### Calendar of Events

**December 2**
- **Wednesday**
  - 6 pm *Christmas Tree Lighting* at Town Hall. Song, cheer, cookies, and the guy in the red suit.

**December 4**
- **Friday**
  - 7 pm *Royalston Open Mic* will feature the Side Street Band. Good music, good company and good food (all on the cheap) at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

**December 6 - 14**
- **Hanukkah**

**December 7**
- **Monday**
  - 4 pm *Friends of the Library meeting*. Discuss library support and this newsletter. All welcome.

**December 9**
- **Wednesday**
  - 7:30 pm *Ladies’ Benevolent Society - packing holiday baskets* at the home of Theresa Quinn on the common. Election of next year’s officers. All welcome. Please call 249-5993 for more information.

**December 13**
- **Sunday**
  - *Geminid Meteor Shower* - With clear skies, this stands to be THE light show of the year as it is just two days past the darkest phase of the moon. Shooting stars should be streaking across the sky at a rate of about 120/hour. These remnants of the Comet Phaethon (now the constellation Gemini) will originate from the northeastern skies and travel at a relatively modest 22 miles/second.

**December 21**
- **Monday**
  - 11:48 pm *Winter Solstice* - Hours of daylight increase each day from now through late June.

**December 24**
- **Thursday**
  - *Christmas Eve (Library closed.)*
  - 7 pm *Ecumenical Christmas service* at Town Hall. All welcome.

**December 25**
- **Friday**
  - Christmas
  - 6:11 a.m. *Full Cold Moon*

**December 31**
- **Thursday**
  - New Year’s Eve *(Library open until 5 pm)*

**January 1**
- **Friday**
  - Happy 2016!

**January 2**
- **Saturday**
  - *Earth at Perihelion*, the closest pass of our Earth to the Sun, a mere 91,403,891 miles

**January 4**
- **Monday**
  - *Schools re-open*
  - 4 pm *Friends of the Library meeting*. Discuss library support and this newsletter.

**January 5**
- **Tuesday**
  - Twelfth Night

**January 8**
- **Friday**
  - 7 pm *Open mic*: Good music, good company and good food... right in town. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

**January 10**
- **Sunday**
  - *New Wolf Moon*

**January 11**
- **Monday**
  - 4:30 pm *Library book discussion group*: Easygoing book chat. All welcome. This month’s selection, available to be checked out at the library, is *Nora Webster* by Colm Toibon.

**January 15**
- **Friday**
  - 7 pm *Historical Society Meeting* at the home of Peter Kranik, on corner of Stone and Winchendon roads. Town history discussed and desserts served.

**January 18**
- **Monday**
  - Dr. Martin Luther King’s Birthday celebrated. Schools and government offices closed. Taking action to make the world a better place encouraged.

**February 5**
- **Friday**
  - 7 pm *Documentary film screening - Root, Hog or Die* at the Maples, on the common. See p. 4
Select Board Notes:  
_Linda Alger_

**Great things happening in Town !!!**

The Town was awarded a grant through Mass Works in the amount of $985,000 for the repair of Winchendon Road. We have applied for funding for this project for the last 6 or 7 years and our applications have been rejected. A huge applause to Keith Newton and Kevin Flynn.

The Board has been getting input from citizens about projects we should pursue under the CBDG grant. As always housing rehab and road work are popular. The Board was faced with a decision whether to team up with Phillipston or Winchendon. It has decided to team up with Phillipston as that town also has an architectural barrier project to pursue. In the near future in Royalston, the board will be pursuing CBDG and a Cultural grant for funding the Town Hall elevator project. Please send letters of support for the project to the Board.

An Events Committee has been formed to continue planning for future celebrations at a much lesser scale than this past year. There will be a quarterly fundraiser with the hope of having a Royalston Fall Festival on the common annually in September. Gabe Jarvenpaa has been elected Chairman.

In January the Board will begin work with Department Heads to develop the FY 17 budget and Town Meeting warrant. There will be a Special Town meeting on January 15, 2016. The warrant will open on December 1 and close on Dec 15.

Happy Holidays

_Board of Health News_  
*Phil Leger, chair*

Still time for your flu shot. See your local health care provider or pharmacy. Also, ticks are still active during this fine fall weather. Check yourself when coming in from outdoors. Lyme disease is not fun. Ask anyone who has suffered from it.

The transfer station had its annual inspection. Except for some minor details, all was in order. Thank you to Tony Argiro and Steve Robinson who keep the place running and organized. For the first time in a very long time, we didn’t cover the cost of shipping metal. This was due to the low price of scrap metal.

The holidays are upon us as we write. A reminder when breaking down those holiday boxes, please take out the plastic, styrofoam, and other non-paper fiber items prior to recycling. Repeat after me, “you can’t make paper out of plastic, styrofoam, and other non-paper fiber items!” Garbage in: garbage out.

Textiles, and clothing of all makes and types accepted at the clothing boxes in front of the recycling building. Don’t trash this valuable resource (Unless it is wet or oily etc.)

Be careful when using the transfer station if there is snow or ice on the ground. Be considerate of others and please look before backing up or leaving the facility.

_Cultural Council News_  
*Deb Nunes*

_The Annual Tree Lighting_ will take place on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm. As always there will be carols, Santa, cocoa and cookies, and singing. See you there!

Our world-famous _Open Mic_ series will commence on Friday, December 4th at 7:00 pm. As always delicious food will be available. Dates for the rest of the series are January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, and April 1st.

_Department of Public Works_  
*K Keith R. Newton*

All mailboxes should be back from the street edge and secured for heavy snow coming off the plow. Parking is a problem at times and we ask that all vehicles be set back and not parked in any “Public Way”. Don’t plow, push or throw snow or ice into the public way as well. These above mentioned items will carry a violation that may result in fines charged to the owner. Please cooperate!! Thank you to those who help make it a safe and enjoyable winter season.

_Stephen Chase Contracting_  
Restoration and Preservation Services  
Royalston  
978-249-0358  
MA Construction Supervisor #044817  
EPA Lead Safe Certified #NAT-58592-2
Royalston Agricultural Commission
Kate Collins

Hey Royalston farmers, the Ag Commission is putting together a brochure for the Town of Royalston listing our farms and their products. We think this will be of great value to the townspeople and all of us farmers. PLEASE, email us your farm name, location, contact info and the products you have available. We look forward to hearing from you! Email either Kate Collins, katecollins64@gmail.com or Brenda Putney, brenput@yahoo.com

Out Royalston MLP Broadband Project - Update #2
Jon Hardie

Final Network Engineering: The final town-wide high-speed broadband network design, modeling and engineering has begun earnest. It’s a big deal. We have over 42 square miles of very hilly wooded terrain, over 78 miles of roads, and very low population density of about 30 people per square mile. We’ve learned a lot in the pilot project in the South Village.

Homeowner Signup: Close to 200 families have completed the Homeowners Right of Access form, but there are at least another 100 to 150 who will want to sign up for the high speed town-wide internet service. We need you to sign up ASAP to complete the network engineering, which ensures we can provide network access and coverage for everyone, everywhere in town. Please call me, Jon Hardie, at 978-790-8474 for an extra copy or for assistance with the sign-up form was included in your last tax bill. I can help fill in your property lots and page for you.

Many taking advantage of the high speed wireless network in the South Village - over 67% signed up. We have lots of final testing and a number of receiver upgrades before we turn on subscriptions.

Growing Pains: It turns out the folks who are supplying the high speed internet fiber (the MBI 123 Middle Mile) have been a little stingy in their allocation of our peak demand resources. During the last couple weeks, we’ve been getting a lot less down the fiber at peak usage than we had bought. I have been watching the network performance and hearing from folks who are really seeing the slow down. That’s about to change.

Reminder, that’s why we are doing the south village network test ... to learn how your actually use the network. So, we’re upgrading and doubling our service, building in more peak demand capacity. “When can we sign up? When are we turning on our annual subscriptions?” The short answer is: “When we get it right....period!” Some wireless networks act like mini Verizon - Sign you up, take your money, and you get what you get ... it’s better than nothing. Not in Royalston! We’ve set a much higher customer centered bar in our own network. We appreciate the frustration when the Mbps go down because someone up stream is turning off the faucet. We know how to fix that. The pilot project internet will be free until we get the bugs out ... because we’re not Verizon. It’s your network You own it.

Mr and Mrs. Herbert A. Smith

This portrait was recently sent to the Royalston Historical Society by Gertrude Smith of Brookfield, Massachusetts. She states that Herbert was listed as Highway Foreman in the 1940 census.

If you have more information about Mr. and Mrs. Smith, please forward it to the Society. We welcome submissions of historical information and will do our best to document and further the research of town history. RoyalstonHistorical.org PO Box 23, Royalston MA 01368.

Yule Logs, Rob Jalbert,
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Clarence Rabideau
Mondays: 10:00 am- 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572  www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends
Benny and Susan Gronowicz
Jim and Pat Kelley

Thank You to:
Tyler Boyd for volunteer work at the library.
Kathy Chencharik, Maureen Blasco, Patti Stanko, and Beth Gospodarek for baking for the library program.
Athol Public Library for organizing Community Reading Day and to the readers: Mary Barclay, Mary Carnie, Janice Lefebvre, Joann Deacon, Barbara Richardson, and Rebecca Krause - Hardie.

Relive the 250th Hoopla and Check out Some History
A DVD of the Royalston 250th Anniversary Friday evening pageant, “In Their Own Words” is at the library and available to be checked out or for $15 purchase. A DVD of the parade is also available. Thank you to Michael Young for his efforts filming these events and preserving town history.

Also, a few copies of the Historical Society keepsake photobook are available for purchase at the library - $50. This is a great gift, and the profits go towards restoring Old School house #1.

Library Book Discussion Group meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months, but this month to avoid the holiday crunch in December and the Dr. King holiday, it will meet next on Monday, January 11. All welcome for cozy literary chat and a cuppa with a couple of cookies.

The next book chat will discuss Nora Webster, A Novel by Colm Toibon. This is the Irish author who wrote the novel Brooklyn, which is a film in theaters now. Copies are at the library waiting to be checked out.

Art Exhibit:
Kim Bolton, who grew up in Royalston, will be exhibiting her artwork at the library during December and January. Kim sketched as a kid and in high school worked mainly in pencil doing portraits. It was in her last year of high school that she was introduced to scratchboard. She has also worked in oils and acrylics. Two and a half years ago she began carving, which are the only art lessons she has ever taken. Her exhibit will include scratchboard, with wildlife as the primary theme, pencil drawings, and wood burnings.

Special Saturdays at the Library
During December on Saturdays, there will again be baked goods, cider, coffee, cocoa, and tea for your enjoyment while at the library. Stop by and peruse the collection, use the computers, read a magazine, and relax. Anyone wishing to donate cookies or other baked goods is always welcome to share holiday bounty.

Shake off the winter:
Yoga and Zumba continue
both workouts are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and held in Town Hall. Free but donations are welcome. To protect the floors, please do not wear street shoes to exercise.

Zumba with Christine Rouleau continues thorough April on Mondays from 6 - 7 pm.

Morning Yoga classes with Janice Doubleday will run on Tuesday mornings through December. It will break for the cold months and return March - May.

Watch for evening more yoga classes starting in the spring too
Janet Bettey is studying to become a certified Yoga Teacher and is enrolled at Frog Pond Yoga Centre in Princeton where she is studying the Paja Path of Yoga with Anne Goewey and Diane Featherstone. The yoga class Janet will lead is part of her requirement for becoming certified. She will introduce you to the 8 Limbs of Yoga, incorporating over half of them into her classes. Beginners to advanced are all welcome. Please bring a mat and block if you have one. It is recommended to not eat a heavy meal 2 hours prior to class.

Color Me Calm
Maybe you have heard? Adult coloring is all the rage as a way to reduce stress. So join us at the library, on Thursday January 14, January 28, February 11 and February 25 at 7:00 p.m. There will be lots of different choices for coloring, both in design and media.

All are welcome, but please know that if children attend, they will be seated in the children’s room while adults will be in the north room. Come, color, have snacks, relax and enjoy!

‘Documentary Film Screening
Root Hog or Die’ Film Screening and evening with Rawn Fulton
On Friday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. at The Maples, 17 On the Common (just South of the library), documentary film maker Rawn Fulton will show his film ‘Root Hog or Die’ and discuss the people and the making of the movie. This film is a portrait of the once pervasive but rapidly vanishing way of life of dairy farmers in Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont following the farming year from spring to winter. The film was a finalist in the American Film Festival, the winner of the Connecticut Film Festival, and won the Bronze Award at the International Film and Television Festival and a New England Emmy Award for Sound. Alan Lomax called the film “A significant contribution to American oral history. After the film there will be a panel discussion with current and former farmers from the area. Refreshments will be served. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
### Some of the New Materials at Your Library

#### Adult fiction

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albom, Mitch</td>
<td>The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto</td>
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<td>Alcott, Kathleen</td>
<td>Infinite Home</td>
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<td>Allende, Isabel</td>
<td>The Japanese Lover</td>
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<td>Baldacci, David</td>
<td>The Guilty</td>
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<td>Banville, John</td>
<td>The Blue Guitar</td>
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<td>Castle, Richard</td>
<td>Driving Heat</td>
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<td>Chamberlain, Diane</td>
<td>Pretending to Dance</td>
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<td>Connelly, Michael</td>
<td>The Crossing</td>
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<td>Cornwall, Patricia</td>
<td>Depraved Heart</td>
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<td>Cunningham, Michael</td>
<td>A Wild Swan</td>
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<td>Eco, Umberto</td>
<td>Numero Zero</td>
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<td>Evanovich, Janet</td>
<td>Tricky Twenty-Two</td>
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<td>Evison, Jonathan</td>
<td>This is Your Life, Harriet Chance!</td>
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<td>Francis, Felix</td>
<td>Front Runner</td>
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<td>Galbraith, Robert</td>
<td>Career of Evil</td>
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<td>George, Elizabeth</td>
<td>A Banquet of Consequences</td>
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<td>Gerritsen, Tess</td>
<td>Playing with Fire</td>
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<td>Hijuelos, Oscar</td>
<td>Twain &amp; Stanley Enter Paradise</td>
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<td>Hilderbrand, Elin</td>
<td>Winter Stroll</td>
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<td>Irving, John</td>
<td>Avenue of Mysteries</td>
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<td>Kellerman, Faye</td>
<td>The Theory of Death</td>
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<td>Kendrick, Beth</td>
<td>Put a Ring on it</td>
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<td>King, Stephen</td>
<td>The Bazaar of Bad Dreams</td>
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<td>Kleypas, Lisa</td>
<td>Cold-Hearted Rake</td>
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<td>Kubica, Mary</td>
<td>Pretty Baby</td>
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<td>Kubica, Mary</td>
<td>The Good Girl</td>
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<td>Macomber, Debbie</td>
<td>Dashing Through the Snow</td>
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<td>McCall Smith, A.</td>
<td>The Woman who Walked in Sunshine</td>
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<td>McCann, Colum</td>
<td>Thirteen Ways of Looking</td>
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<td>Maguire, Gregory</td>
<td>After Alice</td>
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<td>Mitchell, David</td>
<td>Slade House</td>
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<td>Modiano, Patrick</td>
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<td>Morton, Kate</td>
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<td>Mosher, Howard</td>
<td>God's Kingdom</td>
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<td>Preston, Douglass</td>
<td>Crimson Shore</td>
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<td>Rendell, Ruth</td>
<td>Dark Corners</td>
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<td>Roberts, Nora</td>
<td>Stars of Fortune</td>
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<td>Sanders, Ben</td>
<td>American Blood</td>
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<td>Scottoline, Lisa</td>
<td>Corrupted</td>
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<td>Shapiro, Barbara</td>
<td>The Muralist</td>
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<td>Slaughter, Karin</td>
<td>Pretty Girls</td>
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<td>Snively, Susan</td>
<td>The Herat has Many Doors</td>
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<td>Trigiana, Adriana</td>
<td>All the Stars in the Heavens</td>
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<td>Ware, Ruth</td>
<td>In a Dark, Dark Wood</td>
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<td>Wending, Chuck</td>
<td>Aftermath</td>
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#### Adult nonfiction

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bragg, Rick</td>
<td>My Southern Journey</td>
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<td>Brigg, Adam</td>
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<td>Cardillo, Joseph</td>
<td>Body Intelligence</td>
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<td>De Waal, Edmund</td>
<td>The White Road</td>
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<td>Drummond, Ree</td>
<td>The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Dinnertime</td>
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<td>Gagliardi, Marcia</td>
<td>Uniquely North Quabbin</td>
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<td>Meacham, Jon</td>
<td>Destiny and Power: George Bush</td>
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<td>Schiff, Stacy</td>
<td>The Witches</td>
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<td>Steinem, Gloria</td>
<td>My Life on the Road</td>
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<td>Strayed, Cheryl</td>
<td>Brave Enough</td>
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<td>Weil, Andrew</td>
<td>Fast Food, Good Food</td>
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<td>Winchester, Simon</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
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<td>Woodward, Bob</td>
<td>The Last of the President's Men</td>
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#### Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dashner, James</td>
<td>The Game of Lives</td>
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<td>Lu, Marie</td>
<td>The Rose Society</td>
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<td>Ma, Daishu</td>
<td>Leaf</td>
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<td>Palacio, R.J.</td>
<td>Auggie &amp; Me</td>
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<td>Riordan, Rick</td>
<td>Percy Jackson's Greek Heroes</td>
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<td>Stroud, Jonathan</td>
<td>The Hollow Boy</td>
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<td>Zimmer, Marc</td>
<td>Bioluminesence</td>
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#### Children’s Fiction

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<td>Anderson, Jodi</td>
<td>My Diary from the Edge of the World</td>
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<td>Applegate, Katherine</td>
<td>Two White Rabbits</td>
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<td>Buitrago, Jairo</td>
<td>Lacy's Holiday Surprise</td>
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<td>Cooper, Ilene</td>
<td>Pete the Cat: Construction Destruction</td>
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<td>Dean, James</td>
<td>Pete the Cat Bedtime Blues</td>
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<td>Dean, Kim</td>
<td>Where’s the Baboon?</td>
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<td>Escoffier, Michael</td>
<td>Nonna’s Hanukkah Surprise</td>
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<td>Fisman, Karen</td>
<td>Ruffeclaw</td>
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<td>Funke, Cornelia</td>
<td>Frog on a Log?</td>
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<td>Gray, Kes</td>
<td>Ace Dragon Ltd.</td>
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<td>Hoban, Russell</td>
<td>Little Elfie One</td>
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<td>Jane, Pamela</td>
<td>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School</td>
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<td>Kinney, Jeff</td>
<td>Little Red Riding Hood</td>
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<td>Lazur, Tara</td>
<td>Little Tree</td>
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<td>Long, Loren</td>
<td>Sharing the Bread</td>
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<td>Miller, Pat</td>
<td>The Plan</td>
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<td>Paul, Alison</td>
<td>Robo-Sauce</td>
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<td>Rubin, Adam</td>
<td>Tales from a Not-So-Perfect Pet Sitter</td>
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<td>Russell, Rachel</td>
<td>Whispers of the Wolf</td>
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<td>Ts’o, Pauline</td>
<td>The Dog that Nino Didn’t Have</td>
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<td>Vendel, Edward</td>
<td>I Really Like Slop!</td>
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#### Children’s Non-Fiction

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<tr>
<td>Aldrin, Buzz</td>
<td>Welcome to Mars</td>
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<td>Burks, James</td>
<td>Bird &amp; Squirrel on the Edge</td>
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<td>Carson, Mary</td>
<td>Inside Biosphere 2</td>
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<td>Curtis, Andrea</td>
<td>What's for Lunch?</td>
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<td>Hopkins, Lee</td>
<td>Jumping Off Library Shelves: A Book of Poems</td>
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<td>Miller, Debra</td>
<td>Organic Foods</td>
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<td>Nelson, S.D.</td>
<td>Sitting Bull</td>
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<td>Ritchie, Scot</td>
<td>Pesca and the First Salmon Ceremony</td>
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<td>Shingu, Susumu</td>
<td>Traveling Butterflies</td>
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<td>Solheim, James</td>
<td>It’s Disgusting—and we ate it!</td>
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<td>Tuller, Herve</td>
<td>Art Workshops for Children</td>
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<td>Wallmark, Laurie</td>
<td>Ada Byron Lovelace</td>
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#### DVDs

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<td>The Duff, Home Fires, In Their Words, Insde Out, Jurassic World, Mad Men Final Season, Mr. Holmes, Terminator Genysys, Testament of Youth, and Trainwreck</td>
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#### Audiobooks

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<tr>
<td>Bacigalupi, Paolo</td>
<td>The Water Knife</td>
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<td>Fielding, Joy</td>
<td>Someone is Watching</td>
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<td>Percy, Benjamin</td>
<td>The Dead Lands</td>
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<td>Shapiro, Barbara</td>
<td>The Muralist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vowell, Sarah</td>
<td>Lafayette in the Somewhat United States</td>
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Grape Jam 101

by Deb D’Amico

I wish I could tell you that the smell of grapes growing wild along country lanes is a childhood memory, but I can’t. I suspect that wild grapes - Concord grapes - are not native to New Hampshire’s White Mountains, where I grew up. My affinity for the smell of Concord grapes comes, instead, from childhood breakfasts and Welch’s Grape Jelly. Even so, when a walk toward the Common one September day brought the unmistakable scent of grapes warming in the sun, I was transfixed.

I had noticed grape vines along our road all during the summer, but none of them had the slightest sign that they would produce fruit. So the discovery of these vines with ripening fruit was like a small miracle. I picked one and popped it in my mouth. Sour! These will need more time, I reasoned, and I made note of their location. Two weeks later, they had turned a deeper purple and fell easily off their stems. I filled a large colander and prepared to make grape jam.

I have never made grape jam. What possessed me I cannot say. Two years ago my friend, Mary, taught me how to use a hot water bath to seal jars of candied orange peel, so I felt confident I could repeat the process for jam. I just needed a grape jam recipe. With the internet as my guide, I thought, how hard can this be?

Not hard, but humbling. The internet notwithstanding, making grape jam is a tricky business - at least it was for me. I am certain that most who read this can make a perfect grape jam with their eyes closed, which is even more humbling. So I offer, for your amusement, what I have learned.

Never prepare dinner while making grape jam. The chili turned out great, but the jam suffered from my neglect. It grew thick in the cooling pan, making it hard to pour into the jars.

Do not practice your chorus part while making grape jam. All that stirring - I was certain I could do something else at the same time. With the music score open beside me, I studied my part in Handel’s Messiah. It was not until the next rehearsal, when I found the pages stuck together with jam spatter, that I realized the error of my ways.

No matter how lovely it looks in the jar, open one and test it before making a gift of your grape jam. I produced five pint jars filled with beautiful purple jam, and a little left over, which I put in the fridge. This was fortunate. A taste test of the left overs revealed a jam so solid it was more like grape gumdrops. Imagine giving that away as a gift!

I plan to rescue the grape gumdrop jam. A friend advises that I open the jars, reheat the jam (“don’t cook it any longer!!”) with organic grape juice, and reseal the jars. I am humbled, but undaunted.

Meanwhile, Welch’s anyone?
Congratulations and Good News

Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. chasegos2@gamil.com or bring it to the library.

Congratulations to Royalston seniors Marnie Anair and Rhiannon Fletcher, both of whom were recently named to Monty Tech’s chapter of the National Honor Society.

Alyce Mayo will have her photo “Large Orange Butterfly on Turk's Cap” on display at the Professional Women Photographers exhibit entitled “Primary Color”. The opening will be on Thursday, December 3rd from 5:00-8:00pm at the Atlantic Gallery, in New York City.

Aliyah Neale (former Royalston Community News correspondent) was just awarded Rookie of the Year in the Bandolero at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Being the first female Bandolero driver at NHMS, she was the first female ever to be awarded Rookie of the Year. She is looking forward to the 2016 race season. Follow her at Aliyah Neale Racing on Facebook.

Obituaries

Barbara June Johansson, age 85, of Royalston, died Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015, at Golden Living Center of Fitchburg. Barbara was born Jan. 20, 1930, in New York. Barbara grew up in Norwich, N.Y., attending the Boston Art Museum School of Art. She began her career at Bachrach, and while there worked on two presidential portraits. She worked as an animal portrait artist specializing in dogs, and was the official artist of the Siberian Husky Club of America from 1963 to 1996. She received the Borzoi Artist Award for her art. She was also an organist and enjoyed playing the organ with her group of friends in Keene, N.H.

Family members will be contacted for a private service at a later date.

Richard A. “Rick” Paul, 60, of 2 Greenhall Rd., died unexpectedly Friday afternoon, Nov. 13, 2015, in Athol Hospital, after being stricken at home.

He was born in Winchendon on May 1, 1955, son of Arlene (Edwards) Foley of Ormond Beach, Fla., and the late Leon A. “Pop” Paul. Rick was a 1974 graduate of Murdock High School, where he was a star athlete and lettered in football, hockey and track and field. He lived in Royalston for 10 years after residing in Ashburnham for 27 years.

Rick owned and operated R. Paul Construction and Trucking in Royalston. A motorcycle enthusiast, he was a member of the Hawg Hawlers. Rick also enjoyed snow skiing, snowmobiling and dirt biking. He also raced mini sprint cars. A fan of the New England Patriots and NASCAR, Rick got his greatest enjoyment from spending time with his family and grandson.

In addition to his mother, he leaves his wife of 37 years, Paula A. (Hadmack) Paul; a daughter, Kristina E. Seguin and her husband Robert of Fitchburg and their son Andrew; his brothers and sisters, David Paul and his wife Donna of Orange, TJ Paul of Florida, Joseph Paul and his wife Sandy of Wells, Maine, Karen Marinelli of Leominster and Sherry Hamilton of Athol, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to Murdock Boosters, care of Murdock Middle/High School, 3 Memorial Dr., Winchendon, MA 01475.

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Community School News

6th Grade Correspondent
Adam Rogers

Hey everyone! This month I’m not here to talk about the classes. I’m here to talk about the exciting events at RCS. First off, the bottom floor of the school had a feast for Thanksgiving. They tried to serve all the foods that were at the 1620 feast. Hope ya’ didn’t miss it. Second the winter concert is Wednesday, Dec 2nd at Athol High School. Everyone is welcome! Have fun and see ya’ soon! Bye.

RCS Calendar
Dec 02 - 1/2 Day, Lunch Served, Noon Release
  Winter Concert @ Athol High School - 6-7:00pm
Dec 23 - 1/2 Day
Dec 24 - Jan 4 - No School - Winter Break
Jan 04 - Students return to school
Jan 15 - no school, professional development

Also: RCS staff & students have organized an “Adopt A Veteran” family for the holiday season. We will graciously accept donations of food items, gift cards, or homemade items until Friday, December 11th. Our School Council will hold a “Holiday Hat Day” on Friday, December 4th. All students and staff that participate will pay $1.00 to wear their holiday hat. Proceeds will go toward the food basket. Donations may be dropped off at RCS from 8 - 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please call the school at 978-249-2900.

RCS PTG
A fundraising “Lottery Calendar” is available through the December 18th. Each $10 donation provides 31 opportunities to win. Proceeds support field trips, guest performers and artists, upgrades to the library and playground as well as new teaching resources. Connect with a PTG member on the Royalston PTG Facebook page or stop by the main office for calendars. Prizes include: Hen House - $50, two insulated lunch bags - $25 each, Fireside Bar & Grill certificate - $15, The Garage certificate - $25, Three gift certificates to Laptop & Computer Repair - $60 each, Terrapin Traders certificate - $40, Two, Kitchen Garden certificates - $20 each, Mt. Tully Kennels certificate - $15, Books and book bag from Valuing Our Children, Native honey from Lynn Divoll & TJ LeBeouf - $25, Herricks Tavern certificate - $25, Johnson’s Farm certificate - $20, Pete & Henry’s certificate - $25, Two, Half hour massages, Two certificates to Winchendon Gourmet Donut - $15 each, Two cash prizes of $25, Two Trail’s Head certificates - $25 each, Canine Companion certificate- $50, Squire Davis Farm Honey - $25, Atholl House certificate - $25, Hometown Café certificate - $30, Half-gal. Divoll Sugar House maple syrup - $30, and Brenda Putney’s goat milk soaps and lotions - $25

Monty Tech News
Mary C. Barclay

The Nutcracker, at Monty Tech’s Performing Arts Center by the Paula Meola School of Dance, is open to the general public Dec. 5 and 6 at 2 p.m. The Indrid Lahti School of Dance will also offer The Nutcracker, Friday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. The Thayer Symphony Orchestra’s 42nd Holiday Pops Concert is at Monty Tech PAC on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Monty Tech’s Director of Student Support Services Vicki Zarozinski, Director of Admissions Kim Curry, and Auto Body Instructor Pete Gallant were recognized by the the Montachusett Suicide Prevention Task Force as “Outstanding community leaders and contributors toward outreach and fundraising efforts.” Monty Tech raised more than $10,000 which is used throughout the District to provide screening and programs to prevent suicides, which is the second leading cause of death in Massachusetts youths aged 15-24.

What’s happening at the Village School

In November, the 4th-6th grade visited the Amherst College Museum to see the planetarium and fossil collection. They also went to the M.F.A. to see the Greek collection and lots more. Everyone at the school pitched in to collect a mountain of food for the Orange Food Pantry. Polly Wagner, math coach, came in for a Parent Math Morning, when parents played math games with their children and then Polly met with the parents to explore the Investigations math curriculum. All classes begin Winter Gardens for the three weeks of December, beginning with rocks and sand, adding moss and then adding miniature animals. They take the gardens home for the holidays, adding a candle to light for the human spirit. Before the break, the whole school will gather at the Town Hall to play and sing for parents for the Holiday Celebration.

Upcoming and open to all

Roots and Sprouts: Parent - Child group begins on Wednesdays, starting January 6th. 10:30 to 11:45. All parents and caregivers of children newborn to age 3 are welcome to meet with Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator.

Come gather with other parents and their young children in the lovely Village School preschool classroom and deepen your connection with your child through singing, movement and art, celebrating the seasons and outside play. Learn more about child development, how to build a healthy parent/child relationship, and enjoy a simple snack with your child. Preregistration preferred. Call 978 249 3505 or email info@village schoo lma.org

Athol Royalston Regional School District News
Mary C Barclay

In anticipation of Superintendent Polito’s upcoming retirement, the ARRSD has appointed a committee of 13 with strong representation from Royalston, including current Committee ARRSD Chairman Nancy D. Melbourne; Royalston member Charles Pretti; Royalston Community School Principal Molly Supcheri; Royalston K teacher and RCS parent Jessica Willhite; and Monty Tech Royalston rep. Mary C. Barclay, who also served last year on the ARRSD committee. Also, on the search committee are Shannon White Cleveland (who lived in South Royalston and attended Royalston schools); ARRSD’s Special Ed Director Jeff Ferranti; Admin. Assistant Julie Marynok, AHS Vice Principal and Athletic Director David King; ATA President Keith Williams; former RCS principal Ken Vaidulas; Sitting member Deb Kuzmeskas and sitting member and parent Amber Parker.

The timeline for the Superintendent’s search is as follows: Dec. 2, deadline for resumes which will be given an initial screening for mandatory elements by Dec. 11; Resumes to the search committee on Jan. 7; Interviews Jan. 12-16; Present finalists to the full committee for selection.

Saturday Feb. 6th Village School Open House 10 a.m. to noon.
Explore the various classrooms, find out about openings for fall 2016. Bring your children, there will be engaging art and science projects in the classrooms for them. Staff and parents will be on hand to answer questions and talk about the Village School experience. Refreshments and tea and coffee are served all morning.
For up to date information, go to www.village scho ola.org
Royalston Emergency Management Agency
EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904

“I’m bored.” What parent hasn’t heard that at least a time or two? Most parents have no trouble finding something to occupy a bored child, but sometime during the upcoming holiday breaks, cabin fever and maybe just for fun, check out the kids section of www.ready.gov, FEMA’s family friendly website. You’ll find a variety of activities suited to various ages, including some fun and learning games like “Build a Kit,” where little kids select items for an emergency kit and don’t win until they’ve made all the right choices. The older kids will get a kick out working their way through the eight levels of “Disaster Master,” which requires securing passwords to unlock their way to the finish.

There’s a great parent section, too, that discusses ways to help children cope during and after emergencies. It also offers a number of ways to, as an entire family, work on emergency preparedness for everything from an in-home fire to biological threats and many likely events in between like power outages.

Home schooling parents and vacationing teachers would do well to peruse the educators’ section, which offers curriculum that includes inquiry-driven, project based, differentiated learning activities aligned to core subject standards.

A little advance effort on the part of every family will make a huge difference in the lives of first responders, who are usually in high demand and short supply during any major incident. Please take time to ensure you and your family are game for whatever this winter brings with it and please, PLEASE keep an eye out for neighbors who might be having a problem with cold or snow so it’s identified and addressed sooner, rather than later.

IN AN EMERGENCY ~ 9-1-1

If you want ideas or help with advance preparations, check out www.Ready.Gov or contact EMD Jim Barclay at ema@Royalston-ma.gov.

Classifieds

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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. Breed your mare to your stallion of choice. Call 978-249-9880 or suzannagaits@gmail.com

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

Graphic digital artist. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Barbara 508.364.3339 or bguiney@wildblue.net

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

Need help cleaning your house, outdoor work, or other odd jobs? $16/hr. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.


Affordable horseback riding lessons. C + R Ranch on the Royalston border in Winchendon. All ages; beginner and up. Call Cindy 978-894-5611

Free:
Coal – free for the pickup. About a cubic yard. Convenient, easy access. Nut sized, loose in an indoor bin at ground level near the common. Call Hugh – 781 438-5032 for details. (You better watch; wonder if Santa reads the RCS?)

3-drawer dark-green steel filing cabinet in good condition. Call Aaron at 249-6771 or email aellison@fas.harvard.edu to arrange to pick it up.

DTM Landscaping. Fall cleanup, snowplowing. Call Theresa Gates 413-336-1850 or David Plourde 413-336-1593

For sale:
Air Hockey and Table Tennis Combo: Volt 60" Paid $175, Hardly ever used, Suitable for kids up to age 12. Must pick up $75 Call Erin at 978-790-6549

Two Space Heaters: 1 upright and 1 quartz, $15 and $18. Hardly used. Call 978-249-4013.

MEC Sizemaster Reloader: 12 Gauge, E-Z auto primer feed, Universal charge bar, Can convert to load steel shot. Instructions. $75 Firm 249-5099

Computer Armoire: Lt. cherry finish, 38” wide X 23” deep X 54 1/2 high. Slide out printer shelf, slide out keyboard shelf and other storage. Excellent condition-$250. Call 978-249-7691

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1967 Massey Ferguson 175 diesel tractor. 4x2 2WD, power assist steering. Cab, 8ft hydraulic plow, chains, PTO front and rear, shop manual. Very good condition, always garaged. engine block heater $6,500 or best offer. Call Tom 978-249-9635

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With a burst of energy that has surprised even me, I’ve thrown myself into the affairs of mid-autumn. Contributing mightily to this burst of energy has been the weather, which has been more than cooperative. In the past month, there have been many more days in the sixties than evenings in the twenties. Most rains have occurred overnight. The days are screaming, ‘get your butt out of the house’. So, I’ve gotten my butt out of the house, reacquainting myself with the game of musical chores: from the garden to the woodlot to the leaves, the common denominator being the movement of material from one place to another. Eight of the necessary nine cords are stacked indoors. There are no more leaves to rake (actually, there are many more leaves to rake; there are no more leaves I will be raking) but many more to move. All open garden beds have been prepared for spring planting. One of these springs I will be afflicted with one disabling condition or another but secure in the knowledge that the garden prep was completed the prior fall. It is akin to money in the bank. Without the interest. (Though, nowadays, there’s hardly any interest earned from money in the bank either.)

With the exception of the brassicas (a three-foot high fence, electrified or not, has proven to be no impediment to the deer, who have put an end to the brassica season), all that was in the ground four weeks ago remain in the ground still. Fresh pickings for Thanksgiving: carrots and leeks and celery and parsley, with most of the other ingredients scattered around the house. It will be a traditional meal, with one notable exception. We raise chickens; we do not raise turkeys. Fortunately, we raise substantial chickens. The centerpiece will cleverly resemble a small turkey.

Once again, I’ve toured the grounds in search of the elusive late November flower. Scant results, to be sure, but I was not skunked. Some dandelions, more closed than open, but yellow nonetheless. The purplish flowers of lamium appear here and there. Lamium is a ground cover in the mint family. Like most mints, it covers a lot of ground. Way back when, we planted one wee clump. Since then, it has established itself in multiple locations. There is rarely a time when the Johnny jump-ups are bloom-free and late November is no exception. The bid and tri-colored flowers (think small pansies) ‘jump-up’ most anywhere. I would have expected to find at least a few of the tiny white flowers of the chickweed, but I’ve done such a bang-up job of weeding the garden, there is nary a plant in sight. Finally, the calendula, while not flowering, is filled with buds, awaiting either a stretch of warm weather to open or a blast of cold temperatures to drop.

Even I will be hard-pressed to come up with garden chores in December. I have begun to dismantle the fencing. (The fencing, in fact, has begun to dismantle itself.) Final harvesting. Covering the spinach and parsley beds. Picking up what should already have been picked up. Cutting the raspberry canes. Patting myself on the back for a job well done.

“Right now, the Harvard law school seal features three sheaves of wheat on a shield. But the design is also the coat of arms for the family of Isaac Royall Jr., a slaveholder whose estate helped found the school.

A small group of current students hope to change that. They’ve named their movement “Royall Must Fall,” and have organized to persuade the school that it should replace what they call a blatant symbol of the slaveholding era.

“These symbols set the tone for the rest of the school and the fact that we hold up the Harvard crest as something to be proud of when it represents something so ugly is a profound disappointment and should be a source of shame for the whole school,” Alexander J. Clayborne, one of the law students involved, told The Crimson.

The current movement isn’t the first time people have drawn attention to the seal. As The Crimson pointed out, visiting law school professor Daniel Coquillette recently published a book that details the relationship between the Royall family’s slaveholding and the law school’s endowment.

Coquillette said he understood the group’s intentions, and even went so far as to call Royall “a coward, and a brutal slaveholder,” to The Crimson, but said he doesn’t think the school should change its seal.

“As a historian...you just deal with the fact that this guy founded the school and tell the truth about it,” he told the paper. “To change things is to act like [they] didn’t happen, and that’s a mistake.”

At the time the article was published, the movement said they planned to write a letter to the law school dean, Martha Minow, stating their position.

The group told Boston.com they have not yet submitted the letter, but plan to first organize meetings with other students and student organizations in order to broaden their coalition.”
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**Wildlife Sightings**

Mariah Mallet and Phil Leger spotted a bull moose coming from Lawrence Brook and heading up the first driveway up from the Town Barn on Brown Rd. Phil turned into the driveway to look. The moose looked over his shoulder and looked like he was saying, “are you coming with me or not?”

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