# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Super</td>
<td>Presidential Primary 7 am – 8 pm Precinct 1 - Town Hall. Precinct 2 - Whitney Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Open Mic, house band will be the Williamsville Connection, at Town Hall. Free. Light supper and desserts available to benefit the event’s sponsor, Royalston Cultural Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Friends of the Library meeting. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>New Worm Moon 8:55 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Open Mic Night at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club. Hosted by the The Obsession Band, featuring Sandra Maillet of town</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Monty Tech Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Chet Hall Scholarship Breakfast 8 am - 11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Vernal Equinox 12:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>India (Saka) New Year 1938</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Full Worm Moon 8:01 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>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.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Annual Royalston Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting at Town Hall. Dress for the weather. Bring a bag or basket for each child. For more information, contact Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi at 978-249-4639.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>6 p.m. Royalston Fish &amp; Game Club Roast Beef Supper</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>LBS Memorial Concert 4:00 pm in the ballroom at the Maples. Participants include Royalstonites (Royalstoners?) Carl Kamp, Scott and Lisa Daugherty, Deb Nunes, and from Fitzwilliam, flautist Denise Nolan. Refreshments. Free and open to the public.</td>
</tr>
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**Massachusetts Maple Syrup Open House weekend.** Sugar houses will be open all over the state including here in Royalston at the LeRay’s Sweetwater Farm, 56 Brown Rd. (Continues Sunday).
Select Board Notes:

Linda Alger

Kevin Flynn, grant writer, will be working with the Towns of Royalston and Phillipston for a CBDG grant. Royalston will be the lead community and our application will be for funding for the Town Hall elevator project. Please continue to send your letters of support for the project to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board continues to review department budgets, we will begin our work on articles within the next several weeks so if you have an article to submit please send them to the Board.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant project is nearing completion. The plant itself is totally operational. The remaining funds will be used to work on the inflow and infiltration portion of the project and that has recently gone to bid through the engineering firm of Tighe and Bond.

Hoping that the groundhog was correct and winter is coming to an end, we look forward to continuing the work on the bridge projects.

The Board continues to seek volunteers for various committees. If you are interested in a particular committee or would like to learn more please contact the Board.

A Few Energy Committee Winset Workshops

Donna Caisse

The Energy Committee has had a few successful winset workshops at the Town Hall. We have all of the winsets made and installed on the second floor and the dining room. We still have to make the winset frames and wrap them in plastic for the hallway, upstair, and downstair, and the Board of Selectmen’s office. We will also be doing some weatherization to the Town Hall. The next workshops are scheduled for Saturday, March 12th from 10:00 - 2:00, and Saturday, March 26th, from 10:00 - 2:00. We could use your help, hope to see you there. Janice Kurkowski from Warwick, has given us her winset leadership with this project. We sincerely appreciate Janice helping our town.

Cultural Council News

Deb Nunes

Our Open Mic series will continue on Friday, March 4 at 7:00 pm. The house band will be the Williamsville Connection.. As always delicious food will be available. Watch for the last open mic in the 2016 series on April 1st.

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

978-249-0493

P.O. Box 127

www.royalston-ma.gov

Information below can also be found on the Town Clerk’s page at royalston-ma.gov, under the pages Voting information and 2016 Elections.

The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 1. Polls are open from 7 a.m – 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

The Annual Town Election will be held Monday, April 4. Polls are open from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. The last day to register to vote in this election (if you are currently unregistered) is Tuesday, March 15. A voter registration will be held at the Town Clerk’s Office on that day from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

The following positions and candidates will appear on the Annual Town Election ballot. The last day to object or withdraw is March 2nd.

There are two contested seats on this year’s ballot. Jon H. Hardie and Gary L. Winitzer are challenging incumbent John W. Morse, III for the 3-year term on the Board of Selectmen. A three-year term on the Cemetery Commission is being sought by incumbent Wayne R. Newton, challenged by Sherry A. Miner.

The remaining seats have no contests and are listed below:

- Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – Royalston 3 year – Charles H. Pretti; Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee ATHOL 3 yr – VOTE FOR THREE – Joseph Maga, Amber Parker, and Dale Lougee; Assessor 3 yr – no candidate running; Board of Health 3 year – Chester Hall, IV; Board of Public Welfare 3 year – Roland Hamel; Constable 3 yr – John Divoll; Library Trustee 3 yr – Jeffrey Mangum; Planning Board – 5 yr – Vyto Andreliunas; Sewer Commission 3 yr – no candidate; Town Clerk 3 yr – Melanie Mangum; Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett 1yr – four seats – Wayne Newton, Roy Smith and Gary Winitzer – the fourth seat on the Trustees has no candidate running.

2016 CENSUS

Annual street listing (census) forms have been mailed out. Please return your census forms to the Town Clerk at P.O. Box 127, Royalston, MA 01368. Please note that filling out your census form by entering a party or changing a party for voting purposes does NOT register you to vote, if you are currently unregistered. To register to vote or change your party affiliation, you must fill out a voter registration certificate.

Failure to respond to the annual street listing may affect your voter registration status. Registered voters who do not respond to the census and have not voted in recent elections may be deleted due to inactivity.

RABIES/LICENSING CLINIC – STAY TUNED

2016 Dog Licenses now available:
Statements from Candidates
Running for Contested Selectman Seat

Jon Hardie: The choice is clear. I would deeply appreciate your support on Monday, April 4th to join Selectmen Chris Long and Linda Alger. We need to launch the townwide broadband network this fall and address other important issues and opportunities going forward. Thank you all for your support, on Town Election Day: Monday April 4th. The polls open at 10:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. We’re all in this together and we’ll get it done. Questions or issues you believe the selectboard should address? ... I’m all ears. Call Jon Hardie at 978-790-8474

Gary Winitzer: I look forward to campaigning for the seat on the Board of Selectmen in the Annual Town Election.

When I am elected, I promise to work with Mrs. Long and Ms. Alger to discharge our responsibilities in a manner that is fair, open and consistent with laws, regulations and the votes of the Town Meetings. I will suggest that we stay focused on our duty to administer the Town’s business. We must show leadership by setting an example and demonstrating fiscal restraint and completing our tasks in a timely and effective manner. I am aware of the commitment of time and energy required of Selectman.

Most of you know me. I served on the Fire Department and Rescue Squad for twenty years and as Selectman for almost two years. I now serve on the Sewer Commission and regularly help at the Senior Luncheon Club. You know that if I say I will do something, I do. You know that I have a unique way of getting any job done.

Please be it touch if you would like discuss specific issues or ask any question: 249-8957 or e-mail at glw110@gmail.com, or stop by and meet Stella, my friendly canine companion at 110 Athol Road. Feel free to like me on Facebook. With respect, I ask you to vote for Gary L. Winitzer for Selectman on April 4th.

Jack Morse: I’m running for re-election because people voted me in before and then re-elected me. I will continue to do the best job I can do. I bring my eyes from my years of experience in the private sector to my public service on this board. I would like to further the job I have started.

How to Burn Brush in this Town

Chief Newton

The “Open Burning“ Season is again upon us. All material to be burned must be natural and must not contain household trash or building materials. Burning of tires is strictly prohibited and burning of fields is illegal.

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

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair

The cold snap weekend took out the compactor motor. Seems the heater had not been working properly. Monadnock Disposal is having the motor repaired. Thanks go out to Travis Neale, our fast-responding electrician, and National Grid for showing up in the cold. We hope this will be up and running by print time. In the meantime, please deposit in containers provided. Attendants, Tony and Steve, will direct you.

Other news, we still keep finding plastic bags, some stuffed in large quantities in large bags, in the bottles and cans and paper containers. Please, please, please bring these back to where you got them. These really mess up the mechanical conveyor belts at the other end causing line shut downs and money lost. Recycling is not free, even though you are not being charged for it. Be considerate of the process.

Also, some residents seem to think that trash, sticker, and disposal fees are not for them. Some residents think they are special and argue with the attendants when asked to pay for a certain item. If you do not want to pay the reasonable fee, bring it back to where you got the item. All we are trying to do is cover cost and not be a burden to the tax rate. By not paying or cheating, you are cheating the rest of us. Please be considerate. If you want to come to a BOH meeting and discuss a particular fee, we meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Whitney Hall. We would love to talk with you. Do not harangue the attendants, please.

Broadband Update Jon Hardie

1. We are completing South Village only sign-ups on March 1st, for one of four 1 year and 2 year discounted subscription packages with no taxes, no data limits, or data usage penalties. This High Speed Broadband Network Pilot was funded by a two MBI grants totaling over $50,000. Thanks MBI! And a big thank you for all of the test participants, who helped the committee to get it right - before sign-ups.

2. An amazing amount of data from the South Village pilot has been incorporated into the final innovative town-wide high speed broadband network that will serve everyone/everywhere in town. We have completed the final design, engineering, and budgeting for the network. Now we begin the labor intensive critical business plan modeling, legal compliance, and 30B procurement process of RFI’s (request for information) analysis and RFP’s (request for proposals), in preparation of the final grant application. Next, we get MBI approval. Finally, we go to town meeting.

3. This is your opportunity to help us bootstrap this final grant prep process. If you would pre-register on-line, as many have already done, at http://royalston-ma.gov/RMLPBBN/, you will get the first month free. If you then donate $49 to the cause, this will really help us fund our interim network planning costs, legal costs, and final engineering analysis to submit the final grant. After that, the network - like the South Village network, will be self sustaining - with no need to go back to annual town meeting for annual overrides - by design. Pretty amazing.

Again ... Thanks for your help. Together we’ll get it built. Questions call Jon Hardie 978-790-8474 8AM to 10 PM or 24/7 for emergencies.
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
George Bodman
Linda Migliozzi

Thank you
Patti Stanko and Beth Gospodarek for help with the Starlab program and to Grace Belmont, Willa, and Theo for help taking down and packing up the planetarium.
The Royalston Cultural Council for funding the Starlab programs and Winter Tales.

Library Book Discussion Group meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months, so it will gather on March 21. The discussion will be about The Heart has Many Doors by Susan Snively. This is fiction about Emily Dickinson. The group is planning a field trip to the Dickensen houses in Amherst as well. All welcome for cozy literary chat and a cuppa with a couple of cookies. Copies of the selection are at the library waiting to be

Leap Year Reading Challenge
Snuggle up, read a good book, and win prizes. Check out a book from the library, read it, return it and record it in your log. After a certain number of books, you select a prize! It’s that easy. Everyone is invited to enter. Win tickets to the Gardner Cinema, Divoll Maple Syrup, and Squire Davis honey besides Priscilla’s candy and all sorts of other prizes. The contest runs through Patriot’s Day.

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 through April on Mondays from 6 - 7 pm.

Yoga Classes Resume
On Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning March 10 at the Town Hall, student teacher, Janet Bettey, will teach a new yoga class, ‘Blissful Yoga.’ On Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning on March 28, Janice Doubley will resume the morning yoga classes in the Town Hall. No experience is necessary for either class but please bring a yoga mat, blanket, and block if you have one. The classes are free and sponsored by the Friends of the Library but donations to the Friends are welcome.

Little Free Library Coming to Royalston
Little Free Library began in 2009 in Wisconsin and has spread throughout the world with at least 15,000 of them today. The idea is that little ‘mini-libraries’ are stocked with books and anyone can go and take a book or two and maybe leave a book. The Friends of the Library have decided to sponsor a Little Free Library for Royalston and have begun the process to get permission. They hope to have one up and running in South Royalston by late spring. When it is installed, it will be on the map joining thousands of other little free libraries around the country. Currently there are none in this area.

If you would like to learn more about Little Free Libraries, check out the website: www.littlefreelibrary.org and if you would like to donate towards this project you can mail a donation to the Friends earmarking it for the Little Free Library project.

Art Exhibit
During the next three months Tom Musco will be exhibiting Japanese prints from a representative sample of renowned artists from the latter half of the 18th century featuring the art of ukiyo-e (“pictures of the floating world”) which originated in the metropolitan culture of Edo (Tokyo) during the period of Japanese history when the country was virtually isolated from the rest of the world.

Stephen Chase Contracting
Restoration and Preservation Services
Royalston
978-249-0358
MA Construction Supervisor #044817
EPA Lead Safe Certified #NAT-58592-2
**Some of the New Materials at Your Library**

**Adult fiction**
- Albert, Elisa | After Birth
- Archer, Jeffrey | Cometh the Hour
- Berlin, Lucia | A Manual for Cleaning Women
- Canin, Ethan | A Doubter’s Almanac
- Ferrante, Elena | My Brilliant Friend
- Gallagher, Matt | Youngblood
- Gardner, Lisa | Find Her
- Halverson, Sere | All the Winter’s After
- Holt, Anne | The Lion’s Mouth
- Jenkins, Emily | Tiger and Badger
- Kellerman, Jonathan | Breakdown
- Martel, Yann | The High Mountains of Portugal
- Nesbo, Jo | Midnight Sun
- Patterson, James | NYPD Red 4
- Robb, J.D. | Brotherhood in Death
- Turnbull, Peter | In Vino Veritas

**Adult Nonfiction**
- Belsinger, Susan | The Culinary Herbal
- Bookbinder, David | 52 Flower Mandalas
- Deardorff, David | What’s Wrong with my Houseplant?
- Lahiri, Jhumpa | In Other Words
- Marquis, Sarah | Wild by Nature
- Watson, Bruce | Light

**Young Adult Fiction/Nonfiction**
- Mann, Charles | 1493 for Young People
- Martin, Ann | Kristy’s Great Idea (graphic novel)
- Turner, Pamela | Samurai Rising

**Children’s Fiction**
- Ashman, Linda | Henry Wants More!
- Buckley, Michael | The Fairly-Take Detectives
- Coben, Harlan | The Magical Fantastical Fridge
- Cronin, Doreen | Bloom
- Falatko, Julie | Snappsy the Alligator
- Fentiman, David | Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- Gehl, Laura | Peep and Egg
- Gemeinhart, Dan | Some Kind of Courage
- Jeffers, Oliver | The Hueys in What’s the Opposite?
- Larson, Kirby | Audacity Jones to the Rescue
- Light, Steve | Swap!
- Mattick, Lindsey | Finding Winnie
- Mull, Brandon | Spirit Animals
- Osborne, Mary Pope | Balto of the Blue Dawn
- Pennypacker, Sara | Pax

**Children’s Nonfiction**
- Bruel, Nick | Bad Kitty Goes to the Vet
- Holm, Jennifer | Comics Squad: Lunch
- Weatherford, Carole | Voice of Freedom

**CDs:**
- 2016 Grammy Nominees
- Kids; Bop 31
March Weather

Tom Musco

If you’re a skier, dogsledder, or snowplow driver, you would probably say we have had a terrible winter so far this year. My wife and I do not belong to any of the aforementioned groups but we happened to buy a new snow blower in October as a backup to our 20-year-old Ariens. And we were wondering over breakfast the other day if we are going to get to use our new snow blower this winter.

The average snow totals for March over the last 30 years have been about 6-12 inches. However there have been some historic storms and blizzards in March that would have challenged the biggest snow blower you could afford.

February 27 - March 7, 1717: The Great Snow of 1717 was actually a series of four storms that dumped a combined total of at least five feet of snow on New England, with much higher drifts. It is often compared to the Great Blizzard of 1888.

March 12-15, 1888: The Great Blizzard of 1888, also called the Great White Hurricane, was the monster of all March snow storms. It dropped 40-60 inches of snow on New England. High winds piled snow into 50-foot drifts in some areas. The storm holds the record for the largest winter storm-related death toll; more than 400 people died. The severity of this storm was documented by Royalston resident Mary Bullock in a letter to her cousin in the Midwest. She wrote of storms lasting days and drifts so high that no one could get out.

March 18-20, 1956: While not a true blizzard, this storm dumped up to two feet of snow on the Northeast.

March 20-21, 1958: Worcester got an impressive 19 inches of snow, but that was dwarfed by the 50 inches of snowfall in parts of Pennsylvania.

March 12-15, 1993: “The Storm of the Century” packed hurricane-force winds felt up and down the eastern seaboard. The highest winds were recorded atop Mount Washington (144 mph!). Every major airport on the east coast was closed at one time or another by the storm - a first.

March 31 - April 1, 1997: “The April Fool’s Day Blizzard” dumped up to three feet of wet snow on the Northeast and left hundreds of thousands of people without power. The storm immobilized Boston for days with over 25 inches of snow - the third or fourth heaviest snowfall on record for the city, depending on the source - and high winds with gusts of 50-70 mph.

March is known to feature some crazy and surprising weather, so there is hope for real snow before spring. Keep your snow blower gas tank full and have extra shear pins on hand.

Recipe of the Month

Royalston is lucky to have several maple producers. Some are dabblers, some are producing for home copious home consumption and some are commercial businesses. Massachusetts Maple Syrup Open House weekend will be March 19 - 20th. The LeRay family’s Sweetwater Sugarhouse, 56 Brown Road, will be open Saturday 19th, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm & Sunday 20th, 8:30 am - 3:00pm. If the steam is coming out of the cupola, then stop in to visit, look around & ask questions. Visitors are always welcome!

This recipe comes from Divoll Sugar House on Deland Rd.

Maple Glaze

In a small saucepan, combine butter and brown sugar, whisk in milk and heat for about 5 min. on medium heat, stirring often, until butter melts and sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and add in corn syrup and maple syrup. Add powered sugar 1/2 c at a time, whisking until smooth between additions. Add 1-2 more tsp of milk if necessary. Keep glaze warm until you need to use it as it will begin to harden if left sitting. Can be used on many things but tastes best on homemade donuts according to Abby Divoll.

The Question of Spring

Deb D’Amico

When does spring really begin? That’s the question I’ve been pondering. The calendar says it begins on March 21 or 22, depending on some impossibly-complex calculation involving the sun. But that doesn’t do it for me. Too many late March blizzards with sub-zero temperatures have made me skeptical. The turn of a season is more nuanced than the turn of a calendar page. Could the coming of spring be a personal decision? If so, my spring starts in February, thanks to my mother.

Our parents raised us in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. More specifically, in the Mount Washington Valley, where winter renders every other season an afterthought. The Moat Mountain Range loomed to our west. In December, the sun “went behind the Moats” at around 3:30. This was our sunset, no matter what the Farmer’s Almanac said. So, my winter memories are of doing everything in the cold and dark. We walked to school in the dark, skated on frozen ponds in the dark, played outside in the dark. We puffed little breath clouds just for fun and felt the cold tighten our chests. All of this lent our childhood a certain drama. We were little soldiers of winter - not even the cold and dark could hold us back.

This was a child’s view of course. I am sure this drama was lost on our parents whose daily lives were far less frivolous than ours. The relentless cold and dark must have taken its toll on the adults in our lives, whose engagement with winter involved keeping the pipes from freezing and making sure the car would start. This could be why our mother, ever the optimist, began to greet every February with the same mantra: “Winter’s back is broken.” She pointed out that, no matter how cold it got, the light was returning. “The sun is higher, the days are longer, the snow won’t last.” This was not a mental survival tactic, this was a truth you could see, and we began to note the changes as February unfolded.

Over the years the case for spring in February has strengthened in my mind. The increased sunlight gives snow the crystalline quality of “spring snow”. The birds, whose migration is signaled not by warmth but by light, begin to return. Snow squalls look like spring showers. And the patches of ground that appear and disappear as the temperatures warm give the air a smell of spring.

Despite the often bitter cold of February, the light returns - gradually but relentlessly. I love watching that happen. Friends who seek warmer climes in February miss the best part of winter. Given the choice of going off to find the light or having the light find me, I’ll take the latter. That, to me, is spring.
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Dean’s Lists
Emily Mangum, Bridgewater State
Kevin Nunes, Mount Wachusett Community College
Paul Thibideau, Fitchburg State

New Arrival

Brandon and Brittany Jeffery of Ashburnham, formerly of 172 N.E. Fitzwilliam Road, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Adaelyn Willow, born on January 28. She weighed 7 lb. 2 oz. and was 20” long. Clair and John, of town, are excited about spending time with their first grandchild.

Dear friends and neighbors…
A few months ago, we left Royalston with heavy hearts for the west coast. A job awaited and, after 15 years in New England (and 8 years in Royalston), it was time to go. Leaving was bittersweet at best. Royalston was a fantastic home that changed how we looked at the world, where we learned to farm, where we met wonderful friends, and enjoyed fantastic schools. We wanted to thank you all for, well, for lack of a better word, “Love”. Everyone treated us like family and helped out our children and us on many occasions. We will miss Royalston and New England and we believe that, while the west coast is amazing, we will never find a community or a people like Royalstonites. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts <3 The Dawsons

LBS Memorial Concert
Deb Nunes
This year’s LBS Memorial Concert will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 4:00 pm in the ballroom at the Maples on the Common. Participants include Royalstonites Carl Kamp, Scott and Lisa Daugherty, Deb Nunes, and from Fitzwilliam, flautist Denise Nolan. There will be historic refreshments following the concert. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be gratefully accepted to support the programs of the LBS. See you there!

Chicken Shoot/ Soup R Bowl
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 have tickets for purchase. The weather is right for a comfortable bowl of soup and some conversation with fellow Royalstonites.

Royalston Historical Society
Exterior work is in progress on Old School House #1. Thanks to all who cooked and came out to dine and hear the stone wall talk by Kevin Gardner. Funds raised support the Historical Society’s restoration work. It was a particularly warm and cozy community event with great food, friendly company and pertinent information.

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. Do you have items that capture a bit of town history that you would consider donating to the society’s collection? Call Peter Kraniaik or visit the society’s website or facebook page to leave a message.

Other events in the planning stages: team trivia night, trips to Harvard U. to see the Isaac Royall portrait in the law school (and take advantage of Cambridge in the spring), a visit to the Pelham Historical Society to gawk at its recent restoration, as well as possibly a story/oral history slam, and a showing of a recently digitized film of town from the 1930s. Come to the society’s next meeting (April 17) to get involved and bring these events to the fore.

Fairy House Workshop
North Quabbin Garden Club
Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m., 100 Main Street, Athol, MA
Eving resident, Maggie Fadanza will share her techniques of putting together a one-of-a-kind fairy house for the garden. To personalize your house, bring materials such as bark, pine cones, acorns, stones, marbles, shell, etc. Glue, scissors, clippers, ribbon, silk flowers, or small objects to add character to your project will be helpful. There will be a small fee.
Community School News
Adam Rogers, 6th grade correspondent
Hi it's Adam. First off I'd like to talk about the movie night. Last Friday we had an ice cream social where everyone got to meet and talk without being in school. After that we watched, can you guess? *THE MINIONS*!! If you ask me it was good but man was it loud! Second we had February vacation! A whole 9 days off to do anything we wanted! It was FUN! Third I want you to think about how close it is to summer vacation, ..., only a few more months.

RCS Calendar
3/09 - 1/2 day
3/10 - Whale Program @ 2:00pm
3/11 - DARE Graduation @ 1:30
3/14 - 3/17 Scholastic Book Fair - Volunteers needed, please call Mrs. Lajoie @ 978-249-2900 if you can help
3/19 - Chet Hall Memorial Scholarship Breakfast

Chapman Family Fundraisers at RCS
The Royalston Community School and Royalston Police Department teamed up last month to put on a combination family fun and fundraising evening. The event began with ice cream sundaes scooped by the PD – and the coppers brought the toppers, which included the Chapman requested chocolate syrup, M&Ms, whipped cream, sprinkles and cherries, as well as butterscotch and strawberry syrups, peanut butter cups, Oreo crumbs, and Skittles. More than a hundred kids – many in their jammies, with pillows and blankets – sprawled on the gym floor to watch “The Minions” which was projected onto two king-sized sheets sewn together, hanging in a corner of the gym serving as a movie screen. Royalston TRULY puts the COMMUNITY in its school!

Monty Tech News
Mary C. Barclay, royalston_community_news@yahoo.com
Monty Tech Open House Wednesday, March 16 at 5 pm
Monty Tech’s Principal, Thomas R. Browne, was selected to serve on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education’s (DESE) Principal Advisory Cabinet. Browne will be working on the teacher evaluation model system.
An update on Monty Tech’s soon-to-be Veterinary Technician program: More than $3.5 million has been secured through various sources; construction of a 5000-6000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art classroom, laboratory and fully-outfitted veterinary clinic takes place during the 2016-2017 school year, using Monty Tech instructors and students at a savings of more than $4,000 in labor alone. Twenty-four community partners in veterinary medicine and animal care have committed, four of whom are already employers for students in the Health Occupations program. Approximately $208,000 additional funding is needed for the completion of phase I, approximately $103,000 is needed for phase II, and approximately $108,000 is needed for phase III. The first 20 students will be accepted in the 2017-2018 school year.

Bert Jacobs, owner and founder of the “Life is Good” empire is Monty Tech’s next motivational speaker. He will speak on March 4, and each student will receive a special Monty Tech edition “Life is Good” shirt.
Be sure to check out Monty Tech’s “Annual Report” in this year’s “Annual Town Meeting” book. You’ll be amazed at the accomplishments of these students, 18 of whom are from Royalston.

What’s happening at the Village School
Rise Richardson, director
If you are interested in next year for the school, it’s time to call and arrange a visit. You’ll meet with the Director, Rise Richardson and observe classes. There are limited openings for next September.

The first week of March is Dance Week with dance teacher Anna Hendricks working daily with all the classes, thanks to a STAR Residency grant from the Mass. Cultural Council.

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

Science Night Wednesday evening March 23 7:00 pm
Back in January, 4th-6th grade students chose a topic to investigate, and with the help of scientist Cathy Szal, designed experiments to prove or disprove the initial hypothesis. No help from parents! Peer review is part of the process. Students will enthusiastically display their work at Science Night and be ready to explain it. Come see their work and ask questions! Everyone is welcome.

Save the Date: Summer Programs at the Village School (check the website soon for info)
www.villageschoolma.org
Nature Arts and Play for ages 3-8
The Science and Art Experience for ages 7-13
Woodworking for Children for ages 7 and up

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It’s Mother Nature’s moodiest time of year – subzero to balmy in no time flat, streaming sunshine to deluge of rain in the span of a few hours. How about taking some time now – BEFORE your cellar is filled with water running off of frozen ground – to ensure sump pumps are working, and anything of value is up off of the floor. If you find your cellar flooding is creeping up on furnaces, boilers and electrical services, it’s time to call 9-1-1 for help.

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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!)
February 22, 2016

I know, I assured you that elements of gardening would return to the column this month. But. In the last four weeks, I have sorted my recently-arrived seeds. I have removed dead leaves from the house plants. I have accomplished nothing else (at least in respect to gardening). That is about to change. By the time you read this, the first seeds will have been started, the same types of seed as last year, the year before, every year since 1977. For the short-of-memory: onions, leeks, celery, celeriac, and parsley. Each of these is slow to germinate and slow to grow. The last three will be transplanted once before setting out in the garden; the onions and leeks will not. To avoid transplanting, they must be carefully (and painstakingly) seeded into 15” x 24” wooden flats. If carefully (and painstakingly) seeded, each flat will host 400-500 adequately-spaced seedlings, which will thrive in the compost-rich planting mix (if the cats [remember the cats?] refrain from turning the flats into cat beds). Two flats of onions, one of leeks. Three cats. Go figure.

I wandered to the garden today in search of green amid the ocean of brown. A few clumps of grass, which, of course, do not belong in the garden. The winter wheat, which, after all, is a grass. After years of unsuccessfully attempting to winter-over parsley, I hadn’t bothered mulching last fall. Wouldn’t you know, I discovered living, breathing, green parsley. There is not a trace of spinach under the mulch. No surprise there. The dynamics of spinach have changed over the years: from routinely surviving the winter to routinely not. Garlic is up, though I would rather it not be; severe weather (as unlikely as that notion is) would kill off the new growth, setting the plants back. I will not remove the mulch. Not a sign of parsnips or alliums, both early risers, but I need to remind myself this is the third week of February, not the third week in March.

There are number of barometers to gauge the relative severity of winter, not the least of which being the quantity of fuel required to provide heat. To date, our wood furnace has consumed just over two cords. (The comparable number for the previous winter was three and a half cords.) Maple trees were tapped two days ago, two weeks earlier than last year. The prevailing wisdom is that sap flows when daytime temperatures are above freezing and nighttime readings below. That occurred with remarkable frequency this winter. There was a two-week stretch in late January and early February ideal for sap flow. But who among us dared to tap then?

The weather cooperating as it is, I am hard-pressed not to jump start some spring activities. Fruit trees will be pruned forthwith. Leaf piles will be moved, but only after being re-assembled, the chickens having effectively un-piled them in a scratching frenzy. (In their defense, the scratching begins the process of transforming the leaves to compost.)

Finally, my monthly update of the saga of apples and porcupines. There is a light at the end of the apple tunnel; only four bushels remain. No porcupines have been spotted but their tracks have (on those rare occasions when snow is present). There is no light at the end of the porcupine tunnel.

Larry Siegel

North Quabbin Pipeline Action will hold a quarterly public event about current issues regarding the proposed Tennessee Gas NED project on Thurs., March 24, from 7 - 9 pm at the Erving Senior Center (Rt. 63, just north of the elementary school.) Information on the upcoming DPU hearings (in Greenfield on March 30) will be presented, including Tennessee Gas Pipeline’s petition to get approval to survey private land. Other items include proposed tariffs by utilities, fundraising for legal expenses, Article 97 and next steps. Please save the date and attend. For more information, call Maureen 978-249-5138.

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

Allen Young

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.

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.
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Annual Royalston Egg Hunt on the Common.

On Saturday, March 26, the Saturday before Easter, children of all ages will gather in front of the Town Hall in anticipation of the start of this year’s hunt for upwards of 2000 eggs stuffed with a variety of wrapped candies. It is rumored that Mr. Rabbit will once again be on hand to greet the eager egg hunters.

Following the egg hunt, participants will gather in the town hall where they will recycle the plastic eggs before engaging in the post-hunt chocolate melting. Twenty pounds of melted chocolate will be available, along with appropriate molds, allowing everyone to make candies to take home.

Children should arrive at the Town Hall at 9:45 a.m. to ensure that they are ready for the start of the hunt at 10:00 sharp. Each child should bring a basket or bag to hold his/her treasure. Everyone should dress for the weather; the hunt is always held at the scheduled time, rain or shine.

Members of the community who would like to support this event can drop off candy at the Royalston General Store or the Library NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, MARCH 19. Only individually wrapped candies can be used and they must be small enough to fit inside the colorful plastic eggs that are used, and recycled, for the event. The egg hunt organizers also welcome monetary donations to help offset the expenses associated with the annual event.

Volunteers are also cheerfully welcomed on the day of the hunt, particularly during the chocolate melting.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rene’ Lake-Gagliardi at 978-249-4639 or Sara Dilg at 978-248-9828.

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

Royalston’s Annual Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday March 26 at exactly 10 am, so arrive early. Bring a basket. For more information or to help, call 978-249-4639. Free.

This photo was taken right before the scramble for eggs last year.