### Calendar of Events

**December 3**  Wednesday  
6:00 pm • **Tree lighting ceremony** on The Common. Carols and cookies! All welcome.

**December 4**  Thursday  
6 – 7:30 p.m.  **ARRSD Family Math Night** at ARMS

**December 5**  Friday  
7:00 pm • The Royalston Cultural Council Open Mic kicks off the season with Melanie and the Blue Shots.

**December 6**  Saturday  
7:27 a.m.  **Full Cold Moon**
11am • **Friends of the Library meeting**. All welcome.

**December 7**  Sunday  
2:00 p.m.  **Wheat weaving workshop** at the Town Hall. Participants will do a spiral weave using wheat straw to create a spiral candy cane ornament. All supplies will be provided. Space is limited and participants may sign up by calling the library. The fee is $5 for members of the Friends and $7 for non-members.

**December 10**  Wednesday  
7:30 pm • **LBS meeting** at the home of Theresa Quinn to pack holiday baskets. Business meeting to proceed. To request a basket for someone who would appreciate the lift, call Laurie Deveneau at 249-5807.

**December 13**  Sunday  
Pre-dawn hours – the **Quadrantrid Meteor Shower** with “shooting stars” coming out of northern skies at about 25 an hour. Today is **Perihelion**, the point in the year when earth makes its closest pass by the sun, a mere 91,401,423 miles away.

**January 2**  Friday  
7 pm • **Open mic** at Town Hall hosted by The Millers River All Stars featuring Scotty Monette and Charley Scott.

**January 4**  Sunday  
Pre-dawn hours – the **Quadrantrid Meteor Shower** with “shooting stars” coming out of northern skies at about 25 an hour. Today is **Perihelion**, the point in the year when earth makes its closest pass by the sun, a mere 91,401,423 miles away.

**January 9**  Saturday  
**Geminid Meteor Shower** – THE light show of the year. Brilliant and frequent shooting stars will originate in the northeastern sky - if it’s clear – expect more than a meteor per minute.

**January 10**  Wednesday  
**First Day of Hannukah**

**January 12**  Friday  
7 pm • **Special Town Meeting** at Town Hall.

**January 17**  Wednesday  
**Christmas Day**

**January 19**  Monday  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**January 20**  Tuesday  
8:14 a.m. • **New Snow Moon**

**January 24**  Saturday  
10 - noon • **Scan-a-thon** at the library. Bring photos, letters, diaries, and other items of potential historical significance to the library. Call the library to discuss your treasures or get more information. The items will be digitized and added to the library and Royalston Historical Society collections. You will leave with your original and a copy either on a thumb drive or a hard copy print.

**February 21**  Saturday  
7 pm • **250th Celebration Dinner Dance** at the Elks Club in Orange. Tix just $15 each. Contact Geoff Newton to reserve tickets.

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**No good deed goes unpublished - extended.**

Sure, there are so many people in this town that deserve a tip of the hat that it is risking carpal tunnel syndrome just to bring this up... but the holidays and 250th year are here and both are a good time to say some **thanks**.

So far...

**Maureen Blasco** has been nominated for her indefatigable work in organizing opposition to the pipeline, her stuffing of every insert into every newsletter (and then mailing the kit and kaboodle), volunteering and working in local schools, distributing the pies in drive-by-pie and providing every onion in the local foods supper.

**Jim Richardson** has for the last twenty years or so quietly kept the Assessors office running on an even keel. When most towns rely on outside companies (at great expense) to do the bulk of the work, Jim has put in a tremendous amount of personal time. Using humor and a sunny temperament he has kept the other assessors in line and the townspeople assured that they are being taxed fairly. He has become the go-to guy when questions of town finance come up.

**Sing the unsung!** The form to make nominations for the official unsung hero of town is on page9 of the newsletter. The committee will take nominations through January.
Select Board Notes
by Christine Long, Chairwoman

Voters at the November mid-term elections defeated a proposal to create a $50,000 capital stabilization fund.

But the Select Board has learned the town has about $40,000 more than we used in our calculations last spring as we prepared a budget and weighed what other spending to recommend via articles at the annual town meeting.

Voters will be asked to deal with this money at a special town meeting on December 19 at 7 p.m. at town hall.

Where did the money come from? About $12,000 came from higher than expected new growth, $11,000 from higher than expected local receipts, $11,000 from higher than expected state aid, $3,000 from an adjustment to the overlay account, and some (probably) from mistakes.

The upshot is that Royalston has money we didn’t know we had.

Should we spend it now? The answer is an emphatic “NO.” Instead, the Select Board will recommend adding it to the town’s existing stabilization fund.

That fund currently has about $86,000 (according to municipal finance guidelines, it should be much higher) and is supposed to be saved for true emergencies and to keep our bond rating high. Every year, however, we end up tapping it for capital items, as well as snow-and-ice overages.

Voters control the use of these funds by town meeting votes requiring a two-thirds majority. Thus, the board is keeping faith with the pledges we made during the campaign for the override.

Another question you might have: Does all this mean the town’s problems are solved? Again, the answer is an emphatic “NO.” But

Police Department News

Thanks to all who contributed to and participated in the Royalston Police Association’s annual Halloween Party. Many children and their parents and grandparents enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch, a fabulous magic show by Ed the Wizard and a wide array of games from Candy Corn Bowling to Pie Eating Contest. Children all received generous goodie bags at the conclusion.

2015 Community Development Block Grant – We Need YOUR Input

The Town of Royalston is planning to submit a joint Community Development Block Grant application in February. In past years Royalston used CDBG funds for housing repair programs for homeowners, paving Blossom and Park Streets, water system improvements, housing plans, social services, and building designs. The Select Board is considering similar projects this year and seeks your input on possible projects. Please take a moment to help – here’s how:

1. Complete the Community Survey. You can find the link online on the Town’s website (www.royalston-ma.gov). Paper copies of the survey are available in the Select Board office.

2. Attend the Community Meeting on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Our grant writer will be there to explain what CDBG is, how we can use it in our town, and how we apply for funds. He will be soliciting your input on what projects should be funded in this application round.

3. If you are a homeowner whose home needs repairs, get on the waiting list for the Housing Rehab Program. Print out the pre-application from the Town’s website (www.royalston-ma.gov) or pick up a paper copy at the Select Board Office.

4. Write a letter of support. Public participation is an important element of the application, and the funders consider public comments when they evaluate it. Your positive support helps the application score well and increases its chances of being funded. Direct your letter to the Select Board and tell us what types of projects you value!

Thank you for taking the time to be part of this process. Let’s all try to make Royalston a better place to live and work.

What happened at the Special Town Meeting?
1. $5000 was raised and appropriated for the Clearance of Tax Title Acct.. 2. $3,400 was raised and appropriated for the purchase of 2 automatic external defibrulators. 3. The article related to the “Capital Stabilization Fund” was tabled. 4. A transfer of $3,178 from the sale of surplus highway equipment into the tree removal acct. was approved. 5. $65,297 to make the 1st loan payment on the new fire truck was raised and appropriated. 6. The town voted to receive a utility trailer from the Fire and EMS Association. 7. A resolution to ban fracked gas pipelines in our town was unanimously approved. This is the 40th town on the pipeline route to vote to keep the pipeline out of its boundaries.

Post Office Hours Reminder

The post office is open from 7:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Please be considerate and don’t appear at the last minute to pick up your mail and/or mail items.
Internet in Royalston

The Final Mile: Regional Hi-Speed Fiber to the Door - This is an important announcement from Mass Broadband Institute (MBI), Wired West (WW) and Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG), for those interested in high speed broadband internet in Royalston. The complete Powerpoint Proposal is on the town website, or download it here: http://www.royalston-ma.gov/

MBI (Mass Broadband Institute) is the state agency overseeing the development and delivery of “The Middle Mile” high speed fiber backbone, and “The Final Mile”, a high speed broadband Fiber to the Home Network, for about 50 of the most underserved Western MA communities ... including Royalston. Last year, MBI completed the state and federally funded “Middle Mile Project” - that brought high speed fiber internet to CAI's of 124 Western MA towns. What are CAI's? CAI’s are the “Core Anchor Institutions” of each community, such as fire, police, emergency management, town offices, libraries and schools. By connecting town CAI's to the Middle Mile Backbone, each town was given the opportunity to eventually connect to the fiber network, through an ISP (Internet Service Provider), and then to all town residents.

Royalston did not fare well in the Middle Mile process, we only have Whitney Hall and Fire Station #2 connected. The remaining six (6) Royalston CAI’s: Fire, Police, Emergency Mgmt Agency, Town Hall, Library, and The Community School were not able to be connected. (very frustrating!)

To actually connect the town CAI’s, individual residences and businesses to the Middle Mile regional fiber network at a CAI, requires a local Internet Service Provider. MBI and Wired West are proposing that MBI initially, and then ultimately Wired West, be the operator & manager for the 42 town members of the Wired West Coop Corp ... including Royalston.

SO, after years of organization, planning, regional advocacy AND a $50 Million Dollar State Bond to support The Final Mile to the Door (as a down payment on the $105-120 Million Dollar Project) ... PLUS the strong urging and support of a powerful group of Western MA state legislators ... MBI, Wired West , and FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Governments), working together, have proposed a step by step, timeline and process, for towns to confirm their interest, tangibly demonstrate need, authorize bonds, and participate as a Member Town in the Final Mile Fiber to the Door Network.

MBI, WW and FRCOG presented their plan to member towns, in a recent series of regional meetings, one of which was attended by 3 Royalston representatives in New Saelm. Here is a link: http://www.royalston-ma.gov/ to the MBI Wired West Powerpoint presentation (saved as a PDF). Download it to your computer (at 1.2 meg file) or I can email it to you directly . You will need to download Adobe Reader XI if you don’t already have it installed. Copies will also be available at Town Hall and the Library.

Watch for a series of public information meetings over the next few months, across town, to explore the proposal. Note, this is one of the high speed broadband internet options that we have been exploring, including an initial high speed wireless internet network for the village in South Royalston. There are regularly scheduled public Broadband Committee Meetings. Please feel free to bring questions, concerns and great ideas.

Jon Hardie - Royalston Delegate to Wired West, a 42 town Coop Corp; Manager of the Royalston MLP (Municipal Light Plant) low cost municipal technology bonds; Member of the RBBC (Royalston Broad Band Committee) ; Royalston (vol) IT Systems Administrator. Contact: royalstonetech@gmail.com or call his cell at: 978-790-8474

Public Review of Proposed Zoning By-law Changes

Vyto Andreliunas
Royalston Planning Board

Why not go on line to the Town web-site this month or pick up a copy of the new improved zoning bylaw at the library or town hall? This is what you may expect to find. The bylaw is presented in its entirety, not as a series of amendments and many will see it for the first time. Don’t let the length scare you, it’s the 1977 law, amended in 1987, and added to lately by the Solar Energy section. As we move on, we try and stay abreast of changes in law and technology, as well as what townspeople like to see as guidance for growth.

Looking forward, new additions address broadband facility installation, wind turbines, and flexible development.

We improved provisions for home occupation, back lot development, site plan review and accessory uses and structures, in response to what we heard during past reviews. There are no new zoning districts or surprise wrinkles.

As we begin our celebration year, it seems fitting to start with a bylaw that best reflects what we’ve learned, and what we believe the town needs to guide how we progress. Please join us , and be a part of building our community.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

New speed limit signs have been posted at 15 mph on the entry road to the transfer station. Please observe the speed limits. Although the road is newly paved, it is still narrow and is very busy on Saturdays. A big thank you to Keith Newton and the RDPW for getting the paving project completed before winter. Speaking of winter, conditions will soon be icy and slippery. Take extra care when using the facility and be extra careful around the roll off containers.

With the holiday season upon us, a reminder to take out non-paper items in packaging such as styrofoam, plastic pieces etc. before depositing in the paper roll off. Breaking down cardboard boxes is a big space saver that will help save space for all your holiday recycling. (All together now, “you can’t make paper out of plastic!”)

Also, someone recently dumped florescent light bulb tubes in the demo roll off. These bulbs contain mercury and are banned from solid waste disposal. We collect them for recycling for a small fee or bring them back to where you bought them for recycling. Lowe’s and Home Depot collect them. Please don’t contaminate a whole load of material by being irresponsible. See transfer station attendant if you have any questions concerning any disposal items.

A reminder that flu season is also upon us and it’s not too late to get your flu vaccine. See your local health care provider or local pharmacy to be protected this season. For up to date ebola info go to www.mass.gov/dph/ebola. This is a source for accurate information.
**Donations to the Friends**

*In Memory of Pat and John Poor*
Raenn and Roger LeBlanc

**Scan-a-Thon Coming to the Library**

As we prepare for the 250th anniversary of the town’s incorporation and also begin to digitize the library’s historical records, we will be having several Scan-a-thons. You are invited to bring in old photos, letters, diaries, and other memorabilia of historical importance to the town for digital scanning. You will be given the option of having the scanned materials printed or put on a thumb drive to take home. Most of the scans will then be shared with the Royalston Historical Society and catalogued in the library. Some of the scans will go online onto our website and into the Digital Commonwealth collection.

Call the library to discuss what you have and then we can let you know if we would like to scan the material. Artifacts such as old letters can often give insight into the daily life of individuals in town. For example, one receipt on record recounts the number of hats woven by a resident and the amount of payment for the handiwork by Phinehas S. Newton, shedding light on the business practices of the library’s founder.

Digital Commonwealth is a project of the Board of Library Commissioners spearheaded by the Boston Public Library to make historic records of the Commonwealth available to everyone to peruse. You can learn more about it and also search the collection at www.digitalcommonwealth.org. The first Scan-a-thon is scheduled for Saturday, January 24 from 10 until noon at the library. There will be refreshments too! Call the library to sign up.

**Little Free Library Coming to Royalston**

Little Free Library began in 2009 in Wisconsin and has spread throughout the world with at least 15,000 of them today. The idea is that little ‘mini-libraries’ are stocked with books and anyone can go and take a book or two and maybe leave a book. The Friends of the Library have decided to sponsor a Little Free Library for Royalston and have begun the process to get permission. They hope to have one up and running in South Royalston by next spring. When it is installed, it will be on the map joining thousands of other little free libraries around the country. Currently there are none in this area.

If you would like to learn more about Little Free Libraries, check out the website: www.littlefreelibrary.org and if you would like to donate towards this project you can mail a donation to the Friends earmarking it for the Little Free Library project.

**Library Memories**

*Kathy Morris marks 20 years as town Library Director*

It was twenty years ago this December that I was hired as Library Director. (Robert Fairchild had suggested that I apply as I was there all the time anyway.) I was hired by the trustees, one of whom, Barbara Guiney is still on the board. And, as the saying goes, “I don’t know where the time has gone.” I have been fortunate to have strong, intelligent, and supportive trustees (at one financial committee meeting the trustees were called, “those uppity women” but there have been uppity men as well); a capable, creative, and dedicated staff; and an extraordinary group of hard-working, committed friends of the library. Add to that an incredible clientele of very interesting, cordial, and diverse people using the library, and you have twenty years of enjoyment. Together we have accomplished a lot. Thank you to everyone for your support over the years.

**Ongoing:**

**Pre-school Playgroup** meets every Monday at 10 am at the library for books, crafts and healthy snacks for toddlers and their caregivers. Free!

**Zumba and Yoga**

Zumba classes are on Mondays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and continuing through May 2015. Yoga classes meet on Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm and run through December; they take a break in January and February and resume in March and continue through May.

All classes will occur upstairs in the Town Hall and are sponsored by the Friends of the Library. It is important that participants not wear street shoes for these classes as winter’s salt and sand can wear away the town hall’s wooden floors. The classes are free but donations are appreciated. N.B. If the weather seems iffy, call the library and listen to the recorded message.

**Library Book Discussion Group** meets 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 with a couple of cookies. The group is skipping December, but will discuss J.K. Rowling’s novel for adults, *The Casual Vacancy*, on January 26.

**Art Exhibit**

Sonja Vaccari, whose idea it was to have many artists exhibit a painting each rather than have to provide a whole display, has a new painting of the Bridge of Flowers on display and Gordon Morrison has displayed two newer pieces that are very different than his botanical drawings. *There is still plenty of room to add one of your creations to the exhibit.*
**Wheat Weaving Holiday Workshop**

On Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Kathy Morris will lead a weaving workshop where participants will learn how to do a spiral weave first with paper straws and then using wheat straw to create a spiral candy cane ornament. All supplies will be provided for this workshop. Space is limited and participants may sign up by calling the library. The fee is $5 for members of the Friends and $7 for non-members.

**Holiday Goodies Every Saturday in December**

Cookies, Cocoa, Coffee, and Cider on December Saturdays at the Library

We will continue the tradition of serving refreshments on Saturdays during the month of December. If you’d like to bake some goodies for any of these Saturdays, call the library. Stop by to browse the new books, escape, relax, peruse a magazine or the internet, read, view the artwork, pick up a movie or CD, and enjoy some refreshments.

For a complete list of new materials, as well as a long list of new children’s nonfiction, please visit [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org). You will also find links to academic databases, old newsletters, many photos, upcoming library events, and much more.

**Some of the New Materials at Your Library**

**Adult fiction**
- Baldacci, David: *The Escape*
- Connelly, Michael: *The Burning Room*
- Cornwell, Patricia: *Flesh and Blood*
- Cussler, Clive: *Havana Storm*
- Evans, Richard: *The Mistletoe Promise*
- Flanagan, Richard: *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*
- Flora, Kate: *And Grant You Peace*
- Ford, Richard: *Let me be Frank with You*
- Jin, Ha: *A Map of Betrayal*
- Johansen, Iris: *The Perfect Witness*
- Jones, Darynda: *Seventh Grave and no Body*
- King, Stephen: *Revival*
- Martin, George R.R.: *The World of Fire & Ice*
- Mayor, Archer: *Proof Positive*
- McCall-Smith, A. Modiano, Patrick: *Handsome Man’s Deluxe Café*
- Munro, Alice: *Us*
- Patterson, James: *Burn*
- Rice, Anne: *Prince Lestat*
- Roberts, Nora: *Blood Magik*

**Young Adult**
- Card, Orson Scott: *Visitors*
- Hillenbrand, Laura: *Unbroken*

**Children’s fiction**
- Brett, Jan: *The Animals’ Santa*
- Dewdney, Anna: *Llama Llama Jingle Bells*
- Durand, Hallie: *Catch that Cookie!*
- Gibbons, Gail: *Polar Bears*
- Kinney, Jeff: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul*
- Lagercrantz, Rose: *My Heart is Laughing*
- McDonald, Megan: *Judy Moody, Mood Martian*
- Madar, C. Roger: *Mirror Cat*
- Pastis, Stephen: *Timmy Failure*
- Peirce, Lincoln: *Big Nate: The Crowd goes Wild*
- Pierce, Lincoln: *Big Nate: Great Minds think Alike*
- Pierce, Lincoln: *Big Nate: Mr. Popularity*
- Pilkey, Dav: *Ricky Ricotta’s Robot vs Jurassic Jackrabbits*
- Poehler, Amy: *Yes Please!*
- Reid, Barbara: *The Night Before Christmas*
- Richards, Keith: *Gus & Me*
- Schwartz, Amy: *100 Things to Make me Happy*
- Swan, Susan: *Out on the Prairie*
- Tarshis, Lauren: *I Survived the Destruction of Pompeii*
- Thong, Roseanne: *’Twas Nochebuena*
- Tulett, Herve: *Mix it Up!*
- Underwood, Deborah: *Here Comes Santa Cat*
- Willems, Mo: *Waiting is not Easy!*

**DVDs**

**CDs**
- Little Big Town: *Painkiller*
- Taylor Swift: *1989*
- Train: *Bulletproof Picasso*
- *Now that’s What I call Music 52*

**Audio Books**
- Lotz, Sarah: *The Three*
- Reichl, Ruth: *Delicious!*
- Thorpe, Helen: *Soldier Girls*
250th Year is Here!
Geoff Newton
I would like to thank everyone that helped at the recent Holiday Fair that was held at the Royalston Community School. The staff at the school went out of their way to make sure all went well. The committee members set up on Friday evening, which was a lot of work in a short time. Saturday was a great success. The members stayed true to the effort and the fun went smoothly and the shoppers were continuous throughout the day.

Special THANK YOUS:
To the visitor from the North Pole for his early arrival for a detail to take photos of the young children sitting with him.
To Lenny Hoffman for donating the items for our Thanksgiving basket; (this was his third year of doing this great gesture.)
To Nancy Monette for the sandwich platters from the Subway in Winchendon. (Those were super to our snack bar menu),
To Noel’s Nursery for the Canadian Hemlock tree and the people that donated well over three hundred dollars worth of gift certificates, lottery tickets and folded cash to decorate the tree.

The whole event was successful. Carol Rogers, a member of the committee, will be doing this next year and hopefully year after year so that this event will raise money for the children of the Royalston Community School. She will be looking for help from any parent or teachers to assist in this fund raiser. Next year the date will be November 14, 2015.

Please contact Geoff Newton to start reserving your tickets for the Dinner Dance being held on February 21, 2015 at the Elks Club in Orange. We’ve invited senators, representatives, selectmen (past and now serving) to be in attendance. The meal will be a braised beef or vegetarian eggplant parmesan. The ticket price is $15.00 each. This event will start our celebration year with more to follow throughout the year until the fun-packed weekend of September 11, 12, 13th, 2015. I hope that you will feel the mood to celebrate this milestone and the history making of this event. Stay in touch!!!!!!!!!

Cultural Council News
Mark your calendars with these upcoming events:
Open Mics: December 5, January 2, February 6, March 6, April 3 from 7-10 pm; delicious food is for sale by the Cultural Council. Phil Leger will again be our MC Extraordinaire and Stalwart Jim Bennett will supervise the sound system.

Christmas Tree Lighting: Wednesday, December 3, 6:00 pm. Tree lighting, carols, and arrival of Santa, followed by cocoa and cookies in the town hall.

Royalston Follies will be held Saturday, May 16, 2015, rehearsal 5/15.
For more information please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

What is happening at the Royalston Historical Society
Please consider making a year end donation to help restore the society’s building, Old Schoolhouse No. 1. Every dollar donated will be matched by a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission through their Preservation Projects Fund.

Thank you to these recent donors:

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Don’t forget the 250th year photo contest. With an understanding that today’s images are tomorrow’s history, the society will be collecting jpegs over the year of 2015 of photos that represent our town. Two copies of the winning photo will be professionally framed: one returned to the photographer and the other hung with pride in the museum. Gala slide show event will be held at the conclusion.

Have a shoebox with old town photos, letters and other documents? The Society would love to add any historically significant items to its collection. However, if you don’t want to part with these treasures, bring them in for scanning to the library Scanathon on Saturday, January 24 from 10 until noon. The Society is working together with the Friends of the Library to digitize important documents. You will go home with your original item, and also a copy of scanned materials either printed or put on a thumb drive. Old is great, but consider that our lifetimes are quickly becoming part of the historical record as well.

You can make donations, submit photos or get more information via the RHS website; royalstonhistorical.org.
Royalston Emergency Management News
EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904

As the temperatures go down and price of heating fuels up, please think safety when using different methods of heating your home. “Heating is the second leading cause of home fires.” (U.S. Fire Administration, 2014)

If you are new to wood heat, take a moment and speak with Royalston’s Building Inspector and Fire Department. They are wonderful resources of both legal AND practical information if you’re creating a space for a wood burning stove. If you depend on wood heat to supplement or as a primary heat source during a power outage, be sure the chimney is still safe, clean and that your stove and stove pipe are cleaned, properly installed and sealed so smoke and carbon monoxide fumes will not escape into your living areas. Use dry, seasoned firewood and make sure there are no flammable materials anywhere near the stove.

Using space heaters? Make sure they are the type legally allowed indoors, are UL approved and instructions for placement are followed. Some space heaters are hot to the touch; isolate them from children. Please give thought to even the most “harmless” sounding warming devices, like electric blankets/throws, and think safety when plugging them in – don’t overload outlets, don’t drape cords where people walk, don’t “hide” cords under rugs and piles of pillows and blankets.

While they warm the heart, (not necessarily the body), Christmas trees and lights also require some thought given to safety. Live trees should be watered daily and removed when the needles begin to dry and shed. Trees should be kept away from heat sources. Follow the above suggestions for electric cord safety.

And by the way, NOW (not when the power is out!) is the time to pull out generators and give them a good going over. See that they are fueled up (with stabilizer added so the fuel doesn’t degrade with age if not used promptly) and start easily. Think ahead to their placement during power outages. Inside a closed space is unacceptable. In an attached garage, do so via a transfer switch installed by a professional electrician. Don’t hesitate to consult Royalston’s Electrical Inspector if you’re considering a generator for this winter.

Most importantly, know your neighbors, especially those who are new to the area, elderly or have special circumstances that make it difficult for them to care for themselves in a power outage or winter storm.


Academic honor rolls
Royalston Community School:
High Honors: Ryan Darling, Jameson Hires, Alexis Reynolds, Adam Rogers, Owen Willhite, Juliane Trenga and Mariah Valliere
Bronze: Cathryn Michna

Athol-Royalston Middle School:
High honors: Isabella Cooke, Krystal McCulley, Sadie Wright, Molly Divoll, and Tayiah Neale.
Honors: Anthony Divoll, Mathew Willhite, Emma Alger, and Abigail Roberts
Bronze: Scott Bakarat and Ashley Hadmack

Athol High School:
High Honors: Beau Guimond, Katelyn Robinson
Honors: Abigail Divoll, Tiffany Lusco, Charlie White

Mme Ambassador: Molly Divoll was chosen as the 8th grade ambassador for Project 351. A Project 351 Ambassador is an 8th grade student selected by his or her school for exemplary ethic of service and demonstration of Project 351 values of humility, compassion, kindness, and generosity of spirit. One Ambassador is selected for each town in Massachusetts. She will be doing a service project in Boston and also visiting Gillette. This is a program run by the Massachusetts governor’s office to encourage leadership and community service as well as celebrate diversity in the Commonwealth. It is funded by donations. (Project 351 does not receive state or federal funds.)

Thanks to all who supported the recent 250th committee craft fair. Vendors, raffles, food, and of course Santa, delighted children of all ages.
Royalston Pipeline Action Group
Pat Worth
Thank you Royalton for standing in opposition to the Tennessee Gas pipeline and voting a resolution to prohibit it within our town borders. The standing-room-only Nov. 21st Town Meeting was unanimous in passing this resolution. A huge thank you goes to Maureen Blasco, who has worked tirelessly to protect our town and our state and has begun the work of raising public awareness about the alternatives to reliance on fossil fuel.

North Quabbin Garden Club
Thursday, November 20, 2014, 7 p.m.
Millers River Environmental Center/ 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331
Holiday Potluck: Make a small terrarium in a glass container for the holidays with club member Mariann Herk. All of the ingredients, including plants will be provided. If you have a special container you’d like to use, please bring it. Otherwise, let Debbie Kent, 978-544-2434, know when you pre-register by December 15th. There is a fee of $5 for non-members and $2.50 for members for this special event. Following the meeting we will have a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share, and a place setting for yourself. We’re cutting down on using styrofoam.

Nutcracker Ballet and Thayer Symphony
Celebrate the Christmas season with The Nutcracker, presented by Paula Meola Dance. There are four performances scheduled, on Thursday and Friday, December 4 & 5 at 9:45 a.m. for children throughout the Monty Tech School District who are being bussed in for the event. Public presentations are slated for Saturday and Sunday, December 6 & 7 at 2 p.m.

The Thayer Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert with the Worcester Children’s Chorus takes place Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Monty Tech Performing Arts Center. Tickets, from $25-$35 per adult based on seating; $10 for students ages 6-18 years are available on-line at www.thayersymphony.org.

Breakfast with the Pride of Phillipston
Enjoy the next couple of Phillipston area Lions’ Club fundraising breakfasts, from 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the Phillipston Center Church on Saturdays, December 20, 2014 and January 17, 2015. The December special is Texas French Toast with Strawberries and Cream. The January special is Reuben Omelet with Rye Toast. Breakfasts to order are available with any style eggs, sausage, home fries, toast/French toast and beverages and are $8 for adults; $6 for seniors and kids under 12 years and All specials are $8. Royalston residents are invited to join this local group! Contact Junior Whitney at 978-249-3566 for details.

ARRSD School Committee News
Mary C. Barclay, a Royalston member
Are you on Facebook? Be sure to check out “Celebrating Athol-Royalston Regional School District,” a forum showing and sharing the many good things going on in our schools. There are several good photos of Royalston Community School’s Veteran’s Day assembly as well as shots of Beth Gospodarek’s middle school English language students teaching a reading strategy lesson to the Riverbend School 3rd grade class. (See Nov. 16) Also, find information on the upcoming December 4 Elementary Parent Math Night taking place from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at ARMS. If you have snapped some images at schools worthy of sharing, this is the place for you to share!

Believe it or not, it’s time for ARRSD to begin work on the 2016 budget. Contact Mary Barclay with early questions.

Monty Tech News
Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay – mcbarclay@juno.com – 978-249-2598
Monty Tech has achieved “Level 1 School Status” with above-average performance at the state level in ELA, Math and Biology MCAS. In the past year, 58% of the student population qualified for college credits, up from 22%.

The results of Monty Tech’s investment in Trane’s energy management program is paying back in a big way! According to Business Manager Tammy Lajoie Crockett, from July, 2013 - August, 2014, there has been a 35% reduction in the volume of natural gas used and a 39% reduction in the kilowatt hours of electricity used, despite a particularly harsh heating season and increase in heating degree days. She reports nearly $400,000 was saved in energy costs in that one calendar year. The $10.7 million in improvements, made in just seven months, was funded in part by $550,000 in utility rebates, and with the savings that are expected to continue over the amortization period of 20 years.

Monty Tech’s Marine JROTC did themselves proud – again – with 201 cadets participating in a fundraising 10-mile march that raised a little over $25,000, an amount sufficient for the New England Aid Dog Society (NEADS) to purchase, care for and train up a service dog for a military veteran.

Monty Tech accepted a number of generous donations at last month’s meeting, from area businesses. Thank you to NYPRO and $6,000 to purchase two Bridgeport Knee Mills for Machine Technology; $600 from Baker’s Towing for a detailing system in Auto Body; and a $4,000 36” Arien’s Power Sweeper for the school’s Maintenance Department.
Writers’ Workshop at R.C.S.

Akash Darjee, 6th grade correspondent

What happens in 6th grade? Well, I am here to tell you all about it. First of all, 6th grade teachers are Mr. Snell and Mrs. Divoll.

Science - 6th grade science just recently moved from geology to astronomy. We are learning about the moon and space. (Fun fact: People on Earth never see the back side of the moon.) Space is a dangerous place. Scientists have different theories about how the Earth and its sun will end. The sun may expand so rapidly that Mercury will be completely swallowed by the sun. On Earth, the temperatures will get so blazing hot that all the water will evaporate. Alternatively, asteroids could get out of their orbit and smack into Earth into oblivion.

English/ Language Arts: “Reluctant Dragon” Have you ever heard of this fantastic, fabulous legend about St. George the Dragon Slayer? Well, in ELA we have just finished reading and writing crazy responses about the development of this story’s man characters.

Of course, we do more subjects than science and ELA. You will have to read about this in 2015.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from the 6th Graders

Calendar of Upcoming Events at RCS

Dec. 1 - 15, food donation collection for RCS Adopt A Family (Families) Program - Donations can be dropped off at RCS from 9 - 4 Monday - Friday
Dec. 3 - 1/2 day, noon release, lunch served
Dec.11 - Holiday Concert @ AHS 6 - 7 PM
Dec.15-18 - Holiday Shoppe in Media Center
Dec 22 - January 2 *Happy Holiday Break!

Jan. 5 - Children return to school
Jan.16 - NO SCHOOL *District Professional Development
Jan.19 - NO SCHOOL * Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb. 4 - 1/2 Day, noon release, lunch served
Feb 16 - 20 *February Vacation

“Unsung Heroes of Royalston” Award -
Nominations extended

The town’s sesquicentennial is an opportunity to thank the many residents who commit to making this town a better place to live. Complete the form below with your nominations. The nominees and their actions will be printed in next month’s newsletter, so no good deed will go unpublished. This is a chance to thank citizens for their efforts, both noticeable and under the radar. The contest is sponsored by the 250th Committee. The Unsung Hero of Royalston will be announced at the Founder’s Ball on February 21.

To make a nomination, please complete the lines below; (use this form or write out on any kind of paper) and send to the 250th Committee/ PO box 29. Deadline: January 22, 2015.

I nominate ______________________________ to be the Unsung Hero of Royalston because ______________________________

name,
phone #:

Village School News

Mary C. Barclay

After School Program open to all Royalston children

For continual updates on events, go to www.villageschoolma.org

12/2 Gardner Ale House Night - Supports the Village School Trip to England
12/3 8:45 a.m. Village School Parent Group Meeting at Camp Caravan Campus
8:30 a.m. Village School 2nd/3rd grade Publishing Party
11 a.m. Village School Holiday Celebration at the Town Hall
12/19 Close of School – School Holiday Vacations!
1/29 Village School Closed for parent conference
1/30 Village School Closed for math in-service day

Enjoy a delicious dinner and support an amazing learning opportunity for Village School fourth-six graders and some of their parents! Make dinner reservations for Tuesday, December 2 with the Gardner Ale House and they will donate 10% of the sales for the trip! Chances available that night for a 50/50 drawing as well, with proceeds to the trip fund. Think of it: One exhausting week with tours of London, castles, cathedrals and abbeys; traditional foods like bangers and mash, fish and chips; as well as art and culture; afternoon tea; sharing stories with hostel-stayers from around the world… all designed to enhance year-long Medieval Era studies. Your dinner out will support the field trip of a lifetime. Reserve your dinner seats by calling 978-669-0122.

Royalston General Store

Mon - Wed 7am-7pm, Thur & Fri 7am - 8pm
Sat 8am - 8pm, Sun 9am - 6pm

Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials

Full Breakfast
978-249-9798

Subs • Pizza • Pasta • Beer • Wine
Liquor • Lottery • Groceries • Hardware
Eat In or Take Out
Page 10 Royalston Community Newsletter Dec/Jan 2015

Garden Notes  November 14, 2014

Woke up, as we all did, to the sight of all surfaces coated with one inch of snow. Yeah, there was a certain aesthetic appeal, but I can do without the winter wonderland allusion. First, winter (at least calendar-wise) is still five weeks distant. And, second, the only thing I wonder is how I’ll accomplish all that requires accomplishing under the snow. It will melt, of course, but not today.

November 22

It melted, of course, but temperatures since have topped out (at best) in the 30’s. That ought to be our low readings for this time of year. At least with the snow cover my to-do list was out of sight. Now, it stares me in the face: the unraked leaves, the unturned beds, the unmoved compost piles. Other than hauling in some more cabbages and carrots and harvesting some more Brussels sprouts, outdoor activity has come to a halt. (My threshold is 40° and even that is a stretch.) That being said, I seem to be at a loss for (garden-related) words. (Me, at a loss for words?)

The garden has moved indoors. The root cellar is filling up. This, being the season of the root, it is more than filling up. If Kathy and I consume a pound and a half of potatoes every day for the next six months, we will not have exhausted our supply. A stew is invariably simmering on the cook stove. As I write a mess of pears (which, in fact, resemble a mess) is cooking down. When soft, they will journey through the food mill, which will separate the stems, skin, and seeds from the pulp, which is returned to the fire to cook down until thickened. Sometimes it is sweetened (maple) and sometimes it is not. Sometimes it is spiced (ginger) and sometimes it is not. Regardless, we add it to cereal, mix it with yogurt, slather it on peanut butter, incorporate it into baked goods. All from a mess of pears most would have considered more appropriate for the compost heap than the sauce pan. (A mess of apples is awaiting similar treatment.)

Many hours later. The pear butter has been canned and the temperature has risen to the mid-30’s so I ventured out to the garden to see what there was to see. Not much. Carrots, beets, and leeks, of course. The cabbages and Brussels sprouts are safely ensconced within the electric mesh which, by the way, ensnared a porcupine a couple of weeks ago. Stunned, but very much alive. Then there is the matter of the porcupine scratching at the door between the kitchen and shed last night. I won’t even get into that. (The garden is the matter of the porcupine scratching at the door between the kitchen and shed last night. I won’t even get into that. (The garden is the matter of the porcupine scratching at the door between the kitchen and shed last night. I won’t even get into that. (The garden is the matter of the porcupine scratching at the door between the kitchen and shed last night. I won’t even get into that. (The garden is the matter of the porcupine scratching at the door between the kitchen and shed last night. I won’t even get into that. (The garden is the matter of the porcupine scratching at the door between the kitchen and shed last night. I won’t even get into that. (The
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The Royalston Community Newsletter is printed by:
Recipe of the Month

When the weather gets cold, the cold make borsch  
GEORGE KRASOWSKI’S UKRAINIAN BORSCH:

Stock:
3 qts water  stock seasoning
4 lbs beef (or pork) with bones (ribs are good) 1/2 bunch of parsley
use as much or little meat as you want (or a parsley root)
1 onion 15 peppercorns
1 carrot 2 whole allspice
1 rib celery 1 whole clove
Boil above for 2 hours. Strain broth and save.
Salt to taste. Take meat off bones and cut into bite size pieces and save. Discard vegetables and bones.

Borsch:
2-3 beets 3 potatoes (optional)
2 onions 2 carrots
2 ribs celery (or celeriac) 1/2 cabbage shredded
2+ cups tomatoes (peeled & coarsely chopped) salt to taste
lemon juice or vinegar to taste (or replace part of cabbage with cooked sauerkraut)
Bake beets until soft enough to peel & cut (I just microwave dry for 10 minutes.) Peel and cut into slices, cubes, or rectangles. Peel and cut potatoes into slices, cubes, or rectangles. Coarsely chop onions, carrots and celery. Saute onions, carrots, and celery in oil until soft and fragrant. Heat broth, beets, onion and vegetable saute and tomatoes and cook around 20-30 minutes.

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

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