### Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>April Fool’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3-11</td>
<td><strong>Passover</strong></td>
<td></td>
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| April 4    | **Saturday**                                    | Full Pink Moon
5 a.m. Total Lunar Eclipse begins, but moon sets partway through 11 a.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. All welcome 10 a.m. sharp Easter Egg Hunt on the Common. Start from Town Hall steps. Dress for weather. Bring bags/baskets for eggs. Chocolate melting/candy making in Town Hall immediately after. |
| April 5    | **Sunday**                                       | Easter                                                                 |
| Monday     | April 6                                         | 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. polls open for Annual Town Election                    |
| Friday     | April 10                                        | Special Town Meeting to vote on the proposed zoning bylaw changes for the town. |
| Wednesday  | April 15                                        | Abraham Lincoln assassinated 150 years ago. (Also, tax day)            |
| April 17-26| **School Vacation Week**                        |                                                                         |
| April 18   | **Saturday**                                    | New Flower Moon                                                       |
| April 19   | **Sunday**                                      |                                                                         |
| 2 p.m.     | Author talk at the library: C.S. Manegold will discuss her book *Ten Hills Farm: the Forgotten History of Slavery in the North*, which features our town’s own Isaac Royall and other famous “champions of liberty”, including John Winthrop. Copies of the book are available at the library. Pre-register. Refreshments. approx 4 p.m. Historical Society quarterly meeting following author talk and refreshments. |
| April 20   | **Monday**                                      | Patriots’ Day
post office, library and state offices closed. |
| April 23   | **Thursday**                                    |                                                                         |
| 1:30 p.m.  | **Bugs, bugs, bugs-** school vacation program with Mass Audubon. Meet at the library. Dress for a walking bug safari. |
| April 25   | **Saturday**                                    | 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 visiting RoyalstonHistorical.org. |
| April 25   | **Saturday**                                    | All-town roadside clean up. Bring found refuse to the transfer station for free recycling and disposal. Cook out at noon at Checkpoint Charlie, behind the Post Office. |
| April 27   | **Monday**                                      | Library Book Group meets to discuss *Why did the Chicken Cross the World? The Epic Saga of the Bird that Powers Civilization* by Andrew Lawler. All welcome. Copies of the book are at library. |
| April 29   | **Wednesday**                                   | Ladies’ Benevolent Society meeting hostessed by Nanji Davison, 58 S. Royalston Road. The business meeting begins at 7:30 pm; it’s followed by Wellness Yoga with Pat Roix. Wear comfortable clothing. All welcome. Info: Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000 |
| May 1      | **Friday**                                       | The Village School old fashioned May Day celebration. The public is invited. Children can join in May Pole weaving. The Millers River Morris Men will appear to drive out winter. |
| May 8      | **Friday**                                       | Annual Town Meeting                                                   |
| May 30     | **Friday**                                       | Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
7:30 - noon Pancake Breakfast, Silent Auction plant sale, tag sale, birds of prey program and more. |
| June 6     | **Saturday**                                    | Royalston Follies talent show at Town Hall                           |
| June 13    | **Saturday**                                    | Classic Car Show sponsored by the 250th committee                     |
| June 27    | **Saturday**                                    | Concert in the south village for town’s 250th anniversary            |
Select Board Notes

Linda Alger
The Annual Town Meeting warrant opened on March 17th and will close on April 7th. We expect that planning for FY2016 will be difficult as the initial forecast for some expenses have seen extraordinary increases. Worcester County Retirement has increased 85% from FY 2015 and the above minimum contribution for the school district has increased by approximately $35,000. These two items alone will increase the budget by over $50,000.

The Select Board has approved deficit spending for the Snow and Ice account; currently the overhead is approximately $80,000. Governor Baker is seeking relief from FEMA and it is our hope that we will see some reimbursement to defray these costs. The snow is starting to melt so we hope that the spring weather is just around the corner.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant is nearing completion and the Board intends to have a ceremony to commemorate this event. This project has been at least a five-year process.

This is also the time of year that we begin making appointments to town committees, and new volunteers are needed. There are always vacancies, so please let us know if you are interested in serving on a committee.

Annual Town Election is April 6th.
Annual Town Meeting is May 8th.

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. The permit process will be suspended from time to time when dry conditions and/or windy conditions exist.

ed.note: At my invitation, candidates for selectman, submitted a candidate’s statement. Unfortunately, there is not room to publish them in the paper version of the newsletter. However, it is available in the on-line version @www.royalstonlibrary.org.

ELECTION SCHEDULE

APRIL 6, 2015, 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. Petti

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

Cemetery Commission – 3 years
Roy A. Smith, Jr. – incumbent

Library Trustee – 3 years
Clarence A. Rabideau

Moderator – 3 years
George N. Northrop – 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
Cultural Council News: The Follies are Coming!

Deb Nunes

The Cultural Council will be hosting the Royalston Follies, now scheduled for Saturday, June 6th from 7-10 pm at the Town Hall, with full dress rehearsal the night before, Friday, June 5th from 7-10 p.m. Shows are known far and wide for their skits and more serious performances par excellence. The contestants will be competing for the coveted Oscarina statuettes determined by audience vote. The Cultural Council will offer beer and wine for sale and provide snacks for a minimal price. Please be getting your act together as time will fly now that spring has arrived (\?). The number of acts will be limited (usually about a dozen) so please contact Deb Nunes (dwellsnunes@aol.com or 978-249-4000) if you wish to participate.

Survey coming - Our Model for a High Speed Internet Hybrid Fiber and Wireless Network

The RBBC (Royalston Broad Band Committee), MBI, and two expert tech consultants, have been exploring the best ways to bring high speed internet to everyone in town. We seek internet that delivers speed, features, reliability, upgradability, expandability, ease of service and is affordable.

Enough Verizon DSL and Satellite nonsense. Most important, our proposed hybrid fiber/wireless network will be a system experts will design and we will build, own and manage jointly, with an ISP (an internet service provider) we select. Ideally we'd like to bring FTTH (fiber to the home) for everyone, at the same time, across town. That's the model proposed by Wired West.

In the first 2 articles, we described many issues with the Wired West Proposal: it's way too expensive, and it exposes taxpayers to significant risks, multi-million dollar costs, and uncertain bond interest repayment. There is a better idea. We've already done major wireless and fiber network planning and design. We'll be posting these planning documents as pdf's online to read or download here: http://www.royalston-ma.gov/?page_id=305

Finally, this spring, we are about to begin the final design and engineering of the Hybrid Fiber/Wireless Network with MBI's consultants - We need your input. So, in the next 3 weeks, we'll be mailing and posting on line, information about the proposed New Hybrid Fiber & Wireless Network, one that we can build together in only two years. We are asking everyone in town, interested in getting real high speed internet, to complete a detailed survey (either by mail or online). Please indicate your specific needs and preferences and return the survey promptly. After we get your essential survey info., we will:

1. Schedule a series of community meetings to get more feedback, present results & address your questions & concerns,

2. Explain:
   a. just how your input has shaped the network design,
   b. what we'd like to build.
   c. how we'll expand the 2 core fiber hubs - in two steps,
   d. what it will cost to build and how we pay for it.
   e. how together we can successfully run and operate our own network & pay our bills in the coming years in a sustainable way.

In summary, we've been work hard together for several years - on your behalf - to get it right. Our Hybrid Fiber/Wireless Network will be a Win-Win for Royalston, for you, our families and children, and also for the firefighters & EMT's, Police Officers, and DPW workers, who would finally get wall to wall wireless emergency communications all across town.

Vote on the Proposed Zoning By-law Changes

Kate Collins 978 249 4407

The Selectboard has chosen Friday, April 10 for a Special Town Meeting for us to decide whether or not to accept a new zoning by-law to replace the existing. The Planning Board will ask for a two-thirds vote to accept a proposed version that has been under development for well over ten years through a process of legal reviews, public meetings, and anumber of studies directed toward future needs and demands on our town government and our natural resources.

An improved by-law meets the original objectives of legal precedent correctness, refined definitions, flexibility in design, weeding out redundancies and enlarged individual opportunity. But, most importantly, it tries to look down the road to what changes, both inside and outside our sphere, whether technological or governmental, would cause us to take action. In that sense, this is a planning document, and should reflect where we would like to be as a community.

Producing a bylaw with such complex content - all 70 pages - takes a lot of effort and collaboration on the part of all of our town offices, committees, and boards, and especially support of individuals who just plain care. All of this was delivered unstintingly.

The meeting will be held at the Royalston Community School at 7pm. The Zoning By-law draft and a tracking copy are available in the Town Clerk’s office, the Board of Selectmen’s office and the Phinehas Newton Library. They are also available on the Town website, www.royalston-ma.gov, and on the Library website, www.royalstonlibrary.org.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

The compactor is up and running again. The cold temperatures caused the motor to have issues. Monadnock Disposal was very responsive in getting the necessary repairs done as well as Travis Neale of town dealing with the electrical end of it.

Make sure prior to dumping in the demo container that you have checked in with Tony for a load assessment. Look in container before dumping to make sure it is the correct one. We find trash in metal more often that not.

Please, no plastic bags in the recycling roll offs! This is an on-going issue. The process at the other end is all mechanized and the bags jam the conveyor belts. Bring them back to the stores you got them from or use them for trash bags or better still use reusable bags. Please be considerate. Thank you.

Clothing boxes are outside the building. Any clean and dry clothing, textiles, belts, shoes accepted. Spring is here so things should warm up soon. Looking forward to spring clean up. Town-wide roadside clean-out last Saturday of April. Pick a road, form a team, be safe and make Royalston shine!
Thank You
Tyler Boyd for volunteer help to “straighten up a mess”
Marsha Flanagan, Susan Gronowitz and Benny Gronowitz, and Tom Musco for magazine subscriptions
Royalston Cultural Council for funding Animal Adventures and The Twig Family Puppets with Deborah Costine.

April Vacation Bug Program: On Thursday, April 23 at 1:30 p.m. at the library, Mass Audubon will present a hands-on program on bugs. The visit will include an outdoor adventure to find bugs in their habitats. Come dressed for the weather and prepare to walk around. This program is funded by Valuing Our Children. For more information about the program or Valuing Our Children, call Jennifer at 978-249-8467 x22. Pre-registration is not required but helpful in planning snacks and equipment.

Art Exhibit
My apologies to Dede Keach, whose name I misspelled in last month’s newsletter. Dede will continue to have her work exhibited at the library through April. It includes many different styles and media, including colored pencil and ink, charcoal, acrylics, and graphite. She also has several quilted wall hangings including an example of Brodeiu Perse, French for Persian embroidery, a style of quilting where more expensive fabrics are cut and appliqued to a background of less expensive fabric to create elaborate bed coverings which were affordable, a landscape quilt, and raw-edged applique. Stop by and see this varied and beautiful display of visual arts.

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 April 13, when the group will discuss Why Did the Chicken Cross the World? The Epic Saga of the Bird That Powers Civilization by Andrew Lawler, who traverses the world in search of the chicken’s origins and its important role in spiritual and everyday life of many cultures. Now numbering more than 20 billion, 3 to every human, with one trillion eggs laid annually, and meat and egg production doubling in the last twenty years, it is easy to see why chickens are “the world’s most ubiquitous bird.” Filled with lots of facts and lore, including American slang derived from chickens, this book will make you look at this noble bird in a new light.

Zumba Canceled ; Yoga continues through May
Yoga classes continue on Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:30 pm 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.

This was the fortune Isaac Royall used to invest in the charter for the town called Royalston in his honor. These are the funds bequeathed by Royall to fund a chair at Harvard University, which eventually bequeathed to Yale University, which eventually bequeathed to Royall Professorship of Law. Also, through this second wife, Royall acquired Mount Hope Farm, the ancestral home of Metacomet, which passed to influential British hands at a remarkably good price after Metacomet was defeated and his head stuck on a pike at the conclusion of the King Phillip’s War. Metacomet’s wife and children were sent into slavery to work on sugar plantations in the Caribbean.

C.S. Manegold to Discuss Her Book, Ten Hills Farm: the Forgotten History of Slavery in the North
On Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 p.m. at the library, Pulitzer Prize winning author C. S. Manegold will discuss her book, Ten Hills Farm: The Forgotten History of Slavery in the North.
Ten Hills Farm is the estate in Medford originally settled by John Winthrop, whose sermon extolling a ‘city on a hill’ where liberty, justice, and godliness would prevail, has influenced the American self-image for 500 years. Winthrop took this land three years before anyone asked its Wampanoag owners for title.
Ten Hills Farm passed through only a few owners and by the mid-1700s was purchased by Isaac Royall. The book describes the Royall family in detail. It begins with the family’s first immigrant to America, a woodcutter and hard-scrabble settler, William Ryall, and traces the transformation over only a century to the clan’s notable rise in wealth and influence, which it chose to reflect in a change of surname to “Royall”. The way to wealth was from sugar cane, farmed originally by enslaved indigenous people from New England and later by African slaves on the Royall plantation in Antigua. In addition, much of the Royall’s fortune came from arranging the sale of slaves.

This book is an informative look at life in colonial New England and the accepted use of slavery to achieve wealth and power. C. S. Manegold has written two books and worked as a reporter for The New York Times, Newsweek, and the Philadelphia Inquirer. She was a member of the New York Times team that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1994. She is currently teaching at Mt. Holyoke College and is at work on her third book.
This program is co-sponsored by the Royalston Village Improvement and Historical Society and the Friends of the Library. Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required by calling the library. If the program is overbooked, it will be moved to the Town Hall. Copies of her book are available to borrow at the library.
After the talk, refreshments will be served and later, after sufficient socializing and discussion, a meeting of the Historical Society is planned. All are invited to remain for the meeting.

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Follow up the Author Visit with a Field Trip to Ten Hills Farm

On Saturday, April 25, the Historical Society is sponsoring a guided tour of the Isaac Royall home and slave quarters in Medford. Car pools will leave from the library at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up at the library, the foyer of the Historical Society (outside the post office), or by visiting Royalston-Historical.org so that the museum will know how many guides to have on hand for the tour. The cost for the tour is $10.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

**Adult fiction**
- Alcott, Kate: A Touch of Stardust
- Archer, Jeffrey: Mightier than the Sword
- Beaton, M.C.: Death of a Lair
- Box, C.J.: Endangered
- Brandt, Harry: The Whites
- Caldwell, Ian: The Fifth Gospel
- Conrad, Hy: Toured to Death
- Cussler, Clive: The Assassin
- Horby, Nick: Funny Girl
- Ishiguro, Kazuo: The Buried Giant
- Jance, J.A.: Cold Betrayal
- Joyce, Rachel: The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy
- Kardos, Michael: Before he Finds Her
- Kellerman, Jonathan: Motive
- King, Laurie: Dreaming Spies
- Lehane, Dennis: World Gone By
- Lethem, Jonathan: Lucky Alan
- Lippman, Laura: Hush, Hush
- Macomber, Debbie: Last One Home
- McGuane, Thomas: Crow Fair
- McKintry, Adrian: Gun Street Girl
- Patterson, James: NYPD Red 3
- Pratchett, Terry: A Blink of the Screen
- Steinhauer, Olen: All the Old Knives

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
- Forman, Gayle: I was Here
- Jarrow, Gail: Fatal Fever

**DVDs**

**Audio Books**:
- Chase, Loretta: Silk is for Seduction
- Doerr, Anthony: All the Light We Cannot See
- McKintry, Adrian: Gun Street Girl
- Palmer, Amanda: The Art of Asking

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, ...

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

**Adult non-fiction**
- Adamowicz, Joe: The New Hiking the Monadnock Region
- AMC: AMC River Guide
- America’s Test: The Complete Vegetarian Kitchen
- Beadle, David: Peterson Field Guide to Moths
- Bowling: Homegrown Berries
- Bruni, Frank: Where You Go is Not Who You’ll Be
- Burk, John: Central Mass. Perspectives
- Cantele, Andi: Backroad Bicycling in Western Mass.
- Dillon, Pamela: Kayaking
- Duncan, Charles: Eat, Drink, and be Wary
- Emblidge, David: Hikes in Southern New England
- Hanson, Thor: The Triumph of Seeds
- Harari, Yuval: Sapiens
- Kershner, Bruce: The Sierra Club Guide to the Ancient Forests of the Northeast
- Klein, Naomi: This Changes Everything
- Lam, Ed: Damselves of the Northeast
- Larson, Erik: Dead Wake
- Linden, David: Touch
- MacLaughlin, Nina: Hammer Head
- Manegold, C.S.: Ten Hills Farm
- Price, Catherine: Vitamania
- Rumi: The Essential Rumi
- Sachs, Jeffrey: The Age of Sustainable Development
- Sibley, David: The Sibley Guide to Bird Life
- Stein, Diane: Essential Reiki
- Welch, H. Gilbert: Less Medicine, More Health
- Rail-Trails New England

**Kill-A-Watt Kit Available**

Ever wanted to know how much electricity your T.V. or refrigerator or electric drier or computer is using? With the new kit from National Grid you can plug any 120 volt plug into the meter and outlet to see how much line voltage is coming from your outlet and how much electricity your appliance or devise is using. It’s easy and informative. There is an enclosed booklet to not only explain how to use the meter but also indicating how much electricity “turned off” devises are using as well as other useful information to help you save electricity. Then you can monitor them yourself. You may be surprised at what is using the most electricity. The kit is available to borrow for a week to anyone with a valid library card.
Royalston Historical Society

The town’s 250th year has begun, and the RHS is actively conserving and preserving its history. Here are some ways to participate:

1. **Make a donation** toward the restoration of Old Schoolhouse #1.

2. **We want your stories!**
   In light of the 250th anniversary of our town, the Historical Society (with support from the Cultural Council) is launching an oral history project with a mission to capture the history of Royalston through the words of its community. You are part of that history and your story is important! Help us to document our town's history in our own words for future generations. Volunteer to be interviewed or nominate a friend or family member to be interviewed by contacting Jessica Trask at jettrask@gmail.com or at 978-870-8252

3. **Submit photos** of anything/anyone in town to the 250th anniversary photo contest. 2015 will be history soon enough.

4. **The scan-a-thon continues.** Make an appointment for scanning at the next library Scanathon. 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 website: royalstonhistorical.org. Visit the Facebook page for updates.

**Learn about the Royall’s of Royalston:**

- **Attend an author talk.** CS Manegold will discuss her book Ten Hills Farm: The Forgotten History of Slavery in the North, in which Isaac Royall features, at the library on Sunday, April 19 at 2 pm.

- **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-register please by signing up at the Phinehas Newton Library, or by contacting the historical society website www.RoyalstonHistorical.org

**Recipe of the Month**

Pat Worth and husband Michael Young moved to South Royalston over 5 years ago. Moving here was a fulfillment of many of their dreams, including living in a log cabin. Perhaps the most important dream they have realized has been to gain a spiritual connection to the land and community. Michael works counseling veterans, using a lifetime of accumulated skills. Pat volunteers in many places. She is an important part of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society and most recently has been active in raising environmental concerns about the natural gas pipeline proposal. This is a recipe Pat brings to holiday gatherings. It is her daughter’s favorite.

**Cream Cheese Pie**

- prepared graham cracker crust (any recipe, a mix, or store bought)

  - Beat together:
    - 2-8 oz. pkgs. softened cream cheese
    - 1/2 cup sugar
    - 1/4 tsp vanilla
    - 2 eggs
  - Pour mixture into crust. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes.
  - Cool for 15 minutes.

- Prepare topping. Mix:
  - 1 1/4 cup sour cream
  - 1/4 tsp vanilla
  - 2 tbsp sugar

  Smooth topping over cream cheese pie. Bake at 450 degrees for 5 minutes more. Cover with fresh blueberries or strawberries. Chill and serve.

**Happy 250th Anniversary Royalston!**

**250th Committee News**

**Geoff Newton**

**Photos** taken at the dinner dance 2/21 are in the mail for those who took advantage of the free photo deal. If someone thought that he/she ordered a photo and didn’t receive it, please call Geoff Newton.

**Committee Meetings:** The April 2 meeting is canceled, and if there is a true need for a meeting in April, we can set it at any convenient time.

**Upcoming celebration events**: The next event for the celebration will be the **Car Show** scheduled for June 13, 2015. The hope is to fill the common with as many antique cars, trucks, tractors as well as all the classic vehicles we can. The winners of “the people choice selections” will be of a monetary prize. Other prizes will be trophies and ribbons. The most well-restored entries will be asked to enter the parade on September 12, 2015.

On June 27, there will be a **concert at the Park** in the south village from 12:30 until 6:30 p.m. There are two local groups on the schedule and a third one waiting for confirmation. Stay tuned.

Keep your calendar open for the **anniversary weekend of September 11-13.** Invite your friends. Gather your family from far-flung corners. A fine parade, fireworks, 3 days of music, poetry, local foods, junk foods, history, old-fashioned games, classic cars and tractors, clowns, magicians, art, craft, face painting, agricultural judging and much more are in the works.

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  Smooth topping over cream cheese pie. Bake at 450 degrees for 5 minutes more. Cover with fresh blueberries or strawberries. Chill and serve.
This 250th year, Royalston is lucky to have 2 accomplished poets serving as poet laureate: Sharon Harmon and Mary Carnie. Both capture life in our town in rich stanzas of sensual imagery. Sharon’s is printed below and Mary’s will be in the next issue.

Royalston Rhapsody

Somewhere between any and every pristine New England village sits our special town, nestled like a royals nugget of gold in a minefield of stoic rocks.

The meandering center road is spotlighted by a white spiraled church reaching up to indigo skies, encircled by ancient trees, daffodils and hug white gracious houses with tales to tell.

To the south, it brags of sheep farms, a celebrated little restaurant, where the scent of good cooking hangs in the air. Railroad tracks march side by side of a vision of a river that will take your breath away on an autumn’s day.

To the west, trails and mountain ridges, a scenic overview on Jacob’s Ladder, a place where viewing sunsets, hawks and a silver ribbon of river remains etched into your memory forever.

Our town is sprinkled with a few schools and churches, famous waterfalls, and endless miles of dirt roads that interweave and meld us into the woven fabric of each other’s lives.

Beneath the quaint New England village a well knit community of church suppers, fairs, town meetings, post office and dump meetings, fuels camaraderie among Royalstonites.

Do not be deceived by this sleepy little town in North Central Massachusetts. Amid the flora and fauna, every curve and bend, and underneath the changing skies,

you’ll find a collage of writers, artists and musicians. But, best of all, you’ll find down to earth, caring people from every walk of life. Those who most love it here, lay allegiance to this peaceful little New England town. To the way life should be...

Singing Praises: Ruth Suyenaga writes, “I would like to nominate the Royalston Highway Department as Unsung Heroes...Always doing an excellent job keeping our many miles of town roads safe and clear, they did a particularly heroic job this winter, plowing and sanding, at times, in the earliest hours. They even had to miss the 250th Dinner Dance to be clearing the town roads to get us home safely!”

Whom do you think deserves recognition for making this town a better place to live? Send in your commendations to the newsletter throughout the 250th year.

Milestones

Graduates: It takes a village.... Share your photo and/or graduation announcements with the town. Submit them to the RCN for publication in upcoming newsletters.

Academic honors:

Samantha Hutchins is named to Westfield State University Deans List.

Bella Cooke earned the scholar-athlete award at the winter sports banquet for her high grades while participating in cheerleading at ARMS.

Military News: Brian Nunes, US Navy, recently completed a three year assignment at the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, New Jersey. He reports back to Virginia Beach in April to Oceana Naval Air Station, where he spent his first five years in the Navy, and where he is reassigned to aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower. Brian is the son of Deb and Joe Nunes of West Royalston.

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. Stephanie is the daughter of Sandra Campos, formerly of town, and the late Armando Campos of Waltham.

Obituary

Robert J. “Grumpy” Anthony, 82, of Morse Road, died Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, at his home.

Bob was born Feb. 17, 1933, in Boston, he was the son of John L. and Caroline C. (Depalma) Anthony. He grew up in East Boston and New Hampshire where he attended schools. He also lived in California, Utah and Maine before moving back to Atkinson, N.H., where he lived for many years and beginning in 1995 resided in Royalston.

Bob was in the United States Navy during the Korean War. He worked as a steel worker, owning his own business in Atkinson, and also working for several companies doing pre-fab steel work from the east coast to the west coast which included Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida and California until his retirement. Bob enjoyed cooking, wood art, carving and scrolling, and gardening, and was an avid fisherman and loved to work and teach his skills to others. He was very proud that he built his own home at 62 years old. He was a member of a carving group in Templeton and Bedford and volunteered for many veterans’ fundraising groups.

Bob leaves his five children, Rowene Anthony, Helena Hall and Mark Anthony, all of New Hampshire, Robert Anthony of Maine, and Jessica Campbell of Royalston, 16 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and his good friends and neighbors, Tim and Tracie Wright. He was predeceased by three brothers and one sister.

If you wish to share a memory with the family, go to www.higginsoconnorfuneralhome.com.
Democrats Invited to Join Committee

The Royalston Democratic Committee is seeking registered Democrats to join the committee. A caucus will be held in the spring and the convention in late summer. Town committees of political parties are part of our democratic electoral system. Interested Democrats should contact committee chair Allen Young at 978-249-7612 or email ay114@columbia.edu for more information.

North Quabbin Garden Club
Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7 p.m.
Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Ferns and Mosses
Boston Architectural College Landscape Institute Design Instructor, Laura D. Eisener will show us how native mosses and ferns can add color, texture and interest to our landscapes and replace higher maintenance lawns and other plantings. She will suggest plants for sun and shade that can solve a wide range of landscape problems. This is a meeting you won’t want to miss.

17th Annual Egg Hunt!

“Those above is from the 2014 Easter Egg Hunt on the Royalston Common. This year’s edition will begin at 10 AM sharp on Saturday, April 4, rain or shine (or snow or mud; we make no predictions). For more information, contact Rene Lake-Gagliardi at 978-249-4639. Volunteers for the event are welcome. Mr. Easter Bunny will be paying a visit once again.”

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 Monty Tech and Athol High School and at the Phineas Newton Library. Please fill them out thoroughly for a complete 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 Katherine Cole Scholarship Fund.

South Royalston School Reunion Association Scholarship - Deadline April 11. Awarded to students who attended Royalston schools. Forms are available at Athol High School.

Royalston Emergency Management
EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904

If you survived winter, there’s no need to review cold and snow – you’ve figured it out and are probably wondering how to pay for the extra fuel, snow removal from roofs and driveways, as well as damage from ice dams, frozen pipes, etc. So what comes next? The Thaw…

First rule of water – water seeks the low point. Thus, shovel some run-off trenches so melting snow will run away from your foundation, preferably to a low spot away from your home or into a culvert along the roadside.

Wet basements/cellars – good for neither buildings nor healthy for occupants. If you have a sump pump, ensure it works and the hose/piping is intact and sufficiently long to get the water way away from your foundation. No sump pump? Call a plumber NOW! (The nationwide average for sump pump installation is a little over $1,000.) Another alternative is a portable pump (expect to pay $100 - $250). Understand you must stay with it; it is not going to move water as quickly or as efficiently as a sump pump. Be sure to have enough garden hose. When discharging water from sump and portable pumps, make sure the water is not draining out of your yard into a roadway, where it can refreeze and create a whole new series of problems.

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Exercise great care when driving through a heavily flooded area on a road. Slow to a crawl so as not to hydroplane or splash water, occluding vision. You cannot necessarily see the road beneath the puddle. Is there a massive pothole? Worse yet, has the road washed out or a sink hole formed?

One last word on flooding: Royalston’s waterways, especially our waterfalls, are spectacular during spring run-off, but can be deadly. Observe from safe distances. If kayaking the Miller’s, be sure to tell someone your plans, use wet/dry suit and wear a helmet. (If you want to see a white-water kayaking in South Royalston, check out https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AeaQwAQuGM!) Here are helpful numbers: Emergencies 9-1-1 non-emergency: Building Inspector – 978-249-0127, Fire & EMS – 978-249-8138, Electrical Inspector – 978-249-6872
Village School April News

Open Visiting Mornings: every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Parents who are interested in the school for next September are invited to visit for an hour or two in the morning, observe classes, meet teachers and talk to the Director, Rise Richardson. Call the school to register in advance at 978 249 3505.

This month, classes are visiting Richardson Farm in Phillipston and Sweetwater Farm in Petersham. And if on a warm sunny day, you see a big circle of children on the front lawn of the school with teddy bears in their laps, then you have chanced upon the annual Teddy Bear picnic, when all the children bring teddy bears to school, sing Teddy Bear songs and go on a bear hunt!

On Tuesday April 28, for Biodiversity Day, each class visits a local habitat and surveys the flora and fauna in that habitat. One class will go to Lawrence Brook, another class to the Camp Caravan pond, and other classes will visit the woods. The classes visit the same habitats each year and keep a log of the species of plants and animals that they find. They record observations with drawings. Results are displayed in the hallway.

Friday May 15 7 p.m. An original play, written and performed by the Village School 4th-6th Players with hand painted sets, costumes and live music at the Royalston Town Hall. This year’s theme is the Middle Ages, once the students have finished writing the script, they’ll name the play too. Free to the public.

Go to www.villageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the summer programs, which run from July 13 to July 24, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Science, Art and Nature, ages 7 and up, and Woodworking with Kids, ages 7 and up. Royalston families may be subsidized, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

What’s up at ARMS?
Bella Cooke

This month, we all had high hopes for spring. It’s gotten warmer, but there is still snow, enough snow to last the rest of our lifetimes. (ed. note: That’s a long time for a 7th grader.)

In science, we are doing systems: muscular, skeletal and skin. Did you know that skin is the largest organ in your body? In history, we are doing a 150 point project about ancient Egypt. We are assigned three categories and after researching them, make a Power Point presentation for the class and eventually write an essay. Did you know ancient Egyptian children did not wear clothes until puberty? In ELA, we are practicing reading and writing strategies for MCAS. Math is focused on circle graphs. Spring sports are around the corner, but all are wondering, is the snow ever going to melt so we can play?

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.
Closed Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015
Closed July 2-5, 2015
978-249-9845 ~ Gift Certificates Available ~ 978-249-8375

Royalston Community Newsletter April 2015 Page 9

Community School News

April 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 28 After-school Math MCAS Prep Classes Grades 3 - 6
April 6 - PTG Meeting at 3:30
April 6 - April 10 *Kindergarten Registration at Royalston Community School & Athol Elementary Schools 8:30 - 3:00:
Documents to bring: Child’s Certified Birth Certificate with Seal, Health Record/Physical Exam Form, Proof of Residency. Screening appointments will be scheduled on dates of registration. If you have any questions, please call Marie Lajoie at 978-249-2900
April 6 - 9 *Scholastic Book Fair
April 10 @ 8:45 Field Trip to Mount Wachusett Community College “School House Rock”
April 17 @ 1:30 * DARE Graduation - Grade 5
April 20 - 24 * Spring Break
April 29 - 1/2 day
April 29 & 30 * K Screening

Thank you to all of our Royalston Community members that attended and donated to support our Second Annual Chet Hall Scholarship Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 21st. It was a huge success! See you all next year!!!

6th Grade RCS Correspondent
Aliyah Neale

March is a busy month at RCS. Everyone is working hard and awaiting spring. In kindergarten, the author of the month is Dr. Seuss because his birthday is this month. The kindergartners are reading his books and acting out scenes from “The Cat In the Hat.”

In first grade, students have been working on fairytales. They had lots of fun acting out some well known ones, like “Little Red Riding Hood” in front of the whole school.

Second and third grade have been acting as well. They are working on a play called “Wackadoo Zoo”. They are planning for a performance for the school and family members. (This project is supported by a grant from the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation.)

Grade four, along with third grade and up, are working very hard for the upcoming MCAS tests.

Grade five students are currently working on their explorer projects. They are each learning all about an explorer and making a research paper. They also made a portrait of these explorers.

Sixth grade is analyzing poetry. They are also working on geometry. All during the month of March, we were celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. All students and staff could take a paper four leaf clover and write about why they are lucky. The shamrocks have been hung up on the wall. RCS has been full of fun for the month of March.
The maples were tapped on March eighth, our latest date ever (in this our thirty-eighth year) and there was a brief run. (The operative word here is ‘brief’.) Getting to the trees to tap, and gather, was challenging enough. Boiling outdoors was beyond challenging (no sugar house, merely a pit with a pile of burnable material, both as snow-covered as everything else), and what little syrup we’ve made has been made atop the wood cookstove. Just as well, this our thirty-eighth year) and there was a brief run. (The opera
design.

I’ve run out of words. (note to editor: insert large illustration to fluff up the column.)

Larry Siegel

Garden Notes
March 23, 2015

I’ve been avoiding these notes until they can be avoided no longer. (Due date yesterday; I trust our sainted editor is holding a spot for me.) You think it has something to do with the current thermometer reading of nine degrees? Or the nine to twelve inches of snow still covering the garden? Let me provide some perspective. Our weather report provides the average high (and low) temperatures for each day. Since the beginning of February, I can count the number of times we have exceeded that average high temperature on the fingers of one hand and have fingers left over. Enough already. The furnace is down to its last half-cord of wood. The animals are down to their last few bales of hay. There is little to be gained by be-moaning the weather (except, perhaps, to chew up space in an otherwise bereft garden column). It just is.

As brief as sap flow has been, garden-related efforts have been briefer still. The leeks and onions, planted in early March, are up; the celery/celeriac, parsley, and peppers, planted in mid-March, are not. It goes without saying (though I’m about to say it) that April activities will be set back. One learns soon enough (at least if one aspires to be successful) to plan one’s activities around the conditions and not the calendar. Before I plant the peas and the spinach and the radishes and the lettuce, not only must the snow disappear (duh), but also the soil must become workable, dry enough, and warm enough to ensure adequate germination of seeds. It is no accident that peas, spinach, radishes, and lettuce are planted early; they are best equipped to germinate (and grow) in the wet, cold conditions of early spring. (They are not equipped to grow through nine inches of snow.)

I’ve run out of words. (note to editor: insert large illustration to fluff up the column.)

Larry Siegel
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**Candidates for Selectman’s Seat**

**Candidates’ Statements**

**Linda Alger**

I am Linda Alger, and am seeing my sixth term as a member of the Royalston Board of Selectman. Initially I was not going to seek re-election, however after being approached by numerous residents, I reconsidered my decision to seek another term.

Having served on the Board for 15 years I have a broad knowledge base of the operation of the municipality. I am familiar with the projects that are currently underway and near completion. I am aware of the needs of the town and I am very conscientious in regard to the finances of the Town. I work well with the current board members, as well as department heads, the school district and the general public.

I am a life long resident of Town and as such I am familiar with the Town’s history, I have been active in the present and I look forward to the future of the Town of Royalston.

I am asking for your vote on April 6th.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Town of Royalston.

**Gary Winitzer**

I made Royalston my home over 30 years ago and want to keep the natural beauty we all enjoy. I am proud of my service for more than twenty years as a member of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad, and as a Selectman from 2003 – 2005. I continue to contribute by serving on the Sewer Commission, a Trustee of the J. N. Bartlett Fund and volunteering for the Senior Luncheon Club every Wednesday.

As a successful manager, I have used my knowledge, experience and energy to complete every task I am given. I enjoy the opportunity to analyze information, carefully listen to others, and then hone in on the most practical solution to any challenge.

Honesty, hard work, attention to detail, and generosity are the principles I learned from my family, and it is the way I still live my life. Indeed, helping the Board accomplish our duties in a timely, fair manner, consistent with State laws and decisions made by Town Meetings is the only way I know how to do the job.

As the election nears, I wish that everyone would consider that I have the ability to move the Town forward in a financially responsible way, to implement new sources of revenue and to help maintain the character of our Town.

You can trust me to do what I say. You can depend on me to represent you, your family, and our Town with integrity and compassion.

I respectfully ask you to vote for GARY WINITZER for SELECTMAN on Monday, April 6.

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Get out the bunting. The 250th celebralooza will be the 2nd weekend in September.

To see more historical photos of town on-line, visit www.royalstonhistorical.org or the Facebook page Royalston 250th celebration.
Wild sightings:
Rose and Dickie Lawrence report being shaken by dozens of cryo-seismic booms during the coldest months of the winter just passed. This phenomenon occurs when temperatures plunge quickly and deeply. If there is a 32 degree day when water seeps into the ground, and then an arctic front comes through briskly dropping temps to the teens or less, the rapid expansion of the water freezing within the ground causes a loud mini explosion.

On her way to the library on Monday, March 23, Rhonda Bishop saw a bobcat on Rt. 68 near where the road had washed out when the beaver dam broke just coming up into the common.

Guess whooo came for dinner at the Krause-Hardies?…..rodents attracted to overflow from bird feeders lured in this 20” Barred Owl, which perched 30’ up a tree just 40’ from the house all afternoon.

Allen Young of Butterworth Road spotted 12 wild turkeys pecking away at a small bit of bare ground near his house while there was still deep snow everywhere. He wrote: “They were quite close, and I enjoyed getting a good look at the subtle coloring of the feathers. I watched them for a while and then tapped lightly on the window just to see what they would do. They must have heard me because they immediately turned and slowly started walking away from the house, downhill across the snow. Due to their weight, however, their legs sunk into the snow, just as mine would have done -- and I was amused as they awkwardly walked downhill, choosing not to fly as they could have done.”