Calendar of Events

Happy 250th Anniversary Royalston!

With the dawning of the new quarter millennium, it’s time to finally celebrate. This month the 250th committee is sponsoring an anniversary dinner-dance gala. Later in the year, save September 9 - 11th for a celebratory anniversary weekend with fireworks, a parade, lots of live music, crafts and art, local performance, vegetable judging, old-fashioned games, antique cars, a local foods supper and more! and more! and more! Various other town groups have planned events throughout the year, so read the newsletter and stay tuned. Fetch far-flung friends and family for this party, 250 years in the making.

February 1 - 22 Royalston Snowman/ Snow Sculpture Contest. Make a snow creation in town. Take a photo. Deliver or e-mail the photo to the library (royalstonlibrary@gmail.org). Include sculptor’s name and phone #. Individual and group efforts welcomed. Winning snow creation gets an inscribed a copy of Ezra Jack Keat’s The Snowy Day. Photo submissions may be printed in the newsletter next month. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

February 6 Friday 7 - 10 pm Open Mic at Town Hall, sponsored by the Cultural Council. Some cut a rug. Others tap a toe. Expect fun music and good company. Refreshments for sale, but otherwise free.

February 7 Saturday 11 am Friends of the library meeting. All welcome.

February 14 Saturday St. Valentine’s Day

February 16 Monday Presidents’ Day (school vacation all week)

February 18 Wednesday 7 pm Public hearing by the Planning Board on the proposed new zoning bylaw in the Town Hall. Copies available: Town website: www.royalston-ma.gov/, Library website: www.royalstonlibrary.org, or pick up a hardcopy at the library or town hall or from the Town Clerk.

February 20 Friday 2:00 p.m. Animal Adventures at the Town Hall. Handlers will bring a large selection of exotic animals. This program is free and open to all but due to seating limitations, reservations must be made by calling or emailing the library.

February 21 Saturday 6 pm - midnight 250th Celebration Dinner Dance, a gala night featuring dinner, and dancing to a DJ, and many special guests at the Elks Club in Orange. Join the hubbub as current and former selectboard members, ten nominated Unsung Heroes of Royalston, and local and state politicians rubbing elbows with constituents are all lauded for their service. Also, and the new Royalston Poet Laureates will receive their laurels and read their artful poetry. Nine contestants are vying for the tiara in the Semiquincentennial Ms. Royalston Contest too. Dancing continues until midnight. Tickets cost $15 each and include a complete dinner of either braised beef or vegetarian eggplant parmesan. Cash bar. Tickets on sale now at the post office or from Geoff Newton or any committee member. Tickets must be purchased by February 12. No tickets at the door.

February 23 Monday 4:30 pm Library book discussion group. Talk books, munch cookies, drink tea. What could be better? If your interest is piqued, drop by. The month’s selection is always available at the library, but it is not necessary to have read the book to attend the chat.

February 25 Wednesday 7:30 pm Ladies’ Benevolent Society meets at the home of Pat Worth, 6 Gulf Road. The business meeting commences at 7:30 pm, followed at 8:00 pm by a presentation by Michael Young entitled Meditations from the Heart. As always, delightful food. All are welcome.

No good deed goes unpublished - extended. Sort of.

Ten nominees will be recognized at the 250th Anniversary dinner dance gala; nevertheless, there are still plenty of unsung heroes in this burg. Hence, this newsletter will continue to sing the unsung throughout 2015. Submit a few sentences recognizing the good works of any of the many residents who commit to making this town a better place to live and we will publish them in the Royalston Community Newsletter. It may be too late to receive kudos at the ball, but you are never a pumpkin.
ELECTION SCHEDULE
APRIL 6, 2015, ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Tues., Feb. 17th Last day to submit nomination papers to Registrars of Voters (49 days)
Mon., Mar. 2nd Last day for Registrars of Voters to file nomination papers with Town Clerk (35 days)
Mon., Mar. 2nd Last day for Board of Selectmen to submit ballot questions to Town Clerk (35 days)
Wed., Mar. 4th Last day to object or withdraw (33 days)
Tues., March 17th Last day to register voters (20 days)
Mon., April 6th Annual Town Election polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Positions on the Ballot
Selectman Linda Alger, Chair 3 years
Moderator George Northrop 3 years
Constable John Chencharik 3 years
Tree Warden Larry Siegel 3 years
Assessor Stephen Chase 3 years
Cemetery Commission Roy Smith, Jr. 3 years
Board of Health Eugene Kolimaga 3 years
Board of Health Chet Hall, IV (appointed to fill term) 1 year (remaining term of Chet Hall, III)
Library Trustee Barbara Guiney 3 years
Board of Public Welfare Gary Winitzer 3 years
Planning Board Kimberly MacPhee 5 years
Sewer Commission Gary Winitzer 3 years
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund Gary Winitzer 1 year
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund Wayne Newton 1 year
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund Roland Hamel 1 year
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund Roy Smith 1 year
Athol-Royalston Reg. School Angelica Favreau 3 years
Athol-Royalston Reg. School Mary C. Barclay (appt to fill vacancy) 1 year (remaining term of Chet Hall)

Internet in Royalston
Broadband: Choices, Opportunities & Decisions
Jon Hardie & Royalston Broadband Committee

RBBC has been advocating for high-speed Internet for all residents of The Town of Royalston. Three years ago, we joined 42 towns in Wired West. Massachusetts and the federal government raised millions of dollars and built a high speed “fiber backbone”, the Middle Mile, to connect 124 underserved communities across western Massachusetts. This Middle Mile network connects Core Anchor Institutions: fire, police, EMA, schools, libraries and Town offices in 123 towns and cities.

Royalston was the 124th town & didn’t fare very well. Middle Mile connects to only 2 of Royalston’s CAI’s (Fire Station #2 and Whitney Hall.) Unconnected CAI’s in Royalston include RCS, Fire Station #1, Police, EMA, Town Hall, the Library, and DPW. Their existing DSL connections (worse than others in town) are barely above dialup, and certainly way below what folks need to really be productive or teach students.

Recently, the state passed a $40 million (33%) down payment Final Mile Bond issue, to connect the Middle Mile to bring high speed internet to every home in underserved western Mass. However, the total estimated cost of a high speed FTH fiber to the home program (to be completed in 4yrs), will be about $120 million, the remaining $80 million to be divided based on cost among the 36 eligible Wired West towns and 7 more.

We have a better idea. After careful review of the Wired West proposal, the RBBC has a number of critical concerns about the fiber only technology, our topography, vulnerability to storms, the funding model, the bond cost, the timing, and our lack of stakeholder equity and our significant exposure to risk. At its invitation, we met with MBI (a company who will build the final mile) and said we have a better idea – a hybrid super high speed fiber / wireless network. There are 15 other towns who also have the same concerns – and if we get it right here in Royalston– these towns might use our model: it’s faster, cheaper and quicker to build, more robust, and way less expensive to maintain.

Good News - our conversations are ongoing & progress is amazing. We are continuing to meet with MBI staff and its expert consultants. We have 4 action items we are working on. We expect to bring both the Wired West Proposal and the RBBC MBI Hybrid proposal to the community SOON to lay it out in plain clear language, and the schedule community meetings discussing the pluses, the minuses, the cost, the benefits, service costs, the timing, the opportunity, and the risks.

Finally we are making some tangible headway and getting to a place where we can move forward. This spring we will need to make some decisions together. It’s time to get it done.

2015 Dog Licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed for 2015 by March 31. Neutered/spayed dogs are $6.00/license, Unaltered dogs $10/license. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination and a check made out to Town of Royalston.

Town Clerk office hours are Mondays, 9 a.m.-1p.m. and 6.-8 p.m.

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.
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Cultural Council News

*Deb Nunes*

The Cultural Council continues to sponsor the first Friday Open Mic, the next one being Friday Feb. 6th from 7-10 pm upstairs at the Town Hall. As usual, we will offer delicious food and goodies for purchase, which helps support the Cultural Council Programs.

The Follies are coming! This year’s Royalston Follies are scheduled for Saturday, May 16th, with dress rehearsal the evening before. It will be here before we know it so now is the time to be seriously thinking about participating. Generally, we have about a dozen acts, both comical and serious, all in contention for the coveted Oscarina trophy!

Fire Department

*Chief Newton*

The “Open Burning” Season is again upon us and has no changes in the regulations that guide safe burning of brush and vegetation associated with gardens, lawns and clearing wood lots. All material to be burnt must be natural and must not contain household trash or building materials. Burning of tires is strictly prohibited and burning of fields is illegal.

The process of obtaining a permit requires you to come to Fire Station #1 on Athol Road at 7:00 P.M. the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Monday of every month. You then are to call the day you intend to burn and leave your name, permit number, your street location and a call back telephone number. The burn location must be at least 75ft. from any building. You shall provide some form of extinguisher at your burn location. Remember, burning start time is 10:00 A.M. AND MUST BE OUT BY 4:00 P.M. No exceptions to this State Law.

Let’s burn what you can while snow cover helps keep it under control. The permit process will be suspended from time to time when dry conditions and/or windy conditions exist. Thank you all for your full cooperation and let’s have a SAFE burning season.

Department of Public Works

The Town has regulations warning against the discharging of water, pushing snow and ice and any materials that may create a traffic hazard into the Public Way. Recently, the DPW has been dealing with the results of pumping water into the Public Way. The dangerous conditions created will be the homeowner’s responsibility and if any legal action results, the homeowner will be held responsible for any penalties imposed. Please be very careful with your winter maintenance of your driveway or property.

Mailboxes are the responsibility of the homeowner. Any receptacles for delivery of mail or packages are mounted most times in the Public Right of Way and should be secured properly to guard against the weight of snow and ice being plowed from the Public Way. Please remember that it is a privilege and not a right to post or mount your receptacle in that Public Way. Thank you in advance for those who cooperate with this reminder.

Dept. of Public Works Supt.,

How to Inform Yourself about the Proposed Zoning By-law Changes

*Planning Board*

*Kate Collins* 978 249 4407
*Tom Musco*, *Vyto Andreliunas, and Josh Doub*

Expect to see Legal Notices in the Daily News in the next two weeks announcing a public hearing by the Planning Board on the proposed new Zoning bylaw. This will take place on Wednesday, February 18 at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

We urge you to peruse or download a copy of the bylaw at the following websites:

- Town website: www.royalston-ma.gov/
- Library website: www.royalstonlibrary.org
- or pick up a hardcopy at the library or Town Hall or from the Town Clerk.

In last month’s newsletter we summarized the major improvements, and we’ll try and address any and all questions in as much detail as anyone wants at the hearing. The objective is to try and find consensus among two-thirds of the voters, preferably before Town Meeting. It has been a long haul for a lot of folks, and we all appreciate your support as we head for the goal line.

Board of Health News

*Phil Leger, chair*

We are now in winter operations. Be careful when exiting and walking around the facility especially around the edges by the roll-offs. A big thank you to RDPW for plowing and sanding the facility in a timely manner.

Still time for that flu shot. There has been an upswing of flu related disease in the U.S. Contact your local medical provider or pharmacy.

Planning continues for construction of a compost area for leaf and yard waste. We received $1400 in planning and construction funding from MADEP for recycling dividends. This funding will allow us to get the area constructed with signage for use this year. Stay tuned.

Also, in the works are purchases of recycling containers for town functions such as the Music Fest and the 250th Celebration this year. This will hopefully make for easy collection of bottles and cans and other recyclables for outdoor events.

Don’t miss the Gala 250th Anniversary Dinner Dance February 21st.

Buy tickets before Feb. 12 at P.O. or from Geoff Newton or any other committee member.
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: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572  www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends - Thank You!
Donald Stanton
Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski
Grace Belmont
Marie-Claire and Pierre Humblet
The MacPhee family
Lisa Freden
Rene Lake
James and Marlys Kelley
Nancy and James Melbourne

Donation to the Newsletter
Kathy Pirro
Rose and Richard Lawrence

Donation for Children’s Programming
George Bodman

Animal Adventures Program in February
On Friday, February 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall an ‘Adventure Guide’ from Animal Adventures will bring a large selection of exotic animals from around the world so that participants can get close and learn about the animals’ habitats and lifestyles.

This program is free and open to all but due to seating limitations, reservations must be made by calling or emailing the library. Funding for this program has generously been provided by the Royalston Cultural Council through the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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. Yoga classes meet on Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm but in February are taking a break. Yoga resumes in March and will 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 announcements.

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 next meeting is February 23. Stop in at the library to pick up this month’s selection.

Art Exhibit
The works of several artists: Caleb Chase, Dede Keach, Gordon Morrison, Clarence Rabideau, and Sonja Vaccari, will be on exhibit in the children’s room during the month of February. Beginning in March, Dede Keach will have an exhibit of her work.

Got history?
Bring it in to be scanned at the library Scan-a-Thon
If you have interesting photos or letters or other historical memorabilia, you can bring it to the library on Saturday, February 21 or call and make an appointment for a better time, so that we can scan it for posterity. We will scan the material to our computer and then if you would like we have flash drives we can download it to or make a print of it so you don’t have to pull out the original. Help us pull together some history for the town to have for not only the 250th but the 275th, the 300th, ...

Coming soon to the library:
Want to Know How Much Electricity You Use?
Soon the library will have a Kill-o-watt kit provided by Verizon with a meter that will let you monitor how much electricity a particular appliance or apparatus is using. That way you can find out if your old freezer or new computer is using more electricity and possibly realize how much you could be saving by pulling the plug. The kit will be available to borrow for a week. Sign up now!

eBooks
The trustees of the library have signed the contract and soon our library will be part of the statewide ebook project. This program funded by the Massachusetts Library System and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissions will provide us with a low cost opportunity to provide ebooks to our patrons to download onto an e-reader or other devise.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

### Adult fiction
- Abel, James: *White Plague*
- Backman, Fredrik: *A Man Called Ove*
- Cornwell, Bernard: *The Empty Throne*
- Gerritsen, Tess: *Die Again*
- Green, Jane: *Saving Grace*
- Hannah, Sophie: *Carrier*
- Hawkins, Paula: *The Girl on the Train*
- Hoag, Tami: *Cold Cold Heart*
- Israel, Steve: *The Global War on Morris*
- Koontz, Dean: *Saint Odd*
- Krentz, Jayne Ann: *Trust No One*
- Lane, Harriet: *Her*
- O’Nan, Stewart: *West of Sunset*
- Pomranz, Craig: *Made by Raffi*
- Simson, Graeme: *The Rosie Effect*
- Woods, Stuart: *Insatiable Appetites*
- Steel, Danielle: *Pegasus*
- Tademy, Lalita: *Citizens Creek*

### Adult non-fiction
- Aczel, Amir: *Finding Zero*
- Gawande, Atul: *Being Mortal*
- Moore, Wes: *The Work*
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls: *Pioneer Girl*
- Wilson-Rich: *NoahBee*

### Audio Books
- Gawande, Atul: *Being Mortal*
- Aczel, Amir: *Finding Zero*
- Moore, Wes: *The Work*

### DVDs
- Atlas Shrugged Part III
- Boyhood
- The Equalizer
- Gone Girl
- Pride
- The Trip to Italy
- This is Where I Leave You
- Walk Among the Tombstones
- When the Game Stands Tall

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

### Young Adult
- Black, Holly: *The Darkest Part of the Forest*
- Colfer, Eoin: *Artemis Fowl (Graphic Novel)*
- Draper, Sharon: *Stella By Starlight*
- Lockhart, E.: *We Were Liars*
- Patterson, James: *The Lost*
- Tamaki, Mariko: *The One Summer*

### Children’s fiction
- Benton, Jim: *Five Stinky Socks*
- Daugherty, James: *Daniel Boone*
- David, Erica: *All Hail the Queen*
- David, Erica: *Anna & Elsa*
- Emberly, Ed: *Glad Monster, Sad Monster*
- Osborne, Mary Pope: *Big Nate’s Greatest Hits*
- Pierce, Lincoln: *Big Snowman, Little Snowman Puppies*
- Rabe, Tish: *Knight-napped!*
- Webster, Christy: *Anna’s Best Friends*
- Thong, Roseanne: *‘Twas Nochebuena*
- Tullet, Herve: *Mix it Up!*
- Underwood, Deborah: *Here Comes Santa Cat*
- Willems, Mo: *Waiting is not Easy!*

### Children’s Non-Fiction
- Abbott, Simon: *Meet the Ancient Egyptians*
- Abbott, Simon: *Meet the Incredible Romans*
- Branscombe, Allison: *All about China*
- Bruel, Nick: *Bad Kitty*
- Coppee, Thierry: *Toto Trouble*
- Lyles, Brian: *The Lego Neighborhood Book*
- Mercer, Bobby: *The Robot Book*
- Money, Carla: *Rocketry*
- Nelson, David: *Soldering*
- Sarcone-Roach, Julia: *The Next Wave*
- Shores, Erika: *The Bear Ate your Sandwich*
- Yolan, Jane: *Animal Robots*
- Sarcone-Roach, Julia: *National Geographic Animal Stories*

### Children’s Audiobook
- Scieszka, Jon: *Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor*
Recipe of the Month

This month, Jeff Mangum, shares one of his mom’s recipes and childhood memories from where he grew up, Woburn, Mass. During college, in 1992, he started working as a Park Ranger at Tully Lake. He landed a full-time job there in 1994. Five years later, he and his family bought their first house, which was in South Royalston. They still live there above the Millers River. Jeff has been managing Tully Lake since 2000 and Birch Hill Dam since 2010. His wife Melany is town clerk and chantreusse for the eponymous Melanie and the Blue Shots and daughter Emily is about to graduate from Monty Tech.

Jeff’s tasty recipe has a 60’s retro tang. It combines a meatloaf base with “Hawaiian” flavors. Jeff enthuses, “I think it’s unique since I’ve tasted it nowhere else but at her table!”

“Festive Ham Rolls”

Ingredients:
1 1/2 to 2 lbs ground beef
3/4 cup Italian bread crumbs
1 egg
1 1/4 cup milk
16 slices deli ham
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. cornstarch
1 tsp. mustard
1/2 cup orange juice concentrate, thawed
1 can (8 oz.) pineapple chunks, drained
2 tbsp. reserved pineapple juice

Instructions:
Mix beef, crumbs, egg and milk. Spread on each ham slice and roll up. Place in a 13x9x2 inch baking dish (may be done the day before). Make sauce by combining cloves, cornstarch, mustard, orange juice, pineapple, and pineapple juice. Spread over ham rolls. Bake, uncovered, at 350 for 45-50 minutes. Yield: 8 servings.

LBS News

The first meeting of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society for 2015 will be held on Wednesday, February 25th at the home of Pat Worth, 6 Gulf Road. The business meeting commences at 7:30 pm, followed at 8:00 pm by a presentation by Pat’s husband, Michael Young, entitled Meditations from the Heart, and as always, delightful food. All are welcome. This year’s program booklet will be available, and if you wish to receive one, or want to be on the list as a member or former but inactive member, please contact Pat directly at 978-249-2722, as she is putting the booklet together.

Due to the many activities surrounding Royalston’s 250th Anniversary, there will not be a Memorial Piano Concert in the fall. Look for the next concert in the early spring of 2016.

For more information, please contact Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.
Royalston’s Tradition of Poetry
Sharon Harmon and Mary Carnie are sharing the Poet Laureate of Royalston duties in its sesquicentennial year. They will read their work and receive their laurel crowns at the Town dinner dance gala on February 21st. (Don’t miss it. Tickets are available at the post office or by contacting Geoff Newton.) Molly Divoll has been the Town’s official poet since 2011. Now, she can rest on her laurels. Royalston has a long history of poets, some of whose work can be found in the 30 pages which Caswell’s History of Royalston, published in 1917, devotes to town-connected verse.

During the Civil War, Dr. Frank W. Adams penned poetry including, “Apostrophe to the Flag”, “A grand tribute to the Loyalty of Blacks”, “the tribute to Lincoln,” and the “Pangyric on woman’s work in the war”. The latter deals with the despair of watching all the men in one’s life march off to war singing in “glorious old chorus”, ...“Glory Hallelujah! for God is marching on.” ...The mother “could hear it no longer,... turned and fled./ And at home on [her] knees, Heaven’s aid to employ,...begged God to spare him and bring back [her] boy!/ Yes wives sent their husbands, and sisters, their brothers/And daughters their fathers and sweethearts their lovers;/ O comrades, the army that marched away/ Was the only one army that helped win the day.” The poet goes on to credit the power of the women’s prayers for protecting many sons of Royalston in the war.

Nancy Priest is given long shrift as the “most gifted daughter of Royalston” for her famous poem “Over the River.” This is not the Thanksgiving song that comes to mind, but a famous-in-its-day verse about reuniting with loved ones after death. It begins, "OVER the river they beckon to me,—
Loved ones who ‘ve cross’d to the farther side;
The gleam of their snowy robes I see
But their voices are drown’d in the rushing tide.
There ’s one with ringlets of sunny gold...."

Mrs. George Woodbury, who is a founding mother to the town public library, wrote an invocation to the tune of Auld Ang Syne for the town’s centennial celebration. Many of the sentiments would be appropriate at this year’s festivities: “We welcome back a hundred years,
And breathe a gentle sigh,
That mingles with our hopes, and fears,
“Mid changes ever nigh.”

Josephina Ballantine wrote poems about her missionary work in India. Amanda Bevis Smith, whom Caswell calls a “woman of unusual attainments”, was well-known for her poem about the Johnstown flood, which she presented to the governor of Pennsylvania to be sold and the proceeds used for the flood sufferers. Ducinea M. Russel had a lovely name and in 1895, published a 120 page volume of verse entitled, “Echoes from the Shepherd’s Bell”. “Peck’s Poem on Universalism” by John Peck has a Royalston connection and winningly begins with the lines reflect many writers’ fears, “What if the author is no bard/ But writes with a doggerel song;What if the muse aid refuse/ While he doth creep along”...William M. Leathe in the mid 1800s put into words what many of us old -folks-back-home hope our adult children think when they consider Royalston: “Oh never among the gay circles of pride Shall I cease to think of my father’s fireside, Where music, sweet converse, affection and play Filled up the glad hours at the close of day.”

Military News
Kevin Nunes, son of Deb and Joe Nunes, recently separated from the United States Army with the rank of Sergeant after ten years of active duty. During that time he saw deployments in Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan, and earned a Bronze Star for meritorious leadership in Iraq. He is currently a member of the New York State National Guard, and is attending State University of New York in Brockport full time.

Linq’s Bruce’s Browser Celebrates 10 Years
Diane Lincoln invites you all to help her celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of Bruce’s Browser at 1497 Main Street in Athol on Saturday, February 7th from 9 AM to 7 PM. There will be food, raffle drawings, and a twenty percent discount on all sales. WJDF 97.3 FM, the BEST music, will broadcast live by remote from the store from 10 AM to 1 PM and will interview several area authors live on air. The authors will be here throughout the morning, so come on in and mingle. You never know who might show up. If you’re not going to be in the area on the 7th, you can still listen in on the fun at www.wjdf.com from 10 AM to 1 PM ET.

Sidney G. Bosworth, a native of land adjoining Beryl Hill Farm, wrote this hymn sung at Royalston’s 150th Anniversary. We hope to reprise it this year as part of the anniversary celebration. A chorus is forming. Can you sing in parts? Want to join? Let us know at the Royalston Community Newsletter.
Sam’s Canine Companions L.L.C.
Sherry A. Miner
71 Athol Road
PO Box 123
Royalston MA 01368
508-873-0629 call or text
Professional all breed grooming and obedience training

Scholarships for Royalston Students:
The Ladies’ Benevolent Society Scholarships are available to both high school seniors and adult returning students of all genders. Application forms are available at the Monty Tech and Athol High School guidance offices and at the Phinehas Newton Library. Please fill them out thoroughly for a thorough consideration. The deadline is April 15, 2015. Please contact Theresa Quin with questions: 978-249-3819.

Royalston Academy Scholarships: Deadline April 15, 2015 Forms are available through your high school guidance counselor, Royalston Library, or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, MA 01368.
There are two types of Royalston Academy Scholarship:
The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship in the amount of up to $1000 is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. This scholarship is sponsored by the Royalston Academy in memory of the academy’s founder, Katherine Cole. Contact your local Guidance Office or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2015.
The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship awards up to one thousand dollars ($1,000) to individuals, students, and groups of Royalston, Massachusetts to support educational activities such as college, home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs. This fund will use the same residency criteria used by Royalston Academy and the Royalston Academy Catherine Cole Scholarship Fund. Contact your local Guidance Office or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 35, Royalston, Ma 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2015.

Second Annual Chet Hall Scholarship Pancake Breakfast will be held on: March 21 from 8:00 - 11:30. There will be an auction and organizers are looking for donations of any kind, including gift cards. (There will be a gift card/scratch ticket tree). Chet Hall Memorial T-Shirts will be sold. Tickets are $8.00 for adults, $5.00, for children, (4 and under are free.) Tickets will be available at The Royalston Community School office, Kimball-Cooke Insurance Co. in Athol, and the Royalston Post Office.

“Unsung Heroes of Royalston” Award - 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. 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.

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

name, phone #:

Cloutiers’ Pete & Henry’s
18 Main St. (Rt. 68) in South Royalston, MA 01368
Thu. 4-9; Fri. 4-10; Sat. 3-10; Sun. 1-8 p.m.
978-249-9845 ~ Gift Certificates Available ~ 978-249-8375
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Anniversary Memories:
Participate in the fun this 250th year and add to the collection!

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
The garden may be frozen and coated with a combination of snow and ice but its presence persists in the kitchen. My meals are not predicated upon recipes in the latest issue of Gourmet Magazine or the advice of the ‘personality’ chefs on the Food Channel or the availability of the latest must-use essential ingredients being hyped by the nutritional and dietary police. Rather, they revolve around whatever vegetables in the root cellar are most in a use-me-or-lose-me condition. For the past several weeks it has been winter squash and sweet potatoes (not grown by me, but traded for from a fellow vendor at the farmers’ market) most in a use-me-or-lose-me condition. I suppose the mold-riddled butternut squash I retrieve from the root cellar would at best be composted and at worst garbed by most everyone else, but I have too much invested in that butternut squash. I have planted the seed, nurtured the plant, protected the developing squash from gnawing predators, and harvested, cured (not very well apparently) and stored it. I’m often obliged to discard half (or more) of the vegetable. The other half (or less) becomes a special treat. Next on the horizon will be the cabbages, whose outer leaves are exhibiting signs of degradation (read: rot). Potatoes and carrots are rock-solid (they will keep into May) but their large numbers assure they will be an important element in most meals. I know, potatoes are bundles of carbohydrates (thank you, nutritional police), but I’ve given up most grains (try growing rice in Royalston) and all pasta (crop failure this year). The frozen vegetables have hardly been touched. Their time will come in the spring, after the root cellar expires but before the garden begins yielding in earnest.

Energy. What with stretch codes and pipelines and what-have-you, energy matters have evolved into the forefront of Royalston-think. The stretch code issue brought more people to town meeting than any in recent memory (only the school construction issue brought more). The stop-the-pipeline signs have (apparently) become an integral part of the town’s landscape. (They might more accurately be described as stop-the-pipeline-in-Royalston but that is another matter.) Hopefully, the recent 50% rate hike will encourage conservation (nothing goads people into action quite as much as a hit to their wallets.) I’m talking serious conservation, not the I’ve switched-to-compact-fluorescents type. (By and by, a compact-fluorescent left on all day will consume more electricity than an incandescent turned on only when necessary.) What, say you, has this to do with gardening? Well, fuel is required for more than keeping your space warm, your water hot, your cars moving, and your myriad of modern-day conveniences operating; it is required to maintain our bodies. Fortunately, there is no finer (or less expensive) solar collector than the plant. For a couple of pennies for seed, the plant converts that solar energy to foodstuffs, which in turn, fuel our bodies. As an added benefit, the more time spent in a garden, the less time spent in front of some energy-devouring devise. Conserve energy. Garden.
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Wildlife sighting:

Lynn Anair was heading home from the Village School on January 19 and spotted a bobcat walking on the ice right before the DPW in the twilight. “What a beautiful creature!”

On January 11th at the home of Dan and Cheryl Mahoney in the South Village, three bluebirds were sighted. They stayed around for a few days eating the red berries from pots of evergreens.

(Three little birds... Bob Marley would have something to say about that.)

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