Calendar of Events

March 1  Friday
7 - 10 pm  **Open mic at Town Hall.** Melanie and the Blue Shots houseband. Sign up ahead, 978-575-1052 or show up early to play music. Light supper foods and other refreshments available for purchase. Free admission. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

Saturday  March 2
10 am - noon  **Open House at the Village School:** meet all the teachers, visit with current parents and meet alumni. Bring your children Find out about openings for next year, how to apply, and about financial aid. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served.

March 4  Monday
6:15 - 7:15 pm  **Zumba classes** at town hall. There are participants from ages 18 to 80 at this popular workout using Latin dance moves and aerobics. Sponsored by the Friends of the library.

March 6  Wednesday
6:00 p.m. meet the speaker / 6:30 - 8 pm talk: Chris Dawson, local dad and internationally recognized author and speaker on educational technology will hold an **Internet Safety Boot Camp for Parents** at the Village School on Royalston Common. This event is open to the public. All parents welcome.

March 7  Thursday
3:45 pm  **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

March 9  Saturday
10 - 11 am  **Rabies Clinic** at the Uptown Fire Station. $15 for dogs or cats. dog licences for $6. Bring exact change or a check.

6:30 pm  **Royalston Fish and Game Club Roast Beef Supper and BLITZ.** Call 978-249-3004 for tickets.

March 10  Sunday
2 a.m.  **Daylight Savings Time begins**

March 11  Monday
3:30 pm  **Visit Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Palestine and Lebanon** with exchange students studying in Orange at the Library’s Cross Culture Club for kids. Snacks served. Adults welcome. Students from RCS can take the bus directly to the library with a note from home and prior arrangement.

March 13  Wednesday  Ash Wednesday  Early Dismissal Elementary Schools – ARRSD half day

March 16  Saturday
7:30 – 10:30 a.m.  **Monthly Phillipston Lions’ Club Breakfast**

February 18  Monday
4:30 pm  **Library Book Group** meets to discuss *Astray* by Mary Donahue. All welcome. Copies of the book are available at the library.

March 20  Wednesday
7:02 a.m.  **Vernal Equinox** – daylight hours lengthen – SPRING!

March 22  Friday
7:00 pm  **Birgit Straehle of the Worcester Art Museum will present a program at the library on Restoration of Historic Paintings,** including the conservation and restoration of the Phinehas S. Newton, Ruth Greenwood Estabrook and Joseph Estabrook portraits and general questions about preserving paintings.

March 23  Saturday
6 pm  **St. Patricks Day Supper** cooked by the LBS to benefit the 250th Anniversary Committee at Town Hall. Pot of Gold drawing too. Tickets from any board member or call Geoff Newton.

March 24  Sunday  Palm Sunday
4 pm  **10th Annual Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Concert** in the ballroom at the Bundschuh house. Piano music and several surprises. Elegant refreshments. Call Deb Nunes for more information. 978-249-4000.

March 25  Monday
3:30 pm  **Visit Spain with Albert Coyo,** a student from Barcelona staying in W. Royalston, at the library’s cross culture club.

March 26  Tuesday  sundown  **Passover Begins**

March 27  Wednesday  5:27 a.m.  **Full Worm Moon**

March 29  Good Friday  No classes Monty Tech

March 30  Saturday

March 31  Sunday  Easter

April 1  Monday  All Fools’ Day
10 am - 8 pm  **Annual Town Election, precincts 1 and 2**

3:30 - 4:30 pm  **Visit the Dominican Republic** at the library’s cross culture club with Yanibel Perez and Erisbel Pena, students in the Athol public schools.
Annual Town Election – Monday, April 1, 2013
Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St. If you are not already a registered voter, the last day to register to vote to be eligible for this election is Tuesday, March 12. Special voter registration hours will be held at the Town Clerk’s office from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

As of this writing, there are no contests for the seats on this ballot. Please note that the seat for the Athol member of the Athol Royalston Regional School Committee is a “Vote for Three”, but currently only 2 candidates are on the ballot. There are also 2 override questions that will be put to voters.

Selectman – 3 years – John W. Morse, III
Assessor – 3 years – Michael Lajoie
Town Clerk – 3 years – Melanie Mangum
Constable – 3 years – (no candidates)
Cemetery Commission – 3 years – Wayne Newton
Board of Health – 3 years – Chester Hall, III
Library Trustee – 3 years – Mary L. Freden
Board of Public Welfare – 3 years – Roland Hamel
Board of Public Welfare – 2 years – Gary Winitzer
Planning Board – 5 years – Thomas Musco
Sewer Commission – 3 years – (no candidates)
Trustees of the J. N. Bartlett Fund – 4, one-year terms – Roland Hamel, Wayne Newton, Roy Smith, Jr. and Gary Winitzer
Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – Athol – 3 years – Chester Hall, III; Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – ATHOL – 3 years – Vote for Three – 2 candidates on ballot – Dale H. Lougee and Joseph F. Maga.

Question #1: Shall the town of Royalston be allowed to assess an additional $50,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding a capital projects stabilization fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?

Question #2: Shall the town of Royalston be allowed to assess an additional $25,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding employee health insurance costs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?

Special State Primary – April 30, 2013 – Special State Election – June 25, 2013 As of this writing, candidate information for the Special State Primary was not available.

2013 Rabies/Licensing Clinic
The Town Clerk’s Office, in conjunction with Gardner Animal Hospital, will hold the annual rabies and dog licensing clinic on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Uptown Fire Station. Please note that rabies vaccinations are $15.00 this year, for both cats and dogs. Dog license fees remain the same - $6.00 for an altered dog, $10.00 for an unaltered dog. Kennel prices available. Please bring either a check to be made out to the Town of Royalston, or exact change. Rabies transactions and dog license transactions are handled separately. To obtain a dog license, you must have a copy of the dog’s current rabies vaccination.

Dog Tags are also available at the Town Clerk’s Office. The Town Clerk’s Office is open on Mondays from 9 a.m. – 1p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The deadline for licensing dogs for 2013 is March 31.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency
EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904
With March comes the melting of snow and often, the flooding of cellars. If you have a cellar prone to flooding, please take this opportunity to check out your sump pump, or if you don’t have one, to install one before it’s needed. Area hardware stores and home improvement stores carry a variety of models with prices ranging from double digits to hundreds of dollars. They can be permanently installed and automatic or on stand-by and manually operated. Some come with battery back-up. There are also inexpensive electric pumps that use standard garden hose and work just fine to drain pooled water deeper than the hose’s diameter. As with any “hazard mitigation plans," BEFORE you need them is the time to investigate!

Open Space and Recreation Committee
Seeks New Members
by Paul Montero, Chairperson
The Open Space and Recreation Committee membership has dwindled from seven members to just three. The Committee is actively seeking new members. Here is an opportunity to serve your town. No experience is necessary. Just have a desire to preserve open spaces or be interested in promoting passive recreational activities. We hold public meetings every other month on the second Thursday evening beginning at 7 PM in the Town Hall. Please come to the next meeting which will be held on March 14, 2013. All are welcome.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chairperson
Full containers of oil were found recently in the paper roll off. We do collect oil and anti-freeze, just not in the paper recycling. You can make a lot things from oil, just not paper. Luckily these were spotted in time so the load was not contaminated. PLEASE CHECK WHAT YOU PUT IN THE RECYCLING CONTAINERS PRIOR TO DUMPING. If you put trash in recycling, it’s still trash. If you put something like oil in the recycling, the whole load can be wasted. If you put wet or moldy textiles in the collection boxes, perfectly good textiles will be wasted. Please be careful. REMEMBER, IF IT’S IN YOUR HAND, PUT IT IN THE RIGHT CAN!

A reminder that anything textile, clothing related is collected in the textile boxes. The good, the bad, and the ugly are all accepted. Broken zippers, missing buttons, stained, no problem. As long as it’s dry and not smelly, we want it. Single socks, single shoes, backpacks, book bags, stuffed animals, purses, sheets, pillows, undergarments,(remember not smelly), curtains, linens etc. If it’s a textile, we want it. There are two containers: One container for the Salvation Army is to the left of the recycling building. The other is to the right in front of the TV collection container. This one we get a monetary refund based on weight. Your choice, just pick one. Either way, DON’T THRASH TEXTILES!
Royalston 250th Committee - Busy

Super Souper Bowl: Marlene Jarvenpaa did a great job organizing this event with 20 different kinds of chowders and stews. The pond was cleared for skating. Keith Newton braved the cold and drove his pride tractor the 8 miles to the Royalston Fish and Game Club to offer hay rides. Everyone there thought it was too cold, so Keith drove it back in minus five temperature the 8 miles to his home. Thank you to Lenny Hoffman for donations of S’mores fixings, cider and a gift card to Job Lot. Diana Newton, Carla Hartwell, Mariah Mallet, Carol and Adam Rogers, Carla Rabinowitz, Tom and Deb LeRay, Patience Bundshuh, Lisa Bushey, Gabe Jarvenpaa, Devon Bates, Phil Leger, Donald Jarvenpaa, Ray Simula, Brian Snell, Steve Hartwell, Tony Basso, Jan Woodbury and Ashley, Alexis and Rene Javier all assisted.

Chicken Pie and Trivia Night a Hoot:

Fueled on homemade pie, bread, salad and dessert, 7 teams vied for the Einstein trophy. Certainly, all had fun. The Classy/ Sad Sweaters were particularly clever in their wrong answers. It was sweet and appreciated that the ARMS middle school teachers came out to play. The Young Riderz were smart and sentimental, a charming combo. The Fire Warriors really should have gotten an extra point for upcycling their candy wrappers and maybe even for their definition of funambulist (sorry) . The Ladies’ B demonstrated its years of accumulated wisdom, and the Cranics could have been contenders. Nonetheless, for all out points, the Library came out on top. Congratulations.

Some sample quiz questions and accepted answers:

1. Some impressive chunks of beryl have been found in Royalston. Which of the following does NOT have the same chemical formula as beryl:
   a. ruby   b. aquamarine  c. emerald  d. goshenite

2. What event would your team like to see as part of the 250th hoopla?
drag races, more trivia nights, and a tug of war between Swamp Angels and White Rabbits on Rt 68 where Stockwell Rd crosses.

3. Name one of Newton’s Laws of Motion
   Every action has an equal and opposite reaction and don’t mow hay when it looks like rain.

4. There is a rabies clinic on March 9. Who invented the rabies vaccine?
   a. Marie Curie   b. Louis Pasteur  c. Bruce Jenner

Thank you to Maureen Blasco, Mariah Mallet, Carla and Phil Rabinowitz, Laurie Deveneau, Nancy Melbourne, Becky Krause-Hardie, Phil Leger, Theresa Quinn, Kristen West, the Royalston Fish and Game Club and Carol Rogers for donating, cooking, cleaning and performing. Particular thanks to Geoff Newton, who was still cleaning up downstairs as the trivia wound down upstairs, making it obvious that the 250th committee could use some help. If you have a dish-pan hand to lend, talk to Geoff Newton 978-249-3726, come to the next meeting on March 7 at 7 pm at Town Hall, or show up at an event and offer to help.

Feeling Lucky?

“Irish” Supper and Pot o’ Gold Drawing on 3/23:
A scheduling conflict has moved the St. Paddy’s Supper to Saturday, March 23 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall. Ladies’ Benevolent Society will cook; members of the 250th Committee will provide assistance. Enjoy a traditional corned beef (Adams’ Farm lean and juicy corned beef) with boiled potatoes, onions, carrots, turnip and cabbage. Home baked breads and desserts with a variety of beverages will round out the meal. All dinner ticket holders will be eligible for the “Pot’o’Gold” drawing for $100 in gold dollar coins; the first 120 Club drawing of 2013, by the 250th Committee, will also take place that evening.

First Fridays Open Mic
On Friday, March 1, 7:00 pm in the Town Hall, the Royalston Open Mic will continue its 2012-2013 season featuring the house-band Melanie and the Blueshots. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, with Royalston legend Phil Leger as Master of Ceremonies, the Open Mic offers blues, folk, bluegrass, jazz and rock from your favorite local musicians, plus talented performers from throughout our area. Come hungry. A homemade main dish and delicious baked goods are always available. Next month, April 5, will be the season finale.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney
Mondays: 10:00 am- 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon
978-249-3572  www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you
Clarence Rabideau for help with weeding the collection.

Donation to the Friends in Memory of John Poor
Pat and Vyto Andreliunas

The recent proposal by the Selectmen to increase the Royalston Librarian’s hours to qualify for health care surprised the Library’s Trustees. Nevertheless, we support it as a principled and just ambition because it assures fairer compensation for the position in future hiring.

Polly Longsworth, Chair
Lisa Freden, Secretary
Barbara Guiney, Treasurer
Phinehas S. Newton Library, Royalston

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. In February, the group discussed the Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo, reporting on slum-dwelling families in Mumbai. The book presents both the intimacy of day to day life and global perspective on why income inequality persists without boiling over. This book is powerful and worth reading.

In March, Astray by Emma Donahue will be discussed. The hook in this book is that the author takes or one or two lines from a newspaper or legal document over the last 400 years and constructs fictional short stories to fill in the details. Copies of Astray are available at the library. All are welcome to come munch cookies and chat about books at 4:30 on March 18.

Zumba
Zumba, led by Kristin Killay, is held at the Town Hall on Monday nights from 6:15 - 7:15 pm. Every fitness level is welcome in this accepting workout program that crosses Latin rhythmic dancing with aerobics. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library with sound system help from the Cultural Council and generous permission to use the hall from the Selectboard. Free, but donations appreciated. If the weather is iffy, listen to the library answering machine, 978-249-3572, for cancellations.

Birgit Straehle to Present the Pat Poor Memorial Lecture
On Friday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the library, Birgit Straehle of the Worcester Art Museum will present a program on Restoration of Historic Paintings. Birgit is the conservator who cleaned and restored the paintings of Phinehas S. Newton, Ruth Greenwood Estabrook and Joseph Estabrook that hang at the library. Birgit will discuss the details of the work done on these portraits as well as general information about painting cleaning and restoration, and answer any questions about painting conservation.

Birgit received an MA in art history from the Technical University Braunschweig, Germany but changed to the field of conservation and gained practical experience through an internship in painting and frame conservation for 2.5 years at the Braunschweigisches Landesmuseum in Braunschweig, Germany. She then completed a four year degree program in paintings and sculpture conservation at the Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences in Cologne, Germany. She moved to Worcester in 2006 to work at the Worcester Art Museum first as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in paintings conservation, later as a Samuel H. Kress fellow and now as an Assistant paintings conservator. In addition to this work she enjoys playing table tennis, making knives, and listening to music (her husband is a musician).

Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library and beer and wine will be served. Funds for this program were received from the late John Poor and donations to the Pat Poor Memorial Fund.

Kids’ Cross Culture Club: The World Comes to the Library
3:30 - 4:30 pm in March. RCS students can take the bus from the school to the library with a permission note. Presentations are hands on and snacks are served. Adults are welcome too.
Monday, March 11 Visit Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Palestine and Lebanon with local exchange students.
Monday, March 25 Visit Spain with Albert Coyo
Monday, April 1 Visit the Dominican Republic with Yanibel and Erisbel Perez, students who recently moved from Santo Domingo to Athol.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

**Adult Fiction**
- Barry, Dave *Insane City*
- Binchy, Maeve *A Week in Winter*
- Collins, Jackie *The Power Trip*
- Crais, Robert *Suspect*
- Currie, Ron *Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles*
- Gardner, Lisa *Touch & Go*
- Harrison, Kim *Ever After*
- Harvey, John *Good Bait*
- Hobbs, Roger *Ghostman*
- Jance, Judith *Deadly Stakes*
- Kellerman, Jonathan *Guilt*
- Kerrigan, Gene *The Rage*
- Kincaid, Jamaica *See Now Then*
- Meltzer, Brad *The Fifth Assassin*
- Patterson, James *Private Berlin*
- Preston, Douglas *Two Graves*
- Wolf, Christa *City of Angel*

**Adult non-fiction**
- Dover *Earth Matters*
- Ehrlich, Gretel *Facing the Wave*
- Fuhrman, Joel *The End of Diabetes*
- Gale, Robert *Radiation*
- Kuan, Diana *The Chinese Takeout Cookbook*
- Lane, Ruth *The Complete Photo Guide to Felting*
- Roberts *Rock Chronicles*
- Shubin, Neil *The Universe Within*
- Siegel, Barry *Manifest Injustice*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Butts, Edward *Bodyguards!*
- Carriger, Gail *Etiquette & Espionage*
- DeStefano, Lauren *Sever*
- Doctorow, Cory *Homeland*
- Lu, Marie *Legend and Prodigy*
- Paris, Stephanie *Straight Talk*
- Seba, Jaime *Gallup Guides for Youth facing persistent Prejudice*
- Shepherd, Megan *The Madman's Daughter*

**Children's Fiction**
- Andrews, Julie *The Very Fairy Princess follows her Heart*
- Applegate, Katherine *The One and Only Ivan*
- Barrows, Annie *Ivy + Bean make the Rules, Ivy + Bean what's the big Idea?, Ivy + Bean Bound to be Bad, and Ivy + Bean No News is Good News*
- Branford, Anna *Violet Mackerel's Brilliant Plot and Violet Mackerel's Remarkable Recovery*
- Brown, Don *Henry and the Cannons*
- Ferber, Brenda *The Luckiest, Stinkiest, best Valentine Ever*
- Kann, Victoria *Emeraldalicious*
- Lerangis, Peter *The Colossus Rises*
- Markel, Michelle *Brave Girl*
- McCranie, Stephen *Belly Flop!*
- McDonald, Megan *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*
- Pilkey, Dav *Captain Underpants/Revolting Revenge of the Radioactive Robo-boxers*
- Reagan, Susan *Tweet Hearts*
- Roche, Suzzy *Want to be in a Band?*
- Rob Scotton *Splat the Cat*
- Van Draanen, W. *Sammy Keyes and the Showdown in Sin City*
- Vernon, Ursula *Dragonbreath: Nightmare of the Iguana*

**Art Exhibits**

**Illustrations by Gordon Morrison on Display**

From February through March, in the first of two exhibits, a small select group of images taken from a few of the many books and periodicals illustrated by Gordon Morrison between 1976 and 2011 will be displayed at the library. These pieces were originally exhibited at the Arnold Arboretum in 2012, as part of a retrospective of four decades of natural history illustration by Gordon.

The second exhibit, scheduled for April through May, combines images done for educational displays for major nature organizations, with illustrations from the five children’s books written and illustrated by Gordon. Many of these pieces were also originally part of the Arnold Arboretum retrospective.

Gordon has lived in Royalston for 31/2 years and has been an active participant in the Cultural Council and many other town events. He is the acclaimed illustrator of several books: *Newcomb’s Wild Flower Guide, The Birdwatcher’s Companion, Flora Novae Angliae, and three ‘Peterson Field Guides’ - Eastern Forests, Rocky Mountain & Southwest Forests and California & Pacific Northwest Forests*. He has written and illustrated: five children’s books as well as several series in magazines: “the Curious Naturalist” in the Massachusetts’ Audubon Society publication *Sanctuary* and two other series for *Horticulture Magazine*.

**Children's Non-Fiction**
- Adler, David *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad*
- Bishop, Nic *Nic Bishop Snakes*
- Brooke, Lauren *One Day you’ll Know*
- Tavares, Matt *Becoming Babe Ruth*

**DVDs:**
- Alex Cross, Anna Karenin, Argo, Downton Abbey Season 3, End of Watch, Flight, Hotel Transylvania Madly Madagascar, Skyfall, The Adventures of Milo and Otis, The Men who Built America, The Perks of being a Wallflower, and Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss
- 2013 Grammy Nominees
- Now that’s what I call Music 45

**CDs**
- Dylan, Bob *Bob Dylan & Johnny Cash*
- Groban, Josh *All the Echoes*
- Morrison, Van *Live at the Orphanage*
- Springsteen, Bruce *Rockin in Rotterdam*
- Various Artists *2013 Grammy Nominees*
- Various Artists *Now that’s what I call Music 45*
LBS Memorial Concert
The 10th Annual Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Concert is being held this year on Sunday, March 24th, at 4:00 pm in the ballroom at the Bundschuh house. Please note the change from a Wednesday night.

The Concert was begun 10 years ago after the death of our beloved Maxine Willcox, Royalston’s last teacher at the one room schoolhouse (now the Post Office and Historical Museum). It has been held every year since to honor Royalston residents, both women and men, who have passed away.

Local musicians will present an hour long concert followed by the always delectable offerings of the LBS. We are hoping that the switch to a Sunday afternoon event will alleviate the time constraints of having the concert on a weekday night.

Thanks in advance to our ever gracious hostess, Patience Bundschuh, for opening her beautiful house and ballroom for this wonderful event. For more information, please contact Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000.

Easter Bunny To Return to Royalston
A reliable source has reported that the Easter Bunny will again make an appearance at the Annual Royalston Egg Hunt, scheduled for Saturday, March 30 at the Royalston Common. The event will begin promptly at 10:00 AM with a group start from the steps of the Town Hall. It has been rumored that more than 2000 plastic eggs will be scattered on the Common, each containing candy!

Following the egg hunt itself, participants will have the opportunity to mold their own chocolate candies in the Town Hall, yet another feature of the annual extravaganza.

Donations will be accepted at the Library and at the Royalston General Store through March 22. Donated candy must be individually wrapped and small enough to fit inside the typical plastic eggs used for the hunt. Cash donations are also welcome. Volunteers to work at the egg hunt are needed as well.

Wildlife Sighting
This is actually a wild-dead sighting. A dead barred owl was found un-bloodied or otherwise sullied, frozen, with its head a little to the side, on the edge of Millyard Rd between the Brousseaus and the Hoods. How did it die and how did it get there? Rather mysterious.

Recipe of the Month
Lynn and Greg Nystrom live with their two children in Royalston. The children, Brent and Jackie, go to the Village School, where Lynn has taught math for the past three years. But, this is not Lynn’s first time at the Village School; she went there as a child growing up in Royalston, when it was the local public school, the Raymond School. When Lynn was ten, her family moved to New Mexico, and she lived there until she moved back here with her family in 1998. Here’s a comfort food recipe from the Nystrom kitchen:

Vegetarian Black Bean Chili
Ingredients:
1 teaspoon olive oil
small onion, diced,
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 small zucchini thinly sliced
2 carrots, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
2 cans black beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (28 oz.) crushed tomatoes
1 package frozen corn kernels

Directions:
In a large pot heat olive oil over medium-high. Add onion and garlic and season with salt and pepper, stirring occasionally until softens (about 4 mins). Add zucchini, carrots, chili powder and cumin. Cook stirring occasionally until carrots are crisp-tender (6-8 mins). Add beans, tomatoes, corn and 1 cup water. Simmer until slightly thickened and carrots are soft (8-10 mins).
Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at the library.

Monty Tech Honor Roll
The following Royalston students have achieved honor roll status for the second semester and their first choice for their shop/trade at Monty Tech:

Rhiannon Fletcher: Special Honor Roll with straight A’s, Health Occupations for shop
Melissa Persson: High Honor Roll with all A’s and B’s, Graphic Communications for shop
Taryne Swan: High Honor Roll with all A’s and B’s, Cosmetology for shop
Loryn Killay: High Honor Roll with all A’s and B’s, Masonry for shop
Dahlia Wright: High Honor Roll with all A’s and B’s, Auto Body: Collision Repair for shop

Military News:
Sgt. Kevin Nunes, son of Deb and Joe Nunes, is currently deployed in Afghanistan with the 110th Mountain Division out of Ft. Drum, NY. He is an MP providing convoy escort in the Ghazni area, between Kabul and Kandahar.

Brian Nunes, US Navy, is currently stationed at the Naval Air Engineering Base in Lakehurst, NJ, where he lives with wife Jen and children Kylie and Gabriel.

Boyd Estes, of town, is one of the directors of photography on THE PATH TO VIOLENCE, part of PBS’ “After Newtown” initiative, a series of documentaries, news reports and public affairs programs that provides thought-provoking context to the national conversation about gun violence in America. Commissioned January 2nd and delivered six weeks later, THE PATH TO VIOLENCE is a one-hour documentary that tackles the issues of where society should draw the line between individual rights and the safety of the public. From the rights of gun owners to the rights of the mentally ill, and from high-tech security products to the real choices faced by cash-strapped schools, the film weighs all the options regarding how to keep our children’s schools and colleges secure.

Hot Hoops: Congratulations to Shelby Bronnes and Tanner Favreau for their division win and 19-1 season with the Athol High School girl’s basketball team. Shelby, a senior, scored 186 points this season with a game high of 17 points. Tanner, a sophomore, scored 151 in the season.

Margaret June Shoul Nolan was born at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA on January 18 to parents Maile Shoul and Sean Nolan. She weighed 8 lbs 12 oz and was 21 inches long. The proud grandparents are Ruth Suyenaga and Mark Shoul of Royalston and Bridget and Dan Nolan of Athol.

Kensi Lynn Richardson made her way into this world on January 11th, 8lbs 21 inches. Pictured with her proud parents Kayla Stevens and Aaron Richardson. She is the granddaughter of the delighted James and Barbara, niece of Michael and his partner Taylor Dygon.
**Royalston Police Department graduates DARE participants**

*Mary C. Barclay*

Royalston Police Officer Sherry A. Minner recently completed her eighth year as a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor for Royalston Community School’s fifth grade. Officer Sherry underwent extensive training – in excess of 80 hours in child development, education, decision-making and drug awareness – to earn certification as a D.A.R.E. instructor, and continues her education to maintain it. Although the program receives some tax dollars and substantial support from public donations and the Royalston Police Association, Officer Sherry donates a great deal of time each year to see this program takes place.

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**Scholarships for Royalston Students:**

Student scholarship deadlines are NOW! To apply, be organized and on top of these dates! First stop is the guidance department – public schools maintain a list of scholarships available to their students. Contact every local service organization you can think of. Do not underestimate on-line searches.

**The Ladies Benevolent Society Scholarships** are available to both high school seniors and returning students. There is a new form with a new deadline this year. It is available at the Monty Tech and Athol High School guidance offices and at the Phinehas Newton Library.

**Royalston Academy Scholarships:** Deadline April 12, 2013

Forms are available through your high school guidance counselor or Contact Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma. 01368. The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship (up to $1000) is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. 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.

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**At R.C.S. It Is A Busy Month!**

*Tayiah Neale, grade 6*

In the classrooms children are starting to learn a lot towards the end of the year. On the hundred day of school, grades K-2 got to have a beach lunch. The cafe was heated to 100 degrees and students got to have lunch on beach towels and blankets. The kids also did some Hundred Day activities in the classroom. I know second grade did hats like every year, a fun tradition. In Ms. Droutin’s class, the younger kids did a writing class and the older kids class is soon to come. In the higher grade levels, they’re preparing for M.C.A.S testing, which is a difficult test seeing what students have learned. The six graders have made 3 kits and they got to fly them this month too. Also the Friday before vacation was Dance In The Hall Day! Principle Leander played music randomly throughout the day and whenever the children heard the music over the loud speaker, they knew to get in the hallway and dance. Thats what’s happening around the school!

**P.T.G News**

The parent teacher group is holding a coin wars until the end of February. The class with the most money wins. Also Movie Night is coming up Lastly, the talent show is soon so get those routines together!

March
5 - Photo/Writers Club AREF grant funded
6 - 1/2 Day Elementary, No Kindergarten
12 - Photo/Writers Club - AREF grand funded
13 - 1/2 Day, All Students, Prof. Dev.
27 - Spring Pictures

**Monty Tech News**

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

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center has awarded Monty Tech with a $248,276.76 grant to develop (with Mount Wachusett Community College) a dual enrollment program in biotechnology. The program will offer two, tuition-free courses, Intro to Biotechnology and Basic Solution and Media Preparation. Qualified seniors can earn up to seven college credits for these courses, transferable to several colleges and universities in the U.S. As part of this grant, two rooms formerly used for art will be renovated with ADA-compliant features and leading edge laboratory equipment.

February marked the kick-off event for the first ever Monty Tech Fish & Game Club! On the order of 15 students along with a variety of staff members, parents and participated in the first activity – Ice fishing on Lake Wampanoag at Camp Collier in Gardner. With support of area sporting clubs, the group expects to offer the Monty Tech members a broad range of outdoor experiences. Royalston’s own Kevin Killay (machine technology instructor) and Tim Wright (welding instructor) are serving as advisors.

Congrats to Monty Tech’s Math Team, which placed third (out of 18) at a recent competition in Charlton. We wish the team well on their upcoming Worcester County Math League competition slated for March 6 at Wachusett Regional High.
Fish and Game Roast Beef Supper
February’s Roast Beef Supper was cancelled due to the storm that wasn’t. The next is Saturday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. Start out with all-you-can-eat salad and bread, followed by heaping platters of thinly sliced roast beef, giant bowls of mashed potatoes and green beans, boats of gravy, as well as coffee, tea and dessert will fill the hungriest customer. You can also end the evening with some BLITZ – just a quarter a card! Contact the club at 978-249-3004 for ticket availability.

Lion’s Club Breakfast
The Lion’s Club St. Patrick’s Special is two eggs your way, with corned beef hash, homefries with toast or English muffin. Coffee, juice and tea also included. Breakfasts to order are also available with any style eggs, sausage, home fries, toast/French toast and beverages. Specials and all other meals are $7/adults; $6/seniors; $5/under 12 – add $1 for omelets. The Phillipston-Area Lion’s Club could use more Royalston members – contact Junior Whitney at 978-249-3566 to see what it’s all about!

At the Village School
Now we are heading into sugaring season, and all the classes will be making field trips to the Richardson Farm in Phillipston for sugaring and lambing. The K-6th classes start swimming at the YMCA on Fridays. The week of March 11th is Dance Week! Yabei Chen will be teaching dance daily to all the classes, culminating with an All School performance at the Town Hall at 4:00 Friday March 15.

Science Night  Wednesday evening March 20  7:00 pm
Back in January, 4th-6th grade students chose a topic to investigate, and with the help of scientist Cathy Szal, designed experiments to prove or disprove the initial hypothesis. No help from parents. Peer review is part of the process. Students will enthusiastically display their work at Science Night and be ready to explain it. Come see their work and ask questions! Everyone is welcome.

Save the Date: Summer Programs at the Village School (check the website for info)
Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-10   9-1:00 Choose 1 or 2 weeks: July 8-12 and /or July 15-19
The Science and Art Experience for ages 8-13 July 8-12   9 to 1
Woodworking for Children  for ages 8 and up July 22-26 9 to 3

Smarter Gardening
Get ready for spring with methods that promote healthy soil life and low-maintenance vegetable and flower gardens. Seeds of Solidarity Farm and Education Center staff will share techniques for using cardboard and mulches to enhance soil fertility for starting or enhancing your vegetable, flower or herb gardens. Some tips for raised beds and season extension based on Seeds of Solidarity’s “Grow Food Everywhere” garden program for the community will also be covered. Beginner and experienced gardeners alike will leave with “simply great” ideas to share and inspire.
 Classifieds

Sharpening: knives and scissors. Also, custom knife making. Call Rob 978-320-9982.

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.


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


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 Domb

Laurie Truehart private wood carving lessons. 978-249-3291.

Winter Storage: motorcycle, automobiles, boats, etc. Unheated. Clean and dry. Call 978-249-4013.

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For sale
Hand-knitted items: baby sweater sets, mittens, hats, boot socks, etc. Nice selection of colors. Call 978-249-4013.

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale, Goats for sale: for meat or pets or rent them for brush clearing. Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062

Free-Range, pasture raised pork. Raised in Royalston. $2.00/pound; hanging weight. Processing fees not included. Whole pig or half. We arrange and ship for processing. Come pick one out. Call Chet Hall IV 249-2183.

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

Squier Davis Farm- Local, raw honey from happy bees at Squier Davis Farm. $6.00/1 lb. jar or $12.00/2 lb. jar (new this year). Call 978-249-4000 or stop by. We are located on Route 32 just past mile marker 60.


Firewood – Green, cut, split and delivered in Royalston for $165/185 cubic feet (loose cord). Call Tom Ramsdell at 987-249-2586.


Royalston Maple Syrup from Divoll’s sugar house. Prices $9/pint; $15/ qt; $28/half gal.; $50/gal. Call Randy at 978-602-5583.

Garden Notes
February 21, 2013

This month’s newsletter marks the onset of the ninth year of Garden Notes. Who would have thought? By the time you read this, the corner will have been turned. I will have seeded (indoors, of course) the onion/leeks and celery/celeriacs. Back when, the seeds were dropped into anything at hand: egg cartons, cut down milk and juice containers, whatever. Sheer volume has obliged me to find alternatives, but they are still useable, as long as holes are punched in the bottom to ensure drainage. Currently, I recycle those plastic six-packs from which one obtains all those nursery-grown seedlings. Like most everything else in life, their quality has declined dramatically and I am fortunate to re-use them even once. But most of my seedings are in 18 x 24 inch wooden flats which I’ve knocked together with 1 x 4s. There are advantages: significantly deeper than those plastic packs, they provide more room for root development. And a lot more plants can grow in a lot less space. One flat can be occupied by as many as 350 onion seedlings. (Think of the alternative: 75 six-packs.) There are also disadvantages: flats filled with soil are heavy and cumbersome, no fun at all when I move them from window to window in search of sun. And, the roots are inclined to grow together, resulting in damage when it comes time to set the seedlings into the garden. The very act of transplanting compromises the plant’s development in some ways; I imagine transplanting those that are root-damaged compromises that development even more.

A new garden season brings on new aspirations. Mine are modest. Probably because I’m a modest sort of guy (yeah, sure). Actually, I consider ambition to be highly overrated as a desirable trait. I do not seek the earliest tomato or the largest whatever or the greatest yield or the blue-ribbon at the county fair. My joy is in the effort and not the results. Yes, I want to provide food for the household. But that goal was achieved decades ago. So now I aspire to little more than enjoying myself, a reasonable goal for anyone….doing anything.

The garden usually, but not inevitably, opens up in March. I need to remind myself that there is not a whole lot to be gained by a March planting of peas and spinach. Germination is delayed at best or fails at worst. But I will be able to determine whether the spinach or parsley or kale or tatsoi has survived the winter. If so, we will consume our first fresh greens in four months. Depending on the how deep the ground has thawed, I will be able either to extract parsnips by digging (best-case scenario) or pick-axing (worst-case scenario). Either way we celebrate the season’s first vegetables.

“If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need.” My thoughts precisely though I cannot take credit for voicing them. Rather, they have been ascribed to Cicero. Two. Thousand. Years. Ago. Well, I have my garden, of course, and the town’s quaint old library (directed by the town’s quaint old librarian) is but two miles distant. Even better is the availability of inter-library loan (government spending at its finest), through which a book can be borrowed from anywhere in the country. So, have your garden and frequent your library. Cicero would be pleased.

Larry Siegel
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RCS Poetry Club
The children in all of the poetry classes have composed poems for the
Millers River Watershed Council’s Poetry Contest. Here is a sample:

River Poem
Fish ducks geese and herons
Birds up in the trees
Cattails swaying gently
In a mid-day’s summer breeze
Frogs and toads together
Croaking in a row
They best enjoy the weather
Before the sunshine goes
Kayaks go by swiftly
As they stretch their aching knees
Songbirds call out softly
And fly among the trees
A whole new world around me
I never want to leave
Until the songbirds quiet
And scatter as they leave
by Molly Divoll

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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