Calendar of Events

December 1  Sunday
2 pm  Holiday swag-making workshop at the town hall. Led by Sharon Harmon. Pre-register by calling the library.

December 2  Monday
7 pm  Zumba is back at town hall. All ages and abilities welcome. Taught by Kristen Killay. Free-will donation. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Continues every Monday through April.

December 3  Tuesday
5:22 am  New Cold Moon
10 - 11 am and 5:30-6:30 pm  Drop-in yoga classes (go to either or both) upstairs at town hall. Bring a mat if you have one. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Donations appreciated. Continues on Tuesdays depending on interest.

December 4  Wednesday
6 pm  Tree Lighting on the Common
7:30 LBS Basket Packing at the home of Theresa Quinn, next to Town Hall. If you know someone who would appreciate receiving a basket, please call 978-249-3819. All welcome to come help. If inclined, bring a dozen or so small items to tuck into baskets. Amazing key lime pie and other refreshments served after the packing.

December 5  Thursday
3:45  Friends of the Library Meeting. All welcome

December 6  Friday

December 7  Saturday
9 am - 2 pm  Jingle Bell Fair at Second Congregational Church, South Royalston: bake sale, basket raffles, crafts, and holiday greenery

December 15  Sunday
7 pm  Holiday Horns Informance at Town Hall. The Quatro Cor, a French horn quartet composed of Jean Jeffries, Christine Mortensen, Margot Rowland and Royalston’s Rebecca Krause-Hardie present holiday music interspersed with stories and information. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Refreshments.

December 16  Monday
4:30  Library Book Group discusses Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross, historical fiction about a real woman who may have served as Pope during Medieval times. All welcome for friendly book chat, tea and cookies. Copies of the book available at the library.

December 17  Tuesday
4:28 am  Full Cold Moon

December 21  Saturday
Winter solstice
Shine a light on the darkest day of the year. Take cheer. Days lengthen.

December 23 – January 1
Winter Recess in ARRSD schools

December 25  Christmas Day

December 26  Kwanza begins/ Boxing Day

January 1  Wednesday
New Year’s Day 2014
4:14 pm  New Wolf Moon

January 3  Friday

January 9  Thursday
7 pm  250th Committee Meeting. New people urged to attend or volunteer to assist with events and ticket sales. This will be the last driving year to reach our goals. Celebrating 250 years as a strong community.

January 16  Thursday
11:52 pm  Full Wolf Moon

January 17  Friday
7 pm  Royalston Historical Society Meeting at Town Hall. Ginger May will display the treasures she has unearthed in the last few years with her metal detector, including colonial coins and centuries old jewelry. Desserts served. (Confirm date and time on Royalston Historical Society Facebook page or by calling Peter Kraniac 249-7625.)

January 18  Saturday
250th Committee Chicken Pie and Trivia Night
6 pm  Supper: chicken pot pie (with or without wild mushrooms) or vegetarian pot pie (by pre-request) supper at town hall. Salad, bread and homemade desserts. Tix: $12/adult; $6/ kid. Beer and wine for sale. See committee member or call 249-0358 for tickets.

7 pm  Trivia Night  Teams of 4 -5. Entry fee is $25. The questions are tailored so that everyone knows something, many are multiple choice, and points are awarded for funniest wrong answers. Phil Leger is MC. Win or lose, all teams laugh. Beer, wine and sodas on sale. Call 249-0358 for more info or to register a team.

January 20  Monday  Martin Luther King Day observed
“...be judged not by the color of ... skin but by the content of ... character.”
Selectboard Notes
Christine Long, Member

The end of one year, the beginning of the next – families and towns alike start thinking about budgets. That’s certainly true here in Royalston, where the Selectboard recently adopted a new SOP (standard operating procedure) that calls on departments to submit their budget requests to the board and their capital requests to the Capital Planning Committee by January 1. In turn, Capital Planning will submit its recommendations to the Select Board by February 1, and that board will present its executive budget to the Advisory Committee by April 1.

The board also voted to prohibit smoking outdoors within 50 feet of Town Hall, Whitney Hall, and the Phinheas S. Newton Library and within the whole of Memorial Circle.

The board thanks voters who attended the November special town meeting and for unanimously supporting a new bylaw that allows a ground-mounted solar installation by right at the former landfill and by special permit elsewhere. By accepting this bylaw the town took another step toward becoming a Green Community and bringing in about $130,000 in state grants.

By a vote of 18-21, however, voters declined to adopt the stretch energy code, another requirement for Green Community status. The Energy Committee will bring this measure back to another town meeting.

Voters also declined to transfer $7,000 from the Stabilization Fund for the town’s share of a 50-50 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for a 20-year needs assessment of town hall. The vote was 21 in favor, 14 opposed, but such a transfer requires a two-thirds majority. This measure too will be brought back to another town meeting.

Town Clerk News
Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

2014 DOG LICENSES

The dog licensing period for 2014 begins in January. Dog tags should be available by mid-January – please call the Town Clerk prior to coming in to verify availability. Dog owners have until March 31 to license their dogs for 2014. License fees are $6.00 for a spayed/neutered dog, and $10.00 for an unaltered dog. When licensing your dog, please remember to bring the dog’s current rabies vaccination slip, as well as a check made out to the Town of Royalston. Dogs cannot be licensed without proof of a current rabies vaccination.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES:
Nomination papers for the April Annual Town Election will be available beginning Monday, January 13. Nomination papers will be available during regular business hours. The following important dates apply to the Annual Town Election:

February 18 – Last day to submit nomination papers to the Town Clerk/Registrars for certification
March 5 – Last day to object or withdraw from the Annual Town Election ballot
March 18 – Special voter registration session

Monday, April 7 – ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
The following is a listing of the offices/terms that will appear on the ballot, as well as the person currently elected to that office. There will also be offices/terms for the Athol seats on the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee on the ballot – check for a posting and an announcement on the town website as the election season begins.

Selectman 3 yrs Christine Long
Assessor 3 yrs James Richardson
Cemetery Commission 3 yrs Roland Hamel
Board of Health 3 yrs Phil Leger
Library Trustee 3 yrs Mary Longsworth
Board of Public Welfare 3 yrs Nancy Melbourne
Planning Board 5 yrs Joshua Doub
Sewer Commission 2 yrs Philip Trask
Sewer Commission 3 yrs Marie Mello
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund 1 yr Wayne Newton
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund 1 yr Roland Hamel
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund 1 yr Roy Smith, Jr.
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund 1 yr Gary Winitzer
Athol-Royalston Regional School Com - Royalston 3 yrs Nancy Melbourne

Department of Public Works
Keith R. Newton - D.P.W. Supt.

The 2013/2014 winter parking ban begins December 1, 2013 and continues through April 30, 2014. This applies to all public ways, day and night for that duration. Any violations of this law will result in removal of the vehicle(s) at the expense of the owner. Please help the DPW clear the streets by not leaving any vehicles in the public roadway.

Also, another great help is to make sure your mailbox it secured well to its mounting. The more secure, the more success it stays put for the winter. Remember, it is a privilege to have a mailbox in the “public way”, not a “right”.

Reflective edge markers will help the “plow guy” stay away from your lawn and makes an easier clean-up in the Spring. A little prevention now goes a long way for next year.

Thank you to all who cooperate with these simple suggestions.

Royalston Cultural Council Events

Tree Lighting: Wednesday, December 4
6:00 pm Tree lighting, carols, arrival of Santa, cookies and cocoa, RCS singers
Open Mic: will be Fridays beginning at 7:00 pm

December 6 March 7
January 3 April 4
February 7
Board of Health News
Phil Leger, Chairperson
The Transfer Station will be open regular hours during the holiday weeks. Saturday 8-3pm. Please try to take the foam packing materials and plastic bags and twist ties out of gift packaging prior to putting in paper recycling. If it’s not paper, don’t put in paper recycling. Same goes for bows and ribbons.

We relocated the clothing boxes at the entrance to the recycling building. Voluntary bottle and can recycling box is now located in front of the CRT container to right as you come into the facility. It’s a gray wooden box.

With wintry weather approaching, be careful when walking and driving around the facility. Pay special attention when around the roll off containers for ice and slippery areas.

Still time to get a flu shot. Call your primary care provider or many of the pharmacies have the vaccine available on a walk-in basis.

Common Restoration Information
Clarence Rabideau, Chair CRC
The Restoration Committee has been meeting on a regular basis on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm for the last year. We have been devising a plan for updates and preservation of our beautiful Common. Much of this is in preparation of Royalston’s upcoming 250th anniversary. Most events will center on the Common so we want it to be as beautiful as possible. After considerable conversation and debate we have come up with the following plan:

Phase 1A: Grant-Supported (at least we hope so…)
Removing six distressed or dying trees on the west side of the Common
Purchasing and planting 15 trees on the west side of the Common
Cutting away the existing flagpole from the monument and restoring that monument
Purchasing and installing a new flagpole and fittings behind the monument
Commissioning and installing a new memorial stone behind the monument, to honor Royalston residents who have served in all conflicts
Creating a sitting area around the monument with eight three-foot granite benches flanked by 12 shrubs
Installing 300 feet of granite curbing around Memorial Circle
Creating two other sitting areas elsewhere on the Common, each with two four-foot benches
Purchasing and installing three bike racks, at town hall, the library and either the post office or Fire Station 1

The above are our main goals but not necessarily all of our goals. Our success in achieving the above goals was dependent on our being awarded the PARC grant we applied for. However, we heard on Wednesday that we were not awarded the grant, and therefore, we will be regrouping and seeking funding from other sources. One thing we will be doing in the upcoming year is asking for donations from individuals and groups for various parts of our plan.

I would like to thank and recognize the following committee members for all of their work on behalf of the Restoration Committee: Josh Doub, Vice Chair, Christine Long, Secretary, Patience Bundschuh, Keith Newton, Bert Sawicki, Larry Siegel.

Royalston Community Newsletter Dec./Jan. 2014 Page 3
The indefatigable 250th Anniversary Committee is holding community events to raise funds for the 250th anniversary hoopla. Next up:
Chicken Pie and Trivia Night
January 18
6 pm for chicken pot pie (with or without wild mushrooms) or vegetarian pot pie supper. Salad, bread and homemade desserts. Tix: $12/adult; $6/ kid. Beer and wine for sale.
At 7 pm, move upstairs for trivia. Ask anyone who came last year, this is a blast. Teams of 4 -5 are sought. Entry fee is $25. The questions are tailored so that everyone knows something, many are multiple choice, and points are awarded for funniest wrong answers. Phil Leger is MCee. The library squeaked out a win last year, but the FD/EMS and Young Riderz were right behind and are looking to take the trophy home this time. The Dawson family team has moved, so local group and family teams are needed to try to fill the hole. Win or lose, all teams laugh. Beer, wine and sodas on sale. Come out for good food and good fun. Call 249-0358 for more info, to reserve a supper ticket, or register a team.

Capital Planning Committee Update
Phil Rabinowitz
Royalston’s Capital Planning Committee – Kate Collins, Tom Musco, and Phil Rabinowitz – meets annually with town officers, department heads and town boards to find out about their capital needs.
What are capital needs?
Capital needs are equipment and projects that aren’t covered by department or board operating budgets, cost more than $1,000, and, when purchased or completed, are expected to last for at least five years. Each year, there is equipment that needs to be bought or replaced, projects that need to be completed, and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings, that need to be upgraded.
What does the Capital Planning Committee do?
In its meetings with town officials, the Capital Planning Committee learns about each department’s needs, both in the coming year, and several years into the future. Fire hoses have to be replaced on a regular basis, vehicles only last so long. Furnaces and water systems wear out, and town computers need replacing to keep up with state requirements.

The officers, department heads, and board members explain why they need what they’re asking for, and try to put their needs in order of importance. Some examples of past and present capital needs include: Replacement of highway, fire, and police vehicles (some of these are as much as 20 years old or more), bridge repair, fireproof cabinets for town documents, and the new sewage treatment plant.

Usually the total cost of capital needs is much more than the town can afford in a given year. The members of the Capital Planning Committee use the information they’ve gathered and their knowledge of the town to make recommendations and prioritize the needs, both for the coming year and for the next five years. That way, although there will always be emergencies, the town can plan ahead for such things as replacing an expensive vehicle or rebuilding a bridge. The committee presents its recommendations each year to the Selectmen, who then, with the advice of the Finance Committee, present a budget to the town at Town Meeting.

Why should you care?
The town belongs to all of us. We pay taxes in order to have roads, schools, town buildings, and all the other things we want and need in order to live here. The Capital Planning Committee works on behalf of the town, trying to understand the needs that are most important to all town residents, and to make sensible recommendations to meet those needs. A capital plan helps us spend those taxes wisely and get more of what we need.
Thank you:
Clarence Rabideau for continued volunteer help
Connie Gaulzetti for help delivering books, reshelving, and generally picking up
Jen Basso, Connie Gaulzetti and Janet Trask for taking items to the Royalston Community School.
Antonia Petrash for an entertaining and educational program on woman’s sufferage. Maureen Blasco and Patti Stanko for baking for this program and to Patience Bundschuh for hosting the speaker.

Donations to the Friends
Rene Lake and Peter Gagliardi
Elvia Richards

Festivities

Pre-school Holiday Party
Holiday party on December 16 at 10 am with holiday refreshments, stories and crafts. All welcome.

Holiday Workshop
Sharon Harmon will lead a workshop on making a fragrant holiday swag on Sunday, December 1st at 2 pm. Sign up by calling the library 978-249-3572.

Holiday Horns Concert on December 15
The Quatro Cor, a French horn quartet composed of Jean Jeffries, Christine Mortensen, Margot Rowland and Royalston’s Rebecca Krause-Hardie will present an ‘informance’ of holiday music interspersed with stories and information on Sunday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m at the Royalston Town Hall. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Holiday refreshments will be served after the performance.

Ongoing
Zumba and Yoga are up and running
Zumba, taught by Kristen Killay at town hall has resumed for the cold months on Mondays from 6 - 7 pm. Two Tuesday yoga classes have formed: 10 - 11 in the morning and 5:30 - 6:30 in the evening. These drop-in classes are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and donations are appreciated. Thanks to the selectboard and the town for providing the perfect venue.

Library Book Group meets the 3rd Monday of most months, (the fourth if it’s a holiday). All welcome for cozy literary chat and a spot of tea. In December, 9th Century “scholarly historical fiction” is on the docket with Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross. Joan is a controversial figure in the historical record who, disguised as a man, may have been the only woman to sit on the Throne of St. Peter. In January, the group will discuss the award winning novel The Girl You Left Behind by Jojo Moyes. In 1916, a French artist leaves his wife Sophie to fight at the Front. When her town falls into German hands, his portrait of Sophie stirs the heart of the local Kommandant and causes her to risk her family, reputation and life. Flash forward, nearly a century later, the eponymous painting again becomes a central cause in passion and intrigue. Both books available at the library.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Albom, Mitch  The First Phone Call from Heaven
Baldacci, David  King and Maxwell
Banks, Russell  Accused
Beaton, M.C.  Something Borrowed, Someone Dead
Brown, Rita Mae  The Litter of the Law
Catton, Eleanor  The Luminaries
Cornwall, Patricia  Dust
Cussler, Clive  Mirage
Dailey, Janet  Homecoming
Dallas, Sandra  Fallen Women
Danticat, Edwidge  Claire of the Sea Light
Deaver, Jeffrey  The October List
DuBois, Jennifer  Cartwheel
Evanovich, Janet  Takedown Twenty
Flagg, Fannie  The All-Girl Filling Station’s Last Reunion
Harris, Charlaine  After Dead
Hillerman, Anne  Spider Woman’s Daughter
Johansen, Iris  Silencing Eve
Leavitt, David  The Two Hotel Francforts
Maitland, Barry  The Raven’s Eye
Phillips, Jayne  Quiet Dell
Quimby, Charlie  Monument Road
Rendell, Ruth  No Man’s Nightingale
Rice, Anne  The Wolves of Midwinter
Riggle, Kristina  The Whole Golden World
Roberts, Nora  Dark Witch
Stone, Robert  Death of the Black-Haired Girl
Tan, Amy  The Valley of Amazement
Tartt, Donna  The Goldfinch

Adult non-fiction

The Cook’s Illustrated Baking Book
Guinness World Records 2014

Bastianich, Lidia  Lidia’s Commonsense Italian Cooking
Bluener  Our Boston
Chin, Katie  Everyday Thai Cooking
Drummond, Ree  The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Holidays
Ephron, Nora  The Most of Nora Ephron
Good, Phyllis  Fix-it and Forget-it New Cookbook
Goodwin, Doris  The Bully Pulpit
Halperin, Mark  Double Down
Lamott, Anne  Stitches
Segan, Francine  Pasta Modern

DVDs: Ash (Local Artist), Barbie & her Sisters in a Pony Tale,
Before Midnight, A Country Christmas, The Conjuring , Grown Ups 2,
The Heat, Hitched for the Holidays, The Internship, Leviathan, Mad Men
Season 5, Mad Men Season 6, Man of Steel, Monsters University , Pacific
Rim, R.I.P.D., Sesame Street, and The Way Way Back

Young Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction

Bragg, Georgia  How They Croaked
Czajak, Paul  Monster needs a Costume
Dean, James  Pete the Cat and his Magic Sunglasses
Dean, James  The First Thanksgiving
Drummond, Ree  Charlie’s Snow Day
Elliott, Laura  Tea Party Rules
Gordon, Gus  Pink or Treat!
Kann, Victoria  Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck
Lithgow, John  Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo

Children’s Fiction

Bragg, Georgia  Brownie Groundhog and the Wintry Surprise
Czajak, Paul  Monster needs a Costume
Dean, James  Pete the Cat and his Magic Sunglasses
Dean, James  The First Thanksgiving
Drummond, Ree  Charlie’s Snow Day
Elliott, Laura  Tea Party Rules
Gordon, Gus  Pink or Treat!
Kann, Victoria  Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck
Lithgow, John  Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo

Children’s Non-Fiction

Aguilar, David  Space Encyclopedia
Fritz, Jean  Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln
Huber, Raymond  Flight of the Honey Bee
Jenkins, Steve  The Animal Book
Markle, Sandra  The Case of the Vanishing Honey Bees
Onyefulu, Ifeoma  Home
Pringle, Laurence  Scorpions!

Audio Books:

Beck, Glenn  The Snow Angel
Goodwin, Doris  The Bully Pulpit
Nussbaum, Susan  Good Kings, Bad Kings
Winchester, Simon  The Men who United the States

CDs:

Miley Cyrus  Bangerz
Avril Lavigne  Avril Lavigne
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy  It Feels Like Christmas Time
Katy Perry  Prism
Lady Gaga  Art pop
Pearl Jam  Lightning Bolt
Various Artists  Now 48
Recipes

Here’s a recipe from the Stewart-St. Onge family. Doreena and her husband Michael moved to Royalston in 1986 to be near her parents, the Stewart’s. Doreena’s dad, Ken Stewart, was raised in Royalston. In fact, Stewart Road is named after his father, Eri, a life-long resident. The Stewart-St. Onges bought what was then called the Shepardson Farm where they raised two sons, Mark and Josh.

**Grandma (Mrs. Eri) Stewart’s Upside Down Ham Loaf**

1 1/2 lb ground ham
1 lb. ground pork
1 cup cracker crumbs
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups evaporated or fresh milk
1/2 tsp pepper
chopped or sliced pineapple covering the bottom of a loaf pan

Mix all ingredients (except the pineapple) together. Put on top of pineapple. Bake 1 1/2 hours at 350 degrees. Eat hot or cold.

**Thinking About Fruitcake**

*Deb D’Amico*

Conventional wisdom has it that no one likes fruitcake. Eyes roll at its mere mention. Its fate was sealed years ago by Johnny Carson on his Tonight Show, when he quipped, “There is really only one fruitcake in the world and people keep sending it to each other.” Entire websites are devoted to listing “alternative uses for fruitcake” from doorstep to ship’s ballast. The people of Manitou Springs, Colorado have taken their disdain for fruitcake to the ultimate extreme with the “Great Annual Fruitcake Toss”. On the first Saturday in January, contestants vie to see who can toss their unwanted cakes the farthest. Fruitcakes can be tossed, hurled, or launched by pneumatic devices, such as spud guns. Ouch! How can any baked good, no matter how lovingly created, recover from such contempt?

I suspect that the dislike of fruitcake is not as widespread as it may appear. Recipes for a variety of fruitcakes exist in most comprehensive cookbooks and in many cultures. Several companies, here and abroad, bake and sell thousands of cakes each year. All of these are not being launched in Colorado. Someone is eating at least some of these. It is likely that there are legions of fruitcake aficionados out there silenced by the fruitcake’s bad press. It’s time for someone to boldly speak in favor of this much-maligned confection.

But first, a little history... Earliest references to fruitcake date back to Roman times, when the recipe included pomegranate seeds, pine nuts, and raisins mixed into barley mash and baked. Soldiers and hunters were reported to have carried the resulting cake as sustenance over long periods of time away from home - the Granola Bar of antiquity!

The British added dried fruits from the Mediterranean in the 18th century to celebrate the end of the nut harvest season. These cakes were traditionally stored for an entire year and eaten at the beginning of the following harvest as a blessing for the new crop. One begins to see that the fruitcake’s long shelf life, alluded to by Johnny Carson, has some credence.

Most fruitcake recipes I’ve come across have common elements. Virtually all recipes call for raisins, sultanas, or currants - sometimes all three - with nuts and citrus peel. Many add dried fruits - apricots, plums, or dates. Others mention candied fruits, such as cherries or pineapple. Baking times are typically long - from 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours - and all bake at low oven temperatures of 250° to 300°. Most call for some kind of spirits - rum, brandy, port, sweet sherry or whiskey. A recipe for “Old Peculiar Fruitcake” calls for a pint of Theakston’s Old Peculiar Strong Ale. Peculiar indeed!

I have loved fruitcake since I was a child. However, I contend that not all fruitcakes are created equal. A truly great fruitcake, in my opinion, is more a confection than a cake. There should be just enough cake to hold the fruits and nuts together. As with any food worth preparing – and eating - the better the ingredients, the better the result. So I leave the brightly colored “fruitcake mix” and “candied cherries” on the store shelf and reach for dates, pecan halves, and bottled cherries. I believe the resulting “confection” should be savored in small servings, so I bake in small loaf pans, not the 8 ½ “ ones typically called for.

I offer here my favorite fruitcake recipe of all time, given to me by my friend Addie. It is simple. There are no spices or flavorings, except the rum, so the texture of the pecans and dates, and the sweetness of the pineapple and cherries shine through. Come on, try it! You will not want to anchor your rowboat with this one!

**Addie’s Fruitcake**

Preheat oven to 300°. Generously grease and lightly flour bottom and sides of six small loaf pans (3 ¼ x 5 ¾ x 2).

*Sift together:*  
1 ½ cup sifted flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 ½ cup sugar  
½ teaspoon salt

*Add to this:*  
2 packages pitted dates, whole or chopped (approx. 8 oz. each)  
1 lb. candied pineapple  
2 jars (8 oz. each) Maraschino cherries, drained  
18 oz. pecans

Mix until fruits are well coated.

Beat together:  
6 eggs  
1/3-cup rum

Pour egg and rum mixture over fruit mixture and stir until well combined. Press into prepared pans and pack down.

Bake about 1 hour and check for doneness. A cake tester should come out clean. Run knife around edges to loosen while still warm. Let cool 15 minutes in pan then remove to a cooling rack. If you like a shiny top, brush each loaf with warm corn syrup.
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

John Knight is a sophomore at Monty Tech where he has chosen the House Carpentry trade. John’s family moved to Royalston when he was 3. He joined the Cub Scouts Pack 18 as a Wolf in September 2005; he was seven years old. He continued through the ranks of cub scouts achieving his Catholic Religious Awards, the Light of Christ followed by Parvuli Dei in 2006. He was also awarded the United States Heritage Award and was made an Honorary Junior Ranger with the Army Corps of Engineers the same year. When he transitioned from cub scouts to boy scouts in 2009 he was awarded the Arrow of Light, and he joined Troop 8 in Athol. He progressed through the ranks achieving several special awards including World Conservation, Arthur Lomax III Marksmen Award and most recently the Paul Bunyan Award. John was selected by his Troop in June of 2010 and approved by the Scout Master Council to participate in an Ordeal weekend. And, Achieving his Order of the Arrow as an Ordeal, he will be participating this Spring with the Order to become a member of the Brotherhood.

For the past year, John has met with The Royalston Town Selectman, Historic District Commission and the Community Preservation Committee to propose his ideas for an Eagle Scout project for the town. It took several meetings before being voted on by the town to be funded by the Preservation Committee. Construction began in July 2013. He completed his project with the help of Troop 8 in October. He was presented with a plaque from the Town which will be mounted on the pavilion. John’s Eagle Court of Honor will be celebrated at the Pavilion this spring.

A photograph by Alyce Mayo will be featured in the December ArtsWorcester exhibit: Creatures, Real and Imagined. This exhibit is in collaboration with the Fitchburg Art Museum and will be displaying eleven pieces of art from the museum collection-- each with its own culture and story behind it—along with corresponding responses to each piece in the form of artwork in any media. The opening reception will take place on Friday, December 6th from 6-8 p.m. at the ArtsWorcester gallery located at 660 Main Street in Worcester. All invited. Other viewing times for the exhibit will be from December 7-21 and January 3-11 during gallery hours: Thursday through Saturday, 12pm-4pm and by appointment. Eleven pieces from the show will be juried for exhibition at the Fitchburg Art Museum later in the year.
Royalston Historical Society

Mechanics Hall in South Royalston burned in the 1904 fire, which consumed the woolen factory, the hotel, the Congregational Church, the fire station and other important structures. It was rebuilt as Whitney Hall after Geo. Whitney gave money for the project.

The Historical Society is launching a fund raising campaign to raise funds to do restoration and maintenance work to School House #1, which houses the History Museum and Post Office. This beautiful building, gracing Royalston Common for over 160 years is in dire need of a paint job, window restoration, and a new roof. The fundraising committee led by Patience Bundschuh is coming up with creative ideas to gain public participation. Regular post office patrons have been met in the lobby by an unnamed school teacher in 19th century garb, who is asking for donations. A paper model of School House #1 also serves as a depository for donations. When you deposit your money you may also vote to name this schoolmarm (perhaps you could name her after your favorite teacher).

Please join. We have some exciting programs scheduled for upcoming meetings and input is always appreciated. Call our President Peter Krania 978-249-7625, Vice President Stephen Chase 978-249-0358 or our fund raiser Patience Bundschuh 978-249-6081.

I would like to become a member of the Royalston Village Improvement & Historical Society Inc.

___ Enclosed are 2014 dues of $5.00

___ I would also like to contribute to the Building Restoration Fund with a tax deductible donation of ____________

Name:
Address:
Email:

Checks payable to the Royalston Historical Society may be mailed to PO Box 57, Royalston MA 01368 or deposited in donation box at School House #1

JINGLE BELL FAIR

Saturday, December 7th
9:00 AM – 2:00PM
Second Congregational Church
South Royalston

Bake Sale, Basket Raffles, Crafts, Holiday Greenery

Hot dogs, home-baked beans, Apple Pie!!

Thanks for the Support of the 250th Celebration!
Geoffrey L. Newton and Carol Rogers

The recent Holiday Fair was a great success. Thanks to all the folks who supported our local crafters and vendors. Also, a special thank you is extended to Noel’s Nursery of Orange for the donation of a 3ft Alberta Spruce tree, which was decorated with gift certificates from several local businesses, lottery tickets and cash. This item was won by Janice Draper. The House of Wax of Orange donated a certificate for a full car detail from Mr. David Meausky was won by Laurie Deveneau, who also won a tool kit with screwdrivers and a carry bag. The giant Thanksgiving basket items were donated by long-time generous donors Lenny Hoffman, Jan St. Jean and Mariah Mallet. Carol Rogers won the basket. Thanks to Rose Lawrence for giving items to the Chinese auction and to everyone who baked for the wonderful goodie table. Thank you Santa for coming all the way from the North Pole (of Royalston). Committee members set up on Friday and then worked all day on Saturday. Adam Rogers was a big help keeping kids occupied with crafts. Thank you to Mr. Bobcat for making a friendly appearance. A special THANK YOU goes to Marlene Jarvenpa, Carol Rogers, and Jan St Jean who worked endlessly to make all the finer details of this event work well. Other winners: the replica of the World’s Fair Ferris Wheel went to Bert Sawicki and the door prize to Emma Sherman.

Plans are in the works for November 15, 2014 at the school for our 3rd annual holiday fair. Get your crafts ready. Call 978-249-5195 to reserve a space. It’s a good place to spend the day with friends and neighbors.

LBS

Drive-by-Pie a Big Success; Yum

Thanks to all who baked, all who shopped, and all who ate those tasty homemade pies. A community-connecting event, the pie sale raised nearly $700 for college scholarships for Royalston residents (of any genders and ages) pursuing higher educational opportunities. Scholarship applications will be available in the spring at local high schools or at the library.
Community School News

6th grade view  
Noah Michelson

So far this November, all of the students have been doing exceptionally! Especially at getting food in and on time for the big feast for Thanksgiving. This was all started by the lower grades of our school (k-2) and I think everyone from the staff to the parents and even the kids (including me) of R.C.S. is very proud of the kids who helped in this event.

Coming up in the future at R.C.S is that two 6th graders, Maria Bianchi and Noah Michelson have been chosen to go around the school and take a video of what’s going on in each classroom of R.C.S. (k-6) and will put it in a video and it will be on the ARRSD or R.C.S. Website. You will be able to see and access it freely and easily.

The first graders have been working really hard on homework and regular work in class as well. Their cornucopias of the letter “L” look really festive. Kindergarten this month did hand print-turkeys, that used the feathers to show all about “being thankful” in autumn colors. Second grade made gorgeous leaf prints in violets, greens, and blues this month, all on a blackback ground. Third grade made self-portraits. Fourth graders stated they enjoy “fun math times” and “are turning fractions in division into decimals”. Sixth graders spent time making cool folding paper art robots, think origami but with using tape too. All the other grades, in particular the fifth grade have been working on writing this month. Fifth graders have done their posters and writing, with magnificent illustrations (on the poster) about a book from the Narnia series (The Magician’s Nephew). By the looks of the bulletin board outside their classroom they seem to have done an outstanding job. That is only a portion of what’s going on in R.C.S this November. Have a great Thanksgiving and don’t forget to give thanks...

How about those Holidays and the New Year everybody! December will flow by like all the windy snow, and it may be that we will have an extra long vacation this month. Kindergarten does the Polar Express, R.C.S. style, for the very first time this month. First graders do it too while working on their “ready to write” ideas. On Friday, December 13th no one in second grade will be too scared to make homemade pasta to go along with books by Tomie dePaola. Yum Yum, it will smell delish. Third graders will work on a soda can project and fourth graders on their short story writing. Fifth graders are thinking about the whole world while doing their Continent Projects. Sixth graders bare thinking about beyond our world with individual projects all about Space.

Hard to believe RCS can get all that in this month with Family Fun Night, Movie night, and the Joyous Winter Concert at AHS too! I don’t know about you but I think that vacation will come just in time to get us all ready for a fabulous view of 2014. Make sure you have a Happy New Year everybody.

RCS Calendar

December/January
Dec. 02 Caring for Kids Dental Program *Screening
Dec. 04 DARE – Gr 5, Polar Express – K – 2 
½ Day, Noon Release, Lunch Served
Dec. 06 Family Fun Night @ RCS
Dec. 11 DARE – Gr 5, Officer Phil Program – K – 2
Dec. 17 Caring for Kids Dental Program *Treatments
Winter Concert @ AHS @ 6:30pm
Dec. 18 DARE – Gr 5
Dec. 20 Movie Night @ RCS
Dec. 23 – Jan. 1 *Winter Recess
Jan. 02 Students Return to School
Jan. 17 District Professional Development/NO SCHOOL
Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day/NO SCHOOL
Jan. 24 TOY BINGO

Royalston Santa Vists 250th Committee Craft Fair

Royalston Santa Vists 250th Committee Craft Fair

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Royalston Community School students donated food items to create holiday baskets to help provide a holiday meal for families in the school. Students pictured below; front left to right; Abigail Willhite, Daniel Cummings, Mariah Valliere. Back row left to right; Ryan Darling, Katrina Bullock, and Aliyah Neale.

At the Village School

December 20 11 a.m. Holiday Celebration, half day, then school vacation begins
January 30 No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences
January 31 No School, Teacher Inservice Day

Saturday Feb. 1st
The Village School, on the Common, is hosting an Open House on Saturday February 1st from 10 a.m. to noon. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served. There are preschool openings for fall 2014, and just a few openings in the other classes. Come visit with your children, there will be engaging art and science projects in the classrooms for the children.
Garden Notes

There were, undoubtedly, some among you who, arousing yourselves out of bed on the morning of the twelfth, delighted at the snow-covered terrain (sort of a pre-winter wonderland). I was not among you, the snow having covered the unramaked leaves, the unprepared garden beds, the neglected tools…. Okay, I’m engaging in a bit of hyperbole, the snow having disappeared within thirty-six hours after all but it was, nonetheless, a wake-up call that there remained chores aplenty and a declining amount of time to complete them. Unfinished business.

A request has arrived at the august offices of the world headquarters of the Royalston Community Newsletter for me to provide more details on bed preparation. I am here to please. First, whatever is in the bed must be removed from the bed. Those occupied by root crops are the least troublesome; not only are you harvesting more winter grub, but by digging up the potatoes and pulling the carrots, beets, etc., you have begun the process of turning the bed. Other crops are pulled plant by plant. If any green remains, they become fodder for the animals; if not, they become essential ingredients in the compost piles. To turn the beds, I use that high-tech instrument, the garden hoe. The undertaking becomes a wee bit more complicated (well, a wee bit more than a wee bit) if perennial weeds, and especially grasses, have invaded the bed. Turning them in will not cut it. Many will re-root and thrive under the winter’s mulch. They are dug (the hoe suffices) and removed and only then is the bed turned. Step 2: I navigate the perimeter pulling the soil from the aisles into the bed, returning it to its former elegance as a ‘raised bed.’

Storage space in dry building, large enough for small trailer, boat, etc. Also plenty of outside parking space. Call 978-249-4013. Great Christmas gifts!

Twin bed frame and dark wood headboard in very good condition $50 or best offer. Call Diana or Geoff at 978-249-3726.

How green is the garden? Well, considering it’s November 22, green enough. The tops of the root crops (parsnips, carrots, beets, celeriac, and rutabaga) get knocked back during really cold nights and start re-growing when temperatures moderate. The alliums are a sturdy lot: we can still go out and harvest leeks, scallions, and chives. So too, cilantro, dill, and parsley. Those eternally useful fish tanks are being useful again, covering some late planted lettuce. The kale and spinach should be a mass of green; the turkeys have seen to the fact that they are not.

The newsletter hibernates in January. (Rumor has it the staff will travel to Aspen for a skiing retreat.) Just as well, I’d be hard-pressed to note anything meaningful in the garden. Notwithstanding, I will truck on. Actually, the truck was just taken of the road. I will Subaru Forester on.

Larry Siegel

Classifieds

Wanted: Secure parking or garage for my 6X8 ft trailer. I visit Long Pond occasional weekends and have no space at home. Call Ron Hurley 617 816-8003/ RHurley@partners.org

Housing wanted: Mature female with two small dogs needs a small apartment or house. Excellent references. Call 978-575-0751

Services Available:

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

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

After-school child care at the Village School.

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 benguiney@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? $15/hour. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

For sale:

Clearance on all hand-knitted items: baby sets (limited colors), boot socks, mittens, hats, scarves etc. Call 978-249-4013. Great Christmas gifts!

Twin bed frame and dark wood headboard in very good condition $50 or best offer. Call Diana or Geoff at 978-249-3726.

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.

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

Piglets. $70. Call Chet 978-249-2183

Grass-fed Beef: All cuts available. Buy ten pounds of beef and receive ten pounds of apples at no extra cost. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.


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Wildlife Sighting
Matt Rogers spotted a bobcat behind the Royalston Community School during the recent 250th Committee sponsored craft fair. Many at the fair caught a glimpse before it crossed back into the woods.

Sue Divirgilio saw a Bald Eagle on Millyard Road.

Hunting seasons - Wear blaze orange in the woods. Bow, shotgun and primitive arms (muzzle loaders) seasons are mixed in the month of December going into January. No hunting on Sundays.

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