Calendar of Events

April 1  Friday  Open Mic series finale. Light supper and coffee house treats available. Also, a drawing for original Gordon Morrison art.

April 3  Sunday  4:00 pm LBS Memorial Concert in the ballroom at the Maples. Participants include Royalstonites Carl Kamp, Scott and Lisa Daugherty, Deb Nunes, and from Fitzwilliam, flautist Denise Nolan. Refreshments. Free and open to the public.

April 4  Monday  10 am - 8 pm The Annual Town Election. Precinct 1 is Town Hall; Precinct 2 is Whitney Hall.

April 7  Thursday  7 pm Town Event’s Committee meeting at Town Hall. All welcome to help plan September’s “Country Fair on the Common”. The hope is that most town groups will want to take part. Call Marlene Jarvenpaa with questions about the group.

April 9  Saturday  11 am Friends of the Library meeting. All welcome.

April 15  Friday  8:30 am - 3 pm Kindergarten Registration at Royalston Community School. Please bring original birth certificate, certificate of immunizations, copy of recent physical, proof of residency (tax bill, utility bill, cable bill, lease agreement). Child must be 5 years of age before September 1, 2016.

6:30 pm supper/7 pm meeting Historical Society Pot Luck Supper, Planning Meeting and Program at the home of Peter Kramiak on the corner of Winchendon Road and Stone Road.

April 17  Sunday  2 pm Susan Snively, author of The Heart Has Many Doors: A Novel of Emily Dickinson, will speak in the ballroom at the Maples, 17 On the Common, the home of Patience Bundschuh. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library. Refreshments. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

April 18  Monday  Patriots’ Day Holiday

April 21  Thursday  1:30 pm Come Fly a Kite, Eat Kite Cake, and Write Kite Poems at the library. Bring your own kite or use one of ours. The field can be a bit soggy, so wear mudboots or shoes that can withstand the damp.

April 22  Friday  Earth Day  1:24 am Full Pink Moon

April 23  Saturday  1 pm Field Trip to the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, led by library trustee chairwoman and Emily Dickinson scholar, Polly Longsworth. (To car pool, gather at the library at 1:00 p.m. or drive yourself and meet at the museum at 2:00 p.m.)

April 25  Monday  4:30 pm Library Book Discussion Group will gather to discuss Ivan Doig’s Last Bus to Wisdom. Copies available to be checked out at the library. All welcome.

April 30  Saturday  9 am - noon Town Roadside Clean-up. Pick up litter on your street or get an assigned street (as well as trash bags and gloves) from Charlie Scribner behind the post office. Take your pickings to the dump for free disposal. Enjoy a complimentary cookout at noon back at Check Point Charlie.

Save the date

May 3  Tuesday  May Day Celebration  9:00 a.m. the Village School hosts an old fashioned May Day celebration. The public is invited. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing. There will be singing and playing of traditional songs and rounds. If it is rainied out, the rain date will be posted on the Village School website.

May 6  Friday  Annual Town Meeting

May 21  Saturday  Cultural Council Blues Night

May 22  Sunday  Jazz in the Ballroom

June 4  Saturday  Morning on Royalston Common  7:30 - 11 am Pancake breakfast, Spectacular Silent Auction, plant sale, the Millers River Morris Men, live birds of prey program and lots more.

June 20 - July 1  Royalston Shakespeare Company, theater workshop for kids ages 5 - 20 present MacBeth
Select Board Notes:
Linda Alger

The Select Board recently met with the Capital Planning Committee to look at the future needs of the municipality. The Capital Planning Committee expressed frustration as it feels that it really is not planning for capital purchases. It makes a list of priorities and we fund what we can. Real capital planning consists of replacement/repair of items at regular intervals. The Department Heads also attempt to plan this way, but it is impossible because we don’t have a capital fund. The Board has attempted two over-rides for this purpose; both were defeated.

Here are the needs listed for this year.

The DPW is in need of two replacement vehicles. The 1994 International required extensive repairs this year, and the recommendation is $45,000 per year for a 5-year lease purchase. The second is the replacement of the body on the 2003 dump/sander at a cost of $35,000.

Town Buildings need various repairs from windows to floors to exterior painting. The town also needs a place for document storage. For safety reasons, the ramps at Town and Whitney Halls need roofs; funds for the Whitney ramp have been previously approved, but we need an estimated costs $5,000 for the second ramp.

The Fire Department is seeking upgrades: two sets of turn-out gear annually at a cost of $5,000.

Sewer Department requests funds for refurbishing two pumps (a portion of the first pump is already funded). The cost of the remaining and one additional pump is $7,875. The department has for the last several years requested a sewer jetter to clear the lines at a cost of $12,000.

The Library has no capital purchases for 2017; however, they would like to plan for various issues over the next five years. The two hearse houses are in critical need of repair and have been for several years.

The Building Inspector would like to start a fund to deal with abandoned buildings.

The Building Committee is looking at the use of town buildings, and the Capital Planning Committee recommends that the Town hire an expert to do an assessment.

The Annual Town Election is April 4th; the Annual Town Meeting is May 6th.

The Board is still looking for volunteers for the Memorial Day Committee.

Town Clerk News
Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk
978-249-0493
P.O. Box 127
www.royalston-ma.gov

The Annual Town Election will be held Monday, April 4. Polls are open from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. The following positions and candidates will appear on the Annual Town Election ballot.

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 – Vytas Andreliunas; Sewer Commission 3 yr – no candidate; Town Clerk 3 yr – Melanie Mangum; Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund 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.

DOGS
No Dog Clinic this Year
Gardner Animal Care cancelled with no alternate date and wasn’t able to arrange another vet in time.

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.

2016 Presidential Primary Results in Royalston
(46% voter turnout)

Democrats:
Hillary Clinton 73 Bernie Sanders 156

Republicans:
Donald Trump 93 Ted Cruz 23 Marco Rubio 17
John Kasich 11 Ben Carson 6
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 in 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 upon us. All material to be burnt must be natural and must not contain household trash or building materials. Burning of tires is strictly prohibited and burning of fields is illegal.

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

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

The trash compactor was repaired and was back on line after motor rebuild and capacitor change out in the 3 phase motor. However, this past weekend it went down again. It seems we are at the end of a single phase power line and the consistency of the power varies affecting the process of converting to 3-phase power needed for the motor. Solutions involve getting National Grid to upgrade the transformer at the end of the line. The optimum solution is extending the 3-phase power from the Raymond School to the recycling building. Although optimum in practicality, it could be optimum cost too. Some of the poles aren’t the required height for 3-phase power and would have to be upgraded, a big cost right there. We will pursue the options with National Grid and decide what’s best for the price etc. We will continue to work the problem. Travis Neale, our electrician, and Monadnock Disposal of Jaffrey, NH have been great responding to this. In the meantime, dump into roll off containers as directed by Tony and Steve our trusty attendants. We thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Fluorescent light bulbs should be put back in the boxes they came from for recycling. Although taping the bulbs keeps them from breaking, they present a handling problem for us and our vendor. Very often the tape is very hard to get off and leads to breakage. We get charged more for bulbs that come in this way because they cost more to handle. If you must, big elastic bands could work or better still pack back in the boxes that they came in. Again, thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Checkpoint Charlie Roadside Clean-up April 30th: Help clean up what the litter pigs left for the town. Pick up around your neighborhood and bring to the transfer station. Cook-out at Bullock Park Pavilion afterwards. Picking up in your town doesn’t have to be a one day event. If you see it, pick it up. Better still, don’t let it blow out of your pick up truck or throw it out of your window in the first place. Plus, why do we have to know what beer is on sale in NH by picking up the cans on the side of the road? I guess that’s why they live free in NH!

Cultural Council News

Deb Nunes

Our Open Mic series finale will be Friday, April 1 at 7:00 pm. As always delicious food will be available and the drawing for the original Gordon Morrison art raffle will be drawn that night.

Blues Night is coming in May. Definite Maybes will perform along with a headliner, the Ben Knight Band.

Events Committee Planning Meeting

On Thursday, April 7 at 7 pm, all are welcome at the Town Event’s Committee meeting at town hall. The town-wide group is working to plan a Country Fair on the Common, which it hopes will be a vehicle to bring out many parts of the community in one place, just like last year’s 250th celebration. The hope is that most town groups will want to get involved.
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
Virginia Moore
Kathy Pirro
Fran and Paul Diaz

Thank you
Donation to the Friends for the Little Free Library in memory of John and Pat Poor
Raeann G. LeBlank and Roger O’Donnell

Library Book Discussion Group meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months, but because of the Patriots Day holiday, it will gather on April 25 to discuss Ivan Doig’s Last Bus to Wisdom. 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 checked out.

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.

Author Talk and Emily Dickinson Museum Tour
Susan Snively, author of The Heart Has Many Doors: A Novel of Emily Dickinson, will speak on Sunday, April 17th at 2:00 p.m. in the ballroom at the Maples, 17 On the Common, the home of Patience Bundschuh. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library. The story imagines a romance between Emily and her father’s best friend, Judge Otis Phillips Lord, and is based on extensive research about Emily Dickinson. Snively is a guide at the Dickinson Museum in Amherst. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

There will be a field trip to the Emily Dickinson Museum led by library trustee chairwoman and Emily Dickinson scholar, Polly Longsworth on Saturday, April 23. To car pool, leave from the library at 1:00 p.m. or drive yourself and meet at the museum at 2:00 p.m.

Come Fly a Kite, Eat Kite Cake, and Write Kite Poems
Join us for our annual kite-flying day on Thursday, April 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the library for kite flying. We have lots of kites but you can bring your own if you want. After soaring through the skies, we’ll come in (or eat out if the weather is great) and enjoy kite cake while writing poems about kites and spring in honor of National Poetry Month. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. In case of non-kite-flying weather we’ll celebrate spring and kites inside with stories and poems and kite cake and other refreshments. Open to all ages.

Art Exhibit and Talk
During April and May, Tom Musco will exhibit Japanese prints from the classical period (mid-18th century). On April 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the library, Tom will discuss the prints in the exhibit and how they relate to and reflect the metropolitan culture of Edo (Tokyo) during that time, when it was the world’s largest city and totally isolated from Western culture. This free program is sponsored by the Friends, who will provide refreshments.

Stephen Chase Contracting
Restoration and Preservation Services
Royalston
978-249-0358
MA Construction Supervisor #044817
EPA Lead Safe Certified #NAT-58592-2

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. No class on the town election day - April 4.

Yoga Classes Resume
On Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning March 10 at the Town Hall, student teacher, Janet Betey, will teach a new yoga class, ‘Blissful Yoga.’ On Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning on March 28, Janice Doubleday 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.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult fiction
- Barton, Fiona: The Widow
- Baume, Sara: Spill Summer Falter Wither
- Beaton, M.C.: Death of a Nurse
- Benjamin, Melanie: The Swans of Fifth Avenue
- Binchy, Maeve: A Few of the Girls
- Box, C.J.: Off the Grid
- Brundage, Elizabeth: All Things Cease to Appear
- Chevalier, Tracy: At the Edge of the Orchard
- Cussler, Clive: The Abundance
- Deaver, Jeffery: The Steel Kiss
- Dillard, Annie: She’s Not There
- Fielding, Joy: The Waters of Eternal Youth
- Greaney, Mark: Back Blast
- Leon, Donna: The Passenger
- Macomber, Debbie: Rain Dogs
- Mckinly, Adrian: Girl in the Dark
- Pavone, Chris: The Travelers

Adult nonfiction
- Burk, John: Massachusetts Trail Guide
- Castaldo, Nancy: The Story of Seeds
- Cooks Country: Cook it in Cast Iron
- Damour, Lisa: Untangled
- Mayer, Jane: Dark Money
- Wilson, Edward: Half-Earth

DVDs: Carol, Classical Stretch, Aging Backwards, Creed (DVD & Blu-Ray), The Danish Girl, The Good Dinosaur (DVD & Blu-Ray), The Matrix Triple Feature (Blu-Ray), Miss You Already, Open Season (DVD & Blu-Ray), The Peanuts Movie, Poldark, Room, The Quick and the Dead, Skin, Spotlight, Steve Jobs (DVD & Blu-Ray), The Trip to Bountiful, and Trumbo

Children’s Book Review
Haley Dilg
Dewey the Library Cat: a True Story by Vicki Myron and Bret Witter
I like Dewey the Library Cat because of the boy. He is kind when he found Dewey and because he likes animals. That is why I like Dewey the Library Cat!!!

ed. note: Read/ experienced any good media lately? Write a review; leave it at the library; and most likely it will be published in the RCN!

Young Adult Fiction/Nonfiction
- Higgins, Nadia: Feminism 3.0
- Wittenstein, Vicki: Reproductive Rights

Children’s Fiction
- Ahlberg, Jessica: Fairy Tales for Mr. Barker
- Brown, Margaret: The Dead Bird
- Buckley, Michael: The Fairy Tale Detectives
- DelaPina, Matt: Last Stop on Market Street
- Gottesfeld, Jeff: The Tree in the Courtyard
- Hale, Shannon: The Princess in Black and the Hungry Bunny Horde
- Henkes, Kevin: When Spring Comes
- Hunter, Anne: Cricket Song
- Kelly, Erin: The Land of Forgotten Girls
- Long, Matty: Super Happy Magic Forest
- Martin, Bill: Listen to our World
- McClintock, Barbara: Emma and Julia Love Ballet
- Neri, Greg: Tru and Nelle
- Park, Linda Sue: Yaks Yak
- Peirce, Lincoln: Big Nate Blasts Off
- Pinfold, Levi: Greenling
- Stead, Philip: Ideas are all Around
- Stiefvater, Maggie: Hunted
- Vernon, Ursula: Hamster Princess 2
- Yolen, Jane: What to do with a Box

CDs:
- Raitt, Bonnie: Dig in Deep

Audio Books:
- Fink, Joseph: Welcome to Night Vale
- Halverson, Sere: All the Winters After
- Hurwitz, Gregg: Orphan X

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.
Royalston Historical Society

The annual Pot Luck Supper and Meeting of the Royalston Historical Society will be held on April 15. The supper will start at 6:30 followed by the meeting. This will take place at the home of Peter Krania on the corner of Winchendon and Stone Roads. We will discuss the work on the building as well as future projects. Pierre Humblet will continue his talk on homes of the Common. All are invited to participate. If you have a piece of family history you would like to show us; bring it to the meeting. Also, any donations of objects will be accepted. Thank you to those who have donated items to the Society. Our fund raising drive is on-going.

Watch for these upcoming society events:

Jazz in the Ballroom, 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 Krania 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, a visit to the Pelham Historical Society to gawk at its recent restoration and ponder the influence of Daniel Shays, 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 15) to get involved and bring these possible events to the fore.

Recipe of the month:
Gary Winitzer’s tasty submission—perfect for a local food supper?

GARY’S VEGETABLE BAKE
3 cups green beans, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 cup chopped onion
3 cups broccoli florets
1 cup sliced mushrooms

2 tablespoons butter or margarine
2 medium cloves garlic minced
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1 1/4 cups milk
4 ounces cheese, cut up

1/2 cup bread crumbs
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

In a large saucepan bring 2 cups water to boiling. Add beans, onion and broccoli. Simmer, covered, for 5 minutes. Drain well.

Meanwhile, for sauce, in a small saucepan combine 2 tablespoons butter or margarine and garlic. Heat until butter is melted. Stir in flour, salt, nutmeg, and pepper. Add milk all at once. Cook and stir till thickened and bubbly. Stir in cheese till melted. Stir sauce into vegetable mixture. Turn into a 2-quart casserole. Bake, uncovered, in a 350° oven for 30 minutes.

In a bowl toss together bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, and 2 tablespoons melted butter or margarine. Sprinkle over casserole. Bake, uncovered, 20 to 30 minutes more or until heated through.

The hubbub of Royalston’s 250th celebration has wound down, but the effort to document our roots goes on. Jessica Trask is plugging away collecting oral histories and there is talk of a guided story slam next winter to pull together stories as well. The Lillie Dobson family didn’t wait. They independently wrote down her story from 1921 to now and have shared it with the historical society. It will run as a serial in the next few Royalston Community Newsletters.

The Story of Lillie Dobson

It cost ten dollars - the doctor charged ten dollars to Mrs. Kirkman, only because she was giving birth to twins. By horse and buggy the doctor came and delivered Lillie Kirkman Dobson and Ralph Kirkman on February 14th, 1912.

Both of Lillie’s parents had come from Finland to America and did not know English. Her parents had six children altogether, and Lillie was one of only two girls in the family. They all resided on Neale Farm in Royalston, Massachusetts, next to their beloved Mrs. Neale. Bertha Neale was a retired school teacher. It was she who had changed Lillie’s family name to Kirkman because the Finnish name was too hard to pronounce. Mrs. Neale also made the cherished chocolate cake with white frosting for the twin’s birthday every year. The cake spiked jealously among their siblings who wondered why they never got a special cake, and Lillie would reply, “because you are not a twin.”

Throughout her childhood, Lillie and her family would find innovative ways to make do with what they had. For instance, they would go pick blueberries and then sell them to buy school clothes. What wasn’t bough for clothing was made out of colorful grain bags. This is extremely different from childhood today in America because now most people don’t have their clothes made by their mothers. There may be an occasional sweater from a grandmother, but to resort to grain bags and sewing would be extremely unlikely. Lillie’s family also had a sauna; this sauna was the only place they could bathe because they had no running water or electricity. In wintertime, Lillie would follow her siblings’ footsteps to the sauna because they did not shovel snow away then. No electricity, heat or running water and the bathrooms were located outside the house.

Christmastime was very much different from Christmas today. Now, we would have stockings filled with candy and little trinkets. Presents of all sizes stack high under a tree. On Christmas, Lillie and her siblings got oranges and other fruit. They did have a Christmas tree though, and it was set up with all the candles on the branches.

Next month, find out what happens when Lillie, at age 16, moves from her home in South Royalston to New York City to work as a nanny.

Pipeline Boogie

Dance party with Trailer Park at the The Montague Retreat. Fundraiser supports the Town of Montague’s ongoing intervention in the Berkshire Gas DPU proceeding; and also benefit the Pipeline Awareness Network. Snack hearty on pizza, salad, and vegan chili from Hillside Organic Catering, which is co-sponsoring this event.

$20 suggested donation Questions? BG-Intervention@comcast.net

Sandra Maillet’s Band: The Obsession hosts Open Mic at Windchendon Rod and Gun Club

It is time for open mic night at the Rod and Gun Club in Windchendon on April 2nd, Saturday 8pm till 12 midnight. Once again The Obsession Band is playing/hosting open mic. Last month, it was a great success and the band looks forward to another awesome night.
Royall Descendant Cautions Against Forgetting History
Excerpted from the Harvard Crimson
Claire E. Parker, March 24, 2016

Controversy erupted this year over Harvard Law School’s seal, which featured the crest of the once-slaveholding Royall family. The seal went largely unchallenged until last semester, when a student group called Royall Must Fall began calling loudly for its removal, arguing that its associations with slavery created an inhospitable environment for minorities at the Law School. Their calls provoked intense deliberation in the following months about the seal’s future, ultimately culminating in the Harvard Corporation granting the school permission to remove the crest. The Law School is now physically eradicating all traces of it.

The controversial seal of Harvard Law School features the crest of the Royall family, which once owned slaves. The crest, which consists of three sheaves of wheat set against a blue background, represented the family of Isaac Royall, Jr., a prominent 18th century Massachusetts slaveowner who helped endow the first law professorship at Harvard. The Law School did not adopt the crest as its symbol, however, until the 1930s, and the seal did not gain widespread use until the school intensified branding efforts in the 1990s.

A descendant of Isaac Royall, Jr.’s, eight generations later, grew up with the story of his contribution to Harvard, and knew about the crest’s link to her family and its slaves. “Sixty-five-year-old global health consultant Julia Royall, who now lives in Seattle, recalled learning her family history as a child... she has remained active in preserving her family’s history... For many years, she served on the board of the family’s old estate—the Royall House and Slave Quarters—which the Daughters of the American Revolution converted into a museum at the turn of the 20th century. The family’s slaveholding legacy figures prominently into the museum’s programming; staff give tours of the slave quarters and discuss in length the injustices of slavery.

The director of the Royall House and slavequarters, Peter Gittleman, strongly believes that removing the seal does not change the Royall story. He worries, however, that institutional memory is short and subsequent generations of Law students could forget the school’s connection to the prominent slaveholding family. “The fact is it makes no difference to us whether the Royalls’ sheaves of wheat are on the seal or not,” Gittleman said, “But we would love to make sure that every generation of Harvard Law students understands where the Royall money came from.”

Julia Royall reiterated that her family’s story must persist, but said she approves of the crest’s removal and the activism surrounding it. “This stuff is important and near and dear to my heart,” she said, pointing to her work promoting African leadership in Africa and countering racism in the United States. However, she sees the seal change—as well as similar name changes—as constructive only if their impact transcends symbolism and history and propels substantive progress on larger racial issues... “I think the impact of the shield is symbolic. The challenge is to make it more than that,” she said. “The challenge is to make it animate the struggle to move forward on leveling the playing field. My hope is people will change, and it will ignite present Law students and faculty with a new bit of fire about doing the right thing.”

Obituary
Amanda Smith, daughter of Daniel (stepfather) and Debra (Budano) Simmington of West Royalston, and Charles “Skeeter” Smith of Warwick, MA, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2016 at UMASS Memorial Medical Center, 55 Lake Ave. North, Worcester, after a brief illness surrounded by her family. She was born at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, MA, and resided in Hull, MA, near Nantasket Beach until the age of four before moving to and growing up in Royalston.

Amanda is survived by her parents; her sister Jessica Smith and Travis and their daughter Kassidy of Athol; her three children: Ayden (10 yrs.), Lillian (7 yrs. April 1st) and their father Billy Ellis of Tully, and Haley (2 yrs.) and her father Cory Silva of Orange. Amanda was predeceased by her sister Amber Simmington in a tragic accident on September 13, 2013. She also leaves behind many aunts, great aunts, uncles and cousins throughout the states: Patrick and Karen, Kathy and Jim, Bobby, and Bernice on her mother’s side; Donna and Carl, Lynn and Charlie, Sue and Dennis, Jackie, Demity, and Betty on her father’s side; and Bill, Bob and Kitty and Larry and Cathey on her step father’s side; Many cousins- the children of these aunts and uncles.

Her father Skeeter fondly recalls Amanda’s smiles and laughs and the way her eyes lit up when he took her to special places. He especially enjoyed her singing to him, “Daddy’s Hands” . She walked her own path in this world with an adventurous, self-willed spirit. She loved her family, especially her three children and took great pride in Ayden’s athletic ability in little league baseball and football; Lilly’s sweet nature and great big hugs; and little Haley’s innocent charm. Her children were her world – first and foremost; teaching them, loving them, and taking them on day –trips to expand their awareness and imagination of the world around them. Amanda was out-going, enjoyed the music of today, talks with her sister Jess, time with her dad Skeeter, and midnight shopping on Black Fridays with Jess, Amber, and Mom. She also helped Dan and Mom with Amber’s scholarship meetings and car shows. She also enjoyed the early morning yard sales at her home with Jess, Amber, Mom and Dan; and holding cook-outs for family and friends. Her aunt Lynn recalls how helpful Amanda was to her and her family in Plymouth, MA when she went to visit.

Amanda will be missed by all, as well as her co-workers at MBW in Orange, MA where she was an excellent employee for twelve years. She was a workaholic and a virtual ‘Girl-Friday’ who could be called upon to fill or assist in practically any position on a moment’s notice. Amanda loved helping people and always strived to be both an example and an encouragement to all who knew her, both on the job and in her personal life.

North Quabbin Garden Club
Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m.
Iceland Travelogue with Debbie Kent
Club member, Debbie Kent, will share photos taken on her trip to Iceland in June into July of 2015. She and her sister flew into Keflavik and trekked from the capital, Reykjavik, north to Stikkisholmur, further north to Akureyri, then south to the beautiful agricultural area around Helia and the black sand back at Vik. They were particularly impressed with the botanical garden in Akureyri featuring subarctic flora. See what 24 hours of daylight can be like.
Community School News

Thanks! We would like to thank everyone that supported the Chet Hall Memorial Scholarship Breakfast on March 19 by attending, donating or spreading the word. The event was very successful because of everyone’s support. We are so fortunate to be a part of such a caring community.

The Chet Hall Scholarship Committee

Upcoming Events:
MCAS DATES for ELA - March 28 - April 8
Kindergarten Registration at Royalston Community School, Pleasant St. or Sanders St. Schools
April 1 - April 15 from 8:30 - 3:00pm
Please bring, original birth certificate, certificate of immunizations, copy of recent physical, proof of residency (tax bill, utility bill, cable bill, lease agreement)
Child must be 5 years of age before September 1, 2016
April 15 *Hug-A-Tree Program for K-3
April Vacation - April 18 - April 22 * NO SCHOOL*
April 25 - Caring for Kids Dental Program
April 27 - 1/2 day
April 28 & April 29 *Kindergarten Screening (appointments made at registration)

Good News
Congratulations to Isiac Paulino, RCS 6th grader, who recently came in 1st place in New England in the New England Youth Wrestling novice division tournament.

Also, break a leg Mason Mello, who is appearing in the Theater at the Mount’s production of “How I Became a Pirate.”

What’s happening at the Village School
Rise Richardson, director

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

Anna Hendricks taught dance and movement for a weeklong residency at the Village School, thanks to a STAR Residency grant from the Mass Cultural Council. Thank you to everyone for letting the school use the upstairs Town Hall for dance classes, a wonderful space with room for children to move. All students were engaged in learning dance moves and choreographing their own dances, and it culminated in a dance performance for parents and including parents!

April 10 3-5 p.m. Village School Student Art Show Opening at the Gardner Ale House. Come enjoy the art work and light refreshments. The art show will be up until Mother’s Day.

This month, classes are visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham. And if on a warm sunny day, you see a big circle of children on the front lawn of the school with teddy bears in their laps, then you have chanced upon the annual Teddy Bear picnic, when all the children bring teddy bears, sing teddy bear songs and go on a bear hunt! On Tuesday April 26, Biodiversity Day, each class visits a local habitat and surveys the flora and fauna in that habitat. One class will go to Lawrence Brook, another class to the Camp Caravan pond, and other classes will visit the woods. The classes visit the same habitats each year and keep a log of the species of plants and animals that they find. They record observations with drawings. Results are displayed in the hallway.

Save the date:
Friday May 20 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. An Original Play, written and performed by the Village School 4th-6th Players at the Royalston Town Hall, based on this year’s theme of Ancient Greece. Free

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
June 4th from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults $6 Children $3 Organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Auction and Breakfast will benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan.
Friends of the Library have goodies and plants for sale at the Post Office.
The program of events will include a tag sale, the Millers River Morris Men, Live Birds of Prey Program (sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council) , a Cake Walk for Children and lots more.

Royalston General Store
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Summer Programs for Children at the Village School
Go to www.villageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from June 27 to July 23, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, Science, Art and Nature, ages 7 and up, and Woodworking with Kids, ages 7 and up. Royalston families are subsidized, courtesy of Royalston Academy.
April is for Poetry...
or at least doggerel

A little madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King.
-Emily Dickinson

Spring is not the best of seasons.
Cold and flu are two good reasons:
wind and rain and other sorrow,
warm today and cold tomorrow.
~Author Unknown

I want to do to you what spring does with the cherry trees. ~Pablo Neruda

For sale:
Oster TurboConvection Toaster Oven, almost new. 1400 watts. Oven dimensions: 11”w x 12”D x 6.5”H $10.00 978-249-9633

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

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 - Fertilize by the load or by the bag from Black Horse Farm (978) 249-9880 or (413) 336-1263 or email suzannagaits@gmail.com

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


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

Royalston Community Newsletter April 2016 Page 9

There are no days in the whole round year more delicious than those which often come to us in the latter half of April.... The sun trembles in his own soft raps.... The grass in the meadow seems all to have grown green since yesterday.... though there is warmth enough for a sense of luxury, there is coolness enough for exertion. ~ Thomas Wentworth Higginson, “April Days,” 1861

Desktop Computer Give Away at the Library
The library is having a drawing for an HP Pavillion p62016 PC with Intel Pentium G620 processor, 6 GP 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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Is wholesome even for the King.
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Cold and flu are two good reasons:
wind and rain and other sorrow,
warm today and cold tomorrow.
~Author Unknown

I want to do to you what spring does with the cherry trees. ~Pablo Neruda

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

Horse Board: Closed shed w. turnout available in Royalston at Black Horse Farm for one or two horses. $300 monthly per horse, advance pay discounts available - secure space, arena, nearby trails. 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 brguiney@wildblue.net.

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

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


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

Free:

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

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


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HP OfficeJet v40 all in one printer/fax/printer/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.

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Garden Notes  March 20, 2016

Winter did not wind down; it was never wound up. The balmy days earlier this month cried out for garden activity. I planted some peas, spinach, and lettuce on the eleventh; last year the maple season had hardly begun. Sap flow was plentiful, syrup less so, what with the ratio of water to syrup approaching 40:1 (it’s been closer to 30:1 the last several years). A more-than-generous wood supply remains, lessening demands for next year. With so little snow there was a paucity of moisture in the ground. No moisture, no mud; it was a historically benign mud season.

Other signs of ‘the winter that wasn’t’: taps were pulled from the maples on the eleventh; last year the maple season had hardly begun. Sap flow was plentiful, syrup less so, what with the ratio of water to syrup approaching 40:1 (it’s been closer to 30:1 the last several years). A more-than-generous wood supply remains, lessening demands for next year. With so little snow there was a paucity of moisture in the ground. No moisture, no mud; it was a historically benign mud season.

The mulch was pushed aside from the garlic. 518 bulbs planted; 518 plants up. Chives and perennial scallions have already been harvested. Regretfully, the harvest was undertaken by our steer, the fence around the pasture no more secure than the porcine-friendly entrance to the basement. Almost no other signs of life in the garden. Of the dozen or so annual flowers and herbs that self-seed, only larkspur and chervil have appeared. The red shoots of rhubarb have barely broken the surface, but broken the surface they have. As predicted, the spinach beds, when uncovered, yielded nothing in the way of spinach. Clearly, some fundamental changes are necessary. Kate Collins and George Northrop seem to have gotten it right: all their spinach is up and thriving. It was planted in October (mine is planted in August and September). It is unnecessary for them to remove the mulch; none was applied. My goal has always been to ‘double-dip’, securing a fall harvest but ensured themselves one in the upcoming weeks.

Tree pruning has commenced, but at a leisurely pace, limiting myself at the moment to whatever is reachable from the ground. Shortly, however, I’ll need to haul out the six-foot step ladder and shortly thereafter the eight-foot step ladder and shortly thereafter the ten-foot apple ladder and shortly thereafter the nimble and youthful number-four son, who will scale the heights and deal with the treetops (all of this being undertaken with the knowledge that we may likely experience an apple-free season). It is no surprise that commercial orchards have converted to semi-dwarf (even dwarf) trees. Peach pruning is an easier task, the trees being much shorter in stature. There is one basic rule: cut back one-third to one-half of last season’s growth (again, undertaken with the knowledge that we’ve been bereft of peaches for two years in a row).

April is akin to spring training in the world of gardening (at least in the world of gardening as practiced in Royalston), a few tasks to limber us up for the crunch in May. Peas and spinach and lettuce will be planted again (this time with every expectation of success), potatoes will be dropped into the ground, parsnips will be eaten (chive covered, steer permitting). Larry Siegel

Postscript, March 21: An inch or two of snow overnight (this qualifies as a ‘storm’). It is but a blip, of course, but a blip nonetheless.

Post-postscript, March 22: Snow? What snow?

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, MA

April 1st: When Bird Feeders Become Bear Feeders

Jon Hardie

The Bears are out and about - Bird feeders are being damaged and destroyed as we speak. Learn more at http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/fish-wildlife-plants/mammals/black-bear-mass.html

April 1st is when we typically begin to see bears coming out of hibernation - pretty hungry. Bears can smell bird seed in feeders SEVERAL MILES AWAY, and have an excellent memory for who has feeders out, as well as bee hives and honey. If you leave your feeders out, you are exposing everyone in your neighborhood to bear visits. Be a good neighbor and bring in your feeders and outside cans with birdseed.

From Mass Fish & Wildlife

“Co-existing with Black Bears in Massachusetts: Keep the “wild” in “wildlife”. Never deliberately feed bears to attract them to your property. Bears which become accustomed to humans and dependent on human-associated foods are likely to cause property damage and become a nuisance. The bear is then placed in jeopardy if you or your neighbors become afraid of it or seek to protect property. Some towns may have municipal laws which prohibit the feeding of certain wildlife.”
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Wildlife Sightings

The timberdoodles are back. Maureen Blasco reported spotting an American Woodcock “walking like it was drunk”. It turns out, it just may have been herding worms. According to Audubon.org, woodcocks “sometimes perform an odd rocking motion...; possibly the vibration from this will disturb earthworms into moving; it has been suggested that the woodcock can hear sounds of creatures moving underground.” This is useful since its diet is mostly worms. The extra long beak is to dig for food.

Mainly, woodcocks’ coloration is effective camouflage, which is very important since they live on the ground among many predators. Even the the vulnerable chicks are born in nests made of old leaves in brushy woods. Luckily, they are famously hard to spot.

In spring, however, the male comes out of hiding in a big way, and it is common to observe this impressive phenomenon in Royalston. Like a woodcock hen, listen for a “bwamp” buzz of a call in the dawn or dusk to glimpse the woodcock’s famous mating flight. The male spirals 100 feet into the air making garglely chirps and wing whistles and then plummets erratically back to nearly the exact spot he took off from and repeats this swaggering spectacle several times. If this attracts a female, the pair is likely to mate and then go separate ways.

Woodcocks are closely related to the sandpiper but are marooned inland and so have adapted accordingly and (to those given to anthropomorphizing) rather charmingly.

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

Royalston Resident
Star Route 80
Royalston MA 01368

Royalston Roadside Clean up
April 30, 2016
9:00 to 12:00
Bullock Park – Checkpoint Charlie
Contact Charlie Scribner

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Submission deadline for May issue: April 21

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E-mail: chasegos2@gmail.com
Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368
Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
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In person: Drop off at library

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