit China with Yi Chi at the cross culture club** at the Phineas Newton Library. Yi Chi, a student at Athol High School, tells about his homeland. Slides, snacks and fun. Free. Students can take the bus from RCS with a signed note.

February 17 Friday **Random Acts of Kindness Day**

February 19 Sunday

1 p.m. **Royalston F&G One Day Pitch Tournament**

February 20 Monday **Presidents' Day**

Post Office, Library, Town Offices closed. Zumba, however, is still happening at 6 pm at town hall.

February 21 Tuesday **Shrove Tuesday – Mardi Gras**

5:35 p.m. **New Worm Moon**

February 22 Wednesday

1:30 p.m. **Live animal presentation** by Earth Limited at Town Hall. See and learn about tortoises, lizards, snakes, an alligator, a large parrot, a binturong, a kangaroo, a bush baby, an African porcupine, a chinchilla, a ferret, and a hedgehog. Free. Funded by the Cultural Council.

February 25 Saturday

2 - 7 pm **Souper Bowl family event.** Come ice skate, play cards and Wii games and enjoy bottomless bowls of home-made soups, chowders and chilis at the Royalston Fish and Game Club - \$12 adults/ \$6 children benefits the Royalston 250th Anniversary Committee. For information or to support the effort by donating a pot of soup, call Kayla at 978-895-1070.

7 p.m. **Harmonic ACapella Concert** by Weave followed by a harmonic singing workshop at town hall. Refreshments. Free, with donations accepted. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

February 26 Sunday

8 - 11 a.m. **Royalston Fire and EMS Association Breakfast** at Winchendon Rod and Gun Club. Tickets \$7 for adults and \$4 for under 12

February 29 Wednesday **Leap Day**

7:30 pm **Ladies Benevolent Society meeting**, at Town Hall, hosted by Andrea Lively, Deb Nunes, Nanji Davison. Program to be announced. All members of the community are invited. Contact President Laurie Deveneau for information about the LBS, 249-5807

March 1 Thursday

3:30 **Cross Culture Club** at the library visits Puerto Rico

## Selectboard Notes

*Christine Long, Member*

### ***Post on your refrigerator:***

**If you experience a power outage, immediately call the National Grid hotline, 1-800-465-1212. If you have trouble with your phone service, immediately call Verizon customer service, 1-978-555-1611. If you can't call from home, use a cell phone or contact the companies from another location.**

Both companies report that calls help them pinpoint problems and speed up the restoration of service. If only scattered customers call, analysis is much more difficult. After the outage of both services in town this fall, the Select Board received numerous calls themselves, and chairwoman Linda Alger wrote to both companies, with copies going to Royalston's representatives in Boston and Washington. That letter led to the information above.

**Other news:** The Select Board continues to meet with employees and town boards on the budget for Fiscal Year 2013. Dates about the opening and closing of the warrant for annual town meeting will be announced soon.

The Board would also like to remind users of town hall to leave it as you find it: with the windows closed, the heat turned down, the chairs and tables returned to their usual places, and the lights turned off. A final check by the lead person would be helpful. During some recent use, a restroom sink was damaged. Money spent on this kind of repair is not available for other purposes.

## **Royalston's 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee**

Don't miss the **Souper Bowl family event**. Ice skate, play cards and Wii games and enjoy bottomless bowls of homemade soups, chowders and chilis at the Royalston Figh and Game Club on Rt 68 in South Royalston. \$12 adults/ \$6 children benefits the Royalston 250th Anniversary Committee. For information or to support the effort by donating a pot of soup, call Kayla at 978-895-1070, Royalston t-shirts will be for sale.

The committee has also put together a raffle basket which includes these products and more: a cord of wood, maple syrup, \$50 gift card from Market Basket, Edible Arrangements certificate and Avon products. Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Call Geoff Newton 978-249-3726 for more information.

## Royalston Cemetery Commission



## **Which Gate Should be Used as a Model ? Public Input Sought**

The Royalston Cemetery Commission has completed the new fencing around Hillside Cemetery at the head of the South Village, thanks to Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding. They are currently investigating repairs of the fencing around Riverside Cemetery, specifically the gateway. The Commission would like opinions from the public about which entryway should be rebuilt – the original one with the overhead sign, the last one, which is a less elaborate entryway or with a modern version that matches similar gates at other locations. Their intent is to apply to the CPA for funding to continue their restoration work. Public comment is invited; speak with Commissioners Roy A. Smith, Jr., Wayne R. Newton, or Roland G. Hamel, or leave a message at 978-249-4587.

## Fire Department, Burning Permits

*Chief Keith R. Newton*

The 2012 Open Burning Season is now in effect. The permit process is simple and convenient. The Fire Department meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Monday of every month 7:00 P.M. at Station # 1. Fire Deputy James M. Putney will be available to issue permits to those that apply in person on one of these dates and times. Please know that open burning is a privilege and should not be taken lightly.

On the day you're intending to burn, call the recorded telephone line at the Fire Department (978-249-8138) and clearly state your name, location, permit number and call-back number. A daily recording will give the status for burning on that day. The decision to allow burning will be determined by many factors, including air quality, determined by the District Fire Warden from the Commonwealth of Mass. All non-permitted fires are illegal and will be subject to fines.

Thank you in advance for those that make this a safe burning season.

## Town Clerk News

*Melanie A. Mangum, town clerk*  
978-249-0493

*Office hours Mondays, 9 a.m. -1 p.m. and 6p.m. -8:30 p.m.*

### Dog license tags

2012 dog tags are available must be obtained by March 31, 2012. Prices remain the same at \$6.00 per neutered/spayed dog and \$10.00 for an unaltered dog.



### Annual Town election

The following are important deadlines for the town election that will be held April 2.

1. Nomination papers are available at the town clerk's office, Whitney Hall, 5 School Street.
2. Feb 13, by 5 p.m. is the last day for candidates for office in the Annual Town Election to submit nomination papers or sign the blanket nomination papers. There are several positions open on this year's ballot. Call the Town Clerk's office at 978-249-0493 for information, or check out the posting at Town Hall or Whitney Hall.
3. The last day to object or withdraw from the election ballot is Wednesday, February 29, 2012



### Presidential primary voter registration

March 6 is the Presidential Primary - The last day to register to be eligible to vote in the March Presidential Primary is February 15. A special voter registration session will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office on this date.

## Board of Health News

*Phil Leger, chairperson*

Welcome to the New Year. The "open on Fridays" experiment at the transfer station was not very popular except for the Fridays after Thanksgiving and Christmas. Going forward, those will probably be the only Fridays open. In the meantime, the only hours are Saturdays 8am-3pm.

Can't make paper out of brownies, pizza, feminine hygiene products, sandwiches, or ink cartridges. These were some of the items found recently in the paper roll off. (Composting is generally encouraged, but just not in the paper roll off).

Please, please, please watch what is being put in the recycling roll offs. You are not recycling if you put trash or the wrong items in the containers. If it's in your hand, put it in the right can. It's easy. Two separations: 1.) anything paper or cardboard that can tear without styrofoam or other non-paper material. 2.) rinsed and squished bottles, cans, plastic, milk cartons, and juice boxes. Don't break the glass. No light bulbs, ceramics, window glass, or pyrex.

## Royalston Luncheon Club

Warm and brighten the cold, dark days of winter by joining the Royalston Luncheon Club some Wednesday for a hot meal and great company. The meal is served at 11:30, but the doors open earlier for those who wish to visit, play cards or work on their craft projects. Take chances at the First Wednesdays' Chinese Auctions; participate in Second Wednesday health clinics; and pick up Western MA Food Bank "Brown Bag" commodities on fourth Wednesdays. At \$2/senior and \$2.50/senior-to-be, the meals are affordable, too! Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday's meal.

## Representative's Hours

Representative Rich Bastien held office hours January 19 at the Town Hall, along with Brian M. Eno, legislative aide for Representative Denise Andrews, Royalston's rep under redistricting. Bastien is keeping Representative Andrew's office involved in Royalston issues to make the future transition as seamless as possible.

Royalston Selectmen Linda Alger, Jack Morse and Chris Long all stopped in for a visit, along with eight other residents. Topics included CPA funding, Bastien's proposal to repeal the bottle bill, education, and highway signage for area businesses. Bastien also presented information on a "Habitual Offender" bill he is supporting, information on a proposal to make utility companies grant two days' credit for every eight hours customers are without service, and agreed to look into an issue a resident is having with the Department of Development Disabilities.

Mr. Eno participated in the discussions and relayed details to Representative Andrews. Representative Bastien expects to hold another session in Royalston in March. Residents are invited to contact him before that time on Facebook, at [www.RichBastien.com](http://www.RichBastien.com) or at his Gardner Office, 978-630-1776.

# 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](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

## Thank you

### Donations to the Friends

George (Buddy) Dyer  
Jeanne and Donald Stanton  
Christina McGrath  
Shirley Hubbards  
George H. Bodman  
Abraham and Halima Sussman  
Nancy and James Melbourne  
Denise Bolduc

### Donations in Memory of Werner Bundschuh

Jim and Marlys Kelley  
Pierre and Marie Claire Humblet  
Emily, Gavin, and Ruby  
Chuck and Polly Longworth

## Library Events

### Dance and Movement Programs for Kids

*Pre-schoolers:* Monday, February 13, 10:00 Royalston Town Hall Jenny Nano will lead a "Shake Off the Winter Blues" music and movement program, free open to all pre-schoolers and their caregivers.

*Elementary aged kids:* A series of Hip Hop lessons taught by Jenny Nano will begin March 5 and continue for 6 weeks on Mondays after school from 3:30 - 4:30 at the Town Hall.

**Tai Chi with Rebecca Krause-Hardie** continues Tuesdays from 6-7 pm. Everyone is welcome at this free program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more info, contact 978-575-1454.

**Zumba with Kristen Killay** continues on Mondays at 6 pm throughout the winter at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Donations welcome.

## Let's Go To The Zoo :

### February Vacation Live Animal Presentation

Thanks to the Royalston Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library, the Southwick Zoo Zoomobile presented by the folks at Earth Limited will be coming to the Royalston Town Hall on Wednesday, February 22 at 1:30 p.m. Earth Limited will load the Zoomobile with animals which will include **tortoises, lizards, snakes, alligator, large parrot, binturong, kangaroo, bush baby, African porcupine, chinchilla, ferret, and hedgehog and maybe a surprise or two.** The purpose of Earth Limited is to educate people about environmental issues such as animal ecology, endangered species, and threatened habitats. Their education methods include the extensive use of live animal presentations and hands-on activities. This is an incredible opportunity to get close and learn about a large variety of animals.

### Cross Culture Club for Kids (and interested adults)

Interact with the world without leaving Royalston. Cross Culture Club returns to the library on Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30. It's free ; most presentations include a geography lesson, a slide show and a fun activity; international snacks are provided. Students from RCS can take the bus with a permission slip and be picked up at the library. Pre-registration by calling 978-249-3572 is helpful.

February 16 **China** with *Yi Chi*

March 1 **Puerto Rico** with *Melvin Rivera, Javier Burgos, and Marizah Rios.*

March 8 **Nepal/ Bhutan** with *Bishnu and Akash Darjee*

### Harmonic A Capella Concert and Harmonics Workshop by Weave

On Saturday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. the harmonic (throat) singing group, Weave, will present a harmonic vocal concert followed by a harmonics singing workshop at the Royalston Town Hall. In harmonic singing, the performer manipulates the resonances created as air travels from the lungs, past the vocal folds, and out the lips to produce a melody. The singing is improvisatory and ranges over the entire vocal spectrum of human expression and experience. Weave draws from the musical traditions that have arisen from the global rhythms of work, travel, and ceremony. It explores communication and the plurality of human experience.

Weave has sung together for 15 years and its members are quite illustrious. One member is Royalston's esteemed Tax Collector, Rebecca Krause-Hardie, a world class musician and vocalist. She is a graduate of Juilliard and in 1982 joined David Hykes' world renowned group, The Harmonic Choir, and sang on three recordings, including the landmark CD, *Hearing Solar Winds*. Another member of the group, Timothy Hill, has been annointed by the *New York Times* as "a virtuoso of the Tibetan chanting technique". Mr. Hill has recorded many times and given workshops on throat singing around the world.

Those wishing to remain after the concert can partake in a harmonics workshop and try to produce sounds like they have never created before.

Bring the family to enjoy this extraordinarily unique concert and take your vocal cords to new horizons. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

## Book Discussion Group

The new Book Discussion Group met in January to discuss the Suzanne Collin's *Hunger Games*. Participants drew interesting thoughts about dystopias, hero journeys, the ways youth manage power, love triangles, popular culture, and Roman gladiator imagery from this young adult novel. The selection for February is Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken*, the true story of , Louis Zamperini, who not only competed in the Berlin Olympics, but later barely survived WWII undergoing a grueling ordeal adrift on a life raft, followed by internment in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. A reading group set of books will be ordered through interlibrary loan. The meeting to discuss this book will be at the library on Monday, February 13 from 4:30 - 5:45. Thereafter, meetings will generally be held on 3rd Mondays at 4:30. All are welcome in the group. Call the library for more information.

### Fiction

Barr, Nevada *The Rope*  
 Barry, Dave *Lunatics*  
 Benaron, Naomi *Running the Rift*  
 Boggs, Johnny *Legacy of a Lawman*  
 Bretton, Barbara *Spells & Stitches*  
 Clancy, Tom *Locked On*  
 Connelly, Michael *The Drop*  
 Cornwell, Bernard *Death of Kings*  
 Cotterill, Colin *Slash and Burn*  
 Crichton, Michael *Micro*  
 Evanovich, Janet *Explosive Eighteen*  
 Evanovich, Janet *Love in a Nutshell*  
 Gabaldon, Diana *The Scottish Prisoner*  
 George, Elizabeth *Believing the Lie*  
 Hall, James *Dead Last*  
 Hambly, Barbara *Ran Away*  
 Higgins, Jack *A Devil is Waiting*  
 Hoag, Tami *Down the Darkest Road*  
 Hunter, Stephen *Soft Target*  
 James, P.D. *Death Comes to Pemberley*  
 King, Jonathan *Midnight Guardians*  
 Koontz, Dean *77 Shadow Street*  
 Krentz, Jayne Ann *Copper Beach*  
 Lescroart, John *The Hunter*  
 Morris, Stephen *Stripah Love*  
 Morris, Stephen *Beyond Yonder*  
 O'Nan, Stewart *The Odds*  
 Parker, T. Jefferson *The Jaguar*  
 Purdy, Brandy *The Tudor Throne*  
 Rees, Matt *Mozart's Last Aria*  
 Smith, Brad *Red Means Run*  
 Smith, Tom Rob *Agent 6*  
 Willig, Lauren *Ivy & Intrigue:*  
*A Very Selwick Christmas*  
 Woods, Stuart *D.C. Dead*

### Non-Fiction

*Firefly's Step-by-step Encyclopedia of Needlecraft*  
 Coppard, Kit *Africa's Animal Kingdom*  
 Davidson, Alan *The Oxford Companion to Food*  
 Dirr, Michael *Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs*  
 Drummond, Ree *The Pioneer Woman Cooks*  
 Harrison, Guy *50 Popular Beliefs that People Think are True*  
 Hodes, Martha *The Sea Captain's Wife*  
 Hopgood, Mei-Ling *How Eskimos keep their Babies Warm*  
 Isaacson, Walter *Steve Jobs*

*New Materials*  
*February 2012*

### Young Adult Fiction

Bock, Caroline *Lie*  
 Green, John *The Fault in our Stars*  
 Handler, Daniel *Why we Broke Up*  
 Hocking, Amanda *Switched*  
 Patterson, James *The Fire*  
 Patterson, James *Maximum Ride*  
 Reichs, Kathy *Seizure*

### Children's Fiction

Hopkinson, Deborah *A Boy Called Dickens*  
 Morpurgo, Michael *War Horse*  
 Osborne, Mary Pope *Abe Lincoln at Last!*  
 Tullet, Herve *The Book with a Hole*

### Children's Non-Fiction

Bausum, Ann *Our Country's Presidents*  
 Butler, Dori *My Mom's Having a Baby*  
 Harris, Robie *It's Perfectly Normal*  
 Kerley, Barbara *Those Rebels, John and Tom*

### Children's Audiobooks

Patron,

**Audiobooks** Follett, Ken *The Pillars of the Earth*

**Music** Pink Floyd *Dark Side of the Moon*

**DVDs** *Beginners, Brighton Rock, Cave of Forgotten Dreams, Contagion, Cowboys and Aliens, Dolphin Tale, Fright Night, The First Grader, Friends with Benefits, Glee the Concert Movie, The Green, The Guard, The Hangover Part II, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2, The Help, I Don't Know How She does It, Judy Moody and the not Bummer Summer, The Kennedy's, Killer Elite, Kung Fu Panda 2, The Law, La loi, Midnight in Paris, Monkeyball, Mr. Popper's Penguins, One Day, Our Idiot Brother, The Pillars of the Earth, Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Rizzoli & Isles, Sarah's Key, Seven Days in Utopia, The Smurfs, Spy Kids 4, Super 8, The Tempest, Vietnam in HD, Warrior, Wendy and Lucy, and Whitechapel*

## Royalston Review of Books

*Pigs Make Me Sneeze* by Mo Willems, reviewed by Rachel Killay. My favorite book. The part I like about it is when the elephant says I want AAA then pig sas yes? AAA!!A. What Aaaaaa!! A ball? A swim? A bath. I suggest you read this book.

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever* by Jeff Kinney, reviewed by Molly Divoll. The book was about how Greg gets stuck inside with his family for Christmas and they think they lose power but then they find out that Manny, Greg's little brother, turned off the power in every room in the house except his room. I think it is a great book and all kids from 7 to 13 should read it.

*Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness* by Alexander Fuller, reviewed by Nancy Ferron. I had to write a note about this very interesting true story about the author's eccentric, somewhat crazy mother's life in Africa. The family, country, history, and politics of early 20th Century Africa, all combine in a dramatic, tragic, funny, and compelling story.



## Sawicki's Polenta Pizza in a Cast Iron Skillet

*Bert and Paula live at the top of Frye Hill with their charming bairn, Rhea and Stashu. Paula is the new substitute librarian at the Phinehas Newton Library; she likes the job, especially during pre-school playgroup. Bert and Paula are careful about what they eat and report, "This is an easy dinner that the family loves and is pretty quick for homemade pizza...no waiting for the dough to rise!"*



### Ingredients

1/4 t salt  
Olive oil  
3/4 cups Polenta  
3 Cups water or chicken stock  
1 Cup Pizza sauce  
2 Cups shredded Mozzarella  
Grated Parmesan as much as you like..I like a lot.  
Additional Toppings - I like to add:  
Thinly sliced red onions  
Pepperoni  
Whatever is in the fridge

Preheat oven to 400°F.

1. Heat a 12 inch cast iron skillet in oven, when hot pour in a tablespoon of olive oil to coat pan.
2. While pan is heating, bring water or stock to a boil, add salt and add polenta in a steady, but slow stream while whisking to prevent lumps. Cook 5-10 minutes until thick.
3. Pour polenta into skillet and spread evenly, bake 25-30 minutes, or until beginning to brown on sides.
4. Remove skillet from oven and spread sauce then add cheese. Add whatever toppings you like.
5. Return to oven, and bake another 20-30 minutes more, or until cheese is melted and bubbly and the edges are crisp. Cool 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

## Random Act of Kindness Day

*Mary C. Barclay*

Each year, February 17 is designated as Random Acts of Kindness Day and provides an opportunity for each of us – even kids – to make life better for everyone. The acts needn't be big and flashy or expensive, just nice and unexpected. Ideas? Make sure your elderly neighbor's walkway is well-shoveled and sanded; drop by your kids' school with a plate of goodies for the teachers' room; send a note to an underappreciated public servant. The do-er and recipient of random acts of kindness BOTH benefit, and the ripple effect can last for days.

## T.O.P.S.

Several Royalston residents are casting smaller shadows these days, thanks to The Royalston TOPS Chapter (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) group, which meets Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the parlor at the Second Congregational Church. It's more about refashioning habits than it is dieting. Great way to start the new year.

Contact Joyce at 978-249-8966 or Luann at 978-249-8746 for more details.

## Pass the Winter with Local Live Music: Royalston's Open Mic Series - Friday, February 3

January was a rockin open mic with "Nexus" as house band. This 6 piece band from the North Quabbin had the all ages crowd dancing until closing. Excellent sets from "Big Mike and the Wiseguys", the "Side Street band", and "Linq" w/ special guest, "Udu Girl".

The Royalston Cultural Council's award winning Open Mic series continues the first Friday of the month through April from 7-10pm. February's house band will be local favorite "RoadKill Orchestra". Come early and stay late. The homemade lasagna sold out in the first hour in January. Munchies and sodas and hot drinks available for sale.

Open Mic is free, but donations are cheerfully accepted. The town hall sound system has been purchased over the years from sales and donations from the open mic and summer music fest among other events.

You can stay home and stoke that cabin fever or come to open mic and dance or listen it away.



## Warwick Blues Night – Saturday, February 11

Feeling the winter doldrums? Cabin fever? Wishing something exciting would happen? Go West, Royalstonians.

Head to Warwick's Town Hall for its annual Blues Night featuring great homemade pizza, live music and non-stop dancing.

At 7:00 Ottomatic Slim will take the stage. This band of veteran performers "stirs up the blues with a splash of R&B and a twist of rock". The band takes pride in always providing a top-notch show of high-energy, cutting edge, electric-blues. For years frontman / harp player Otto Lenz has been lighting up the Northeast and Canadian blues scene with explosive performances and receiving rave reviews. On lead guitar: Mike Patterson. Rhythm section: Matt McManoman on bass and Rich Blake on drums. Check out the band at <http://www.ottomaticslim.net>

The doors open at 6:00 pm with a world-class pizza dinner provided by the Trinitarian Congregational Church. Choose from an amazing variety of pizza at \$3/slice. Proceeds benefit the Church Mission Committee.

Concert suggested donation: Adults \$5, Children \$Free. Proceeds support future Wooden Fender events. (Wooden Fender is a project of the Warwick Arts Council – Matt Hickler, Jim McRae, and Alan Morgan.)

Upcoming events in the Wooden Fender Winter Concert Series:  
March 17: Singer/songwriter Richard Chase and Saint Patrick's Day Dinner by the Trinitarian Congregational Church

## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS



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

### MLK Day Community Service

**Loryn Killay and Mark Brighenti Jr.**, 8th graders from Royalston who attend ARMS, recently participated in Project 351, a day of service bringing youth ambassadors from throughout Massachusetts to Boston to continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Both students met and shook hands with Gov. Deval Patrick and then fanned out to volunteer. Loryn worked at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. towers, a senior apartment complex, making and distributing blankets. Mark sorted, cleaned and refurbished donated toys at Cradles to Crayons, an organization which provides toys to children. Both report that they would like to continue to help others.



### Nunc Diam

“Tutti i migliori auguri per un meraviglioso semestre” to Alexandra Krasowski, who is studying modern and classical languages in Rome for the next few months. Diligenter in schola. Usus multi aedificationem. Scientate multi. Ut fons in choro. Vestibulum egestas volutpat adducite.

### Milestones

**Melbournes welcome daughter:** Jameson and Jennifer Melbourne have announced the birth of their daughter, Nomidai Ainsley Dianne on October 4, 2011 at 1:51 a.m. Nomidai weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces and measured 20.5 inches in length at birth. The baby’s paternal grandparents are James and Nancy Melbourne of Royalston. Jean and Joe Callahan and Paul and Mary-Ann Brown are her maternal grandparents. Great-grandparents are William and Phyllis Clark.

**Arlene Dunham has a new great-granddaughter, Lillian Arlene.** She was born January 4, 2012 and weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces. Parents are Jamie Tenney and David Berry of Orange.

**Condolences to Paul Montero**, whose mother recently died, and to **Kristen West**, whose father passed away in January.

### Linq featured

Royalston-based singer-songwriter **Linq** is one of the artists featured on the cover of the 2012 (13th edition) of the IndieBible. (www.IndieBible.com) The IndieBible is the all-in-one source for independent recording artists. Kudos also go to Lisa Hoag at www.LisaHoagDesigns.com for capturing that great image of Linq on camera. Lisa is the daughter of Royalston resident Mary Hoag.



Bruce’s Browser in Athol, owned by Royalston resident Diane Lincoln, is celebrating its 7th Anniversary on Saturday, February 4th, with storewide discounts, raffles, food, authors, WJDF, and a song swap by alter ego Linq and Boston singer/songwriter Digney Fignus. More information is available at www.Bruces-Browser.com

**Academic Honor Rolls:** *At presstime, the 2nd quarter in local public schools is just ending, and its academic honor rolls are necessarily still being compiled. Here is a listing of 1st quarter honor rolls, the complete listing of which also fell between deadlines.*

**Royalston Community School:** High Honors - straight As: **Erika Gambill, Jocelyn Trenga, Hannah Bartkus, James Laford, Owen MacPhee, Amber Mahony and Isabelle O’Connor**

Honors : **Jamieson Francis, Shelby Ponusky, Tayiah Neale, Molly Divoll, Haylie Baker, Justin Blake, Alyssa Cassarino, Kayla Gerry, Lindsay Leadbetter, Kyla Rathburn, Kristopher Selanis, Destiny Wrigley, Bradley Ayers and Jack Normandin**

**Monty Tech:** Eleven of 21 Royalston students earned places on Monty Tech’s First Quarter Honor Roll. Congrats go to members of the class of 2012 **Amanda Putney** (special honors); **Ian Duffin** (high honors); and **Amy Putney** (honors). Members of the class of 2013 earning special honors were **Michael Persson** (high honors); **Syndi Ayers, Meredith Carrier, and Joshua Roberts** (honors). From the class of 2014: **Gabriel Jarvenpaa** and **Lainey Wright** (high honors); **Emma LeGrand** and **Ian Duffin** (honors); and from the class of 2015, **Emily Mangum** (honors).

## R.C.S. News

*Bella O'Connor*

After a welcome Christmas break, the students and teachers of RCS have gotten back into the school routine. February is a busy month. The student council has planned a spirit day, where students are asked to "dress like someone you admire". Check with your child for the date. Also the annual coin wars will be going on throughout February. The PTG have set up the traditional 100th day celebration on February 14th (dependent on snow days). Send your child with shorts, t-shirt and a towel for this day. Following workshops in every classroom, there will be a fabulous concert with drummer Tony Vacca on February 10th @ 6pm featuring all RCS students. This percussive party is sponsored by the Royalston Academy. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mr Webster, our gym teacher, has started his yearly basketball program after school and on Thursdays, sweaty kids come out of the gym exhausted and parched. The other after school clubs will be winding down this month and a special night is planned for all participants to share their experiences. Thanks to everyone who made these popular activities possible. The next PTG meeting will be on the 7th. That's all the news for this month, and to learn more about it, either call or stop by the school. Thanks!

**New RCS web-site:** The RCS calendar and other RCS updates are now available on-line at the new school web-site. Go to [www.rrsd.org](http://www.rrsd.org) and click on "schools"; then, select Royalston Community School under the drop down menu.

## Monty Tech News

*Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay – mbarclay@juno.com*  
– 978-249-2598

Several years of class gift money has been designated to replace the sign in front of Monty Tech, and it looks like that will happen this year. Class money and a generous donation from the Monty Tech Foundation will fund the \$40,000 project. It will include a masonry pad and surround built by the masonry students, all electrical needs taken care of by electrical students and a full color, illuminated ID cabinet and a full color, LED message cabinet.

The Monty Tech Drama Club is currently preparing *Godspell* as this year's production. To defray costs of the production, advertisers are being sought for their playbill. Sponsor opportunities are from \$5 for a name listing to \$35 for a full page ad. Royalston residents and former Royalston alumni interested in contributing to a full-page ad with well-wishes from Royalston should contact Mary C. Barclay at [mbarclay@juno.com](mailto:mbarclay@juno.com) or 978-245-2598. Those who wish to advertise on their own should contact John Bozicas at [bozicas\\_john@montytech.net](mailto:bozicas_john@montytech.net) or 978-345-9200 x 4242. The deadline is February 6, 2012; performance dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 2, 3, and 4 (matinee).

The results of Monty Tech's 17th Annual Golf Tournament are in – approximately \$14,000 profit will be added to the Monty Foundation's endowment, which provides approximately \$21,000 in grants and scholarships to Monty Tech students.

## Conversation Poems from the R.C.S. Poetry Club

Squeak, squeak who is knocking on my sealskin door?  
It's me, dorsal fin, let's hunt seals on the icy floor.

*by Anthony Divoll*

Horse: Nay, Nay. I'm very tired, who is knocking on my hay door?  
Pony: It's me, it's me, let's go New Year shopping at the store!  
Horse: Okay, ok here's my list: Saddles, carrots and more, more, more. What's yours?

Pony: Okay, that's enough, please, no more. I don't have a list not even a floor.

*by Hannah York*



## At the Village School - Open House on Feb. 4

The Village School is hosting an Open House on Saturday February 4th from 10 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in the school for your children, come right at 10, so you can visit all the classrooms, meet all the teachers, visit with current parents and meet alumni. Bring your children - there are activities in all the classrooms for children, so your children will have lots to do. Find out about openings for next year, how to apply, and about financial aid. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served.

The Village School is an affordable independent school serving children from Preschool through 6th grade, located on Royalston Common, just across from the Post Office. For more information, call (978) 249-3505, or go to [www.villageschoolma.org](http://www.villageschoolma.org). In addition to hands on, in-depth academic studies, the school focuses on kindness and attention to the individual.

Director Rise Richardson says, "Love of learning, instilled at the Village School at a very young age, flourishes as students engage in strong academic studies that are enhanced and supported by art, music, movement and a dynamic contact with nature. We are a hands-on school; with project-based learning that works with all learning styles. Academics are rigorous and challenging. Each class is immersed in a central theme study (for example, Ancient Greece) for the year, integrated into all of the academics. Village School students are inquisitive, self-directed learners, who actively engage in the world around them. The education here is a 'value added' education; children learn Spanish, learn to play recorder, go swimming, work with scientists and artists - what would be after school lessons in other schools - is incorporated in the daily curriculum, without compromising academic learning. In fact, it enhances academic learning."

If you are considering sending your child to the Village School K-6th, you don't want to miss this!

## Royalston Scholarships Available

### Royalston Academy

**The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of up to \$1000 is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. This scholarship is sponsored by the Royalston Academy in memory of the academy's founder, Katherine Cole. Contact your local Guidance Office or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2012.

**The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship** is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs. Contact your local Guidance Office or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2012.

**South Royalston School Reunion Committee** offers a higher education scholarship to those who ever attended Royalston Schools. Contact your local Guidance Office or Virginia Moore, 17 Main Street, Royalston Ma 01368. Applications are due March 19, 2012

**Royalston Community School PTO Scholarship** offers a scholarship to those who ever attended Royalston elementary schools. Contact your local Guidance Office. Deadline is April 13, 2012.

**Ladies' Benevolent Society Scholarships** are awarded to residents pursuing higher education. Applications are at the Athol High School guidance office and the Phinehas Newton Library on Royalston Common. Submit to Theresa Quinn, box 108, Royalston 01368. Deadline: April 1, 2012.

### Royalston F&G

The Royalston F&G has begun their legendary, monthly roast beef suppers. A \$12 tickets buys a sumptuous meal that begins with tossed salad and Italian bread with real butter, perfectly cooked roast beef with delicious brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, coffee and an ice cream to top things off. Many choose to stay after the meal to play BLITZ – just a quarter a board. Tickets are available at the Club, 978-249-3004 or from Marie at 978-249-2836.



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.

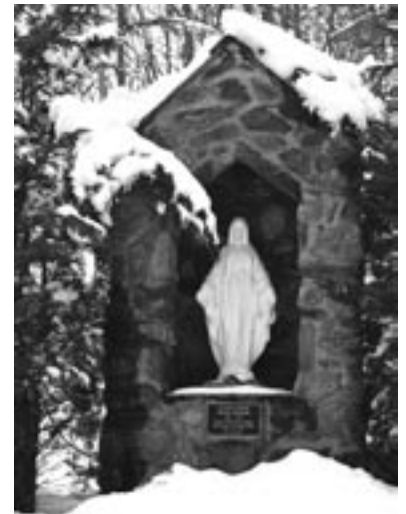
### Ladies' B.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society is organizing for this, its 188th year of continuous service. Officers for the ensuing year are President Laurie M. Deveneau; Vice President Kristen A. West; Secretary Patricia Worth; and Treasurer Maureen G. Blasco. Andrea Lively will serve as Devotions Leader; Helen E. Feliciano has been joined by Theresa Quinn and the pair will serve as the Remembrance Secretaries. The Program Committee of Deb Nunes, Andrea Lively is joined by Nanji Davison. Continuing as Scholarship Committee members are Elizabeth Gospodarek and Theresa A. Quinn, joined by Mrs. Melbourne, who takes the seat left empty when long-time member Nancy S. Bolton died this past September. The program guide is expected to be available shortly after February's business meeting. Contact President Deveneau at [lmdeveneau@msn.com](mailto:lmdeveneau@msn.com) or 978-249-5807, or Secretary Worth at [greenfyre1@gmail.com](mailto:greenfyre1@gmail.com) or 978-249-2722 for more information.

Contact LBS President Laurie M. Deveneau at [lmdeveneau@msn.com](mailto:lmdeveneau@msn.com) or 978-249-580, or Secretary Patricia Worth at [greengyre1@gmail.com](mailto:greenfyre1@gmail.com) or 978-249-2722 for more information.

### Our Lady, Queen of Heaven

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel holds Sunday mass at 7 a.m., said by Father Richard Jakubauskas and Krzysztof Korcz, with a social hour to follow. The North Quabbin Catholic Community (NQCC), which consists of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Francis of Assisi both in Athol, St. Peter's in Petersham and OLQH Chapel in Royalston, offers Baptisms the first Sunday of each month, Pre-cana for couples marrying in the Catholic Church, and visitation of the ill and home-bound by Eucharistic Ministers and Parish staff. Adults interested in the Catholic faith or seeking full admission into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are invited to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).



Father Korcz and Father Thomas Borkowski are organizing a pilgrimage to Poland for September, 2012. For details on the trip or additional information about Our Lady Queen of Heaven, contact the Rectory at [ourladyrectory@hotmail.com](mailto:ourladyrectory@hotmail.com) or 978-249-2738.

## Classifieds

### Services Available

**Little Farmers Child Care**, located next to RCS now has full and part time openings! It also has before and after school child care. Hours are 6am-5pm Call Joni @ 978-575-1083

**Graphic digital artist for hire.** Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, invitations, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Call Barbara at 508.364.3339 or email [brguiney@wildblue.net](mailto:brguiney@wildblue.net).

**Birch Hill Computers:** Sales, Repairs and Parts  
978-790-7876, [birchhillcomputers.com](http://birchhillcomputers.com).

**House cleaning in your home.** 4 hr - \$60.00. Experienced with references. Royalston resident. Home - 978-249-4596 or cell - 895-0817, ask for Fran.

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

Albert Peter Sawicki, **Insurance Agent**, 19 Frye Hill Rd. Royalston.  
tel. 508.820.8301 ext 272 cell 978.396.0039 [www.bankers.com](http://www.bankers.com)

**Free:** Free: Dark pine trestle table (60" x 36") with 4 chairs and bench.  
978-249-4038.

### For sale

**Free-Range, pasture raised pork.** All natural, raised in Royalston. \$2.00/pound; hanging weight, plus processing fees. Whole pig or half. Range 140 to 200 pounds. We ship and arrange processing for you. Come see and pick one out. Call Chet Hall IV 978-249-2183



**Grass-fed Beef:** All cuts available. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.

**Squier Davis Farm honey;** \$6.00 /1 lb.; Deb & Joe Nunes, 249-4000.

**Nature books and prints suitable** for children and adults. Commissions accepted for portraits and other subjects in a variety of media. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

**Hand knitted baby sweater sets, hats, mittens, socks,** etc. All colors and sizes. Call 978-249-4013.

**Firewood** - Green, cut, split and delivered in Royalston for \$165/185 cubic feet (loose cord). Call Tom Ramsdell at 978-249-2586.

**Firewood-** \$210/\$225 for partially/fully seasoned delivery of 170 cubic feet. Call Jim Putney at 978-249-3379

**Local Maple Syrup** from Richardson's sugarhouse is now available at Pete & Henry's. Of course, it is also available from the Richardsons at 978-249-6283.

**Royalston Maple Syrup**, made at Divoll's Deland Hill Sugar House. Prices \$9/pint; \$15/qt; \$28/half gal.; \$50/gal. Call Randy Divoll at 978-602-5583.

"Where Many Rivers Fall" t-shirts sold to benefit 250th committee. \$15. Buy at Royalston store or call Geoff 249-3726. Make good gifts.

To see a list of local farmers and the produce/ products they sell, look under the community resources heading on the library web-site [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org). this list was carefully compiled by Marie Claire Humblet to compliment last summer's local foods supper.

## Garden Notes

January 22, 2012

Cut me some slack here folks. It is late January, after all, not the most opportune of times to garden in north-central Massachusetts. So I'll write about the weather. It was quite a run. I designate January 14 as the beginning of winter. Before then we were above freezing all but seven days, the first such day occurring on December 11. Our furnace saw little more activity than the road crews' plows. The October storm was a blip; there was more rain (8 inches) than snow (2 inches) in November and December. I know, winter may have settled in; on the other hand, it may well be half over.

I did, in fact, take advantage of the conditions, still turning, enriching, and covering beds in December. The garden continued to yield crops: leeks (since pulled), parsnips, scallions, and spinach (since covered). Pesto is a sauce made by pureeing basil, olive oil, garlic, and a few nuts. Basil, of course, was a distant memory but I created a December pesto, substituting a combination of parsley, cilantro, and chervil for the basil. I finally managed some fencing around the kale. Makeshift though it be, it has successfully kept the deer at bay. Even now, kale is available for picking, the garden's final fresh crop.

And then it was January, the ground still open, the temperatures still moderate. I cut back the raspberry canes, heretofore an early spring undertaking. Well, it felt like early spring and there was no snow to suggest otherwise. And I moved on to fruit tree pruning, another of those early spring undertakings (if I get around to undertaking it). Pruning can be frustrating, a branch is cut and a half-dozen (or more) suckers begin to grow, all of which require pruning the following year. Pruning begets more pruning, not my idea of a good time, especially when I am astride a branch twenty or so feet above the ground.

The balmy weather has provided fringe benefits. I am cutting firewood at a greater rate than I am burning it. The steers remained on pasture, not fed hay in earnest until a week ago. This normally occurs in early November. And I was raking leaves in January. Raking leaves. In January.

February is gardening at its least. Outdoor activity will be limited to hauling in some kale leaves (if we are lucky). Not too much more will be accomplished indoors. There are house plants but I have not been giving them much attention. Some of the Christmas cacti bloomed, you guessed it, at Christmas. A couple of others are only now in bud, clearly a case of arrested development. The orchid cactus is filled with buds, a spectacular display in the making. Two amaryllis bulbs have been set out. An amaryllis flower in late winter can be an awesome sight. The lemon tree is adorned with sixteen lemons, two of which are ready for consumption. Three of the five rosemary plants remain alive. Rosemary is notorious for failing to survive the winter indoors.

The principal 'gardening' activity will be the consumption of the food stuffs. The root cellar is clamoring for attention. I have not yet given it. The bushels of carrots, beets, celeriac, rutabaga, radishes, onions, potatoes, leeks, cabbages, and, especially, apples, must be sorted in the time-honored tradition: the best remaining in the root cellar, the less-than-best brought up and prepared, the least-than-best fed out to the steers. This is an ongoing undertaking.

Otherwise, I will be living the life of leisure, temporary though that may be. I like to think I've earned it.

Larry Siegel



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## Wildlife Sightings

A very healthy brown field mouse in Phil Leger's pick up truck engine compartment ate through the air filter causing the truck to break down and be towed. New air filter installed. It ate through that one too. Last seen heading into fender. Mouse 2, Phil 0. To be continued!



Sixteen-year-old Garrett Hall harvested this mammoth 440-pound black bear during the November 2011 Massachusetts bear season while hunting on his family farm on Beryl Hill. Garrett's brother Chet raises organic pigs and the bear was frequently seen on the farm eating from the three acres of corn planted as pig feed. Garrett

obtained a special bear permit, and shot the bear with a black powder primitive firearm as it was headed toward the corn fields. It was a 70-yard, broadside shot, clean through the shoulder to the lungs. Garrett's father, Chet, said it took four men to lift the bear into his pickup truck. The bear was checked in and weighed at the Fish & Game station in Belchertown where it was learned only one larger bear was ever shot in the state, weighing 468 pounds. A tractor was used to lift it onto the scales. The Halls said the bear supplied the family with more than 200 pounds of sausage and steaks. A full mount is planned for the bear.

The Royalston Community Newsletter  
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Royalston MA 01368

Royalston Resident  
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Royalston MA 01368

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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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