Calendar of Events

March 2  Monday
7 p.m.  Friends of the Library meeting. All welcome

March 5  Thursday  Full Worm Moon

March 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. Free (donations welcome),

March 8  Sunday
2:00 a.m.  Daylight Savings Time Begins  (spring forward)

March 16  Monday
4:30 pm  Library Book Group will discuss Ten Hills Farm: The Forgotten History of Slavery in the North by C. S. Manegold. Talk books, munch cookies, drink tea. Stop in at the library for a copy of the book.

March 17  Tuesday  St. Patrick’s Day

March 20  Friday  New Pink Moon
6:45 p.m.  Vernal Equinox – First Day of Spring

March 21  Saturday
8:00 - 11:30 a.m.  Chet Hall Memorial Pancake Breakfast: pancakes plus, ticket auction, gift card/scratchcard tree, and Chet Hall Memorial T-Shirts will be sold. Tickets are $8.00 for adults, $5.00, for children. Tickets at the Royalston Community School office, Kimball-Cooke Insurance Co. in Athol, and the Royalston Post Office. Call Becky Divoll or the school for more info or to donate items for the raffles. 978-249-2900

March 21 Saturday
10 - 11 a.m.  Rabies Clinic at the Uptown Fire Station. 15.00 for both cats and dogs. Dog license available too ($6.00 for an altered dog, $10.00 for an unaltered dog). Please bring either a check or exact change. To obtain a dog license, bring a copy of the dog’s current rabies vaccination.

March 23  Monday
10:30 a.m.  Puppet Show. Deborah Costine will present The Twig Family in the Oak Tree at the pre-school story hour at the library.

March 24  Tuesday
5:30 p.m.  Yoga classes resume at the town hall.

March 25 Wednesday
7:30 p.m.  The LBS memorial piano concert at Deb Nunes’ house, 350 Athol-Richmond Road. Refreshments. All are welcome.

March 30  Monday
7 - 8:30 p.m.  Retirement reception to honor Barbara Guiney for her service as a library trustee. Stop by to say goodbye and enjoy refreshments.

Save the date

Saturday  April 4
10 am  Easter Egg Hunt on the Common

Monday  April 6  Annual Town Election

Saturday  April 25
9 am  Meet at the library to carpool to Medford for a guided tour of the Isaac Royall home and slave quarters. Admission $10. (Some scholarships for students grades 5 - 12 possible.) Pre-registration very helpful for the museum staff. Sign up at the library, the post office foyer, or by visting RoyalstonHistorical.org.

**Happy 250th Anniversary Royalston!**

Hundreds dressed up and braved the 3 - 5 inches of snow piling up on the roads to kick off the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the town. It was a red letter night.

State Senate President Hon. Stanley Rosenberg and State Representative Susannah Whipps Lee presented a framed copy of the town’s articles of incorporation to the selectboard, Jack Morse, Chris Long and Linda Alger.

There were tiaras for all as Taryne Swan was selected as Ms. Royalston by the queen and her court from 25 years ago. Pictured: Shelby Bronnes, Kelsey Bushee, Taryne Swan, Katie Robinson, Abby Divoll, and Michele Thompson. Photos: Rhonda Whitney
ELECTION SCHEDULE
APRIL 6, 2015, ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
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.

These Candidates have Returned Nomination Papers:
Selectmen – 3 years
Linda B. Alger - – incumbent
Gary L. Winitzer

Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – ROYALSTON – 3 years
Angelica Favreau – incumbent
Roberta Newman
Carla Rabinowitz

Athol Royalston Regional School Committee – ROYALSTON – 1 year
Charles H. Pretti

Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – ATHOL – TWO, 3-year positions:
Joao M. Baptista – incumbent
Deborah B. Kuzmeskas – incumbent

Board of Health – 3 years
Eugene Walter Kolimaga – – incumbent

Board of Health – 1 year
Chester H. Hall, IV

Board of Public Welfare – 3 years
Gary L. Winitzer - incumbent

Sewer Commission – 3 years
Gary L. Winitzer – incumbent

Tree Warden – 3 years
Larry Siegel – incumbent

Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund – FOUR, 1-year positions
Roy A. Smith, Jr – incumbent
Gary L. Winitzer – incumbent

POSITIONS WITH NO CANDIDATE
Assessor – 3 years
Constable – 3 years
Planning Board – 5 years
NO CANDIDATE
NO CANDIDATE
NO CANDIDATE

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.
Cultural Council News

Deb Nunes

The Cultural Council continues to sponsor the first Friday Open Mic, the next one being Friday March 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!

Mark your calendars and come be part of the fun as a participant or as part of an always appreciated audience. For more information, please contact Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

High Speed Broadband in Royalston?

Options, Alternatives & Choices

Our shared goal is to provide EVERY Royalston resident, school, town offices and home business with reliable, stable, low cost, high speed internet, which delivers dramatically better high speed bandwidth, rain or shine, both up and down, than you have or can get.

The Town of Royalston has 79 miles of maintained roads, woven through 43 square miles. Our land is very hilly, forested, with two core villages, with a number of connected and outlying roads, fields and pastures. This impacts the design & reliability of our network choices.

The state authorized $40 million in state bonds (1/3rd of the total $120M Project cost), to complete the ‘Final Mile’ in 42 towns. In Royalston, the Wired West (WW) fiber-only total cost would be $3.1 million. Our bond would be $2.2 million, with lots of strings attached.

For many towns, the high costs and risks, of a WW fiber only, General Obligation Bond authorization, makes the WW Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) solution untenable. The required WW bond costs, uncertain note and interest payback guarantees, significant future risks, and network vulnerability (think 40 trees down over Thanksgiving), will not likely be approved at our town meeting.

We, and a number of other towns, have shared our concern with MBI. They are deeply aware of the issues, and want ALL towns to participate in getting high speed internet. FTTH or Hybrid – whatever works best.

So, at several MBI senior managers’ invitation, Royalston is one of a number of towns actively exploring alternative hybrid solutions with MBI managers and their expert consultant group.

The Good news: MBI will allocate that $40 million dollars proportionally to each town, based upon a complex formula of mileage, residents, cost and technical and operational criteria.

Right now, regardless of the option we choose, (Fiber to the Door or a Hybrid Wireless/Fiber) Royalston appears to be eligible for a $610,000 grant from MBI.

Next month we’ll explore our alternative hybrid $1.5 million plan: first with town-wide wireless, then fiber to South Royalston and the common, town offices, RCS; then reaching out and expanding with more fiber, and town-wide wireless coverage, plus town-wide public safety communications that we would own. Stay tuned!

How to Inform Yourself about the Proposed Zoning Bylaw Changes

Planning Board

Kate Collins 978 249 4407

The Planning Board held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 18, on the proposed Zoning Bylaw Draft. Thank you to those who attended. Watch for a Special Town Meeting Warrant with the proposed Zoning Bylaw on it to be posted for sometime in the latter part of March. You can get a copy of the Bylaw at the Phinehas Newton Library, from Helen Divoll, Town Administrative Assistant, in her office at the Town Hall or from Melanie Magnum, Town Clerk, in her office at Whitney Hall. It is also on the Town website and the Library website. There is also a one page overview available. The Planning Board will continue to accept your comments until shortly before the Special Town Meeting.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

Did you know if you left an incandescent light bulb on all day it will consume more electricity than turning on your compact fluorescent light (CFL) only when necessary? Remember to return your used CFL to the point of purchase for recycling such as Home Depot, Lowe’s, or Aubuchon’s or to the transfer station for a small fee for handling. Used incandescent light bulbs are not recyclable. Please do not put any kind of light bulb in with the bottles and cans.

Winter operations continue at the transfer station. Be aware of the conditions. Be careful backing up and parking and walking around the facility. There is a 15 mph posted speed limit on the access road. Please be considerate of others when driving to, at, and from the station. Be especially careful around the roll off containers. The RDPW and the attendants do a good job of keeping the area clear, but slippery conditions can be anywhere.

The compactor motor has been repaired. It broke down several weeks ago. Winter is hard on people and machines. Our waste contractor, Monadnock Disposal was very diligent in getting the motor rebuilt. Not having 3-phase power to the transfer station but having to run an inverter was deemed a factor in the breakdown.

Rabies/Licensing Clinic

Melanie Mangum

The Town Clerk’s Office, in conjunction with Gardner Animal Hospital, will hold the annual rabies and dog licensing clinic on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Uptown Fire Station.

Please note that rabies vaccinations are $15.00 this year, for both cats and dogs. Dog license fees remain the same - $6.00 for an altered dog, $10.00 for an unaltered dog. Rabies transactions and dog license transactions are handled separately. For licensing, please bring either a check to be made out to the Town of Royalston, or exact change.

To obtain a dog license, you must have a copy of the dog’s current rabies vaccination.

The deadline for licensing dogs for 2015 is March 31.
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

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 March 16, when the group will discuss Ten Hills Farm: The Forgotten History of Slavery in the North by C. S. Manegold, in which the town’s namesake, Isaac Royall features prominently. Stop in at the library to pick up this month’s selection.

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, call to make an appointment 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, ...

Sharon Harmon and Mary Carnie for writing beautiful poems about our town, sharing them at the recent dinner dance gala, and serving as poet laureates in the the town’s 250th year. and to outgoing poet laureate, Molly Divoll, for passing on the crowns. The poems will be printed in the coming months. (photo Rhonda Whitney)

Zumba Canceled (for now) Yoga will restart
one door closes; another opens
Zumba is currently looking for a new instructor for the 20 or so loyal participants who have been meeting weekly. (Erin has to step aside for health reasons.) If you know of someone suitable, who would like an evening gig through April, have him/her call the library for salary and other details.

Yoga classes resume on Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm starting March 24 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.

Preschool Story Time to Welcome Spring with Puppet Show
Pre-school Playgroup meets every Monday at 10 am at the library for books, crafts and healthy snacks for toddlers and their caregivers. Free! Occasionally, there are special events like this one: On Monday, March 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the library puppeteer Deborah Costine will present The Twig Family in the Oak Tree, a gentle story about a family of imaginary twig people who live in harmony with nature in an oak tree. The seven foot oak tree is constructed of paper mache and the twig people are free standing puppets that move around the oak tree. This free program is customized for preschoolers and is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council. For more information please contact the library.

Art Exhibit
During March and April Dede Heath will exhibit her paintings and quilted pieces at the library. Dede grew up in Athol, moved to Maine 9 years ago where they had a blackberry farm, moved back to care for elderly relatives, and built a home in Royalston two years ago. She currently works at Keene State College as an administrative assistant and is a self-taught artist. She works mostly with colored pencil, sometimes tempered with watercolors, and acrylics. She has been sewing for over 50 years making a wide variety of clothing, household items, and quilts.

Thank you.
Tyler Boyd for helping move books.

Sharon Harmon and Mary Carnie for writing beautiful poems about our town, sharing them at the recent dinner dance gala, and serving as poet laureates in the the town’s 250th year. and to outgoing poet laureate, Molly Divoll, for passing on the crowns. The poems will be printed in the coming months. (photo Rhonda Whitney)
Barbara Guiney, Long-term Trustee, Retires

Kathy Morris
It is with sadness and a sense of loss that I report that Barbara Guiney, who has capably been the treasurer of the Library Trustees for over 25 years, is retiring from the position. She was one of the trustees who interviewed and hired me 20 years ago. Barbara has done a remarkable job of maintaining the books and staying on top of all matters financial for the library as well as contributing to the policy decisions and administration of the library. A reception in her honor will be held on Monday, March 30 from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. at the library. Please stop by for remembrances and refreshments.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult fiction
Allen, Sarah  First Frost
Gaiman, Neil  Trigger Warning
Gardner, Lisa  Crash & Burn
Hannah, Kristin  The Nightingale
Harrison, Jim  The Big Seven
Harrod-Eagles, C.  Star Fall
Hawkins, Paula  The Girl on the Train
Kline, Christina  Orphan Train
Kurlansky, Mark  City Beasts
Loehfelm, Bill  Doing the Devil’s Work
Newman, Sandra  The Country of Ice Cream Star
Nicholson, William  Amherest
Oates, Joyce Carol  The Sacrifice
Patterson, James  Private Vegas
Robb, J.D.  Obsession in Death
Robinson, Edna  The Trouble with the Truth
Shannon, Samantha  The Mime Order
Tyler, Anne  A Spool of Blue Thread
Unger, Lisa  Crazy Love You
Weir, Alison  The Marriage Game

Adult non-fiction
Alko, Selina  The Case for Loving
America’s Test  Healthy Slow Cooker Revolution
Clausen, Ruth  Essential Perennials
Fuller, Alexander  Leaving Before the Rains Come
King, George  The Diabetes Reset
Lowell, Jax  The Gluten-Free Revolution
Moyad, Mark  The Supplement Handbook
Rhodes, Richard  Hell and Good Company

CDs
2015 Grammy Nominees
Gomez, Selena  For You
Krall, Diana  Wallflower

Audio Books:
Doerr, Anthony  All the Light We Cannot See
Hawkins, Paula  The Girl on the Train
Mandel, Emily  Station Eleven

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction
Hartman, Rachel  Seraphina
Kamkwamba, William  The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
Patterson, James  I Totally Funnies
Rodriguez, Jason  Colonial Comics

Children’s Fiction
Carle, Eric  The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Church, Caroline  I Am a Big Sister
Church, Caroline  I Am a Big Brother
Cooper, Floyd  Juneteenth for Mazie
Cox, Lynne  Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas
Cronin, Doreen  Click, Clack, Peep
Cronin, Doreen  Snick
Dean, James  Pete the Cat. Cavecat Pete
Dewdney, Anna  Llama Llama I Love You
Jenkins, Emily  A Fine Dessert
Lemke, Donald  Book-o-Beards
Myers, Christopher  H.O.R.S.E
Savage, Stephen  Supertruck

Children’s Non-Fiction
Chabot, Jacob  Hello Kitty
Landau, Elaine  The Salem Witchcraft Trials
McCarthy, Meghan  Earmuffs for Everyone!

DVDs
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day,
The Best of Me, The Box Trolls, Dawn of the Planet of the Apes,
Downton Abbey Season 5, Frost/Nixon, Fury, Greenburg, Into
the Storm, The Judge and Lucy

Divolls Win Snow Sculpture Contest for 2nd straight year.
They managed to make this cute guy on Feb. 22, the only day in the entire month the snow was warm and sticky enough to manipulate.
Recipe of the Month
Here’s a recipe from the Cummings family of South Royalston - Joe and Trisha and their children Danny and Hannah. Trisha, daughter of Duane and Joyce Neale, has lived in Royalston all her life. The family built a home here in 1996. Danny and Hannah are twins, but each has his/her own interests – Danny likes to play hockey, and Hannah, who is a long-time Girl Scout, likes to play soccer.

When the twins were little, they couldn’t eat the regular type of large stuffed peppers, so Joe improvised, and the kids ended up loving it. You will too.

Stuffed Pepper Casserole
1 ½ lbs. ground beef
4 large green peppers
1 can diced tomatoes
1 jar tomato sauce
2 cups cooked white rice
Cheese (optional)

Cut up and boil peppers and add to ground beef
Put in a casserole dish. Stir in jar of sauce, 2 cups of cooked rice and 1 can of diced tomatoes.
Cover with shredded cheese if you like.
Cover and bake 1 hour at 350.

Melanie and the Blue Shots Winter Tour Continues
Wooden Fender Series: Warwick Town Hall March 14th 7-10pm

What is happening at the Royalston Historical Society
The 250th year photo contest has begun, and the scan-a-thon continues. Make an appointment for scanning at the next library Scan-a-thon. You will go home with your original item, and also a copy of scanned materials either printed or put on a thumb drive. You can make donations, submit photos or get more information via the RHS web-site: royalstonhistorical.org.

As part of the 250th celebration, tour the home of Royalston’s namesake, Isaac Royall, with the Royalston Historical Society

Saturday, April 25
Carpool from the library at 9 a.m.
or meet at the house in Medford at 10:30 a.m.
Pack a lunch.
Admission to the museum $10

Space limited. Pre-registration very helpful.
Sign up at the Phinehas Newton Library, or by contacting the historical society web-site www.RoyalstonHistorical.org

Academic Honor Rolls
Royalston Community School:
High Honors: Ryan Darling, Alexis Reynolds, Brian Nano, and Jack Sonnabend
Honors: Bishnu Darjee, Alexandra Phelps, Josiah Potter, Adam Rogers, Kassidy Swan, Owen Willhite, Akash Darjee, Ava LeBlanc, Aliyah Neale, Julianne Trenga, and Mariah Valierre
Bronze: Maia Eldridge, Camden Gould, and Cathryn Michna
Teacher’s Award (Improved Math)
Teddy Peterson

Athol-Royalston Middle School
Gold: Isabella Cooke, Anthony Divoll, Molly Divoll, Kras-tal McCulley, Maison Stevens, Matthew Willhite, and Sadie Wright.
Silver: Hannah Cummings, Tayiah Neale, and Abigail Roberts
Bronze: Damon Ballou, Ashley Hadmack, and Olivia Parmanen

Grady MacPhee, a sophomore at Haverford College, was honored as a Magill-Rhoads Scholar in recognition of academic excellence and community service. His brother Owen, a freshman at Deerfield Academy, landed a role in the school’s Winter play, Ken Ludwig’s fabulous farce, Leading Ladies. Owen plays the smarmy minister, Rev. Wooley,

Liane Brandon’s photos of women powerlifters will be shown in The Mayor’s Gallery in Boston City Hall during March.

Jaime the Hound has been reunited with Heather (Barclay) and Tai Johnson of Acton. Jaime took an 11-day jaunt after sneaking away from the Barclays’ back yard at the foot of Frye Hill. Tracking indicated he was lost in wilds of Frye Hill for the entire time, and finally popped out at the Musco home on North Fitzwilliam Road, where he snarfed all the food Deb D’Amico had out for her cats. Deb (…a fan of felines, not comfortable with canines!) enlisted support from dog-lover and neighbor Becky Krause-Hardie who responded immediately with food and leash, welcoming Jamie into her home until he could be retrieved by his extremely grateful humans. Thanks so much to the MANY Royalston residents and area animal control officers who posted signs, Facebook messages and kept eyes and ears open for what Heather describes as, “…the longest eleven days of [her] life!”
Milestones

Births

Jameson and Jennifer Melbourne have announced the birth of their daughter, Captain Yoshiko Else Melbourne. She was born on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 11:08 a.m. Captain weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces and measured 20.7”. She is the couple’s second daughter. The baby’s paternal grandparents are James and Nancy Melbourne of Royalston. Jean and Joe Callahan and Paul and Mary-Ann Brown are her maternal grandparents.

What a joy. Its a boy. Logan Lionel Doherty was born Jan. 16, 2015 at 4:44 a.m. He measured 7 lbs. 9 1/2 ozs. and 20 1/2 inches long. He is the son of John and Amber (Jarvenpaa) Doherty. Proud grandparents are Donald and Marlene Jarvenpaa of Royalston and TJ and Diane Doherty of Westford., Mass.

Weddings: Nathan J. Melbourne and Stephanie A. Campos were married on April 11, 2014 in a touching ceremony at Newton Wellsley Hospital and renewed their vows June 21, 2014 at The Barn at Hampshire College in Amherst. Nathan is the son of James and Nancy Melbourne of town. Following a honeymoon in Panama, the couple is residing in Waltham.

Obituaries

Robert J. Anthony, 82, died Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, at his home.

Paul L. LaRoche, 80, former highway superintendent and chief of police for the Town of Royalston, died Tuesday morning, February 17th in Heywood Hospital, Gardner.

He was born in Gardner on December 30, 1934, son of the late Napoleon and Vieno (Maijala) LaRoche and was a graduate of Gardner High School. Paul was a resident of Royalston for most of his life.

Paul worked as highway superintendent for the Town of Royalston for many years as well as serving on the police force, where he was chief of police, for 27 years. He was one of the original Dodge Boys, working at one time as a mechanic at Newcomb and Walsh Dodge-Chrysler. Paul proudly served in the United States Army as a drill sergeant.

Paul enjoyed sports and played in the softball league as a pitcher at Royalston Fish and Gun Club. He enjoyed camping and fishing at Lake Denison. Known for his great sense of humor, Paul found his greatest enjoyment spending time with his family.

His wife, Arleen R. (Hall) LaRoche, died in 1999. He leaves five children, Christina Gemborys of Templeton, Michael P. LaRoche and his wife Rebecca of Hubbardston, Shari L. Askew and her husband David of Orange, Lori M. Morse of Winchendon and Peter A. LaRoche of Boston; his brothers and sisters, Nancy Kendall and her husband Thomas of Oregon, Roger LaRoche and his wife Shirley of Georgia, Luann Simula and her husband Raymond of Phillipston and Thomas LaRoche and his wife Robin of Royalston, thirteen grandchildren, five great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a daughter, Patricia Moore and his brothers, William LaRoche, David LaRoche, Robert LaRoche, James LaRoche and Steven LaRoche.

Memorial donations may be made to Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association, 26 Providence Road, Grafton, MA 01519.

Roger J. LeBlanc, 92, of 383 East River Street, Orange, died Sunday, November 9, 2014 in Athol Memorial Hospital, Athol, following a brief illness.

Born in Gardner on April 2, 1922, he was the son of the late Arthur and Cecile (Cormier) LeBlanc. Roger was a heavy equipment operator, employed by the Town of Royalston for 10 years, retiring in 1987. He was previously employed by Fontaine Bros. Inc. of Chicopee Falls for several years. Roger was a United States WWII Army Veteran and received the European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He was a member of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church of Gardner. Roger was also a member of the V.F.W. Post 905, Ovila Case of Gardner and the American Legion, Roger P. Warfield Post 373 of Baldwinville. He enjoyed fishing, roller skating, playing softball and was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox. He was a Volunteer Fire Fighter for the Royalston Fire Department, and was a Selectman for the Town of Royalston.

Roger was predeceased by his first wife of 57 years, Dorothy V. Proulx, who died in 1997. He leaves his wife of 10 years, Teresa E. (LaPlante) LeBlanc of Orange; two sons, Roger L. LeBlanc and his wife Karen of S. Royalston and Arthur J. LeBlanc of S. Royalston; two daughters, Jane C. Smith and her husband Marcus of Hubbardston and Carla R. Smith and her husband Stanley of Phillipston; one brother, Romeo LeBlanc of Athol; one sister, Rose Leger of Gardner; one sister-in-law, Annie LeBlanc of Gardner; two step-sons, Bruce Hanson and his wife Linda of Saco, Maine and Richard Hanson and his wife Angel of Portland, Maine; one step-daughter, Susan Durham of Raynham; five grandchildren, Renee Leblanc, Neill Leblanc, Ross Leblanc, Stacy Smith and Cody Smith; three great-grandchildren, Katie Washburn, Kyle Leblanc and Hannah Bourque; seven step-grandchildren; one step-great-grandchild; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by four brothers, Reverend Omer LeBlanc Alfred LeBlanc, Donald LeBlanc and Norman LeBlanc and by three sisters, Lilly Adams, Estelle Hedge and Aline Peters.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor’s choice.

Lilian (Reinap) Newton, 91, of Simonds Street, died Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Quabbin Valley Healthcare.

Lilian was born August 9, 1923 in Waltham, the daughter of Rudolph H. and Elwine (Mattik) Reinaip. She grew up in Lexington, graduating from Lexington High School, later moving to Royalston and Athol where she lived most of her life.

She worked as a bookkeeper, a librarian, owned and operated a mink farm and was a graphic artist. Lilian especially enjoyed her graphic art, loved to dance, loved animals and also was a licensed pilot. She was an active member of the Athol Congregational Church.

She leaves two nieces, Pamela Reinap of Framingham and Barbara Gayle Reinaip of Ashland; three nephews, Richard Reinaip of Texas, Robert Reinaip of Wisconsin and Allan Reinaip of Nevada; along with several grand nieces and nephews and great grand nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held in the spring at a date and time to be announced at the Athol Congregational Church, 1225 Chestnut Street, Athol with the Rev. Dr. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor officiating.

Donations may be made in Lilian’s name to the Athol Congregational Church, Book of Memory.
Easter Egg Hunt Prepared for its 17th Year!

Peter Gagliardi

Plans are underway for the 17th annual Easter egg hunt on Royalston Common, set for Saturday, April 4, 2015, the day before Easter Sunday. As in the past, the egg hunt will be based at the Royalston Town Hall with hundreds of eggs “hidden” on the Royalston Common. Participants are advised to dress appropriately for the weather and to bring baskets or bags to hold their eggs.

The egg hunt will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by an opportunity for the participants to mold more than twenty pounds of melted chocolate into a variety of familiar shapes. In keeping with recent experience, Mr. Easter Bunny himself is expected to make a repeat visit to the Common for the egg hunt.

The hunt has become a tradition in Royalston. Over the past 16 years, hundreds of children have participated. Some of the children who have gleefully searched for eggs on the Common now pitch in and help with the preparation. Others bring their children to the event that they once attended, making this a truly multi-generational event.

Led since its inception by Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi, the volunteers who help with the egg hunt are key to the event’s long history. Adults and teenagers who wish to help may contact Rene’ at 978-249-4639.

Donations of candy are especially welcome -- it takes a lot of candy to fill 2000 plastic eggs. Those who wish to contribute candy or cash may leave their donations at the Phinehas S. Newton Library or the Royalston General Store. All candy must be individually wrapped, and the individual pieces must be small enough to fit into the plastic eggs. Donations must be received no later than Saturday, March 21, giving Rene’ the necessary time to stuff the eggs.

North Quabbin Pipeline Action Group

Though Royalston has benefited from the recent change in plans to put the pipeline next to power lines in New Hampshire, rather than through South Royalston, it is still in our “neighborhood” and will affect our state’s plan to switch to a cleaner energy future. If you would like to help in any way please call Maureen at 978-249-5138.

Also, come to our Go Green Fundraiser. It is on March 15 from 2 to 5 pm, at the Arts Block in downtown Greenfield. Local groups will be playing music. There will also be a silent auction with donations from local businesses and a quilt raffle, cash bar and plenty of fun. Please come and support our efforts and have a good time.

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 Quinn 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 Royalston Academy Scholarships:

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.

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.

Full Scholarships for Royalston Campers

Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp
August 2 – 14, 2015
Moses Scout Reservation – Russell, MA

The Royalston Fish & Game Club is once again accepting applications to send a candidate to Junior Conservation Camp, 100% paid for by the club!!! Full information and applications are available at: www.juniorconservationcamp.org

Completed application and a short letter stating why you want to go to camp should be submitted before April 1st to: Luann Simula/ 50 Main Road/ Phillipston, Ma 01331

Applications may also be left at the club before April 1st. Last year the club sponsored 3 candidates. GET THOSE APPLICATIONS IN!!!!
Village School March News
If you are interested in enrolling your child next year at the school, it’s time to call and arrange a visit. You’ll meet with the Director, Rise Richardson and observe classes. There are limited openings for next September.

Now we are heading into sugaring season, and all the classes will be making field trips to the Richardson Farm in Phillipston for shearing, sugaring and lambing. The K-6th students start swimming at the YMCA on Fridays in March and April.

The 4th-6th grade class had a great trip to the U.K. over the February break, as part of their year-long study of the Middle Ages. Their visit included castles, Stonehenge, the Magna Carta, and wonderful museums.

Science Night Wednesday evening March 25 7:00 pm
Back in January, 4th-6th grade students chose a topic to investigate, and with the help of scientist Cathy Szal, designed experiments to prove or disprove the initial hypothesis. No help from parents! Peer review is part of the process. Students will enthusiastically display their work at Science Night and be ready to explain it. Come see their work and ask questions! Everyone is welcome.

Save the Date: Summer Programs at the Village School (check the website soon for info)
The Science and Art Experience for ages 8-13
July 13-17 9 to 1
Woodworking for Children for ages 8 and up
July 20-24 9 to 3

Monty Tech News
Mary C. Barclay
Monty Tech is pleased to report achieving its highest graduation rate ever – 98.2% over all, and 100% of students declaring Hispanic heritage. Monty Tech is tied with Lunenburg for the highest graduation rate in the 18 community Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District high schools, and tied with Blackstone Valley for the highest graduation rate among the Commonwealth’s voc-tech schools. The over-all high school graduation rate for Massachusetts is 86.1%.

The Drama Club is presenting Legally Blonde Saturday, March 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m. in Monty Tech’s Performing Arts Center.

Community School News
Calendar of Upcoming Events at RCS
March 11 - 1/2 day, Noon release, lunch served
March 13 - DARE Graduation @ 1:30 PM
March 25 - Spring Pictures

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. Call Becky Divoll or the school for more information: 978-249-2900.

What’s up at ARMS?
Bella Cooke
In 7th grade, we have just finished and just begun some things. In English language arts, we have just finished a book set in the Dust bowl back in the 1930s called Out of the Dust. In math, we are learning about distributing problems, coefficients, terms and more. In Ancient Civ. we are starting a new unit about the Phoenicians. In science, we are learning about mitosis and DNA. Winter sports are almost over for the year and spring sports are hoping for the snow to melt. That is what’s up at ARMS!

Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee
Mary C. Barclay, member
During a recent visit to ARRSD by Massachusetts’ Secretary of Education Matthew Malone, he observed what he felt was a major flaw. Superintendent Tony Polito has since been in discussion and doing research regarding Universal Preschool and feels it could be funded by Chapter 70 and phased in over a four year period. Among the educational benefits are the ability to provide early intervention for young children with sensory deficits, learning obstacles and even environmental obstacles to brain development. At their last meeting, the ARRSD School Committee requested Superintendent Polito continue his research and provide more specific details on the possibility of incorporating Universal Preschool into the District.

Athol High School is presenting The Wedding Singer on Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Garden Notes  
February 22, 2015

I trust I will be forgiven for removing the garden from Garden Notes this month. The top of the fence surrounding it remains visible (if barely), but any activity beneath the snow cover can only be imagined. And there is activity. Perennial plants are dormant, not dead. Seeds are viable, not rotting. Voles are tunneling in their incessant search for a root or two (and there are parsnip roots aplenty). For all I know, insects are doing whatever insects do in the dead of winter. Snow I can abide. It can be removed, after all (pushed aside, more accurately). Not so the cold. One does not remove (or push aside) the cold. With but one day above freezing thus far in February, and January, lest you forget, hardly a pocket of moderation, it has been one long, challenging haul. (Wouldn’t you know, today the thermometer is approaching 40°? Shirtsleeve weather. I’ll enjoy it while I can; sub-zero readings return tomorrow.) There have been times in March past when I’ve been in the garden preparing beds and planting early seeds. I’ve already dismissed that as a possibility. If you detect a certain malaise and melancholy settling in here atop Prospect Hill, it is because a certain malaise and melancholy have settled in here atop Prospect Hill.

I could, of course, share with you the information that (by the time you are reading this missive), leeks and onions will have been started, with celery/celeriac, parsley, and peppers following two weeks later, but I’ve been sharing that information with you for ten years running and will pass this go-around, returning, instead, to the kitchen (for inspiration) and matters of energy (fodder for my monthly rant).

The affairs of the kitchen (part two): making stock. Chicken stock is a wondrous thing, a variety of ‘worthless’ foodstuffs transformed into a rich, nutritious, flavorful broth. A dozen chickens returning from slaughter will provide, if desired (I desire), twelve necks and twenty-four feet. They are dropped into a five gallon stockpot (I am making stock after all) and topped with (previously frozen) celery leaves, and, from the root cellar, misshapen and otherwise compromised carrots, a pile of marble-sized potatoes, onion skins, and the outer leaves of leeks. I fill with water, bring to a boil, and simmer on the cookstove for the day. I strain, cool, fill one-quart yogurt containers, and freeze and the base for the year’s soups is at hand. As a bonus, if one is willing to undertake a particularly tedious task (I do), small bits of chicken (and the inevitable sliver of bone) can be removed from the necks. As an additional bonus, the carrots and potatoes, their nutrients extracted, are fed to our dog, Hunter, who figures if they smell like chicken they must be chicken and proceeds to gobble them up. Hunter has many admirable traits but a keen intelligence is not one of them.

Energy affairs (part two): National Grid, along with its monthly bill, usually provides energy-saving tips, some of which I find laughable. Turn off your lights when not in use. Do you really need National Grid to remind you of that? (Actually, I reminded you of that last month.) It offers hints on how to run your dishwasher more efficiently. You wanna run your dishwasher more efficiently? Unplug it. There is, after all, a time-honored method of washing dishes. Then there is the low-input clothes drier: it is called a clothes line.

I suppose some of you will be rooting for some rapid snow melt so that my soapbox is retired (or, at least, placed in storage) and the garden returns to Garden Notes. I, in fact, am one of the rooters.

Larry Siegel

Classifieds

Photography Services: Events, portraits, weddings, horse and dog shows, and commercial photos. Visit www.snowheronstudios.com Call at 978-249-8108 or 978-248-9454

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 suzannagaits@gmail.com

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

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Graphic digital artist for hire. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, invitations, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Call Barbara at 508.364.3339 or email brguiney@wildblue.net.

Birch Hill Computers: Sales, Repairs and Parts 978-790-7876, birchhillcomputers.com

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

Need help cleaning your house, outdoor work, or other odd jobs? $15/hr. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.


Hand knitted baby sweater sets (limited colors), mittens, hats, boot socks, afghans, etc. Call 978-249-4013. Leave message.

Taking orders for Portuguese sweet bread. Call Lee at 978-249-4507.

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.


Hay - located in Royalston - all under cover, never wet. 2013 crop (140 bales) @ $4.25 / bale 2014 (141 bales) @ $5.50 / bale. Call Ann Vining Bedaw @ 603-357-3000. These are all square bales.

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Wildlife sighting:
Jon Hardie noticed four bird feeders were not filled with the usual chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, tufted titmice, and finches. He reports, “I stepped outside and heard a call high in his perch. Then a chickadee flew a glancing blow against the window to escape ... And there it was ... driving his prey to the ground - the arctic **Northern Shrike**, wintering south of the arctic tundra ... a relentless and very rare winter bird of prey here”.

Spring opens its eyes. **Pussy willows** were just barely blooming on NE Fitzwilliam Rd in the polar vortex of February 16.

**How much snow was it?** The Army Corps of Engineers at Tully Lake reported 54 1/2 inches of snow has fallen in Royalston since November 2014.

**To the Catmobile:** The Catmobile is a **low-cost spay/neuter clinic** for cats sponsored by Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society. On March 17, it will be at the Gardner Animal Control facility at 899 W. Broadway. The Catmobile will also visit Leominster on March 3. The Catmobile will be in Fitchburg on February 26, March 10 and March 31. Appointments are necessary and can be arranged by calling 978 465-1940 or email catmobile@mrfrs.org. Calendars for the Catmobile can be viewed at www.catmobile.org.

**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