## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Storyteller Norah Dooley will tell “Winter Tales to Warm You” at the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>preschool storytime at the library. Snacks too. Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td><strong>Friends of the Library meeting</strong>. All welcome to plan library support,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>programs and this newsletter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Groundhog Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Half-Day – ARRSD for professional development. Senior Luncheon Town Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(continues every Wednesday). To reserve a spot, call Betty Woodbury at 978-</td>
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<td>249-9656 before 10 a.m. on Tuesday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Open Mic at Town Hall, house band Sandra Brouseau and Obsession. Light dinner</td>
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<td>and coffee house fare available to benefit the cultural council.</td>
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<td>February 6</td>
<td>Village School Open House. See p. 8</td>
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<td>February 8</td>
<td>Chinese New Year 4714 – Year of the Monkey</td>
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<td>New Snow Moon</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday – Mardi Gras</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
<td>Winter Break – School vacation begins at close of school.</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day Observed</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>(Snow Date: Sun. 2/21)</td>
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<td>Historical Society Dinner and a Show at Town Hall:</td>
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<td>6 pm Stone Soup Fundraising Supper to support the renovation of Old School</td>
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<tr>
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<td>house #1. A variety of comfort foods, homemade breads and desserts. Beer and</td>
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<td>Wine available. Get tickets at the PO or from a Historical Society member.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Discovering Stone Walls: discussion with author of <em>The Granite Kiss</em>, Kevin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gardner. Part history and part practical DIY wall-building/repairing advice;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>everything you always wanted to know about New England stone walls. Supported</td>
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<td></td>
<td>by the Cultural Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Washington’s Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Library book discussion group</strong> meets to discuss Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the Caged Bird Sings*. All welcome. Books available at the library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Ladies’ Benevolent Society meeting. Plan good works and enjoy presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Jay Rasku, Land Conservation Director, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Desserts served. All are welcome. At the home of Pat Worth, 6 Gulf Road,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Royalston</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Chapman Family Dinner Dance A/O Elks</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>Leap Day</td>
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**Save the Date:**

- **March 1** Tuesday **Presidential Primary**
- **March 19** Sunday **Chet Hall Scholarship Breakfast**
- **March 25** Friday **Root Hog and Die**, award winning documentary film about New England dairy farmers, screened at the Maples. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. (This is a rescheduled date.)
Select Board Notes:

Linda Alger

The budgeting season has just begun for FY17. The Board will meet with Department Heads on its off Tuesdays through the end of February. The Board would also like to remind Department Heads that their annual reports are now due.

The Board is seeking volunteers for the Memorial Day Committee. Bobbi Newman has been the only official appointee for the last two years. Brenda Putney and I have continued to help in any way we could. The Ladies’ Benevolent Society has handled the reception following the ceremony. Please consider giving of your time to honor those men and women who have proudly served this country.

Lastly, I was reading a clip on the internet the other day (yes I said the internet) from “Turtleboy”, and usually I would just ignore it but because of the timing I feel compelled to respond. I must also clarify that I have not run this opinion by the other two members of the Board. “Turtleboy” painted a pretty bleak picture of Royalston and Phillipston. First let me say anyone worth his salt would use their real name and not a pen name. It appears Turtleboy formed his opinion of the two towns with a casual drive through, which in itself is without merit. What does have merit and demonstrates the true beauty of both towns is what I have witnessed this past week; family, friends, and complete strangers from both towns have rallied to support the Chapman family who lost their home to fire. So “Turtleboy”, if you want to see the beauty you have to extend your head outside of your shell a bit more.

Cultural Council News

Deb Nunes

Our Open Mic series will continue on Friday, February 5 at 7:00 pm. The house band will be Obsession led by Royalstonian Sandra Brouseau. As always delicious food will be available. Dates for the rest of the series are March 5th and April 1st.

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk
978-249-0493

ELECTION NEWS:

Information and deadline dates for all upcoming elections this year can be found on the town website at www.royalston-ma.gov. Select the Town Clerk page and then select “2016 Election Information”. Other helpful information on voting, including downloadable forms and links to checking your voter registration online can be found on the “Voting Information” page on the town website.

The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. A special voter registration will be held on Wednesday, February 10 at the Town Clerk’s office from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

Annual Town Election: Nomination papers and deadlines

The Annual Town Election will be held on April 4, 2016. Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk’s office. The deadline to submit nomination papers for certification is February 16, 2016, no later than 5 p.m.

The following are the offices that are up for election this year:

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<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
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<td>Town Clerk</td>
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<td>Constable</td>
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<td>Assessor</td>
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<td>Cemetery Commision</td>
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<td>Board of Health</td>
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<td>Library Trustee</td>
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<td>3 YRS</td>
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<td>Board of Public Welfare</td>
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<td>3 YRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Board</td>
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<td>5 YRS</td>
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<td>Sewer Commission</td>
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<td>Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund</td>
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<td>Athol-Royalston Reg. School - ROYALSTON</td>
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<td>Athol-Royalston Reg. School - ATHOL 3</td>
<td>3 YRS</td>
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2016 Dog Licenses now available:

Licenses are still $6.00 per spayed/neutered dog, $10.00 per unaltered dog. Dog Tags are a lovely shade of purple this year. Licenses are available at the Town Clerk’s office during regular business hours. Please remember to bring a copy of the dog’s updated rabies vaccination.

Annual Town Census

An Annual Town Census form should be arriving in your mailbox soon. Please remember that failing to return your census may affect the status of your voter registration, and that changes to your voter registration cannot be made via your census form. Filling in the “Party” column does NOT register you to vote. Any changes you wish to make to your voter registration should be done via a voter registration form and submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office. If you have any questions regarding the census form, including questions about members of your household who have moved, please don’t hesitate to call my office at 978-249-0493.
Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair
Winter operations are in full swing. Although we haven’t had the snowfall of last year yet, it has been icy. Be especially careful around the roll offs. The transfer station team does its best keeping the area sanded. However, personal awareness is the best precaution.
This just in: after giving your containers a quick rinse, put the cap back on top. With the cap re-attached, the mechanized material recovery facility can recover the cap. When the caps are loose, they fall off the conveyor belt and become trash.
Still time to get a flu shot. See your health care provider or local pharmacy.

Department of Public Works
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. 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.

Painting Preparation in Winter?
Work on Old Schoolhouse No.1 has begun with a thorough scraping by Gentlemen’s Painting of Pittsfield, Mass. Concerned citizens have inquired as to the efficacy of baring the wood in winter. Clearly, the Historical Society will make sure that when the paint is applied in spring, the wood will be dry, sound, warm and sanded to a fresh surface. In fact, contractually, the painters may not apply paint before the substrate is measured for moisture and observed as ready by the architect and the Massachusetts Historical Commission as well. The bare wood now is no worse than the old crumbling paint before because the existing paint was in such poor shape that the siding was already exposed to the elements.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the ongoing fundraising to save this old building, which houses the town post office and its history museum. To help, please visit royalstonhistorical.org or send a check to Box 23, Royalston 01368.

The Royalston MLP Broadband Network ... is Online
Jon Hardie
After months of hard work together and dozens of amazing, incredibly helpful, supportive, responsive participants in the South Village Pilot…the high speed wireless internet network is humming. We have built a spiffy new wireless internet signup website. You can check it out at http://royalston-ma.gov/RMLPBBN/ It’s really sweet.

For example,
1) you can fill out the Homeowners Easement form online (before we begin construction) or print it out and mail it in, as we prepare for town-wide service rollout beginning this year.
2) You can check out and compare our 7 service packages.
3) You can read, sign and submit our Terms of Service, as part of the sign-up. You can also get helpful tech tips and support info and read our interactive mutual responsibility privacy statement ...
4) We’ve put a lot of time and effort into building a smartphone friendly, tablet, laptop, town-wide network capable signup and management system... in just a couple of minutes, you can complete your full sign up for service, when it’s available in your area,. You can go to your very own secure personal account, where we will post the first months invoice, after signup ... and you can pay the first month in advance invoice on line a) by personal check (no fee), b) debit card (no fee), or c) credit card (small fee).
You can even set up recurring monthly payments, 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 Done! p.s. You can also sign up for a minimum of 3 months of suspended service, if you are on our Special Senior or Summer/Autumn Resident Service. (You asked for it! We Listened!).

Remember there are no added taxes, no data caps or extra data charges on any service package.

Our four easy step signup, inter-active website, lets you make your online advance monthly pre-payment for 1 year or 2 year discounted, with 4 levels of service signup, with deposits directly into our local RMLPBU town account. with (customer requested) recommended levels of service, based on your actual data usage.

The website goes live this coming week ... for service with regular monthly billing cycles effective Feb 1 (with no interruption of current service), we just change your service level. Customers can request a same day upgrade in service level by phone or email, or from your personal Royalston MLP BU account any time.

n more news, the Town of Royalston MLP Broadband Utility owns our growing Royalston town-wide high speed broadband network. As we successfully complete the pilot, and move into the full network build-out, the Royalston MLP Broadband Utility will become the Network Operator, on February first. We will work closely with our very responsive Internet Service Provider (ISP) AccessPlus, who were very helpful in addressing our middle mile service problem.

Questions, Ideas, Problems & Suggestions: Please call Jon Hardie Royalston MLP Broadband Network Manager at 978-790-8474 (24/7)
Donations to the Friends
Donald and Jean Stanton
Marsha Flanagan
Jim and Pat Kelley
The Dooley-Fairchild family
Leslie and Tom Freudenheim
Pierre and Marie Humblet

Paul Montero
Alyce Mayo
George Sprague
The MacPhee family
Chris and Emily Santillo
Linda Vaidulas

Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski

Thank you
Patience Bundschuh and Stephanie McClure for goodies for Saturday refreshments.
The Royalston Academy for a grant to purchase an iPad with educational media for young adults and children.

Library Adds New Technology
Thanks to a grant from the Royalston Academy, an iPad with educational programs has been purchased for young people in Royalston. The iPad may be used by anyone from 3 – 18 as part of the Royalston Academy grant program to fund programs for young people.

In addition, the Friends of the Library has purchased a new laptop to add to the public access computers. In attempting to consolidate and create more usable space, we will be converting to laptops from desktops in the upcoming years. That way, desk space will be available for individual use or for one of the library laptops. Printing will be available and done wirelessly.

Substitute Library Workers Wanted:
We are in need of increasing our substitute librarian pool and are looking for interested individuals. Qualifications include a love of reading and a broad knowledge of books, interacting with the public, computer skills including learning the MassCat online system, searching information, using Microsoft Word®, and general computer trouble shooting, and various and sundry other skills. There is also a need for a substitute preschool story time coordinator, who would lead the story time, which includes set up and clean up, story selection and reading, snack preparation, craft preparation, and coordination of the flow of activities. These positions are very, very part time, on an irregular and sometimes last minute basis. Pay begins at $10/hr. If you are interested, please stop by the library for a job description and application.

‘Leap into Reading’ Winter Reading Program - Prizes!
Snuggle up with a good book and win prizes. And remember, this is Leap Year so you have an extra day in February to read. The winter reading program is open to everyone and small prizes will be given for different amounts of reading and will run through Patriots’ Day. Stop by, sign up, and read!

Shake off the winter:
Yoga and Zumba at Town Hall
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.

Yoga on Tuesdays in the Town Hall is at 10:00 a.m. with Janice Doubleday resumes on March 8 and the new evening yoga class with Janet Betey begins at 7:00 p.m. on March 8. Remember to bring a mat and a small blanket.

Library Book Discussion Group
meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months, but due to the Presidents’ Day holiday, it is pushed back to February 2/22. The discussion will be about Maya Angelou’s classic, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.

52 Flower Mandalas: A Community Coloring Book
Pass the dark winter days in a burst of color! A copy of 52 Flower Mandalas: An Adult Coloring Book for Inspiration and Stress Relief, by David Bookbinder and Emily Sper, is now available at the library for us to share. The coloring book is based on Bookbinder’s 2014 publication, Fifty-Two Flower Mandalas: A Meditation, a collection of flower photographs, digitally configured into stunning, symmetrical mandalas. Sper has taken those photographs and turned them into black and white images, ready for you to color.

Each image is accompanied by a meditative reflection. Choose a flower because of the reflection or because of the image. It’s up to you! Color one or several. Sign and date your creation – and add a thought or two if you wish. Then return the book to the library for the next inspired patron. As the winter weeks go by we will be creating a community book, full of color, conversation, and light!
Winter Tales: Storytelling Program for Preschoolers

Norah Dooley will present a program entitled, ‘Winter Tales to Warm You,’ on Monday, February 1 at 10:30 a.m. at the library during the regular preschool story time. Norah is a storyteller, educator, critically acclaimed children’s author and creator of StoriesLive®, a high school storytelling curriculum and story slam program. She is the co-founder of massmouth.org and the Greater Boston Story Slam series. Healthy refreshments will follow the program which is funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

‘New England Dairy Farmers Documentary Film Screening

“Root Hog or Die” postponed to Friday, March 25

Root Hog or Die Film Screening and evening with Rawn Fulton

On Friday, March 25 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. After the film, stay for a discussion with local farmers.

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.

Starlab Planetarium at the Town Hall

On Friday, February 19 there will be two shows in the Springfield Museum’s Portable Planetarium, Starlab, with Kevin xxx. The first show will be at 1:00 p.m. for younger children and the second will be at 1:45 p.m. for an older group. Visitors will see the sky as it looks at this time of year and will learn how to spot the several planets that are visible and many of the winter constellations. While each group is waiting, there will be constellation related activities and refreshments. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult fiction

Black, Benjamin
Bohjalian, Chris
Bussi, Michel
Harrod-Eagles, C.
Hoag, Tami
Lowell, Elizabeth
Rankin, Ian
Strout, Elizabeth
Walters, Minette
Winslow, Don
Woods, Stuart

Adult nonfiction

Black, Michael
Bryson, Bill
DeVita, Vincent
Kondo, Marie
Ludwig, David
Newman, Wendy
Quinn, Jane
Sacks, Oliver
Wilson, Don

50 Years of Carvers
Navel Gazing
The Road to Little Dribbling
The Death of Cancer
Spark Joy
Always Hungry?
121 First Dates
How to Make Your Money Last
Wildlife of the World

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Gray, Claudia

Star Wars. Lost Stars

DVDs:


Art Exhibit:

Kim Bolton has added some new additions in other media to her exhibit of scratchboard paintings. These colorful, wildlife based, works will be on display for the month of February.

This March 1950 photo shows former well-known Royalston dairy, Peterson’s Dairy. Many remember the little glass Peterson’s milk bottles in school lunches. Photos courtesy of Jen Bartkus. Come to the documentary screening on March 25 to learn more about former dairy farms in our corner of New England.
Royalston Historical Society

Exterior work is in progress on Old School House #1. Painting and reglazing of windows is on track to be complete by late June. The work is funded by society members, generous residents and a state grant. Tax deductible donations towards the restoration efforts are still needed. Please send checks to PO Box 23 or donate on the society’s web-site royalstonhistorical.org. Also, support the society by coming out for these fundraising events.

Dinner and a Show on Feb. 20 at Town Hall

Stone Soup Public Supper: At 6 pm, enjoy a community supper to fundraise for the school house restoration work. Some of the town’s best cooks will be preparing a plethora of cozy comfort foods, seemly salads, beautiful breads and delicious desserts from scratch. Beer and wine on sale. Tickets $15 - available at the post office, from any society member or by e-mailing chasesgos2@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Stone Walls Talk: at 7 pm, mosey upstairs as author Kevin Gardner gives an informal talk based on his book about New England stone walls, The Granite Kiss. He explains why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, how they were built, how their styles changed over time and why they are significant in New England history. Other topics may include: differences between historical and contemporary wall builders, a discussion of restoration techniques, and advice about design, acquisition of materials, preservation and analysis. During the question and answer period, listeners are encouraged to bring up problems specific to their own projects or properties. This event is supported by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

Also, watch for these upcoming society events:

Jazz in the Ballroom, classy brunch and hot jazz at the Maples. (May 22)

Auction: antiques, collectibles and artisan wares on the block (in the fall.) To donate household items, larger items, art, or artisan wares, please call Steffi 978-249-8675.

Recipe of the Month by Larry Siegel

This recipe has been ‘borrowed’ from the Enchanted Broccoli Forest. It and its companion piece, The Moosewood Cookbook, (both by Mollie Katzen) along with The Joy of Cooking are my go-to sources when I feel the need to follow a recipe. What follows is an unusual co-mingling of foodstuff. I’m particularly drawn to it since I can provide at least some of the ingredients, most notably the apples, though the sauerkraut, onions, maple, and bread crumbs are ours as well.

Escalloped Apples au Gratin

1, 2 lb. can of sauerkraut
6 heaping cups sliced tart apples (we do not peel, most will)
2 Tbs. flour
½ tsp. cinnamon
A dash of cloves, nutmeg, and salt
2 Tbs. honey (we substitute maple syrup)
2 Tbs. butter
1 cup chopped onion
½ tsp. dried mustard
½ lb. cheddar cheese, grated
¾ cup fine bread crumbs
¾ cup finely chopped walnuts or almonds

Place the sauerkraut in strainer or colander, rinse well, and squeeze to dry.
Toss together apple slices, flour, and spices. Drizzle in honey (or maple) and mix well
Sauté onions in the butter until clear and soft (5 minutes). Add dry ingredients and sauerkraut and cook another few minutes over medium heat. Remove.
Combine half the grated cheese with the breadcrumbs and nuts. Set aside the other half of the cheese.
Construct, in a buttered deep-dish casserole: A layer of half the apple mixture followed by half the onion-sauerkraut mixture, followed by the plain, grated cheese, followed by the remaining apples, followed by the remaining onion-sauerkraut mix, topped with the nut-crumb-cheese mixture. Bake in a 375º oven for twenty minutes covered, and twenty minutes uncovered. Even the sauerkraut-averse among you will be pleasantly surprised.

Intrigued? Come to the Historical Society’s Stone Soup Supper on February 20 at town hall to have a taste. Larry’s apples will be served, along with a collection of homemade comfort foods (soup to dessert) by cooking neighbors like Gina, Paul, Rose, Sue, Kate, Beth, Sheila, Maureen, Peter, Kristin, Marie and more...

Thank you to Ginny Moore for her recent donation of photographs from the town’s 200th anniversary celebration to the society. Do you have items that capture a bit of town history that you would consider donating to the society’s collection? Call Peter Kranik or vist the society’s web-site or facebook page to leave a message.
Welcome Baby Clara Jane
Girouard, born to proud parents
Erin and Clayton Girouard of NE
Fitzwilliam Rd., weighing 8 lbs., 1
oz. and 20 inches long. Sing your
heart out girl.

Congratulations to the Royalston students, all of whom earned gold
medals in the SkillsUSA local competition. Winners are senior Rhiannon
Fletcher, Nursing Assistant; senior Derek Bates, Web Design; and junior
Marnie Anair, who earned two gold medals, one in Job Skills Demonstra-
tion and the other in Early Childhood Education. They and some 200 other
Monty Tech students will be participating in the regional competition this
spring.

Kudos: This past Martin Luther King Day, Bella Cooke served as the
delegate from Royalston at the Massachusetts State House for a day of
citizenship and service.

Chicken Shoot/ Soup R Bowl Coming in
The events committee is sponsoring a Soup”R” Bowl dinner at 5:00 p.m.
on March 19, 2016. Immediately following, the committee will be hosting
a “Chicken Shoot.” This event will take place at the Royalston Town Hall.
Tickets for the Soup”R” Bowl will be on sale from the members and at the
door on the evening of the supper. Only one hundred tickets will be sold so
get yours early. The price for the all you can eat soup is $8.00. The chicken
shoot is a raffle as well as a card game. Come and have some fun with
your friends and neighbors. Kathy Pirro, Linda Alger, Betty Woodbury,
Roberta Newman, Alice Leonard, Beth Gospodarek, Geoff Newton, Gabe,
and Marlene Jarvenpaa, Sophia Zeena. These members will have tickets
for purchase after February 7, 2016. The price for the chicken shoot is a raffle as well as a card game. Come and have some fun with your friends and neighbors. Kathy Pirro, Linda Alger, Betty Woodbury, Roberta Newman, Alice Leonard, Beth Gospodarek, Geoff Newton, Gabe, and Marlene Jarvenpaa, Sophia Zeena. These members will have tickets for purchase after February 7, 2016. The weather is right for a comfortable
bowl of soup and some conversation with fellow Royalstonites.

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

Congratulations and Good News
Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. chasesgos2@gamil.com or drop at library

Obituaries
Enis A. Willhite, 94, a longtime resident of Royalston, died Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, at home, after
a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family. He was predeceased by his wife, Bar-
bara Willhite; brothers Meryl, Victor and James; and his sisters, Juanita and Pearl. He leaves his sisters,
Cherry (Willhite) Conant and Joy (Willhite) Parker, both of Missouri; children, Diane Conner and her
husband Mike of Templeton, Karen McWhirk and her husband Paul of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Dan-
iel Willhite and his wife AnneMarie of Hudson; five grandchildren, Tim Bachelder, Todd Bachelder, Doug Gale, Suzanne Gale, and Elizabeth Con-
ner; several great-grandchildren and many close and caring friends.

He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, son of the late Noah and Jenny (Oak-
ley) Willhite, and lived in Medway before moving to Royalston 56 years ago. He enjoyed playing the slots and Greyhound racing, viewing wildlife,
reading the Bible and tending to his garden. The family would like to extend their gratitude to Tim and Bobbi Bacher-
der for their compassionate care of Enis.

SARASOTA, Fla. — Joann Carolyn (Peterson) Prozzo, 83, passed away peacefully at home in Sarasota, Fla., on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015. She was born in Royalston to the late Hildur and Herbert Peterson on Jan. 10, 1932. Joann helped on the family dairy farm by milking and doing other chores. She attended elementary school in Royalston and high school in Athol where she played the slide trombone in the band. She then graduated from the Memorial School of Nursing in Worcester. In Worcester she joined the choir of Trinity Lutheran Church where she met her future husband, George, a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institu-
tute. Married in 1955, they honeymooned in Salzburg, Austria (courtesy of the U.S. Army). They then moved to Springfield, Ill., and subsequently to Sarasota, Fla.

Joann was very active at Faith Lutheran Church as a choir member and spent many hours tending to the Memorial Garden. She had a most generous and loving heart and was a most devoted companion to her husband for nearly 61 years. Joann was the loving mother of five children, Eric (died at age 3), David, Lisa, Kristina, and Rebecca. She was the loving grandmother of Jeremy and Jonathan Prozzo and sister of Robert (deceased) and David Peterson. Extended family are embraced with love.

Bernard P. Jolly, 66, of 130 Coolidge St., Athol, passed away in his home
on Jan. 13, 2016. His wife of 48 years, Geraldine Jolly, was by his side. Bernie was born on June 24, 1949, and grew up in South Royalston. He
was a painter/carpenter and enjoyed working with the many clients he ac-
quired over the years. His favorite pastime was spending time with his
family. His hobbies were pool, hunting, playing guitar, boating and fishing,
horseshoes, and darts.

Bernie was proud of the close family he and his wife had with their chil-
dren and grandchildren. He also enjoyed going to the Elks, of which he
was a member for 12 years. He leaves behind his wife Geraldine Jolly; chil-
dren, Candi Morneault, Bernard Jolly Jr., Tony Jolly and Sherry Gates; son-in-laws, Conrad Morneault and Bryan Gates; grandchildren, Jesse and
Barbara Morneault, Brian Morneault, Ashley Gates and Sydney Gates; great-grandchildren, Jasmine Morneault and Taytan Bacigalupo; six sis-
ters; five brothers; and many nieces, nephews and friends. He is prede-
ceased by two sisters and two brothers.

He will be greatly missed.

Over the Years

The events committee is sponsoring a Soup”R” Bowl dinner at 5:00 p.m.
on March 19, 2016. Immediately following, the committee will be hosting
a “Chicken Shoot.” This event will take place at the Royalston Town Hall.
Tickets for the Soup”R” Bowl will be on sale from the members and at the
door on the evening of the supper. Only one hundred tickets will be sold so
get yours early. The price for the all you can eat soup is $8.00. The chicken
shoot is a raffle as well as a card game. Come and have some fun with
your friends and neighbors. Kathy Pirro, Linda Alger, Betty Woodbury,
Roberta Newman, Alice Leonard, Beth Gospodarek, Geoff Newton, Gabe,
and Marlene Jarvenpaa, Sophia Zeena. These members will have tickets
for purchase after February 7, 2016. The weather is right for a comfortable
bowl of soup and some conversation with fellow Royalstonites.

Sam’s Canine Companions L.L.C.
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Royalston MA 01368
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Professional all breed grooming
and obedience training

Obituaries

Enis A. Willhite, 94, a longtime resident of Royalston, died Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, at home, after
a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family. He was predeceased by his wife, Bar-
bara Willhite; brothers Meryl, Victor and James; and his sisters, Juanita and Pearl. He leaves his sisters,
Cherry (Willhite) Conant and Joy (Willhite) Parker, both of Missouri; children, Diane Conner and her
husband Mike of Templeton, Karen McWhirk and her husband Paul of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Dan-
iel Willhite and his wife AnneMarie of Hudson; five grandchildren, Tim Bachelder, Todd Bachelder, Doug Gale, Suzanne Gale, and Elizabeth Con-
ner; several great-grandchildren and many close and caring friends.

He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, son of the late Noah and Jenny (Oak-
ley) Willhite, and lived in Medway before moving to Royalston 56 years ago. He enjoyed playing the slots and Greyhound racing, viewing wildlife,
reading the Bible and tending to his garden. The family would like to extend their gratitude to Tim and Bobbi Bacher-
der for their compassionate care of Enis.

SARASOTA, Fla. — Joann Carolyn (Peterson) Prozzo, 83, passed away peacefully at home in Sarasota, Fla., on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015. She was born in Royalston to the late Hildur and Herbert Peterson on Jan. 10, 1932. Joann helped on the family dairy farm by milking and doing other chores. She attended elementary school in Royalston and high school in Athol where she played the slide trombone in the band. She then graduated from the Memorial School of Nursing in Worcester. In Worcester she joined the choir of Trinity Lutheran Church where she met her future husband, George, a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institu-
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Community School News  
*Adam Rogers, 6th grade correspondent*

Hi, it’s me Adam I’m back to talk about some sad events but with a bright side. First off, the Chapmans, as you know, have had a tragic accident. Their house has burned down and we all feel pain as a community. RCS is accepting donations to help. *(See newsletter insert for more ways to help the Chapmans)*

Second there is a movie night soon at RCS and encourage anyone to come. The movie will be the *Minions*.

Monty Tech News  
*Mary C. Barclay*

Heads-up: Monty Tech’s “Vocational Interest Program” for Royalston students takes place next month. The five-week, after school, hands-on program allows seventh and eighth graders to experience five vocational-technical programs and get some sense for the work required to be successful in our District’s voc-tech school. Some students decide they would like to apply to Monty Tech after the program; others decide it’s not for them. In either case, it is a learning experience well worth the time. Please watch for application information on the Monty Tech web site or in this newsletter.

In order to increase learning, work more efficiently and reduce technology and learning materials expenses, in September of 2016, all Monty Tech student will be issued a Chromebook. These personal computing devices will be leased for three years, at the end of which time, all will be replaced. They will have covers and students will be assessed a $15 insurance fee for unintentional damage. (*waived for economically disadvantaged students.) Prior to receipt of a Chromebook, students will receive training; parents and students will review the policy regarding care and financial liability.

Workers’ Credit Union is now open at Monty Tech, right in the main lobby! There’s an ATM, teller’s window and private meeting area, and it’s open to students and the public. Hours are on normally scheduled school days, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., with extended hours, to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. Katie Trinque is branch supervisor; phone numbers are 978-345-1021 and FAX 978-353-4387.

Monty Tech Drama Club “Disco Inferno” in the PAC  
Fri. 26 - 3:15 pm, Sat. Feb 27 - 7 p.m., and Sun. Feb. 28- 2 p.m

What’s happening at the Village School  
**Saturday Feb. 6th Village School Open House 10 a.m. to noon.**

Come meet teachers, visit classrooms and find out about the admissions process. There are openings in preschool and other classes for next year. If you missed the Open House, go ahead and call the school to schedule a visit, at 978 249 3505. Find more info at villageschoolma.org. Refreshments and tea and coffee are served all morning. **For up to date information, go to www.villageschoolma.org**

We started January engaged in two weeks of the all-school Poetry Project about feelings. In preparation for the project, all the classes listened to related poetry read aloud by teachers. 2nd-3rd and 4th-6th students first worked on writing their own poems. Then over the next two weeks, 2nd-3rd and 4th-6th graders worked with their Reading Buddies to help them find words for feelings that they experience. The older children then helped their younger preschool and K-1 buddies to write a poem, scribbling for them when necessary. The younger children drew pictures to accompany their poems. It all culminated in two mornings of all-school poetry reading, when the proud poets read their and their buddies’ work before the rapt listening audience of the whole school.

On Friday afternoons until February vacation, 1st-6th graders are skiing behind Royalston Common.

**Dean’s Beans Coffee Order** You can order fresh roasted coffee once a month through the Village School, ground or whole beans, for around $10 a lb. Order and pay and pick it up in the hallway at the school the following Friday. Go to http://www.villageschoolma.org/coffee.htm for coffee order due dates and the order form.

**ROOTS AND SPROUTS: A PARENT-CHILD GROUP for infants and toddlers up to age 3:** First two Wednesday mornings in February from 10:15 to 11:30. 11:30 is outside time in the playground. Led by Brooke Coleman, nurse, midwife and health educator. ***FREE!!*** 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 and enjoy a simple snack with your child.

Athol Royalston Regional School District News: New superintendent named  
*Mary C Barclay*

After receiving the enthusiastic support of the school committee and the search committee, Steven C. Meyer of Lancaster was selected as the new superintendent of schools beginning in the summer of 2016. Mr. Meyer came from Winchendon to AHS as principal in 2013, and became Assistant Superintendent in 2015. He holds a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in Electrical Engineering; Masters in Mathematics for Educators; Masters of Education in Organizational Management; and is in the dissertation phase at U-Lowell for an Ed.D in Leadership in Schooling. Mr. Meyer follows three core principals – 1. Don’t make excuses; 2. Take action; and 3. Act in the best interest of the students. He is also seen frequently at RCS where he participates in special events. He intends to make the greater community a part of all schools and will keep the public informed in a number of ways, including the use of social media. He feels the numbers of students choosing out is a symptom of bigger problems, which he is committed to addressing. He fully expects to see ARRSD schools become the schools of choice. Welcome, Mr. Meyer! He can be reached at smeyer@arrsd.org or 978-249-2400.
Royalston Emergency Management Agency

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

Carbon Monoxide poisoning kills some 430 people each year in the U.S.; More than 150 of those are non-fire related. The numbers pile up just like the snow that blocks vents from heating systems, clothes dryers and even exhaust pipes on vehicles. CO poisoning is deadly… and quiet… it can kill with no warning.

Signs of Exposure – Most common signs are “flu-like” symptoms such as headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach and even shortness of breath, which can worsen rapidly to include confusion, inability to stay awake, vomiting and chest pain. Rather than pale as with most illnesses, skin turns cherry red with increasing CO levels.

Be Ready – Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home, especially outside of sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide in case you’re asleep. Be sure to check the batteries every single month during the cold weather!

Emergency Actions – If anyone exhibits signs of exposure or if any CO alarms sound, immediately get everybody and pets out of the house and call 9-1-1. Use your cell phone or call from a neighbor’s phone. Do NOT re-enter your house! The Fire Department will measure levels of CO, and if necessary, help exhaust gases.

Never – use a generator, grill, camp stove or any other gas or charcoal-burning device inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, or partially enclosed area. If you are using something like a gas grill or generator, locate it well away – at least 20 feet – from doors, windows and intake vents that could allow carbon monoxide indoors.

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If you want ideas or help with advance preparations, check out www.Ready.Gov or contact EMD Jim Barclay at ema@Royalston-ma.gov or 978-249-2904., 9-1-1 for EMERGENCY!

**Classifieds**

**Photography Services**


**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 bgreaney@wildblue.net

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

**Justice of the Peace and Notary Public.** Mariah Mallet 249-9410.

**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.

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

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**Desktop Computer Give Away at the Library**

The library is having a drawing for an HP Pavilion p62016 PC with Intel Pentium G620 processor, 6 GB DRRe, Intel HD Graphics, 1 terabyte hard drive, super multi DVD burner, and Windows 7 home premium, and a keyboard and mouse. It also comes with an NEC Multi-Sync LCD 1700 v monitor. The Friends purchased this computer three years ago. You can put your name into the drawing by coming to the library.

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**For sale:**

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

**Royalston-raised Pork Sausage:** $4.00 per pound. Packaged in 1 lb. packages. Breakfast, Hot and Sweet Italian available. Please call Chet 978-249-2183

**Squire Davis Farm honey** is back! $7.00 lb. Available in 1 and 2 lb jars. Call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000. Cash only.

**Three barn stalls available.** Some tack available Companion mare available. Call Suzanne at Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880 or cell: (413) 336-1263.

**Mulch your garden this fall.** Fertilize by the load or by the bag from Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880, (413) 336-1263 or email suzannagaits@gmail.com

**HP OfficeJet v40 all in one printer/fax/scanner/copier Model C8413A** (great condition) $40.00

And a Sylvania 13 inch colored TV mint cond. $25.00 Great for college dorm. Call 978-249-3040

**Hand-knitted mittens, hats, scarves, boot socks, baby sweater sets, etc. Call 978-249-4013.**

**Birch Knoll Farm** – Hay for sale. Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062

**Royalston Maple Syrup from Divoll’s sugar house. Prices pints $10, quarts $17, half gallons $30 and gallons $52. Call John 978-894-5109**

**Nature books and prints.** Commissions accepted. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

**Firewood**- No more dry firewood. Green firewood $195/ 170 cu feet or $380/340 cu feet. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.

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 978-249-9633

**DR field and brush mower:** 13 HP Briggs & Stratton Intek OHV engine, Cast iron cylinder sleeve, Cutting width 26”, Cutting capacity 1-1/2”. All manuals. Like new. $900 Firm 978-249-5099

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**Royalston Community Newsletter February 2016 Page 9**
Garden Notes  January 22, 2016

Penning these notes in mid-winter has always been a challenge. I am not reporting from Florida after all. For inspiration, I have extracted my prior February columns. Ten of them. Five thousand plus words, very few of them related to gardening. If there is one recurring theme, it is the weather (makes sense, the weather is recurring), but that seems to be the case with most of my columns, regardless of the season. Columns were stretched out with the occasional rant but I’m feeling rant-free at the moment. Let’s chat weather. December was down right balmy, not a thought given to hauling out winter togs. A couple of days in January have reminded us we are in the midst of the bundle-up season, but many more have been above freezing. Our wood furnace was not fired up until January 3, the latest ever. We’ve experienced more ice than snow. Three ‘storms’ have provided us with five inches of the latter. Total. Unless your livelihood depends on the grooming of snow for the purpose of skiing or the removal of snow for the purpose of driving, I don’t imagine many of us are complaining.

I took advantage of December’s balm to harvest, just before Christmas, the fixings for a stew; carrots, leeks, parsnips, celery, and parsley. (Since then, the carrots and leeks have been harvested, the celery has died, and the parsnips and parsley will winter in place.) Also taking advantage of the December balm have been the porcupines. Our bulkhead not yet in place, (I’m using the term ‘bulkhead’ quite loosely here, it being a co-mingling of plywood, insulating board, and blankets.) porcupines gained access to the basement and its stores of apples. And you thought the saga of the porcupines had come to a close. There are some who might consider scampering through a basement in pursuit of a porcupine a humorous situation, but be assured that those of us engaged in the scampering do not. Eventually, they were either caught or departed, leaving the apples to the deprivations of the rodents.

The influx of rodents has been a common topic of conversation in town. You’d think with the presence of three cats (none of them ours; we’ve become cat caretakers, but that’s another story), the problem would be resolved. But these cats seem more interested in consuming their two dollar a pound kibbles than chasing after the mice. Nonetheless, there are many more apples than rodents, so every week or two we press a tad more cider. Yields are embarrassingly low, partly a function of the drying out of the apples in storage. But low yield is better than no yield, so press we must. As a bonus, the ground apples, with their wee bit of liquid extracted, are fed to the steer, who considers it his birthright to receive a daily hit.

One more month of repose; gardening twill return to Garden Notes next month.

Larry Siegel

Town Democratic Caucus state delegates to be selected

Allen Young

Registered Democrats in Royalston will be holding a caucus at the town hall on March 23 at 7 p.m. to elect a delegate and an alternate to the 2016 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, where Democrats from across Massachusetts will gather to adopt a new Action Agenda. The Convention will be held on Saturday, June 4 at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

“This is going to be an exciting year as we Massachusetts Democrats work on the presidential election, both here in Massachusetts and across the country,” commented Democratic National Committee Woman, Kate Donaghu. “In addition to the normal proceedings, the June convention is going to focus on training in party building, electoral techniques and issue-based organizing.”

The caucus is open to all registered Democrats in Royalston and the town Democratic Committee welcomes participants. In the spirit of inclusion, youth, minorities, and people with disabilities who are not elected as delegates or alternates may apply to be “add-on” delegates.

For more information on the caucus or the committee please contact Allen Young, chair, at 978-249-7612.

2nd Congregational Church News

Linda Vaidalas

All are welcome to attend services at the 2nd Congregational Church in South Royalston. Tim Oja is the leading pastor. His message is always from the Bible. Services are Sundays at 9 am. There is Bible study each Wednesday night from 7 - 8 pm, which is open to all.

Scholarship Opportunities for Royalston Residents

Residents pursuing post secondary school opportunities are encouraged to apply for local scholarships with deadlines of April 15. Forms are available through high school guidance counselors or the Phinehas Newton Library.

Royalston Academy Scholarships: The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship (up to $1000) is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including college, home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs. Submit to Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Mass.

The Ladies Benevolent Society offers $300 scholarships to resident men and women of any age attending institutions of higher education, either as a new or returning student. Contact Theresa Quinn at PO Box 108, Royalston, Mass.
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Pearson Rubbish
978-249-5125
127 Bliss Hill Road, Royalston
Full Service Disposal
Weekly Pick Up in Royalston
Prompt Courteous Service Call Russ
Many thanks to Michael Bishop, who grew up in South Royalston for the donation of several photos he received from his mother, saying, “Rather than see history destroyed I wanted to forward these to the town.” Here is his 6th grade class at Whitney Hall. If you have artifacts to donate or memories to share please contact the library or historical society.

Front row (l-r) - Martha LaRay, Tammy LeBlanc, Theresa Newell, Dawn Oja, Nancy Clark, Debra Riley. 2nd row: Melissa Delay, Cynthia White, Sandra Denis, Patricia LLoache, Lynn Dycek, Marjorie Williams, Susan Kirkman, Karen Corser (?), Susan Porter, Tammy Gates and Linda Butterworth. Standing: Alan Chase, Wayne Jarvenpaa, Gene Cloutier, Donald Jarvenpaa, William Williams, Michael Bishop, Jeff McMannis, Steven LeBlanc and James Proulx

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