

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2012



Volume XV, Issue III

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

Calendar of Events

April 1 Sunday **April Fool's Day**

April 2 Monday
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Annual Town Election**
3 pm - sellout **LBS bake sale at the polls**; goodies run the gamut from quick cookies to complete suppers. Profits benefit local scholarships and other good local deeds.

April 5 Thursday
3:45 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting** - plan upcoming events, this newsletter and library support. All welcome.

April 6 Friday **Good Friday**
3:19 p.m. Full Pink Moon

April 7 Saturday **First Day of Passover**
10 a.m. sharp **Town Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting**. Rain or shine. Meet at Town Hall. Dress appropriately for weather conditions. Bring bag or basket with name tag. For information or to volunteer to help, call Rene' at 978-249-4639.

April 8 Sunday **Easter**

April 13 Friday
7 - 10 p.m. Last chance until the autumn to enjoy Royalston **Open Mic**. The house band will be Side Street Blues Band. Refreshments and light suppers for sale. Sponsored by the cultural council.

April 14 Saturday
River Rat Parade and Canoe Race in Athol

April 15 Sunday **Orthodox Easter**

April 16 Monday
Patriot's Day observed - Post office, library, town offices, and schools closed.

April 17 Tuesday
State and Federal Income Taxes must be postmarked by midnight to be on time.

April Fool: *This old, hand-inked sign was found around the stage at town hall. Does anyone know (or want to make up) its history? Share the tale with newsletter readers.*



April 20 Friday
6:30 **Royalston Historical Society and Pot Luck Supper** will be held on Friday April 20th at 6:30. Bring a dish and a friend. Guest Speaker will be Keith Newton. Also to be shown will be the roster of Revolutionary War soldiers from Royalston.

7 p.m. **Kilimanjaro - Journey to the Roof of Africa**
A travelogue presented by adventure photographer Peter Christoph at the Phinehas Newton Library. Free. Refreshments served.

April 21 Saturday
3:18 a.m. **New Flower Moon**
7:30 - 10:30 a.m. **Monthly Phillipston Lions' Club Breakfast**
1 p.m. **Royalston F&G One Day Pitch Tournament**
6:30 p.m. **Royalston F&G Roast Beef Supper**

April 22 Sunday **Earth Day**
Pre-dawn hours **Lyrind Meteor Shower**, originating in southern skies during the very dark, one day old Flower Moon sky. The shooting stars, one every five or six minutes or so, should be highly visible.

April 25 Wednesday
7:30 pm **Ladies' Benevolent Society Meeting** at the Home of Pat Worth. Following the business meeting, the program will be "When Women were Drummers". Public invited. Call President Laurie Deveneau for more information 249-5807.

April 26 Thursday
7:30 p.m. **A-REF annual meeting** at 95 Lindsay Lane, Athol featuring a presentation by long-time Community School kindergarten teacher and multi-year enrichment grant recipient, Joann Deacon, retiring at the end of this school year. Come, say thanks to Joann, and find out more about what A-REF does in local schools. Refreshments. Call Beth 978-249-0358.

April 27 Friday **Arbor Day**

April 28 Saturday
7 a.m. **250th Committee's Next Big Breakfast** at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Blueberry, strawberry or chocolate infused pancakes with sausage, coffee and orange juice. Tickets: \$8 adults or \$4 kids. Buy at door or from any board member. Raffles!

9:00 a.m. - noon **Royalston Roadside Clean-up**; rendezvous at Bullock Park. Pick up trash in the morning and enjoy hot dogs, chili and drinks at 12:30. Free recycling and disposal of roadside trash at the transfer station.

Selectboard Notes

by Linda Alger

Crucial Vote on April 2: The Selectboard urges voters to go to the polls on Monday, April 2 and vote YES on the question, to allow debt exclusion to pay for a loan to replace the wastewater treatment plant. The Town has been awarded a federal grant of almost \$400,000 for this work, but needs a low-interest loan to fund the rest of the cost. The 40-year-old plant, which had an original life expectancy of 20 years, has been in desperate need for the last decade. Unless the town acts now, it loses the grant and faces two significant risks – the risk of polluting the Millers River and the risk of incurring fines from the state of \$10,000 per day.

The Selectboard has already applied for an additional grant of \$165,000 for the road repair of Blossom and Park Streets once the plant is installed, and also intends to apply annually for grant funds to help defray the cost of the loan.

Please vote YES on April 2.

Congratulations in Order: The Board wants to congratulate Tax Collector Rebecca Krause-Hardie, the lead author of a successful grant application which brings almost \$300,000 to Royalston and other municipalities in the Community Software Consortium to develop a cloud-based open-source integrated municipal financial management system – high-tech indeed! This is one of 28 projects funded statewide in a \$4 million Community Innovation Challenge program, the focus of which is to incentivize and support innovative ways to help local governments increase cost-efficiency while maintaining service delivery. Well done, Becky!

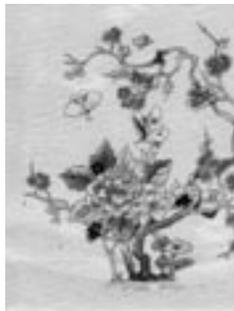
Bridge Information Session:

The state Department of Transportation will hold an information session regarding the replacement of the Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd bridge at town hall on Monday, April 23 at 7 p.m.

Green Community Informational Meeting

Donna Caisse

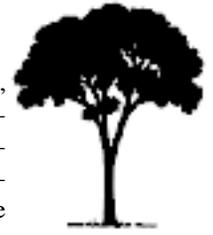
There will be a Green Community informational meeting, on April 3rd at 6:00 pm at the town hall. Jim Barry from the Department of Energy Resources will give a brief presentation and Q & A. This will take place before the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:00 pm, so it won't last very long. The meeting is for the Board of Selectmen, Dept. Heads and town boards; however, any interested town citizen is invited to attend. Thank you.



Tree Hearing

Larry Siegel

In response to a letter from the Select Board, National Grid sent its forester to town to survey the town's roads. As a result of that survey, ninety-six trees were identified as hazards to the utility lines. Forty-five of those trees were dead or on private property; most, if not all, have already been cut. The remaining fifty-one are subject to a tree hearing which will be held on April 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. Trees are identified with an orange ribbon around them as well as a notice of the hearing. Alternatively, a list of all trees is available for inspection at the library or the tree warden may be called at 249-4260 for details.



If your interest is in a particular tree or trees in general or simply a desire to observe your public servants serving you, you are encouraged to attend the hearing.

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.

The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 2. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. - 8p.m. There is one contest on the ballot. It is for the Royalston member of the Athol-Royalston Reg. School Committee. Roberta "Bobbi" Newman will be challenged by Angelica Favreau for a 3-year seat on the school committee. There are also a few positions with no candidates running, and they are: Assessor – 3 years; Board of Public Welfare – 3 years, and two, one-year seats on the J.N. Bartlett Fund.

The following is the list of the remaining positions and candidates on the ballot:

Selectman – 3 years – Linda Alger;
ARRSC (Athol member school committee) - two, 3-year terms – Deborah Kuzmeskas and Joao Baptista;
Board of Health – 3 years – Eugene Kolimaga;
Cemetery Commission – 3 years – Roy Smith, Jr.;
Constable – 3 years – John Chencharik;
Library Trustee – 3 years – Barbara Guiney;
Moderator – 3 years – George Northrop;
Planning Board – 5 years – Kathleen Collins;
Planning Board – 2 years – Joshua Doub;
Sewer Commission – 3 years – Gary Winitzer;
Tree Warden – 3 years – Larry Siegel
Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund – four, 1-year positions – 2 candidates and 2 open positions – Wayne Newton and Roy Smith, Jr. running.

There will also be a question on the ballot, asking voters whether to exempt from Prop. 2 1/2 the amounts needed for a bond for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

Spring is here and folks are cleaning. A reminder that the bulky waste roll off next to the metal is not free. There is a charge for items to go in it. Please see attendant for an assessment. Speaking of metal which is free, please only metal should go into that roll off. We find trash, paint cans with paint in them, and other non metal items. If you are not sure what goes where, please ask the attendants. They are the ones with the yellow vests on.

Checkpoint Charlie's Roadside Clean Up Day is Saturday, April 28th. Please pick a road and gather what the world has deposited since last year. The transfer station will be accepting roadside trash for free at that time. Just inform the attendant when coming in. If you can separate the cans and bottles that aren't too dirty, please recycle them. Metal should go in metal. Tires in tires etc. Charlie will have his famous chili and dogs at Bullock Park afterwards. Thanks to Charlie Scribner for organizing this worthwhile annual event.

Use Caution Burning Brush



In the dry, hot, blustery conditions on March 23rd, a brush fire blew out of control on the Royalston/New Hampshire border on Prospect Hill. Firefighters were called in and the blaze was quelled. Currently, the 2012 Open Burning Season is in effect, but it will be closed down when fire officials deem conditions unsafe, probably in April. Residents intending to burn must obtain a fire permit on the 2nd, 3rd or 4th Monday of the month at the center fire station #1. On the day of burning, call the recorded phone line at the fire department (978-249-8138. State name, location, permit #, and call back #. Listen to the recording for burning status updates for that day.

photo: Benjamin Morris Siegel

2012 Royalston Roadside Cleanup

Date: April 28, 2012

Time: 9:00 to 12:00

Place: Bullock Park

Hot Dogs and Chili and drinks at 12:30

Contact - Charlie Scribner at 978-249-2649

Join the annual event to clean Royalston roadsides:

Dress for weather

Bring Gloves and bright clothing

Join a team to clean a section of Main roads or

Start on own street

2011 Clean-up Wrap-up

Thank You to all the friends and families that made the 2011 Roadside Cleanup a success. The weather was great and there was plenty of hotdogs and chili for the volunteers. Many people gave donations as well as doing the clean up. Royalston roads were cleaner and greener, and with spring in full bloom, we could all enjoy the beauty of our wonderful town. About 30 families and friends worked to clean their neighborhoods and streets. Many truckloads of fast food litter, bottles and cans and

Thanks to the Board of Health for free disposal of trash and the Selectmen for use of Bullock Park. A special thanks to - Dan and Karol Monette for donations, providing the grill and cooking and serving at Checkpoint Charlie. It was nice to enjoy the efforts of our work and to socialize after the cleanup.

The following families helped with the 2011 Royalston Roadside clean up.

Team Blinky – Phil, Paul, Ray, Randy and Jack – Deland Rd., Turpike and Taft Hill Rd.

Dan and Karol Monette – Norcross Rd, and taking pictures at cookout Robin and Allison Mowrey – Highway truck and Warwick Rd.

Pam and Brenda – parts of North Fitzwilliam Rd. and the center .

Scribner family – parts of Brown Rd., N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd. and Dump Rd. Bill Hood – part of Rt 68 and Millyard Rd. .

Herve Bosse, Wayne Bosworth – Laurel Lake Road and part of N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd.

Chase Gospodarek family – parts of N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd and Athol Road

Dave Williams – parts of Jacob's ladder hill and blessing of the hotdogs

Ernie LeBlace – Rt 68 from center to South Royalston

Cindy Savoy – Part of Warwick Rd.

Sandra and Matt Davis – Neale Rd.

Andy West and family – Part of Brown Rd. and Stockwell Rd.

Ken and Andrea Lively – parts of Rt 68 from center down hill

Gordon Morrison and Mark Willhite – part of Rt 68 and North Fitzwilliam Rd.

Shaun Sherman – Woods Rd. and part of Winchendon Rd.

Mary Barclay – Frye Hill Rd., publicity and taking pictures

Maureen Blasco and Kevin Killay – parts of Winchendon Rd. to Norcross Rd.

Mike and Sue Veilleux, Charlie Gamble – part of Norcross Rd.

Linda Alger and friend – School, Richmond, Rt 68, Fernald Rd, River Rd.

George Vaccari – Part of N. Fitzwilliam Rd.

Henkle family – Parts of Athol-Richmond Rd.

Shelly Bates Family – Pleasant St – So Royalston.

Joe Burchess – Rt. 32 and part of Doanes Rd.

Pierre Humblet – Part of Athol Rd.

Mike Young and Pat Worth – Ellsworth Family – N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd

Lillian and Phil Jacobs – Part of Falls Rd.

Jerry and Marie Lajoie – Part of Norcross Rd

Hope to see everyone this year for another Royalston Roadside Cleanup.

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

Thanks to **Clarence Rabideau** for his continued help with several projects.

Thanks for help at Hip Hop: **Jess Benoit, Lori Bergquist-Darling, Connie Gaulzetti, and Danielle Ares**

Thanks to the members of the harmonic singing group **Weave, Rebecca Krause-Hardie, Timothy Hill, Marjorie Johnson, Seth Marbel and Sanjay Cherubala** as well as to the **cultural council** for funding and **Maba Cauthen, Maureen Blasco, and Patti Stanko** for baking goodies for this unique event.

Donations to the Friends Group and to its Newsletter

Christine and Russ Long
Edith and David Felker
John and Michelle Deline
Grace Belmont
Vyto and Patricia Andreliunas
Dawn and Christopher Dawson
Robert Anthony
Teddy Laakkonen and Cathy Offut
Nancy and James Melbourne
Marcia Flanagan
The Duffin family
Geoffrey and Diana Newton
Richard and Rose Lawrence
Patience Bundschuh
Dan and Eileen Farrell
Phil Mickey and Nell Vaughn
Pat Worth and Michael Young
Leslie Williams
Jim and Barbara Richardson
Richard Brown and family
The Demboske family
Rev. Philip and Phebe Jacobs
Jim Taylor
Bill and Lian Cutting

In Memory of Werner Bundschuh

Shirley and David Putney
Brenda and Jeff Hopkins
Nanji Davison and Walt Thornton

Cross culture for adults and interested kids...

Kilimanjaro - Journey to the Roof of Africa

A travelogue presented by adventure photographer Peter Christoph



On Friday, April 20 at 7:00 pm, join Peter as he leads a photographic journey through 5 climate zones from tropical rain forest to arctic conditions in his quest for the summit of 19,340 foot high Mt. Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, and the highest free-standing mountain in the world. Peter provides commentary throughout the entire presentation, and includes behind the scenes photos of how he trained for his adventure. Refreshments served. Sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. For more information, contact the library or visit its website.

Pre-school Musical Story Time

Come sing, move, draw, and show your artistic side with Music Educator Steve Damon as he brings his "A Musical Story Time" to Royalston Town Hall on Monday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in a program funded by the Royalston Cultural Council. This story time has been presented from Pennsylvania to Maine. Now, it's time to bring these tales back to Royalston, where Steve was a music teacher at Raymond, South Royalston, and Royalston Community Schools. He currently teaches music at his own 'A Natural Music School.' No pre-registration is required for this fun program for preschoolers and their caregivers.



Annual Kite Flying Day

Jen Bartkus will be helping children make their kites soar on Thursday, April 19th at 1:30 p.m. at the library. Bring your own kite or use one of the library kites. Enjoy kite cake and write a spring poem at this April vacation tradition started more than a decade ago by Beth Gospodarek and Maureen Blasco.

Ongoing events sponsored by the Friends of the Library:

Beginning Hip Hop Dance Lessons for Elementary Students with Jennie Membrino-Nano Mondays at 3:30 p.m., at the Royalston Town Hall. Interested participants may ride the bus from the Royalston Community School with a note from a parent or caregiver. Snacks are provided.

Tai Chi with Rebecca Krause-Hardie Postponed until May. (The teacher will be taking Firefighter 1 classes until then.)

Zumba continues on Mondays at 6 pm through April at Town Hall. Donations welcome.

Book Discussion Group usually meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30 - 5:45 p.m., but in April, it will meet a week early on the 9th. All welcome.

Art Exhibit
During April, Bill Manser, who has lived on Winchendon Road since 2003, will display his photographs at the library. Bill retired in October from teaching Technology Education in Ashburnham. Before that he taught Engineering Photography at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He has been avidly pursuing photography since retiring through his business, 'First Light Sports Photography.'



New Materials April 2012

Fiction

- Begley, Louis *Schmidt Steps Back*
- Binchy, Maeva *Light a Penny Candle*
- Box, C.J. *Force of Nature*
- Brockman, Suzanne *Born to Darkness*
- Coben, Harlan *Stay Close*
- Cussler, Clive *The Thief*
- De Rosnay, Tatiana *The House I Loved*
- Edugyan, Esi *Half-Blood Blues*
- Gallagher, Stephen *The Bedlam Detective*
- Green, Jane *Another Piece of My Heart*
- Halliday, Gemma *Play Nice*
- Harrison, Kim *A Perfect Blood*
- Harrison, Kathryn *Enchantments*
- Harvey, John *A Darker Shade of Blue*
- Ivey, Eowyn *The Snow Child*
- Kellerman, Jonathan *Victims*
- Kleypas, Lisa *Rainshadow Road*
- Kunzru, Hari *Gods without Men*
- Landay, William *Defending Jacob*
- Pearl, Matthew *The Technologists*
- Perry, Thomas *Poison Flower*
- Persson, Leif *Another Time, Another Life*
- Picoult, Jodi *Lone Wolf*
- Thompson, James *Helsinki White*
- Tucker, Michael *After Annie*
- Weber, David *A Rising Thunder*
- Wingate, Lisa *Blue Moon Bay*

Non-Fiction

- Druckerman, Pamela *Bringing up Bebe*
- Drummond, Ree *The Pioneer Woman Cooks*
- Hyman, Mark *The Blood Sugar Solution*
- Jasanoff, Maya *Liberty's Exiles*
- Kahneman, Daniel *Thinking, Fast and Slow*
- McCormick, Fair Alice *From Farm to Finance*
- Owen, David *The Conundrum*
- Pagels, Elaine *Revelations*
- Robinson, Marilynne *When I was a Child I Read Books*
- Strayed, Cheryl *Wild*
- Zickefoose, Julie *The Bluebird Effect*

Audiobooks

- Crichton, Michael *Micro*
- Gregory, Philippa *The Lady of the Rivers*
- Hannah, Kristin *Winter Garden*
- King, Stephen *11/22/63*
- Patterson, James *Now You See Her*
- VanLiere, Donna *The Angels of Morgan Hill*

Royalston Review of Books

Gus W. highly recommends the book *Liesl and Po* written by Lauren Oliver for ages 8 to adult. It is a story involving swapped jewelry boxes and a magical journey from a lonely attic to a weeping willow tree. Check it out at our library!

Young Adult Fiction

- Bell, Hilari *Traitor's Son*
- Carter, Ally *Out of Sight, Out of Time*
- Hocking, Amanda *Torn*
- Marchetta, Melina *Froi of the Exiles*
- Oliver, Lauren *Pandemonium*
- Stone, Phoebe *The Boy on Cinnamon Street*
- Tracy, Kristen *Bessica Lefter Bites Back*
- Wells, Dan *Partials*

Children's Fiction

- Bingham, Kelly *Z is for Moose*
- Boyce, Frank Cottrell *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again*
- Henkes, Kevin *Penny and her Song*
- Hill, Susanna *April Fool, Phyllis!*
- Hills, Tad *Duck & Goose*
- Hills, Tad *Dick & Goose Here Comes the Easter Bunny*
- Horvath, Polly *Mr. and Mrs. Bunny- Detectives Extraordinaire!*
- Lawrence, Caroline *The Case of the Deadly Desperados*
- Leeuwen, Joke *Eep!*
- Lowry, Amy *Fox Tails*
- Mansbach, Adam *Seriously, Just go to Sleep!*
- McDonald, Megan *Stick and the Midnight Zombie Walk*
- Paschkis, Julie *Mooshka*
- Raschka, Christopher *A Ball for Daisy*
- Wells, Rosemary *Yoko Learns to Read*

Children's Non-Fiction

- Bell-Rehwoldt, Sheri *The Kids Guide to Duct Tape Projects*
- Brown, Jordan *Crazy Concoctions*
- DeCristofano, Carolyn *A Black Hole is not a Hole*
- Kawa, Katie *Fawns*
- Levine, Gail *Forgive Me, I meant to do it*
- Rosenstock, Barbara *The Camping Trip that Changed America*

DVDs: *The Adventures of Tintin, Better Life, Breaking Bad Season 3, Footloose (2012), Game of Thrones, Hugo, The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth, J. Edgar, Jack and Jill, Puss in Boots, and Tower Heist*

Royalston's 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee's "April in SoRo" Breakfast

Come to the April 28th Pancake Breakfast at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. From 7 a.m. - noon, . Enjoy Geoff's made to order blueberry, strawberry, chocolate sprinkle or original style pancakes along with sausage, juice and coffee while raising money for the upcoming 250th anniversary celebralooza. Tickets available from any committee member or at the door. T-shirts and raffle tickets will be available.



Raffle Up: See any board member for a chance to win: a cord of Royalston wood, \$100 in cash, a NASCAR jacket, a handmade Royalston 250th blanket, Royalston maple syrup, gift cards from Market Basket, Best Buy, and Edible Arrangements and much much more. Tickets cost \$1 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets.

Have **input** about the 250th celebration? Want to get involved in town? Come to the next 250th committee meeting at 7 pm on April 5th at town hall. All welcome.

Rent the Tent for your spring event! \$40/day for a 20x30' tent. Will help set up and take down. Call Geoff 249- 3726. Proceeds benefit the 250th cause.

Upcoming Musical Events

Friday Open Mic- last one until fall: 7 - 10 pm at Town Hall on April 13. The house band will be Side Street Blues Band with Ken Larson and Jim Miano. Free local music and delicious refreshments on sale. Sign up to play or come to listen. It's always fun and always different.

The Royalston Blues Night has been rescheduled from May 19 to June 2. Proceeds will benefit the Royalston 250th Celebration Committee and the Royalston Cultural Council.

Save the date and grab your scootin' boots... **Big country music concert coming on June 23** to benefit the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Sappy, cruel and contradictory: April is for Poets

LUCKY 13: "The back corner" at Bruce's Browser in Athol will be having a slammin' night of poetry on Friday the 13th to celebrate National Poetry Month, so sharpen your pencil or fire up your computer and start writing! Featuring 2-time Western Massachusetts Poet Laureate Candace Curran and other area poets, audience participation is encouraged at the open mic following the formal presentation. It starts at 6:30PM, and there's no admission fee. www.BrucesBrowser.com

RCS Poetry Club

The moon helps the tide go up and down
The moon has gravity as a guide,
While it spins around and around.
I look up at the night sky and watch
the moon go by
as it says good-bye.

Hannah Bartkus

Recipe of the Month:

Starting in 1921, Marguerite Langlois has been a part of a lot of Royalston history (although she points out she wasn't actually born here, rather in a lying in hospital in Athol). Nonetheless, she grew up in a house across the street from her current residence and fondly remembers daily treks up and down Frye Hill on her way to the center school, (where the post office and historical society are now located,) and later to the bus stop for Athol High back when it was on School Street (before the building became the junior high, middle school, or an apartment complex.)

Residents who don't know Peg need to get out more as she is very community minded and attends many town events. She is the oldest serving Ladies' Benevolent Society member, a participant in all veterans' tributes, and an enthusiastic diner at many a public supper or pancake breakfast. An enthusiastic baker, she regularly contributes her talents, time and ingredients to the Royalston election day bake sales, where civic duty meets confectionary beauty.

Peg says, "I wrote out this recipe because we especially like it and I thought perhaps you would too." (The "we" Peg refers to is the seeming half-of-the-town to whom she is related.)

Marguerite Langlois' Election Day Cherry Banana Nut Bread

1 cup sugar
4 Tbsp. butter flavored Crisco
3 eggs
1 cup mashed bananas
2 1/4 cup flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
dash of salt
6 Tbsp. milk
30 sliced Marachino cherries
9 Tbsp. chopped walnuts

Mix all ingredients. Bake in 2 greased or sprayed bread pans in a 350 degree oven. If using small pans, bake 30 minutes.



Our Friend Jessie

This tribute was written in memory of Jessie the Donkey, who lived at the top of Frye Hill with Charlie Chase and Paul Thibodeau. Jessie was a good donkey. He let me have rides. He loved apples and ate so many. Jessie had a big big voice and when he said hello, he would say, "HEE HAW." Jessie was a protector of other animals and would keep predators away. Sometimes Jessie would get loose and come visit. I would see Jessie in our yard and feel happy. Even though he left behind some poo, that just made me laugh. I am sad that Jessie died. Jessie was a good donkey.

Rhea Sawicki, age 5

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.

Academic Honor Roll: Tyler Boyd, 7th grader at A.R.M.S. made the silver honor roll first and second semesters. Tyler also was on the middle school basketball team. He is the son of Erin Mahoney.

Amber Simmington made the February honor roll Athol High School and was recognized by the United States Achievement Academy.

Tax Collector Rebecca Krause-Hardie Receives Grant from State for Innovative Program

Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray congratulates Rebecca Krause-Hardie on receiving \$290,710 for Royalston. The award was the 5th largest in the Commonwealth. The project will provide an affordable, easy to use system for towns to manage all their assessing, collection, treasurer, and accounting functions.



For he's a Jolly Good Fellow

Royalston Board of Health Chair, **Philip Leger**, was recently inducted as a Public Health Fellow by the Local Public Health Institute. Commissioner of Public Health John Auerbach presented Phil with the award at a ceremony held at the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston, Mass. The award is given for accomplishment in public health knowledge, experience, leadership, and mentoring.

Kudos to Lian Cutting

Royalston native and Warwick Rd. resident, Lian Cutting, has just completed her 7th Marathon (the half marathon 13.1 miles) and came in 5th in her age group...she is 72. Lian would probably have done better but too many younger women are now in her age group. This year she was 30 seconds longer due to the cool conditions and wind on Race Day. Though she enjoys running she is also an accomplished golfer having the distinction of 5 hole-in-ones and regular scores in the 80s.

Help wanted: Academic Honor Rolls Investigative Journalist Needed

Probably no aspect of this newsletter causes consternation like the academic honor rolls. The newsletter is committed to being fair, positive and informative, but occasionally, a deserving name is not printed in the honor roll, and understandably, families are upset. Be assured; these omissions are **never** intentional.

Accidental omissions happen when the editors are ignorant of the information. Families sometimes send in kudos for their own kids and it goes in the newsletter; however, unbeknownst to the staff, there are other kids who had received the same award. It also happens that the RCN makes mistakes picking the Royalston students out of multi-town honor roll lists.

The Friends of the Library, who produce and distribute the newsletter, are looking into solutions, but..

You can help. As readers know, this newsletter is a community effort. It would be wonderful if an individual or family with students at local schools would take responsibility for fairly and inclusively finding out academic awards and passing them on to the newsletter by the deadline. Interested? Contact the library or this newsletter.

The whole town is invited....

Natural Curiosity: A Retrospective of Images by Gordon Morrison

May 5 - July 1, 2011
Hunnewell Building
Lecture Hall

Reception:
Sat. May 5, 1 - 3 p.m.

Artist Talk: Wed. June
27, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

directions and hours:
www.arboretum.harvard.edu



“It is my pleasure to extend an invitation to an exhibition of a sampling of my work at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, the oldest public arboretum in North America. Please consider coming by to share the combined experience of viewing the exhibit and visiting the arboretum. Hoping to see you there. Best regards to all. Gordon”

R.C.S. News

Bella O'Connor

Spring is in the air at Royalston Community School once again! The community has been jubilant with all the excitement at their school with the Keith Michael Johnson "Bubbleology" program, the D.A.R.E. Graduation, the M.C.A.S. testing (results will come out sometime between October and November), and the Spring Pictures, it was a great March! This month, we will have the Subway Night on the 10th at the Athol Subway from 6:00- 8:00pm, and the PTG meeting will be on the 10th. The annual River Rat Reading Race will be sometime this month, but there is no date for it yet. We are hoping to get a good result from the fob key chain Spring Fundraiser. The Student Council is holding a "Dessert Raffle" like last year where there are desserts, and one "kitty litter" cake, which the person who wins it, chooses a staff member to taste it in front of all students! This will go on the first week of April. Also, if your children go to R.C.S., tell them to check for ticks after recess because, like I said, spring is in the air!

PT.G Updates: Grade 5 recently won the Coin Wars (It beat 4th grade by only \$1.26!) and will be treated to a Subway lunch.

The PTG is currently running a spring fundraiser: key fobs. They are \$10.00 each and come in a variety of patterns. Please stop by the school or ask any RCS student to purchase one. In addition to the key fob sale the PTG will be hosting a Subway Night at the Athol Subway on Wednesday, April 11th from 6-8. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to the PTG to use for field trips and programs at RCS. A huge thank you to the gracious Monette/Killay family, who are making this night possible. All students who come into Subway on this night will be entered into a drawing to win \$25.00.

The 6th grade will be holding a roller skating fundraiser at the Orange Armory on Sunday April 15th from 4-6. The cost is \$3.00/skater and roller skates are available (at no extra cost). There will be a snack bar and beverages for sale as well.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending these fundraising events. Thank you in advance for your support of the students at RCS.

Becky Divoll

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. Contact 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 Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma. 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2012.

Community School Calendar

April 2 - April 5 *Scholastic Book Fair - call the school for more information.

April 5 - * 8:45am - 2:45pm*After School Basketball Participants to Basketball Hall of Fame

April 11 * HALF DAY - NO KINDERGARTEN - LUNCH SERVED - NOON DISMISSAL

April 11 - * 1:00 - 4:00pm *KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION @ ARMS LIBRARY

April 13 - *K-6 to MWCC "A Year With Frog & Toad"

April 16 - April 20 *SPRING BREAK

April 25 - * HALF DAY - ALL GRADES - LUNCH - NOON DISMISSAL

April 27 * Hug-A-Tree Program (K-3)

D.A.R.E Graduation: Royalston Police Officer Sherry A. Miner, Public Education Officer and a certified D.A.R.E. instructor, recently concluded her sixth D.A.R.E. program at the Royalston Community School. Twenty-one members of Salli Knechtel's fifth grade class celebrated their accomplishments, which included recognizing and resisting negative peer pressure, using sound reasoning in decision



making, as well as becoming more aware of the long-term consequences of using drugs and other substances inappropriately and the ramifications of going outside of the law.

Police Chief Curtis A. Deveneau, Representative Richard Bastien and Royalston members of the A.R.R.S.D. School Committee joined Officer Sherry in handing out certificates, awards and mementos. Family and friends, along with RCS administrators, staff, and students, were in attendance. *Mary C. Barclay*

Royalston Community School P.T.O Scholarship for those who attended Royalston elementary schools. Contact your local school guidance office for applications. Deadline April 13, 2012.

Ladies' Benevolent Society Scholarships are awarded to residents pursuing higher education. Applications are at the town library or available at the Athol High School guidance department. Submit to Theresa Quinn, Box 108, Royalston 01368 by April 1, 2012.

Curious about Royalston history? Bring a dish and a friend to the Royalston Historical Society meeting and pot luck supper on Friday, April 20th at 6:30. Guest Speaker will be Keith Newton. The roster of Revolutionary War soldiers from Royalston will be on display as well. *The pictures below showing South Royalston history were recently acquired by the library. Curious about our town and its past? Why not go to the historical society meeting and find out more.*



Annual Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting on April 7
The Saturday, April 7 Annual Royalston Egg Hunt is ready to roll. Individually wrapped candies and extra plastic eggs were generously donated by a number of Royalston residents and more than 2000 eggs have been prepared by Mr. Bunny's many helpers. They will be well hidden on the Common in time for the 12th annual race for the eggs. Event organizer Rene' Lake-Gagliardi will instruct those lined up on the Town Hall steps promptly at 10:00 and then will give the signal to "GO".

Participants are asked to dress for the weather; the event will be held, rain or shine. Participants should bring a bag or a basket labeled with their names for collecting eggs. In keeping with past practice, the plastic eggs will be recycled at the Town Hall immediately after the hunt for use another year.

Donations are cheerfully accepted toward the cost of the event. At this time, all the eggs, candy, and chocolate have been either donated or purchased but cash donations are still being accepted. For information or to volunteer on the day of the event, contact Rene' Lake-Gagliardi at 978-249-4639.

Horsewomen on the Catwalk
New England Equestrian Center

Spring Ensemble Fashion Review

Please join us at the Athol Town Hall on Saturday, April 21st for NEECA's very first fashion show! Volunteers, very BRAVE volunteers, will showcase a variety of "gently used" fashions, courtesy of Deja Vu in Athol. Cost of admission is \$5, and you can rent a vendor space for only \$10!

You can enjoy checking out the vendors' wares, along with some "sweet treats", from 1 - 2 p.m., and the fashion show will start at 2 p.m.

Event coordinator Wendy Warner has the following models (victims) lined up to strut their stuff: Althea Bramhall, Cory McQueen, Crystal Bentley, Monte Roberts, Margo Petracone, Jo King, Helen Hills and Caroline Mansfield but she's looking for more volunteers. Please call 978-544-5809 to take part in what promises to be a very fun event!!

Critically Acclaimed Dining

Mary C. Barclay

A stealthy food critic recently snuck into Pete & Henry's for a meal and was apparently quite pleased with his/her/their visit!. This undercover mission came to light when a number of subscribers to the Worcester County League Sportsmen's News began dropping by Pete & Henry's Restaurant clutching a page 11 of the February 2012 W.C.L. newsletter. In it the "Elusive Sportsman Eatery Critic" rather enthusiastically describes a positive experience during the unannounced visit. Descriptions included "...delighted with the nuggets and steak dinner" and how impressive were "the quantity, quality and price" of the food. The report allowed, "...a little out of our way, but the drive is pleasant and well worth it, with good food." Congrats to owners John and Terry Cloutier and the entire staff for continuing to grow and improve our local restaurant.

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.

Birch Hill Computers: Sales, Repairs and Parts
978-790-7876, birchhillcomputers.com.

House cleaning. 4 hr - \$60.00. Experienced with references. Royalston resident. Call Fran: home 978-249-4596 or cell 895-0817.

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

Seventeen year old Royalston Resident can help a few days a week with **yard work or other odd jobs** for \$8.50 an hour. Call Joe (413) 559-7152

Do you need housekeeping, outdoor work, or other odd jobs? \$14/hour. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Custom Sawmilling Service - Our portable mill can turn your logs or ours into boards, planks, or beams. Log capacity is 36" diameter 21' long. Call for pricing: Josh Doub (978) 249-2871 or Tom Musco @ Royalston Oak Timber Frames at (978) 249-9633. We also make beautiful timber frames for additions, barns, sheds and homes.

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.

First Cutting Hay - 200 bales from 2011 at \$5/bale; 100 bales from 2010 at \$4/bale. 50 bale minimum - you pick up. Call Anne Vining Bedaw at 603-313-4906.

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- Taking orders for spring delivery of green firewood \$180/170 cu feet. Also, limited supply of semi-seasoned wood. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.

Local Maple Syrup from Richardson's sugarhouse is now available at Pete & Henry's. 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 at 978-602-5583.

Garden Notes

March 22, 2012

So.....March was ushered in with five inches of snow (that counts as a storm this season) followed by six days of (sort of) cold weather and I was applauding myself for correctly predicting dire conditions in March. Ha. I am now informed by the radio station out of Albany that, as of this date, this is the warmest March on record. For a more local perspective, I turned to David Putney, my resident weather historian. David does not recall a warmer winter and David has wintered in Royalston for 78 years.

I have not previously had success with March plantings of peas and spinach. Either germination was so delayed that nothing was gained by the jump-start or germination was so spotty that I was obliged to re-plant. But these are not ordinary times. For instance, the sap stopped flowing this year at about the same time as it started last year (5 1/2 gallons from eighteen taps, watery sap, lots of boiling down). Lilacs are leafing out, early bulbs are blooming, the forsythias are about to burst into flame. So I planted some peas and spinach and we shall see.

March milestones: March 11, first parsnips dug; March 14, garlic up; March 17, first signs of rhubarb; March 18, I'm in the garden. I've wandered through other times of course but this time I am accompanied by my hoe and attending to tasks at hand: shaping beds, cleaning up residue from last fall, weeding (can you believe it?). The soil is so workable that I scratch my head in disbelief. Even the lower garden, typically mired in a muddy morass this time of year, is workable (if less so). I know, I've been working it. Most important milestone: the bench has been hauled back out to the garden. Now if I can only motivate myself to sit on it.

Surprise discoveries: one leek, which I neglected to extract last fall, survived the almost-winter. (They generally tend to survive even winter-winters.) Sometime this summer it will send up a flower head and some time this fall I will harvest the seeds. This leek was grown from seeds that I gathered two years ago, so I suppose I'm establishing my own race of leeks. My armada of fish tanks was used to cover a couple dozen lettuce plants last fall. One, count 'em, one, remains. Like that lone leek, it will flower and set seed and hopefully that seed will provide the genetic material to ensure the winter survival of the next generation of lettuces. Not quite a discovery, but I had forgotten I had already cut back the raspberries and done a lot of fruit tree pruning. I think I'll find something else to fill in the extra time. It won't be asparagus. Several years ago I spent a mountain of time and effort to restore the asparagus bed to its former glory. It looked fine, it just did not provide much in the way of asparagus, at least not enough to justify the time and effort spent. This year, I half-heartedly cut down the stalks and raked off the beds. There will be at least some asparagus.

I hesitate to suggest that April will proceed as normal. I used to plant potatoes in early May. The last couple of years they've been in the ground around the twentieth of April. This year, who knows? Beets, chard, spinach, peas: all will be planted throughout the month. Fresh grub will be meager. (Fortunately the root cellar continues to be well stocked.) There will be parsnips galore and some scallions, and, if they decide to cooperate, even an asparagus or two before month's end.

Larry Siegel

Postscript: Late-breaking news: the lettuce lassie has just returned from the garden, having planted her seeds.



BEAR'S DAIRY SERVICE
978-249-6843
 Home Deliveries Since 1980
 Home Delivery of Local Farm Fresh
 Milk in Glass Bottles
 INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR OWNED:
 Robert Laakkonen (Teddy Bear)

The Royalston Community Newsletter is printed by:

Performance Press
 Owners- Sandy and Dick Creamer
 87 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475
 978-297-0433 Fax: 9778-297-1719
 email: perf4man@verizon.net
color copies .50 wedding invitations
soup to nuts printing

Renovations R Us
All Phases of Home Improvement
 Bob Leblanc, Royalston

cell 508-425-0570
 MA CS #62476 HIC # 115978
 MA Lead Cert. #LR000324

BRUCE'S BROWSER, INC.
 1497 MAIN STREET, ATHOL MA
BOOKSTORE • CYBER CAFE • CARDS & GIFTS
Come in and Browse!
OPEN MON-SAT 9-7PM CLOSED SUNDAY
978-249-3978 WWW.BRUCESBROWSER.COM

Family Pet Mobile Veterinary Services
Sue Ellen Mowcomber DVM

 Caring for your pet in the
 comfort of your home.
 978-249-4626
 www.familypetmobilevet.net

union music
 New & Used Musical Instruments
 Sales, Service, Rentals
 Sheet Music, Accessories, Amps, PA's
 Lessons, Rehearsal Space, Events
www.unionmusic.com
 142 Southbridge Street, Worcester, 508-753-3702
 Carl Kamp, Royalston, 978-249-9675

ROYALSTON GENERAL STORE
 MON - WED 7AM-7PM. THUR & FRI 7AM - 8PM
 SAT 8AM -8PM. SUN 9AM - 6PM
DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS
FULL BREAKFAST
978-249-9798
 Subs • Pizza • Pasta • Beer • Wine
 Liquor • Lottery • Groceries • Hardware
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

Pearson Rubbish
978-249-5125
 127 Bliss Hill Road, Royalston
 Full Service Disposal
Weekly Pick Up in Royalston
 Prompt Courteous Service Call Russ

DeMar Technologies LLC

 15 Oak Hill Lane sales@demarmachine.com
 Fitchburg, MA 01420 www.demarmachine.com
 Tel: (978) 345-8655 Fax: (978) 345-8656
Rich DeMar

Stephen Chase Contracting
 Restoration and Preservation Services

 Royalston
 978-249-4860

 MA Construction Supervisor #044817
 EPA Lead Safe Certified # NAT-58592-1

Wildlife Sightings

Butterflies in March: Off Pike Rd. on Monday, 3/12/12, Carl Kamp and Alyce Mayo saw this mourning cloak and 2 anglewing species butterflies which were probably Eastern commas.



photo: Carl Kamp

Just after sunset, American woodcocks were calling and displaying just off the common. Peepers were loudly jingling in the swamps the week of March 18.

On Thursday, March 15th, just after 8 p.m., Susan Maki and Charlie Gamble were driving home and discussing what they had just learned from a presentation on fruit trees and bushes at the Athol garden club. What to their wondering eyes did appear but four moose, most likely yearlings, in the middle of River Street in Royalston. Instead of being scared off by the car, the moose slowly made their way onto a front lawn and then watched curiously as the car moved on.

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Beth Gospodarek
Layout and Sponsorships: Stephen Chase
Circulation: Becky Divoll, Maureen Blasco
Treasurer: Maureen Blasco
Staff: Theresa Quinn, Mary Barclay, Larry Siegel

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

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

Out of Town Subscriptions

are available for \$25/calendar year (10 issues)
by mailing a check to: Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton
Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
ATHOL MA
PERMIT NO. 42

Royalston Resident
Star Route 80
Royalston MA 01368