Calendar of Events

All month - **Snow Sculpture Contest** sponsored by the 250th Committee. Build a snow creature or structure, snap a photo with something recognizably Royalston in the frame, and email the jpg to chasegos2@gmail.com. Winners published in the next newsletter. Prizes. All ages and group projects encouraged. Deadline for photos: midnight 2/28/14.

February 13 Thursday     7 pm **Democratic caucus** at Town Hall.
February 14 Friday **Valentine’s Day and Full Snow Moon**
February 17 Monday **Presidents’ Day**
February 18 Tuesday 1:30 pm **Creature Teachers** at Town Hall. Up-close opportunities with animals from far away. Call the library for free advance tickets.
February 18 Tuesday Last day to submit nomination papers to the Town Clerk/Registrar's Office at Whitney Hall before the Annual Town Election.
February 22 Saturday noon to 5 p.m. **Soup- R - Bowl!** All you can eat homemade soups and desserts at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Tix $8. Skating and outdoor activities, weather permitting. Chicken shoot and chug-a-lug games. Prizes.
February 24 Monday 4:30 Reading group meets to discuss Thoreau’s *Faith in a Seed*.
February 27 Thursday 3:30 - 4:45 pm **Cross Culture Club** for Kids begins at the library. Visit Poland with Magdalena Surlej.
February 28 Friday New Wolf Moon

***Save the Date:***

March 7 Friday 7 - 10 pm **Open mic**
March 14 Friday 7 pm **John Smolens**, the author of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award nominated novel *Cold*, as well as other novels, short stories and articles will discuss his books and writing at the library.
March 15 Saturday 11a.m. - 3 pm **Auction to Benefit Old School House #1 Restoration fund.** Tax deductible donations of old and new quality furniture, collectibles and memorabilia and gift certificates for goods or services sought. Call Steffi at 978-249-8675 to make a donation. Pick up and storage possible.
March 22 Saturday 250th Celebration committee **roast beef supper** at town hall.

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February 2 Sunday **Groundhog Day**
February 6 Thursday 3:45 Friends of the Library meeting. All welcome.
February 6 Thursday 7 pm **250th Committee meeting at Town Hall** to discuss plans and divvy up tasks for the 2015 celebration. Come, get involved in the final push.
February 7 Friday 7 pm **Open Mic at Town Hall**
February 8th & 9th Saturday and Sunday **Winter Campout at Tully Lake Campground.** On-line registration and event details here: http://www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do/central-ma/tlc-winter-campout.html or call 978-840-4446 x1921

February 12 Wednesday **Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday**

One hundred and fifty years ago, Royalston was deeply involved in what the Caswell’s *History of Royalston* calls, “The great struggle that kept the Union whole.” By 1864, the war was ending, but over 138 men from town had participated. Some soldiers had volunteered, some were drafted, and some paid $300 to be exempted from the draft. Phinehas Newton paid $500 to have Henry Newton go in his stead. Of the 110 volunteers, who “…enlisted from motives of purest patriotism, with no hope of pecuniary reward”, 16 died, either in battle, from disease or in prison. Not included in these totals, there were 40 men, born in Royalston, who served in quotas for other towns and states; 11 died.)

Looking at the record, it is striking how many sets of brothers fought; sometimes all the sons and the father went. The town was depleted of young men. The town appropriated funds and abated taxes in recognition of the loss of labor and income families suffered. The total population of Royalston 150 years ago was not much different than now.
**Selectboard Notes  Christine Long, Member**

Over the next few months, as planning for Fiscal Year 2015 proceeds, the Selectboard will schedule a number of public meetings to inform residents about the realities of the town’s finances and the process of capital planning.

At town meeting and at the town election, the board will again ask voters to support an override of $50,000 for a capital stabilization fund. With aging town buildings and equipment that wears out, the town year after year faces more and more difficult decisions.

Last year, for example, the town had only $55,000 available for appropriations after funding the budget – and $35,000 of that went to capital projects. One capital project, a $32,000 replacement of a cruiser in depressingly frequent need of expensive repairs, was originally tabled, but eventually the town patched together about $9,000 to allow the lease-purchase of a new vehicle.

An example for the coming year: The town will not be seeking a grant to construct an elevator that will make town hall accessible to all residents – because we have only about $55,000 of a match of $125,000 or so we would need to qualify for a federal Community Development Block Grant. (That $55,000 is in a fund holding paybacks from previous CDBG housing rehabilitation work and can be used only for future CDBG projects.)

The board will open the warrant for annual town meeting on February 4 and close it on April 1.

**Open Burning Permits Available  Keith R. Newton, Fire Chief**

The Fire Department will issue Open Burning Permits at the Royalston Fire Station #1, located on #4 Athol Road, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 PM until May. The burning season starts January 15, 2014 and extends through May 1, 2014.

All fires must be at least 75 feet from any building, can only be burnt between the hours of 10:00 AM and must be out by 4:00 PM. The Department of Environmental Protection also urges that you burn only on clear days to allow smoke to rise up and away from residence minimizing the effects of the smoke. On the day you wish to burn, call and listen for a recorded message that will give the information about safe burning. The non-emergency telephone number at the fire station is 978-249-8138. Thank you all for your full cooperation.

**Town Clerk News  Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk**

**2014 DOG LICENSES**

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 are 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.

- **Selectboard** 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
- **Trusted of J.N. Bartlett Fund** 1 yr Wayne Newton
- **Trusted of J.N. Bartlett Fund** 1 yr Roland Hamel
- **Trusted of J.N. Bartlett Fund** 1 yr Roy Smith, Jr.
- **Trusted of J.N. Bartlett Fund** 1 yr Gary Winitzer
- **Athol-Royalston Regional School Com - Royalston** 3 yrs Nancy Melbourne

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**Paul A. Montero, P.L.S.**

**Professional Land Surveyor**

101 Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd - PO Box 20 Royalston, Massachusetts 01368

Telephone: (978) 249-5879

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Board of Health News
Phil Leger, Chairperson

Happy New Year to all!

Well, you all know how often we have stated, “you can’t make paper out of plastic”. Well, how about bullets? Twice now, someone has dumped live ammunition in the recycling container. Luckily, our eagle eye attendants spotted it and pulled the ammunition out before anything bad could happen. What could have happened, however, is very bad indeed; the ammunition could have been set off when compacting equipment came in contact with the bullets. Once the material leaves our facility, it is handled by machines. Please, if you have live ammunition, contact the police department for proper disposal. Please, do not put live ammunition in trash or recycling!

Still time to get a flu shot. See you doctor or go to one of the pharmacies in the area. Flu cases are up in the Commonwealth at this time.

Royalston board of Health will shortly be receiving a grant from the Montachusett Public Health Network to collect medical waste. There will be both a sharps and a medication take-back kiosk. We hope to locate the sharps kiosk in the town hall and the med take-back kiosk at the police station. Stay tuned for further details.

Zoning Update Project is Underway Again!
Kim Noake MacPhee

Remember the zoning update project? The joint New Year’s resolution of the Zoning Bylaw Task Force and the Planning Board is to close out the zoning update project begun in 2006. Over the coming months, the Planning Board will be scheduling a series of Public Information Meetings to review all of the proposed updates to the Zoning Bylaw and solicit comments from residents. The goal is to bring the proposed zoning changes to Town Meeting this year. The schedule for the Public Information Meetings is still being finalized but we anticipate that a meeting schedule will be published in the March newsletter. We encourage you to attend the meetings and help us keep our New Year’s resolution! Kate Collins, Planning Board Chair

Royalston Democrats To Caucus On Feb. 13

Royalston Democrats will caucus at the town hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, it was announced by committee chair Allen Young. All registered Democrats in Royalston are encouraged to attend the caucus to learn about the candidates for statewide offices and to elect a delegate and alternate to the June convention, which will be held in Worcester at the DCU Center. The positions to be filled are governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, auditor and secretary of state. Any candidate that receives votes of 15 percent or more of the delegates will be listed on the Democratic primary ballot.

The town committee welcomes new members. Current members include Christine Beckert Long, George “Buddy” Dyer, Lynne Kellner, Tom Kellner, Phil Rabinowitz, Carla Rabinowitz, Vyto Andreliunas and Ruth Suyenaga.

The indefatigable 250th Anniversary Committee is officially in its last year of fundraising. Get involved in the final push. The next planning meeting on Feb. 6 at 7 pm at Town Hall will be forming committees to plan the actual 2015 celebration. Your interest and help are needed. Meanwhile, in 2014, the group continues holding community events to raise funds for the 250th anniversary hoopla. Coming in February:

Soup-R-Bowl!

All-you-can-eat homemade soups and desserts
noon to 5 pm
at the Royalston Fish and Game Club
February 22, by George.
Tickets are only $8.
Skating and outdoor fun, weather permitting.
Win fabulous prizes at the chicken shoot and chug-a-lug games.
Donations of soup, desserts, and gift certificates needed. Please call Marlene 978-249-4491 to help.

February Snow Sculpture Contest

Anytime in February, make a snow sculpture (anything appropriate: snowmen, snow animals, snow structures, snow art... all welcome)
Take a photo with a recognizable piece of Royalston in the frame.
E-mail to chasinggos2@gmail.com and include name and address of sculptor and date of creation. Winning sculptures will be published in this newsletter. Prizes awarded.
Open to all ages, but conditions cooperating, it is a good February vacation activity for kids, clubs, and clans.

Congratulations to the library team for winning the trivia night two years in a row! The Axe Marauders were right behind and deserve props for their flashing lights and signage. There were 9 teams-a-thinking following the many crusts-a-rolling at the chicken pie supper. Thanks for all who turned out for the event and to Phil Leger for his warmly chiding talents as MCEE. (OK. This is actually the Swamp Rats team. The library was represented by Patti Stanko, Gina Verrelli, Maba Cauthen, Kathy Morris and Jim MacPhee.)
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:
Donations to the Friends
Jean and Donald Stanton
Boyd Estus
The MacPhee family
Pierre and Marie Humblet
Chuck and Polly Longsworth
James Taylor

In Memory of Werner Bundschuh
Bonni Widdoes and Terry Dangel

New Telescope coming to the Library:
The Sky is the Limit for Upcoming Library Programs
Look to the Stars at the Library! With an Orion StarBlast Telescope
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for providing funding, the Aldrich Astronomical Society, Inc. for the program, and Lula Field for alerting us about the program, the library will be one of the first Massachusetts libraries to receive an Orion StarBlast 4.5” Reflector Astronomical Telescope. The Aldrich Astronomical Society is working with the New Hampshire Astronomical Society to extend the library telescope program to Massachusetts libraries. Late last year I contacted the NH Society and they directed my request to the Massachusetts Society. The telescope is fully modified to make its use easy; library staff is trained in its use, and a member of the Aldrich Astronomical Society will act as a ‘foster parent’ to the scope. We will be scheduling a program by one of the members of the Society, plan to have at least two regular programs a year and are planning in the future to loan the scope just as we do the digital projector.

The goal of the program is “to help foster scientific literacy, stimulate an interest in astronomy, and provide people who have never looked through a telescope the chance to experience the excitement that comes from the discovery.” The telescope has a zoom eye piece and supportive materials, is easy to use, and sturdy. It is a manageable size, but has a relative large optical tube which shows far more details of the Moon and deep sky objects than one could see with the common “beginners” telescopes. It also has a large field of view that allows an object to stay in the eyepiece longer. We are very pleased to be able to bring this telescope to Royalston and are grateful to the Aldrich Astronomical Society which had worked out the agreement with the company, modified the scopes for public use, and developed this program for Massachusetts libraries. Thanks to John Root of the Aldrich Astronomical Society for his encouragement and help in making this program available to us.

The library is going to have a special stable tripod made for the telescope, which will cost about $100 for materials to make. If anyone would like to donate towards that project, please denote that on your donations to the Friends.

Ongoing
Zumba on Mondays at 6 pm
Yoga on Tuesdays at 9 am
The morning yoga class led by Melanie Miller of Westminster and held on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the upstairs of the Town Hall has proved so popular that it will continue for another eight sessions through March 18. This free class (donations accepted) provides a relaxed, stretch workout for every level and is funded by the Friends of the Library. No pre-registration is necessary but bring your own mat and blanket to lie on and a cover (small blanket) for the cool-down/relaxation.

The Tuesday evening class was completed and the instructor can no longer do Tuesday evenings but if you are interested in an evening yoga class beginning in April, possibly on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m., please contact Maureen at 978-249-3158. You must let Maureen know ahead of time so she will have an idea if enough people will participate. The instructor for this class will be

School Vacation Program:
“Creature Teachers” Bringing Animals from around the World to Royalston Town Hall

Rick Roth, director of Creature Teachers of Littleton, will bring many animals of the world to the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m. for an exciting, entertaining, and educational program. We have had Rick before and his programs are always a great way to see exotic animals up close and to learn how they live and adapt in their own environments. Creature Treasures goal is to fascinate audiences with the wonders and diversity of the animals that share our planet. Tickets for this free performance are available at the library and may be reserved by calling the library. Those with tickets will be admitted first until 10 minutes before the program at which time any remaining spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis. This program is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Rick Roth, director of Creature Teachers of Littleton, will bring many animals of the world to the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m. for an exciting, entertaining, and educational program. We have had Rick before and his programs are always a great way to see exotic animals up close and to learn how they live and adapt in their own environments. Creature Treasures goal is to fascinate audiences with the wonders and diversity of the animals that share our planet. Tickets for this free performance are available at the library and may be reserved by calling the library. Those with tickets will be admitted first until 10 minutes before the program at which time any remaining spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis. This program is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
Author John Smolens to Speak in March
On Friday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the library, John Smolens, the author of eight novels, a collection of short stories, and articles in numerous magazines and newspapers, will discuss his books and writing. His book Cold was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. He teaches in the Masters of Fine Arts Program at Northern Michigan University where he has been the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award and was named Michigan author of the year in 2010. Smolens holds degrees from Boston College, University of New Hampshire and University of Iowa. Andre Dubus III says of Smolens, “John Smolens is that rare and gifted writer who can capture both our exterior and interior worlds with equal dexterity, grace and power. His characters will stay with you long after turning the last page.” Mr. Smolens is in the region to research a book and woo a Longsworth cousin. Copies of his books are available for borrowing at the library.

Library Book Group meets the at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months, (the fourth if it’s a holiday). All welcome for cozy literary chat and a cuppa accompanied by some good cookies.

On February 24, fresh from placing our seed orders for the coming summer, the book group will discuss Faith in a Seed by Henry David Thoreau. Books are available to be checked out at the library, but even if you haven’t read the Thoreau, make like many a quasi-Transcendentalist, English major, and come share your ideas on literature, nature, hope, hypocrisy, idealism, simple lives, or the wonder of seeds. Thoreau (and his pals Hawthorne, Alcott and Emerson) used this method of discussion and it worked for them.

Cross-Clture Club is Coming
Beginning February 27, save three Thursdays for the annual Cross Culture Club for kids at the library from 3:30 - 3:45. All ages are welcome, but the gathering is aimed at telling kids about the wider world through slides, songs, art, and food. Usually the presentations are made by young people from the culture presented. With a permission note, students from RCS can take the bus to the library. Call for more information. The schedule is evolving, but the plan is:

- February 27 Poland
- March 6 Canada
- March 13 Guatemala

Children’s Non-Fiction
Arnold, Tedd Dinosaurs
Clay, Kathryn Time to Sign
Curto, Rosa Maria Draw the Magic Pink Fairy
DuBosque, Doug Draw! Cars
Foran, Racquel Organ Transplant
Guibert, Emmanuel Ariel
Rappaport, Doreen To Dare Mighty Things
Riordan, Rick The Titan’s Curse

Children’s Audiobooks
Bacigalupi, Paolo Zombie Baseball Beatdown

Audio Books:
Cheevers, Jack Act of War
Dubois, Jennifer Cartwheel
Gilbert, Elizabeth The Signature of All Things

DVDs: All is Bright, Anchorman, Breaking Bad – Season 2, The Butler, Carrie, Don Jon, Enough Said, Fruitvale Station, Gasland Part 2, Justified Season 4, More than Honey, Prisoners, Runner Runner The Singing Revolution and Sweetwater

CDs: Li Nub - Gradients Linq - Disconnect
Teens: What are you doing this summer?
Full Scholarships to Junior Conservation Camp Available
Last September, the Royalston Fish & Game Club hosted its first annual Fall Frenzy. The proceeds from the raffles were targeted to send kids to Junior Conservation Camp.

We are happy to announce that this year we are able to sponsor two kids!! However, we need to have applicants.

Junior Conservation Camp is held for 2 weeks, August 3, 2014 - August 15, 2015 at the Chesterfield Scout Reservation in Chesterfield, Mass. Boys and girls aged 13 to 17 who enjoy outdoor activities and want to learn more about the environment are eligible to attend. A large portion of the instruction is “hands-on” and students will participate in instruction that includes firearms of several types, bow, arrow, fishing and camping equipment and wildlife interaction.

Tuition for the full two weeks is $650, paid by the club, which covers lodging expenses as well as food and activities.

More information and an application are available at www.juniorconservationcamp.org.

If your child is interested, please have him/her fill out the application and submit it along with a short essay explaining WHY the child would like to attend to:  
Luann Simula
Sec. Royalston Fish & Game Club
50 Main Road
Phillipston, Ma 01331-9780

Must be submitted by March 1st!!!

Firearms Safety Course Forming
Some residents of Warwick are trying to organize a firearms safety course, a prerequisite for a hunting license in Massachusetts. If you are interested in participating or receiving more information, please contact Grace via email egle119@verizon.net

Wildlife Sighting:
Joshua Doub spotted a Bald Eagle over Camp Caravan chasing a Common Raven (of which there are many year around) for quite a while around 2:30 on January 19th. He reported, “There seems to be quite a large population on Barred Owls there too; it’s common to hear many of them in the woods making their full range of calls.”

Recipe of the Month
After living in Athol for 18 years, Yolanda and Michael Brousseau moved to Royalston in 2007. Rolanda unloads trucks at Target, and Michael is a mechanical engineer. They have four children and four grandchildren, two of whom are living with them on Millyard Rd. Rolanda says, “everyone in our family likes this recipe, and it’s easy to prepare.”

Crock Pot Maple Chicken
Fill the bottom of the crock pot with chicken breasts (frozen is ok.) Fill with water until the level reaches 1/2 inch below the tops of the chicken. Add maple syrup to the to cover breasts. Prepare stove top or other stuffing very dry and then pour on top of it all. Cook 6 - 8 hours, depending on size of the crock-pot. It comes out sweet and crispy.
Chester H. Hall, III
58, of Beryl Hill Road, died Saturday, January 18, 2014 at Heywood Hospital after being stricken ill at his home.

Chet was born in Medford, Massachusetts, October 25, 1955, the son of Chester H. and Valerie (Wilkes) Hall, Jr. He grew up in Wilmington, graduating from Wilmington High School in 1974 and since 1983 has resided in Royalston. Chet owned and operated Chet Hall and Sons Construction for many years and had previously worked as a sales rep for NAPA Auto Parts. He was an avid outdoorsman. His greatest pleasure came from spending time with his family and creating a wonderful home and life for them. Chet enjoyed many memorable days hunting and fishing with his sons and close friends and family. Chet also enjoyed running his small farm in Royalston. He had a love for animals. He raised Rottweilers and Bengal cats along with an assortment of ponies, pigs, chickens and few cattle over the years.

Chet was very involved in youth programs, coaching soccer at the YMCA for many years and Little League and Junior League for baseball. He was a member of the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee, the PTG in Royalston, the Royalston Board of Health, Athol Elementary Building School Committee, and the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Chet was a man of many talents: not only could he fix anything but was always the first to lend a helping hand to anyone in need even if they were a perfect stranger. He most especially loved working with his wife and sons, whether it be a building project or an outdoor activity.

He leaves his wife of 25 years, Sheila D. (Smith) Hall; a daughter, Amanda Hall and her boyfriend Steve Lephem of Salem; three sons, Chester H. Hall, IV, Dylan Hall and Garrett Hall, all of Royalston; his father, Chester H. Hall, Jr. of Londonderry, NH; his mother, Valerie Hall of Andover; two sisters, Valerie Samuels and her husband Wayne of Andover and Lesa Hall and her boyfriend Bruce Freisinger of Derry, NH and a brother, Clifton Hall and his wife Elena of Wilmington; and several nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made in Chet’s name to: the Athol-Royalston High School Athletic Association, c/o David King, 2363 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331.

Just a Good Neighbor - George Bodman
What is a Neighbor? A friend, someone you can rely on, someone you can ask for assistance and they immediately will respond. Someone who will watch over your domain when required. This was the Chet Hall that I knew and respected. He loved his family. He loved his wife. I often kidded him on “how lucky a man you are to have Sheila” and he knew it. She was his angel.

He loved “HIS BOYS.” I would always ask him “How’s the family” & he would respond always, “Chettie is my rock, and a lot like me. An outdoorsman and he is doing great. Likes his new job” was always his answer.

“Dylan is like his Mom. The quiet one, but very smart like her.”

Garrett is “Garrett! A very good athlete like Chettie. He has to work for things and wants to be a trooper. He will make it!! Kind of a cut up and full of life. Always a smile on his face. Good kid!”

I often told him “You raised a great family with a great wife,” and Chet just smiled.

Always would honk the car horn when he went by. Just a good family and a good neighbor. I will really miss him, but thankfully I’ve got Sheila and “The Boys” nearby.

Rest In peace Mr. Chet Hall. You deserve it.

ed. note. Officially Bob Coyle lived just outside of Royalston, but he influenced local generations by fostering awareness of the natural world. Benjamin Morris-Siegel particularly asked that he be remembered in this newsletter.

Robert (Bob) Banks Coyle Jr., 83 of 1978 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Athol died Tuesday, December 31, 2013 peacefully at home.

Bob Coyle was born in Boston May 27, 1930 the son of Robert Banks Coyle Sr. and Bernice Ina (Baldwin) Coyle. He grew up in Dorchester and graduated with degrees in Geology and Liberal Arts from Boston University.

He worked at the family-owned printing firm, Hall & Company of Boston from 1944-1956. On January 27, 1953, he married Barbara Jane Sherman of Weston and together they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last January with 2 dozen friends and family.

Mr. Coyle taught geology, astronomy and ornithology at the Athol Junior High School (AJHS) 1956-1957 and 1962-1988. For many years his home room class at AJHS supported a Korean foster child, Kim Myung Bae. He served as Director of Massachusetts Audubon Society’s Wachusett Meadows summer nature camp and worked as a counselor at the Morgan Memorial Camp in South Athol.

From 1957-1961 he served on the faculty of the Department of Geology at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA where he taught many classes and was involved in the discovery and study of a mastodon.

He founded the Athol Bird and Nature Club (ABNC) in 1963 and served as its President for 25 years. Mr. Coyle served on the Athol Shade Tree Commission from 1967-1991 He worked as a wildlife rehabilitator for many years. Always a teacher at heart, he had enjoyed teaching at all levels and over the last year had enjoyed giving science lessons to his friend and neighbor Zach Thiem.

Besides his wife he leaves one son Christopher A. Coyle of Athol and his wife Amanda E.E. Taylor and one brother Ronald W. Coyle of San Antonio, TX. He was predeceased by two brothers, Wallace E. Coyle and Wilson S. Coyle, and one sister, Carleen A. Hart. He leaves several cousins including Muriel Pope of Billerica, numerous friends throughout New England and beyond including Daphne Gregoire.

Mr. Coyle willied his body to the Boston University Medical School. A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Church Unitarian, 478 Main St., Athol, MA. Memorial donations can be made to the Athol Bird and Nature Club, 100 Main St., Athol, MA 01331 or to another charity of one’s choice.
Royalston Historical Society

The Royalston Historical Society is planning an auction to raise funds to restore its headquarters, Old School House #1. This building, at the head of the Common, is in sore need of some TLC, including a restored cupola, a new roof and a thorough scraping and painting of the exterior.

This resoration is costly; consequently, the members of the society are applying for several grants: one from the Town Community Preservation Committee and another matching grant from the state. As a way to generate more funds for the state to match, there will be a ....

Historical Society Auction
To raise funds to Preserve and Restore Old School House #1
March 15, 2014 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Donations Sought:
old and new quality furntiture, collectibles and memorabilia gift certificates for goods or services are needed!

Call Steffi at 978-249-8675 to make a donation. Pick up and storage possible.

Monetary donations toward the preservation of the Old School House #1 also gratefully accepted!

All donations of goods, services and money are tax deductible.

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 23, Royalston MA 01368 or deposited in donation box at School House #1

Melanie and The Blue Shots Winter Tour:
Feb 5 Bull Run, Shirley
Feb 10, April 21 Gardner Ale House
March 1, Fitzwilliam Inn

Anniversary Party Bruce’s Browser
Bruce’s Browser in uptown Athol, owned by Royalston resident Diane Lincoln, is celebrating its 9th anniversary on Saturday, February 1st. The browser is open from 9 AM to 7 PMand will have plenty of food, raffle prizes and discounts available. Come, have a free cup of Dean’s Beans locally roasted, organically grown fair trade coffee.

WJDF will broadcast live from the store from 10 AM to 1 PM, and you can also listen in on the fun at 97.3 FM or online at www.wjdf.com.

Several authors will be on hand throughout the morning including Quabbin historian J. R. Greene; prolific Royalston author and journalist Allen Young; Royalston’s 2011 Derringer Short Story Award winner (and Browser employee!) Kathy Chencharik; Sisters in Crime members Ruth McCarty, Carol Perry and Sharon Daynard; photographer Tom Wyatt; paranormal investigator and author Joni Mayhan; poet Candace Curran and more.

Everything is 20% off all day, so be sure to browse the great selection of books, magazines, cards, gifts, games, puzzles, Yankee candles, CD’s and more. Snow date is February 8th.

North Quabbin Garden Club
Thursday, February 20, 2014 7 p.m.
Millers River Environmental Center/ 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Pollinator Gardens, The Beautiful Buzz
The world needs pollinators, primarily bees for food and flowers. Our garden choices, both of plants and practices, can significantly encourage these pollinators to get to work and make our gardens bloom and produce beautifully. Pollinator gardens are also beneficial in attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. Club president and graduate of the New England Wild Flower Society’s Native Plants Studies program, Christine Becket Long, will give this presentation to our joint meeting with the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Baby, it’s been cold out-side. In this recent photo, the spray from Royalston Falls is freezing into a icy cocoon for the cascade, a kind of chrystal-is.
What’s Happening at the Village School?

We started January engaged in two weeks of the all-school Winter Poetry Project. In preparation for the project, all the classes listened to winter-themed poetry read aloud by teachers. Classes brainstormed words and phrases, and wrote poems together. 2nd-3rd and 4th-6th grade students first worked on writing their own poems. Then over the next two weeks, 2nd-3rd and 4th-6th graders worked with their Reading Buddies to help them think of ideas for winter poetry. The older children then helped their younger preschool and K-1 buddies to write a poem, scribbling for them when necessary. The younger children drew pictures to accompany their poems. It all culminated in two mornings of all-school poetry reading, when the proud poets read their and their buddies’ work before the rapt listening audience of the whole school. You can find an article about the project, photos and the actual poems on the Village school website, www.villageschoolma.org

Open House is/was Saturday February 1st from 10 to noon. It’s a great chance to meet teachers, visit classrooms and find out about the admissions process. There are openings in the preschool class for next year. If you missed the Open House, go ahead and call the school to schedule a visit, at 978-249-3505.

Wednesday February 5th  6 p.m.  Annual Math Night at the Village School. Polly Wagner, Village School math coach, will guide parents in a totally hands-on experience, doing sample math lessons and deconstructing the lessons to see how math thinking and learning are embedded in the lessons. The Village School uses the Investigations math curriculum.

Wednesday Feb. 26.  The whole school goes to the Hanover Theater in Worcester to see a live production of Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf, with orchestra and ballet.

Scholarships for Royalston Residents

Royalston Academy Scholarships: Deadline April 15, 2014 . Forms are available through your high school guidance counselor, Phinehas Newton Library, or 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 college, home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs.

Ladies’ Benevolent Society Scholarships:  Deadline April 15, 2014. Funds awarded to residents of all ages pursuing higher education. Forms are available through high school guidance counselors or at the Phinehas Newton Library. Contact Theresa Quinn with questions at 978-249-3819.

Community School News

6TH GRADE VIEW

Noah Michelson

Things at R.C.S. are starting out fast and strong this month. All the classes once again have been doing very well and have been doing much in the small amount of time this semester (2nd).

First off is the news of the newest students of R.C.S.: The kindergarteners have been doing so much, one of the things that they’ve been learning is their new reading strategies that have to do with different animals such as chunky monkey, lips the fish, and stretchy snake.

Next, fifth graders have been working very hard as well and have started D.A.R.E. which is brand new to them. I know that D.A.R.E.means Drug Abuse Resisting Education or to resist drugs and violence. Its a very influential and important program that most students don’t get to do in their normal curriculum and I hope they’ll take it very seriously and bring something with them to use throughout their lives. Fifth grade is also learning about continents and use of the world maps and I think they are doing exceptionally.

The sixth grade has also been working on many things in a short period. The students have been working on projects such as how the weight in the front and back of a paper airplanes influences how it will fly. They also got to make many of their own planes to fly in the gym.

Now let’s talk about first grade... there’s a rumor that those kids have secretly been growing crystals in their classroom... AND IT’S TRUE! They have been working so hard this month and I hope if you are a brother, sister, parent or friend and you see one congratulate them because they truly deserve it.

You can’t forget about fourth graders and their new types of math. They’re learning about angles and I can say everytime I pass that classroom in the hall, it always seems like they’re doing something new and interesting.

Next is second grade with its pinecone peanut butter bird feeders. Yum yum for the birds and fun for everyone. I got the chance to make one of my own and try it out at home and they sure do work!

Last but not least is the wonderful third grade and winter theme studies.

All are having a great time not only during school but also after it as well. The RCS game night was a big hit and fabulous success.

And that is how much I know about what’s going on this month... see you next issue!
I am writing, in fact, from the shores of thirty-six mile long Lake Norman in North Carolina (where I am visiting a friend), gardening but a gleam in my eye. Pretty enough, though I’d rather be overlooking the once-wild Catawba River, tamed beyond recognition by a series of dams that created the lake. The motor-boat owners are delighted, the natural world less so. When I flew out of Manchester it was 28°; when I arrived in Charlotte it was 26°. So much for escaping the cold.

I neglected to mention, in my ‘treatise’ on bed preparation (see December newsletter for those of you short of memory) that seriously-cold weather in December doesn’t make the undertaking difficult, it makes it impossible. And, as you may recall, we were subjected to some seriously-cold weather this past December. One does not (successfully at any rate) turn the soil or dig the compost when several inches of frost have penetrated. The mulch hay, theoretically protected by plastic, was, in actuality, unprotected by the plastic, and devolved into an icy mass. I also neglected to remember these facts (in my defense, I’ve been spoiled by the moderate conditions of recent Decembers), the result being that not-insignificant portion of the garden remains unprepared for spring planting. The irony is that after warming-up and the disappearance of the snow cover, the ground thawed for a few days, a window of opportunity I let pass, loathe to remove myself (book in hand) from the rocking chair next to the woodstove. I did, at least, dig some parsnips.

Winter gardens exist in Charlotte despite the occasional readings approaching zero. Brassicas, root crops, and spinach are planted in the fall for winter harvest (I even observed thriving rosemary, which rarely survives a 20° reading hereabouts), a far cry from the forlorn Royalston winter garden. Surprisingly enough, my garden is not entirely bereft of activity. I have always mulched the parsley so that it might survive the winter and have always uncovered the mulch in the spring to discover it had not, so this year I didn’t bother. Wouldn’t you know, I was picking some parsley in January. Chervil was available as well, so a small handful of herbs brightened up a winter stew. The scallions and chives take advantage of any moderate stretches of temperature to show signs of growth. Rounding out the patches of green are several of the self-seeding annual flowers. I know I’m groping here for some garden notes but it is late January after all.

The February column has traditionally been a wake-up call to order (or at least think about ordering) seeds. Don’t be overly-influenced by glowing descriptions and even more glowing photographs. The criteria I use in selecting include disease resistance (since I do not spray), hardiness, flavor (of course), and days to maturity (we are far more likely to succeed with a 60-day pepper than an 80-day pepper). Buying seed from a northern-based seed company is recommended. Our seed purveyor of choice is FED-CO (Box 520, Waterville, Maine 04903) Unlike other catalogs, it is gloss-free and filled with entertaining descriptions as well as occasional political rant. Also, unlike other companies, there is an ordering deadline (March 21). Go for it.

Larry Siegel

Classifieds

Young Royalston resident, 17 year old guy, looking for work. Will do any odd or outdoor jobs, including snow shoveling or snowblowing etc. asking 10 dollars a hour. (603) 852-8094.

Horse Board: Closed shed w. turnout available in Royalston at Black Horse Farm for one or two horses. $300 monthly per horse, advance pay discounts available - secure space, arena, nearby trails. Call 978-249-9880 or email suzzanagaits@gmail.com

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 bguiney@wildblue.net.


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


For sale:


Twin bed frame and dark wood headboard in very good condition $30 or best offer. Call Diana or Geoff at 978-249-3726.

Dean’s Beans Coffee - get yours delivered, fresh, once a month to the Village School, whole beans or ground. Order form at www.villageschoolma.org. Pick up the coffee in the Village School hallway.

Eggs: $2.00 per dozen. Best time to call or stop by: after 4 p.m. 978-249-5548.

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.

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


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mark oconnor ad
**RCS Poetry Club is for the Birds**

One red legged honeycreeper glides through the sky
It goes very high and it goes tweet, tweet

*Adriana Gaulzetti*

Great Grandma loves this bird
Sitting on a pine tree
A boy cardinal waiting
For bird seed

*Daine Perry*

Flying, zipping, racing through the air
Sipping nectar for food, flying through the day
Duck, forward, down up
One moment you can see him and then he disappears in thin air
Zipping humming bird

*Logan Kearney*

Zipping, zooming through the air
Preaching, sitting in a tree
Red is a cardinal color
Looking at the snow below it
Now it’s here then it disappears
Look out your window
One might be outside
Get some bird seeds
You’ve got a new friend

*Sydney Ares*

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

**Long-Eared Owl Haiku**

Oh, long-eared owl
Can you hear people on Earth?
Staring in a tree

*Scott Barakat & Elliot Gould*

RCS is staked out with bird feeders this winter. A ring neck pheasant is a frequent visitor.

*Karrisa Agnelli*

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

**Royalston Resident**
Star Route 80
Royalston MA 01368

**Submission deadline for March issue is: Feb. 22**

**Please Contact Us**
To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:
E-mail: chasegos2@gmail.com
Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368
Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
Phone: 978-249-0358
In person: Drop off at library

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