

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2005



Volume VIII, Issue II

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PHINEHAS S. NEWTON LIBRARY, ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Virginia Moore, Lillian Bachelder, Jim & Pat Kelley, George Bodman and Bill & Lian Cutting have paid membership dues to the Friends of the Library since our last issue. Thanks for supporting the Library and the Friends.. In the coming weeks, a Friends of the Library membership appeal will be sent to Royalston residents. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Contributions improve library services, pay for this newsletter, and facilitate an impressive assortment of local enrichment events.

Calendar of Events

March 1 Tuesday
Last day for candidates to withdraw from the Town election

March 3 Thursday
3:30 p.m. **Friends of Library monthly meeting** at library. Discuss library support, upcoming newsletter, events such as the upcoming slide show, contra dance and improv comedy workshop, as well as pressing need for fundraisers.

March 4 Friday
7:30 p.m. **Slide Show and Reception** with local naturalist Noah Siegel at the library. Beautiful slides and chances to ask questions about photography, local natural history, and the creation of the "Natural Treasures of Royalston Poster". Refreshments.

March 8 Tuesday
6:30 p.m. **RCS Parent Teacher Group Meeting**

7:30 p.m. **Candidates' Night** at RCS cafeteria. An opportunity to hear the goals of the candidates for Selectman and School Committee. Voters will have opportunities to ask respectful questions. Sponored by RCS PTG.

March 9 Wednesday
noon early dismissal ARRSD elementary schools.
5 – 9 p.m. **Monty Tech Open House** Spaghetti supper from 5-6:30 p.m.; ice cream social 6 p.m.

10 March Thursday
4:10 a.m. **New Worm Moon**

March 10,17,24,31 Thursday
3:30-4:30 p.m. **Cross Culture Club** at the library; learn about foreign lands and cultures from experts. Japan, Argentina, Poland and India. Geared to kids but all welcome. Pre-registration helpful.

March 13 Sunday
2:00 to 4:00 p.m. **The Village School (on the Common in Royalston) Open House.** Visit the school, meet with the teachers, and talk to current students and their parents. Curriculum presentations and art, musical games, and hands-on science activities .

2:00 p.m **Pitch Tournament** at Royalston Fish and Game Club.

March 14 Monday
7:00 p.m. **"Voices of Faith"** by special demand this Christian choir of dynamic youth will be returning to Royalston for their 4th consecutive year. Sponsored by the Congregational Churches.

March 15 Tuesday
2:00–4:00 pm and 7:00–8:00pm **Voter registration** at Whitney Hall. Citizens must be registered to vote in Royalston to vote at the upcoming town elections..

March 20 Sunday **Palm Sunday**
7:33 a.m. **Vernal Equinox – First Day of Spring**

March 22 Tuesday **Indian (Saka) New Year 1927**
No School ARRSD. Professional Development Day

March 23 Wednesday
6:30 - 8:00 p.m **Beginning Yoga Class** at the Town Hall with Brandy Lefsyk of Om Yoga. Sponsored by the Friends of Library

24 March Thursday
Noon dismissal at Monty Tech for NEASC Accreditation

25 March Friday **Good Friday**
No classes at Monty Tech
3:58 p.m. **Full Worm Moon**

March 26 Saturday
10:00 a.m. **Easter Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting** at the Town Hall and on the Common. Bring a basket or other container to put your eggs in. Rain or shine.

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Rabies Clinic** at the Royalston Fire Station; you may also be able to obtain your 2005 – 06 dog licenses, your current licenses expire 31 March 2005. You can also obtain new ones on Tuesday evenings at Whitney Hall.

March 27 Sunday **Easter Sunday**

April 1 Friday
7:00-9:00 p.m. **Dance of Fools Family Contra Dance** at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. (optional public potluck supper beforehand at 6:00 p.m.) Free.

April 4 Tuesday
10:00 am to 8:00 pm **Town elections**, Precinct I – Town Hall on the Common. Precinct II – Whitney Hall in South Royalston.

April 7 Thursday
noon **early dismissal RCS/Talent show dress rehearsal**



Save the Date

April 8

Friday

6:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Supper followed by talent show at

7:00 p.m. at RCS. 120 Club tix and super tix available at 249-2900.

April 16

Saturday

Butterfly Symposium presented by The Mass. Butterfly Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club. North American Butterfly Association president Jeff Glassberg heads the list of speakers and details are at the symposium web site www.butterfly.millersriver.net

April 22

Friday

7:00 p.m.

Ha-Ha Sisterhood Improv Comedy Troupe at

Town Hall. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library with Cultural Council funding.

April 29

Friday

7:30 p.m.

Film Premier, ***Some Mournful Bird***, at the library. Award winning film by Royalston's own Taj Musco with a cameo performance by his dad, Tom. Refreshments. Free. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council

May 6 Friday

7:00 pm – **Annual Town Meeting**, place still to be determined.

May 14

Saturday

7:00 p.m.

Royalston Follies at Town Hall.

Police Reminders

Chief Curtis Deveneau

Vehicle Inspection Time. The last time you went to your motor vehicle inspection station you may have noticed the changes in the process along with the increased fee and computerization of the test. The inspection stations are tied directly into the Registry of Motor Vehicles. This allows the RMV to know who had their vehicles inspected and when. You have seven (7) days to have an inspection completed for a new vehicle and by the end of the month for your current inspection sticker. If you fail to have it inspected, the RMV will suspend your registration, probably without notice. Should your vehicle fail the inspection for emissions you have sixty (60) days to get it fixed and re-inspected. If your vehicle fails for safety reasons, you are not allowed to operate it and must get it repaired immediately. If the RMV suspends your registration and you are stopped by the police, your vehicle will be towed and you will be cited for operating an unregistered motor vehicle which carries a \$100.00 fine. Please have your vehicles inspected.

Red and Blue Lights : While operating your vehicle please make every effort to watch for emergency vehicles responding to emergencies. Some emergency personnel respond in their private vehicle and only display a Red or Blue light. These private vehicles do not have sirens, as it is cost prohibitive. The police department has received a few complaints of motorists not pulling over and granting the right of way to the responder. Please be diligent in looking for these responders and grant them the right of way.

Vehicle By-law Violations : Recently, several notices for by-law violations have been delivered to residents that appear to be in violation. I want to thank those of you that have contacted the police department and are working with us to correct these issues.

Fire Department Welcomes New Pumper



The Royalston Fire Department is delighted to announce the arrival of 26M3, a beautiful, Pierce Pumper, that replaces the "old" Engine 3, which has been a primary response piece for more than 20 years. The Pierce Saber was delivered in the middle of February and firefighters participated in as much as 12 hours of apparatus orientation Saturday and Sunday, February 19 and 20. Pierce Representative Mike Winn went over 26M3 door-by-door, button-by-button, and knob-by-knob. By the time this is published, the new 1,500 gallon-per-minute pumper will have had the low-band radio moved over from the old truck, a new high-band radio installed, and will be in-service, serving not only Royalston, but seven abutting communities.

26M3 was purchased with \$225,000 from the "U.S. Assistance to Firefighters" grant program. The Town of Royalston had originally planned to contribute ten percent, however since the full amount requested was not granted, Royalston had to contribute nearly twice that much and scale back their "wish list" of features on the pumper. Despite the modifications, 26M3 is a rugged piece of apparatus that should serve the Town of Royalston very well for the next 25 or so years.

ERV Fundraising

The arrival of the Town of Royalston Fire Department's new 26M3, while exciting, invigorating and badly needed, does not diminish the importance of the non-profit Royalston Firefighters' Association effort to raise \$100,000 in donations to purchase an equally needed Emergency Rescue Vehicle. Although more than \$75,000 has been brought in through fundraising efforts and generous contributions, ERV's price goes up each and every month, making \$100,000 not enough, and the necessary amount even harder to raise. The Association is hoping benevolent souls will make last-minute donations before the Annual Town Meeting, at which time the F.D. will be requesting some tax dollars in order to make the purchase. **Donations are welcome at any time**, and are tax deductible to the full extent of the tax laws. Donations may be mailed to James M. Putney; 185 North Fitzwilliam; Royalston, MA 01368.

Message from the Town Clerk

Lloyd J LeBlanc

Hello again, it is yet another month and still more is going on. I have some information about our upcoming town elections as well as a few other events to list. Also, please notice that I have added another hour to the office hours; the new times are Every Tuesday evening from 6 – 9pm at Whitney Hall in South Royalston.

Please note that the following table of candidates who are running is tentative, however it is not expected that it will change. At the time I submitted this report to the newsletter, we have not yet certified all the nomination signatures.

2005 Royalston Town Elections

Tentative Ballot (prior to nomination certification)

* indicates incumbent

Position	Term	Candidate
1. Contested seat for Selectman	3 year	Gary Winitzer* Andrew West
2. Town Clerk	2 year	Lloyd LeBlanc *
3. Constable	1 year	
4. Assessor	3 year	
5. Cemetery Commissioner	3 year	John Divoll *
6. Board of Health	3 year	Phil Ledger *
7. Board of Health	1 year	George Vaccari
8. Library Trustee	3 year	Mary Longsworth*
9. Board of Public Welfare	3 year	Wayne Newton *
10. Planning Board	3 year	Wayne Newton *
11. Sewer Commissioner	3 year	Kevin Fabrizio *
12. Sewer Commissioner	2 year	Marie Holmes
13. Trustee of JM Bartlet Fund	1 year	Mary Barclay *
14. Trustee of JM Bartlet Fund	1 year	Wayne Newton *
15. Trustee of JM Bartlet Fund	1 year	Brenda Putney *
16. Trustee of JM Bartlet Fund	1 year	Barbara Richardson*
17. Contested Royalston seat for School Committee	3 year	Vyto Andreliunas * Kelly Newton
18. Contested Athol seats for School Committee (vote for 2 in each contest)	3 year	Karen McNiff* Bruce Hazen* Susan Gatautis
	2 year	Jacqueline Doherty* Brian Paul* Lee Chauvette

Selectman Candidate's Statements

Royalston is fortunate to have two citizens who are willing to take on the responsibilities of the Selectmen's office. In the interest of informed voting, both recently kindly submitted these statements:

Gary Winitzer: I promise to work towards finding practical solutions to all issues". This is what I said two years ago, and this is what I will continue to do if elected for a three year term on Monday, April 4, 2005.

Some of you know what I have done to keep this promise, but it is important to me that everyone knows how I have addressed my responsibilities. I attended every Selectmen's meeting, and on Tuesdays during off weeks, I reviewed and signed the warrant. Often, I helped with filing or covered the office when the Administrative Assistant was out. My regular attendance at Town committee and board meetings is part of my schedule, as is visiting the offices in Whitney Hall. Most of you are aware of the fact that I have consistently represented Royalston's interest at School Committee meetings. In addition, I assisted the Town Clerk in updating the General Bylaws and creating articles for the Town Meeting based on the work of the Bylaw Committee. I initiated the effort to produce new revenue for the Town through the forestry management plan and I assisted in the completion of the grant for reconstruction of Route 32.

Honesty, hard work and properly completing the task at hand, are the principles I learned from my family, and it is the way I still govern my life. Indeed, helping the Board accomplish our duties in a timely, fair manner, consistent with State laws and decisions made by Town meetings is the only way I know how to do the job. My father taught me the value of injecting humor into a serious problem, and my mother still corrects my grammar. Royalston has been my home town for over twenty years; it is where I pay taxes, own my house and have put down roots. As a paramedic, and a member of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad, I learned about and truly know our Town. I have a strong commitment to what happens here. You can trust me to listen well, to act responsibly, to continue to move the Town forward.

My name is **Andrew West**. My wife and I have lived in Royalston for 13 years. We are thrilled that our children are able to grow up in this special place that is Royalston. I have a Masters degree in Business from Nichols College in Dudley, MA. I am currently a Quality Assurance Manager for Honeywell, where I have worked for 18 years.

I am dedicated to investing in the community that I live in. To me, this means more than just paying taxes. Volunteering my time is as essential for me to give as that tax payment. While living in Royalston, I have volunteered my time to both local organizations and town committees. We live in a time of increasing costs and decreasing budgets. I understand the difficult decisions that must be made to balance budgets while keeping essential services. I understand that Royalston's immediate needs must be balanced with its long term planning needs. I have the management, budgetary, and organizational experience to properly address these issues. I can make difficult decisions but also understand when compromise is necessary.

I am dedicated to giving back to my community. I have the management skills that are necessary for this position. I would be honored if you would consider me for your next Selectman.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00am - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm. Thursdays: 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:00noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank You

Ferron Dooley Fairchild for expert work and keeping us laughing
Tom Musco, Jim Kelley, Doreen Sawyer, and Richard Ballon for
donations of movies and books

Jon Hardie for computer troubleshooting

Robert Fairchild for an 8' step ladder donated after he saw the ladder
we use to change light bulbs!

Shannah Lively for help with the card catalog

Benjamin Morris-Siegel for general help

State Aid Approved

The trustees and staff of the library would like to thank the voters at the Special Town Meeting for approving the additional monies for our library budget to be eligible for State Aid. With the increased funds, we were \$22 over the minimum requirements and thus were approved for State Aid. In addition to the additional funds this provides to the library, being certified allows Royalston residents to use any other public library in the Commonwealth, lets the library apply for state grants, and lets us borrow materials from other libraries.

Upcoming Events:

sponsored by the Friends of the Library

Narrated Slide Show and Reception with Noah Siegel

On March 4 at 7:30 p.m., the Friends of the Phinehas S Newton Library present an evening of beautiful slides of the local natural world with self-taught, local photographer and naturalist, Noah Siegel. He recently donated some of his work to a Friends of the Library "Natural Treasures of Royalston" fundraising poster, which will be available that evening for \$5.00. The slides used to make this poster, as well as other intricate shots of local landscapes, fauna, fungi and flora (including many mushrooms, an endangered wood turtle and a rare wild clematis from Tully) will be shown and commented upon. A few slides from the photographer's travels in Labrador, Montana and the Great Smokey Mountains may also be thrown in. Please come to pique your memories of the colors of summer and ask questions about photography, computer layout and/or the local woods. Tuck into refreshments afterwards. The "Natural Treasures of Royalston" poster is also available at the Miller's River Environmental Center, Bruce's Browser, North Quabbin Woods, the Royalston General Store, the Royalston Post Office and the Phinehas S. Newton Library. Free.

Comedy Improv Comes to Royalston

Thanks to the Royalston Cultural Council, we'll be welcoming the Ha-Ha Sisterhood Comedy Improv Troupe for a performance for the whole town on Friday, April 22nd at the Town Hall. And for those who'd like to get in on the act, earlier in the week, Norah Dooley will be running workshops for older children, who will be learning warm up exercises, games and improv forms. This Royalston troupe will be opening for the Ha-Ha Sisterhood on Friday. Watch next month's newsletter for more details or call the library.

Satellite Internet Hook Up is Up and Running

The satellite is installed and the computers are hooked up and functioning. We even have a connection for individuals who want to bring in their own laptop computer. After a somewhat time consuming and bumpy start, the new satellite internet connection is ready for public use. It's not as fast as DSL but at least 10 times faster than 56k. Come try it out. And say thanks to Rebecca Krause-Hardie and Jon Hardie for their "Beyond the Box" contributions, which made this all possible.

Free Beginner Yoga Class

Need to center? Brandy Lefsyk, formerly of Butterworth Rd, is offering a free beginner yoga class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. upstairs in the Town Hall on Weds. March 23. The first 15 minutes will be an explanation and the rest, practice. Mats are provided, but if you have one, bring it.

Cross Culture Club

Thursdays after school in March, learn about other parts of our world right here at the local library. Language, art, food, games, geography, traditions and/or politics are some of the topics that may be addressed by our native presenters. Argentine Tango and Indian curry, the lo down on Japanese bathrooms as well as many other cross cultural treats are planned. It is a club, not a class, so the intent is for kids to have fun while expanding their world view.

March 10	Ruth Suyenega on Japan
March 17	Lily Carra on Argentina
March 23	Jigar and Sona Panchal on India
March 30	Peter Kraniac on Poland

All sessions meet from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Open to all ages. RCS students can take the bus from school to the library. Pre-registration very helpful. Watch kids' backpacks or call the library for more info.

Dance of Fools Family Contra Dance

At 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall on Friday April Fools' Day, join caller Norah Dooley and the No Name Band to sashay, promenade and waltz away the evening. Very family friendly; all welcome. All dances taught. It is really something special to have this traditional dance with traditional live music in a traditional setting all for free. Desserts and coffee provided. Optional pot luck supper preceding at 6:00.

Some of the New Books

Adult Fiction

Abish, Walter. *How German Is It*
 Achebe, Chinua. *Anthills of the Savannah*
 Adams, Glenda. *Longleg*
 Adams, Glenda. *The Hottest Night of the Century*
 Anderson-Dargatz, Gail. *The Cure for Death by Lightning*
 Appelfeld, Aharon. *Badenheim 1939*
 Argueta, Manlio. *One Day of Life*
 Astley, Thea. *The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow*
 Auster, Paul. *Timbuktu: A Novel*
 Bacon, Charlotte. *Lost Geography: A Novel*
 Bail, Murray. *Eucalyptus: A Novel*
 Bainbridge, Beryl. *An Awfully Big Adventure*
 Barker, Pat. *The Man Who Wasn't There*
 Bates, H.E. *Feast of July*
 Bercovitch, Reuben. *Hasen*
 Berne, Suzanne. *A Crime in the Neighborhood*
 Blackwood, Jane. *A Hard Man is Good to Find*
 Boogaard, Oscar van den. *Love's Death*
 Boyle, T. Coraghessan. *The Road to Wellville*
 Brown, Rita Mae. *Cat's Eyewitness*
 Buckley, Fiona. *The Doublet Affair*
 Carey, Peter. *Oscar & Lucinda*
 Cornwell, Bernard. *The Last Kingdom*



Gibson, Rachel. *The Trouble with Valentine's Day*
 James, Eloisa. *Much Ado About You*
 Koontz, Dean. *Frankenstein: Book One, Prodigal Son*
 McCaffrey, Todd. *Dragonsblood*
 Petterson, Richard. *Conviction*
 Wideman, John Edgar. *God's Gym*

Books on Tape

Baldacci, David. *Hour Game*
 Connelly, Michael. *The Narrows*

Books on CD

Haigh, Jennifer. *Baker Towers*

Adult Non-Fiction

Griffin, John. *Black Like Me*.
 Diamond, Jared M. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*
 Graydon, Shari. *In Your Face: The Culture of Beauty and You*
 Hallowell, Edward. *Delivered from Distraction: Getting the Most out of Life with Attention Deficit Disorder*
 Walsh, Peter. *How to Organize Just About Everything*
 Haedrich, Ken. *Pie: 300 Tried-and-True Recipes for Delicious Homemade Pie*
 Chilvers, Ian. *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art & Artists*
 Cicale, Annie. *The Art & Craft of Hand Lettering: Techniques, Projects, Inspiration*
 DeRynck, Patrick (editor). *How to Read a Painting: Lessons from the Old Masters*
 Oliver, Mary. *New and Selected Poems*
 Benski, Stanislaw. *Missing Pieces: Stories*
 Proenneke, Richard. *One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey*
 Peirce, Elizabeth. *The Lost Towns of the Quabbin Valley*
 Hopkins, Roz (ed.). *The Travel Book: A Journey Through Every Country in the World*
 Acroyd, Peter. *Chaucer*

What Teens Read

During Teen Read Week last October, teens voted for their choice of the best new young adult books as part of the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. The top book was the fantasy, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J. K. Rowling, followed by *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini, who was 19 when he wrote this fantasy novel, and then *Pirates!* by Celia Rees, a historical fiction novel. The other books on the list were *Trickster's Choice* by Tamora Pierce, *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke, *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray, *The Goose Girl* by Shannon Hale, *Princess in Pink* by Meg Cabot, *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* by Carolyn Mackler and *Curse of the Blue Tattoo* by L. A. Meyer. The library owns six of these titles and can order the others.

Preschool Story Time Mondays 10:30 - 11:30 at the library

Stories read by Jen Bartkus
 Healthy Snacks
 Play and sharing for kids
 Conversation and company for parents and caregivers
 Free, no registration, drop ins welcome

Funded by the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children

Walk for Multiple Sclerosis

Our dedicated Library Technician, Gina Verrelli, will be walking to benefit Multiple Sclerosis in the 2005 MS Walk on Saturday, April 9th at Burncot High School in Worcester. Gina needs sponsors for this walk to raise funds for research with the hope of finding a cure for MS. Any donations would be appreciated and may be left at the library or you can contact Gina at 249-4397.

What Have You Read Lately?

The newsletter is seeking brief book reviews. Read something you'd recommend recently? Spread the news. Send reviews to chasegos@gis.net or drop at library.

Larry Siegel recommends: *The Best of Sam Pickering*. Pickering writes of the ordinariness of life ("I stayed at the Whole Donut for an hour. Then, I returned to the garage. My car was still on the rack, and so I went to the waiting room.") but does it in such a way as to elevate the ho hum subject to nuanced essay. Pickering reports from Storrs, CT, which makes him a neighbor of sorts. Also, Vermont mystery writer, Archer Mayer, has published his annual addition to the Joe Gunther mystery series, *The Surrogate Thief*. Clearly, Mayer was hesitant to mess with his past successful formula: numerous killings (four), the chase (mercifully brief this time) and the requisite understated roll in the hay with his sweetie Gail. Joe's Travels even bring him to Orange. Can Royalston be far behind?
 Gina Verrelli recommends *Blood and Chocolate* by Annette Curtis Klause, a compelling fast-paced story of a young woman coping with who she is.

Information Sought about Wild Man

Peter Zheutlin of Needham has contacted the library seeking information for a story he is writing for the New England Quarterly.

In the fall of 1895 a "wild man" began terrorizing a farmer named Charles Richardson. Newspaper articles appeared in the Athol and Fitchburg newspapers. Later it was discovered the Richardson himself was the culprit, staging a series of bizarre attacks on himself in an effort to convince his mother to sell the family farm. (Too bad Scooby Doo hadn't been invented yet.) If readers have information about this story, please contact the library.

How to get a Scholarship to College

Tip #1 – Contact local school's guidance office for a complete listing of scholarships. Athol High School, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School and Mount Wachusett Community College all have long lists of scholarships, many of which are open to Royalston residents who were privately, publicly or home-schooled. **Tip #2** – Conduct on-line searches for scholarships. Among the most commonly search sites are: www.scholarship.com, www.fastweb.com, www.college-scholarships.com, www.finaid.org/scholarships ...there are thousands more. Look into organizations that specialize in your interests, such as sports, arts, academics, horses, ham radio, computers, astronomy, books. **Tip #3** – Check out the reference sections at libraries and bookstores. A recommended investment is Ben Kaplan's *How to go to College Almost for Free*; it ultimately led to \$2,500 in scholarships for the Barclay family of NE Fitzwilliam Rd. Kaplan also has a web site, www.scholarshipcoach.com that provides useful information for scholarship seekers.

RCS Poetry Club

My brother is a horse
He is wild
He runs around aimlessly
He eats carrots and apples
He likes to play hide & seek games
Allyna Baker, grade 4

Mary's Violin
Mary, oh, Mary pipe down.
You have kept the whole city
up all night!
I know you got that yesterday
but
I think I'll throw it away
in the dumpster
Derek Bates, grade 1

I am the sun
Shining in the glaring sky
Shining with squigles
on my head
Some hate me
Some love me
Shelby Bronnes, grade 4

Love
What does it feel like?
What does it mean?
It feels like a baby just opening
his eyes.
It is what your mom does for you.
What does it smell like?
How is it done?
It smells like 100 flowers all
blooming today.
You just open your heart
when the time is right.
Tobey Rose Chase, grade 2

Big Brothers- Big Sisters

Big Brothers - Big Sisters of Franklin County is recruiting volunteers in the North Quabbin, including Royalston, to be matched with North Quabbin children. BBBS staff will meet volunteer applicants locally for interviews and other steps in the process. Imagine sharing a favorite interest with a child who enjoys and values your company. Tell yourself you have time. Feel how easy and fun making a difference can be. For information, call Catherine Rogers at 413-772-0915.



Candidates for School Committee

There is a contest for the 3 year term for Royalston member of the ARRSD school committee in the April 4th Town election. Kelly Newton is challenging Vyto Andreliunas. Below are their statements. In addition, on election day, Royalston voters will be asked to vote among 6 candidates for 4 Athol seats. The RCN hopes to run their candidates' statements in the April issue. All available statements will also be available at the candidates' night at the Royalston Community School March 8 at 7:30:

Vyto Andreliunas: This is my chance to say thanks to all for allowing me to serve the district and our school children over the past five years. It has been as rewarding and challenging as anything I have ever done. While public education will continue to grow in complexity and remain in the eye of political debate for years to come, it will be up to us to assure that the children who are served by our system remain as the focus of our attention.

School committees function largely as legislative bodies in determining the shape of policies and budget requests. We are a diverse body and yet tied together in common goals. Over the past four years we've had some real downer moments, particularly with the economy tanking. But the result is, I believe, that we are more focused in our goals, have a stronger leadership organization, and, with our dedicated teaching staff will show real gains in the quality of education which our kids need and deserve.

Kelly Newton: Hello to all Athol/Royalston tax payers and community members. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those who may not know me. My name is Kelly Newton, happily married mother of three, aged 6, 8 and 12 all three of my children are enrolled in the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. I am currently on the Royalston Fire Department as a Fire Fighter/First Responder. I am running for the Royalston seat on the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee. I have a vast variety of interests within the Town of Royalston.

I believe I can bring a fresh, new voice that would be a beneficial addition to the committee. I am a fair, non-controversial individual who would only like to see the right thing done for all involved. I am not an individual who likes to make impulsive decisions. I want to know as much information as possible in regards to the affect the decisions I make will have on many, not on a single entity. My opinion or decision, needs to benefit as many individuals as possible, not just a diminutive number of people. Making irrational, impulsive decisions will not generate a positive impact on the entire community. We all need to feel the benefits as the school committee members must work together. This cooperative spirit is not just for the children, but also for the teachers, the administrators and the community as a whole. The conclusion I have made in regards to the school committee members needing to work together, stems from the irrational actions, that I have either read, heard or seen within the communities in regards to the school committee and decisions made on past and current affairs. Let's not contribute in the same manner for future affairs. With your support on Election Day, I know you will find me to be an asset to both communities.

I look forward to seeing you on March 8, 2005, at 7:30 pm at the Royalston Community School for the Candidates' Night. Please feel free to introduce yourself to me, or call me at 978-249-9252. If you feel the need for change within the school committee, you are the only ones who can make the difference, by voting on April 4, 2005.

Open House at the Village School

The Village School in Royalston is holding an Open House on Sunday, March 13, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Village School serves children from preschool through grade 6 from towns all over the North Quabbin area.

Interested parents and their children are invited to come visit the school, see the classrooms, meet with the teachers, and talk to current students and their parents. There will be curriculum presentations by the classroom teachers, and art projects, musical games, and hands-on science activities for children.

The Village School was founded by a group of local parents in 1989, with a preschool, adding grades as the school grew. Today it serves about 60 students from preschool through grade 6 in mixed age small classes.

People sometimes ask, "what is the Village School about?" Director Rise Richardson responds with, "The idea of *balance* is key. Each child has an intellectual center, a moving center and an emotional center. The moving center wants to move, imitate, work rhythmically. Children need to become confident in the strength and resilience of their body, and enjoy learning new skills, such as tree climbing, bouncing a ball, cross country skiing and so on. The emotional center needs a different food, one that comes from music, story, art, social interaction and playing. The intellectual center needs more than just information; it needs the framework to assimilate information, to make sense of it, and to relate it to experience.

These centers need to develop so that growth is not lopsided, and to work in harmony together, in unity as a whole. To this day, we are continually striving to keep this balance in the learning process for children, at pace with their natural development."

The school is located on the Common in the brick building near the post office. For more information call the school at (978) 249-3505, or visit the school's web site at www.villageschool.to.

Monty Tech News

MCAS REMINDER – Monty Tech will be retesting MCAS math and English language arts March 7-11. A good night's sleep, a nutritious breakfast and positive attitude will go a long way to improving MCAS (or any other) test results.

Monty Tech's annual **Open House** is scheduled for Wednesday March 9, beginning with a spaghetti supper at 5-6:30 p.m. for \$3/person. Special displays, exhibits and presentations are planned. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders considering an education at Monty Tech are strongly encouraged to attend. Administrators, academic and vocational/technical faculty members will be on hand to answer any questions. Foul weather date is Monday, March 14.

The Gallaudet University Northeast Regional Academic Bowl, also known as "**Deaf Bowl**," is planned for March 17, 18 and 19 at Monty Tech. Deaf and hard-of-hearing students from the northeast will participate in a rigorous three days of academic competitions, with winners earning a trip to the National Deaf Bowl at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Contact Monty Tech's Deaf/HOH faculty advisor, Dan Magennis. Royalston welcomes **two new Monty Tech students in town**: junior **April Doucette** of Stone Road, granddaughter of Carolyn Labonte, whose late husband was one of the founding members of the school, and freshman **Jessica Cleveland** of Main Street. These two students bring Royalston's enrollment to 29, the highest in the history of the school. Previously, the highest numbers of Royalston Monty Tech students were in the years 1999 and 1990, with 22 students each of those years. This is the **FINAL MONTH FOR APPLICATIONS** for the 2005-2006 school year at Monty Tech. Completed applications must be in prior to March 31 to be considered in the first round. Many students are vying for just 350 freshman seats; applying does not guarantee admission. Make sure your application is complete and accurate, and verify (before March 31) that it has been received by Monty Tech. Applications are available on the web site at www.montytech.net or by phone request to the guidance office at 978-345-9200 or 978-632-8889 ext. 5235.

Royalston Community School News

Mrs. French, Principal

We have been busy watching groundhogs look for shadows, as well as celebrating another NE Patriots win, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, and Winter Break. It was fun to have the Red Sox trophy and its fans from this community visit. February Students of the Month: Shelby Bronnes, Randy Favreau, and Kelly and Kourtney Frazier

Thanks to the community for its support of recent fundraising efforts. The 2nd grade's homemade valentines raised nearly \$120 to be donated to tsunami victims. In addition, the sixth grade class "McDonalds Night" fundraiser for their Nature's Classroom trip brought in over \$300. Look for pizza and cookie dough sales coming in March.

Upcoming events:

March 1- School Improvement Council meeting 5:00

8- PTG 6:30

Candidates Night 7:30

9- noon dismissal

13- Ice Cats trip

17- Leprechaun Leap

22- No School

RCS Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show

The big spaghetti supper and talent show on April 8 is shaping up. Call the school at 249-2900 if you'd like supper tix (adults \$10, kids \$4) or if you'd like to by a chance on a 120 club raffle. Donated items are needed for the ticket raffle as well. The talent show should be impressive. Already, local kids are getting their acts together in gymnastics, improv comedy, magic and a range of musical (ranging from spirituals to rock and roll) acts. There may also be chess skits, pet tricks, beat poets, belly dancing and tango. There is still time to leap into the limelight. RCS students, alumni, siblings, parents, cousins, friends and other community members are all welcome to participate. Come to perform or come to watch and support the Parent Teacher Group field trip fund. This is dinner and a show not to be missed.



Congratulations and Good News

Got something to crow about? Drop the news by the library or e-mail chasegos@gis.net.

Shannah Lively has been accepted to attend Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT for next fall. She will major in adolescent psychology and receive her Masters Degree after 5 years of school. Shannah was one out of only 100 students admitted under the Early Decision Program. Shannah will also be continuing her basketball career playing for the Wesleyan Lady Cardinals.

Brandon and Brett Jeffery of N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd. are finishing up an impressive wrestling season at Athol High School. This follows a fine performance during their football seasons. Brandon, a senior, won the 2004 Chris O'Brien Memorial Award, which is presented each year by the class of 1962 in honor of a former AHS football player who gave his life in Vietnam. Brett, a sophomore, won the Outstanding Defensive Lineman Award on the J.V. football team.

Congratulations to **Eric D. Smith**, a member of the Royalston Police Department who was recently appointed to fill a full-time slot with the Templeton Police Department. Officer Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from UMass Amherst in December of 2002, and is working towards a Master of Science degree. He is the son of **Cheryl A. Smith** of Royalston.

Hats off to the many participants in the Skills USA/VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) local competition; Royalston students qualifying for the district competition are **Andrew Parnanen** (silver medal - small gas engines), **Slade Lewis** (silver medal - machine technology), **Kayleigh Solomon** (gold medal - promotional bulletin board), **Danielle Gaudet** (silver medal - medical assisting), and **Cotey Basso** (district qualifier - industrial motor controls).

Royalston Community School Grades 4 - 6 Honor Roll: *Straight A's: Cady Boucher. All As and Bs: Sydni Ayers, Allyna Baker, Tyler Benjamin, Ben Boudreau, Shelby Bronnes, Caleb Chase, Garrett Hall, Darion James, Jacob Lajoie, Katie Laney, Ben May, Rebecca Perreault, Joshua Roberts, Amber Simmington, Michele Thompson, Allison Bergquist, Megan Degnan, Tyler Tisdale, Tasey Chartier, Asher Chase, Kourtney Frazier, Dylan Hall, Samantha Hutchins, Nicholas Krasowski and Derek Wheeler*

ed note: Because the deadline fell during school vacation week, ARMS and AHS weren't able to submit their honor rolls. If they are submitted, we'll put them in next month.

Memorial Day Committee

Believe it or not, spring and right on spring's heels, Memorial Day, are just around the corner. If your family, community group or organization would like to assist with the 2005 Memorial Day ceremonies by wreath-making, removing and retiring old flags from one or more cemeteries, marking veterans' graves with new flags, or helping at the annual post-parade pot-luck luncheon, please contact Brenda Putney at 978-249-7787 or bputney@crystal-mtn.com.

7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting

Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m. come to the Common in front of Royalston Town Hall to hunt for plastic eggs filled with candy. After the egg hunt, there will be 20 lbs of chocolate melted and put into candy molds, bagged, and taken home. Bring something to carry the candy in. Remember to put your name on it. Dress for the weather. If it rains, we'll use the 2nd floor of the Town Hall and lots of hay. The plastic eggs will be recycled when the hunt is over. Donations of wrapped candy that can be put in plastic eggs, plastic eggs, or funding to purchase items for this event can be left at the Royalston library or the country store. Call Rene Lake 978-249-4639 for more information.

Ecumenical Lenten Services

in Royalston, Phillipston, Winchendon, Baldwinville and Templeton (Refreshments will be served and offerings of non-perishable food will be taken at the Wednesday evening services.)

March 2, 7:00 p.m. - Our Lady Queen of Heaven of Royalston
Speaker: Deacon Bob Dio

Friday, March 5, 1:30 p.m. - World Day of Prayer
East Templeton United Methodist Church
"Let Our Light Shine" written by women of Poland.

March 9, 7:00 p.m. - First Church of Templeton, The Common, Templeton

March 16, 7:00 p.m. - Holy Cross, Lake Avenue, East Templeton

March 24, 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service, Memorial Congregational Church, Memorial Street, Baldwinville

March 25, 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Healing Service, Second Congregational Church of Royalston

Congregational Easter Services

March 27th - Easter Sunrise Service - (to be announced - call 978-249-9155) On the Common beside the First Congregational Church. Service conducted by Deacon John Divoll. Continental Breakfast will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Easter Morning Worship Services - Rev. Dr. Ginger Asel
9 a.m. - Second Congregational Church of South Royalston
11 a.m. - First Congregational Church in Royalston Center

"Voices of Faith", a dynamic Christian youth choir will be returning to Royalston for their 4th consecutive year on March 14 at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Congregational Churches.



Council on Aging News

The Royalston Luncheon Club meets each Wednesday at the Town Hall at 11:30 a.m. for a meal and conversation. The cost is \$2.00 and reservations may be made with Dorothy Newton (978-249-8882) the Monday prior. A Chinese Auction is held on the first Wednesday, and the Brown Bag Distribution and Blood Pressure Clinic are held on the fourth Wednesday. On March 9th young singers from the Village School will walk over and give a short concert to the Seniors about 11:15 a.m., under the direction of Louise Doud. All are invited! The next scheduled meeting of the COA will be on Thursday, March 10th at 11:00 am at Dorothy Newton's house on Athol Road. For more information, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656

Announcing a new feature in the Royalston Community Newsletter:

Who Are The People In Your Neighborhood?

Melanie Mangum

Each month you can get to know one of the everyday people that live and/or work in Royalston a little better, by way of a few factoids or anecdotes from his or her life. **This month: Sonja Vaccari**, who has lived in Royalston for 13 years with husband Gidge and sons Jan, 17, and Daniel, 15, and is "postmistress" for the town of Royalston.



Paper girls can go anywhere they want with enough ambition:

Delivering papers at age 10 and 11 in Natick, where she grew up, Sonja saved up enough money to send herself to Germany at age 11 to visit relatives. "Whenever I see paper girls around Athol, I silently say 'You go, girl! You can do anything you want.'"

Her artistic creations often pop up at Town Hall. The signs heralding the Town Hall Open Mics on the Common or up on the stage at Town Hall - those are Sonja creations. She also works for Bundschuh Design of Charlestown (Royalston-ite Patience Bundschuh's company), sometimes fulfilling some unusual client requests. One involved creating incredibly unique hats - such as "Rapunzel's Tower", a wine and fruit-themed hat and an octopus - to help guide international guests of wealthy businessmen to the events planned for them. The elaborate hats found new life at the annual Royalston Follies - worn by several local men in a Follies skit.

Somewhere along the line, she's related to Calvin Coolidge. Sonja has done some genealogy research into her family. One of the cool things is that my father's family is Old Yankee, and my ancestors were among the first people to settle (the) Mt. Monadnock (region)."

Life in Royalston? Just about heaven. Sonja was born in Germany and moved to the States around age 1. Growing up in Natick, Sonja always dreamed about living in the country. She gradually got closer and closer to Royalston later in life, when she and her family moved to Berlin and then Princeton. Husband Gidge had a job in Keene, and they wanted to move closer without living in New Hampshire. Princeton was a beautiful town, and the Vaccari's knew "we wanted to go someplace as beautiful - but Royalston is even more so." Does the country life suit her? "I wake up every morning and feel really fortunate to live in such a beautiful place. I'm very lucky."

Cultural Council News

Deb Nunes

Plans for this year's Royalston Follies are underway! This always memorable event will be held on Friday, May 14, 2005, with dress rehearsal the evening before, May 13th. Phil "Legendary" Leger returns as MC, and our very own Royalston Oscars will be awarded for the top three acts. Baked goods are provided by the Council, with beer and wine available for purchase. Tickets cost just \$5.00 and we are always sold out. Look in the next newsletter for details on where to buy your ticket. Want to get in the act? Contact Patience Bundschuh at 978-249-6018.

Royalston Film Premier, Taj Musco's *Some Mournful Bird*

On Friday, April 29 at 7:30 at the library, attend a screening of Taj Musco's film "Some Mournful Bird", which won the Best Actor in a Short Film Award from the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival. <http://www.nyfilmvideo.com/2004/la2004/laawardssep04.htm>

The Royalston premier is sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council. Taj is filming an introduction and director's comments especially for the Royalston screening of his film.

Royalston Community Coop

The February 24 orders will be delivered Thursday, March 3 to the Putney residence, 185 N. Fitzwilliam Rd. The same price list (March, 2005 - blue and white) will be used for the March 24 orders, which will be delivered the morning of Thursday, March 31. There are a limited number of openings for Royalston residents who wish to join the Royalston Community Coop, which is considered a buying club affiliated with United Natural Foods, Inc. of Brattleboro, Vermont.



Recipe of the Month

Sharon Hood, long time resident of Royalston and a new Friends of the Library member offers this recipe. Born in upstate NY, Sharon came to Massachusetts to get a nursing degree. She met Bill Hood, whose own history in Royalston goes back to his great grandparents. They married and settled on Millyard Rd. Sharon has had a long nursing career, including 14 years at Athol Hospital and 28 years at Henry Heywood. She has just retired! This is a recipe Sharon remembers from her childhood:

Irish Freedom Bread

2 cups flour	1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 cup sugar	1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp baking powder	2 eggs
1/2 pint sour cream	1 cup raisins

Sift together all dry ingredients. Add raisins. Beat sour cream and eggs together. Add to dry mixture. Mix well. Bake in a greased loaf pan at 350 for 45 min.

In Your Own Backyard

Jeff Mangum

“What an odd duck!” You may have thought this about someone you know in town, but I was actually thinking this about a duck. It was not long ago, during that arctic January stretch, that I was surprised to see any living thing out and about, let alone a mallard duck splash-splashing in the Tully River.

The day was so cold it felt like everything was either made of ice or was in the process of becoming ice, especially my feet. I wondered what on earth Ms. Mallard was doing on this lonely stretch of unfrozen river, an oasis in the otherwise white, solid world. Why weren't her feet freezing?

Mallard ducks are migratory birds, generally heading to warmer climates for the winter, where there is an ample supply of food. However, Massachusetts is part of their year-round range as well. So it's possible Ms. Mallard is a state resident, and perhaps stopped in Royalston in her diminishing search for open water, where she bobs for aquatic vegetation and insect larva to eat.

Unlike my feet which quickly freeze, mallard feet are capable of swimming icy waters or standing on ice without freezing or causing the duck hypothermia. Since their feet are not protected by feathers or fat, boots or socks, the magic is in their blood circulation. The arteries and veins in their legs and feet are networked together in such a way that heat transfers from the warm outbound arteries to the cool inbound veins. This results in virtually no loss of heat to their environment, keeping their feet above freezing and maintaining their core body temperature. This circulatory design, called rete mirabile (REE-tee mi-RAH-buh-lee) meaning “wonderful net”, is not unique to the mallard, to ducks, or even birds. Other animals share this feature including the arctic fox, moose, seals, and tuna. Humans on the other hand lose heat to the environment because our veins are too far away from our arteries to transfer the heat effectively, making us susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite.

So maybe when the mallard saw me outside on that teeth-chattering day it thought I was the odd one.



Wildlife Sightings

Tuesday February 15: Phil and Carla Rabinowitz saw a **bald eagle** flying west over Athol Road near Doane's Falls.

Royalston Fish & Game Club News

Spring cleaning came early at the Royalston F&G. The large hall ceiling, walls and woodwork have all been painted. The first week in March will see all of the floors done over, all of this just in time for a **pitch tournament** being held Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. Participants must bring their own partners.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

I celebrate my own March Madness, but it doesn't involve basketball. It revolves around the upcoming gardening season. Gardening is justified for a variety of reasons: economic, food quality and physical activity. Underlying it all, however, is the proverbial labor of love.

The principle activity in March is seed starting. Seedlings appreciate light and heat. Greenhouses, even the most primitive, are remarkable in their ability to promote rapid and vigorous growth. On a windowsill, I tend to start seeds earlier than typically recommended. Onions and leeks are seeded in the first few days of March; celery, celeriac and parsley a week later; and peppers a week later than that. Other starts wait until April.

March is not without outdoor activity. It is the rare early spring that does not provide opportunities to get dirt under the fingernails. Often, by the 3rd week of March, I am working in the rhubarb and asparagus beds. Both are long established; they, nonetheless, benefit from weed suppression (it is never weed elimination) and an annual influx of nutrients in some form. My own form is compost, which may or may not have been spiked with manure, combined with wood ashes to sweeten the soil and provide potassium.

Frost is still in the ground, but everyday it frees several inches from its grasp. Parsnips left in the ground last fall taste best now, but it can be a challenge to get the frost hardened ground to release them. These parsnips are the season's first fresh crop.

Frost, or otherwise, late March is a good time to clean up perennial flower beds. Most are herbaceous; they die back to the ground every winter and send up new growth in the spring (sometimes). Now is the time to cut out and remove last year's growth. While you are at it, may as well do some weeding. Witch grass lets you know real early it is around and many other weed emerge long before the actual perennials.. Let the season begin.

Simple Pleasures

Jon Hardie

We didn't have much snow this winter until recently. Then I realized how much I look forward to the simple pleasure, the curiosity, and the excitement of imagining the animal who made those fresh tracks that have crossed my path in the fresh snow. There they are so transient and so informative from hummock - to hollow - to tree. Lately, up in the valley between Prospect Hill and North Fitzwilliam Road after every snowfall, I've been doing A LOT of imagining, seeing the fresh tracks and the huge scat of a pair of moose among the tracks of the fox, coyote, fishercat, squirrels, chipmunks, mice and a dozen birds, and the occasional splash of red where an owl or hawk had found its prey. With their long legs and high-rider gait, moose are well equipped to manage the deep snow. They were making their way up from Lawrence Brook to the seven beaver ponds in the valley.

Their tracks, and this imagining, fills the mind with appreciation that we might have shared the same space for a brief moment. So, enough reality TV, enough computers, enough gratuitous violence and political spin-doctoring, enough digital information overload ... for real simple pleasures, give me those images of digits in the snow.

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FREE RABBIT - Benjamin; With indoor & outdoor cage, 5 years old, grey and white. Includes water & feed dishes & a bag of rabbit pellets. Call Marsha 249-3879

WANTED: Old wooden sash, shutters and doors. Stephen Chase 249-0358



Our Heroine! **Elsie May Jewett** was Royalston librarian from 1928-1973. Incredibly, even though she was the librarian for nearly half a century, there was no photo of her in the library records. Many thanks to her friend, Jean LeRay, for allowing the library to copy this one, so that her valuable service can be properly remembered.

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