

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2005
January 2006



Volume VIII, Issue IV

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



Calendar of Events



December 1

10:01 a.m.
3:30 p.m.
All welcome.

Thursday

New Cold Moon
Friends of the Library meeting at Library.

December 2

Noon
7:00 –10:00 p.m. **Open Mic** at Town Hall

Friday

Early dismissal RCS

December 3

10:00a.m- 6:00pm
Holiday Open House at North Quabbin Woods Showroom (1 East Main Street, Orange MA) Take a gift home from a local artisan. Browse an assortment of locally crafted gifts and furniture, incl. cutting boards, wooden instruments, frames, baskets and more. Get referrals for custom furniture or cabinet designs as well.

Saturday

Holiday Open House at North

December 4

2:00 p.m.
at Town Hall. Pre-registration required. \$5.00 materials fee. Sign up at the Phinehas Newton Library on the Common or call 978-249-3572 for info. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Sunday

Wheat Weaving Workshop with Kathy Morris

December 7

6:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Live Creche at the First Congregational Church
Christmas **Tree lighting** at Town Hall: carol RCS band, singing, cookies & cocoa sponsored by the Cultural Council
Women's Fellowship meets in 2nd Congo. parlor
Royalston Fish & Gun Club meets (Directors: 7 p.m.)

December 8

11:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Thursday

Royalston Council on Aging meets at Dorothy Newton's
Royalston Community Coop orders due

December 9

7:00 p.m.

Friday

'Blue' Christmas Service of healing at 2nd Cong. Church

December 11

11:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m.

Sunday

Royalston Fish & Game Annual Meeting
Royalston F&G Christmas Party for members' kids

December 13

All night
with more than a shooting star per minute originating in the north-eastern skies. The frequency and duration should make up for the nearly full Cold Moon.

Tuesday

Geminid Meteor Shower, continues the 14th,

December 14

7:30 pm.
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Holiday Basket Packing at the Ladies Benevolent Society meeting at the home of Theresa Quinn. We will be packing baskets with home made goods and gifts for Royalston's shut-ins. If you know of someone who might like to receive a basket or if you would like to contribute a home made item, please contact Kim MacPhee at 978-249-0946. Also **election** of LBS officers for 2006. New members welcome .

Open Space Committee Meeting. Public input sought.

December 19

10:15 a.m.

Monday

Holiday storytelling and group singing with Norah Dooley at the Pre-School Story Hour at the Phinehas S Newton Library. Free. Healthy holiday snacks provided. Funded by the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children.

December 17

5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Friday

Christmas Pot Luck Dinner followed by...
Christmas Concert by community singers at 1st Cong.

December 21

1:35 p.m.

Wednesday

Winter Solstice, shortest day of the winter with just 9 hours and four minutes of possible sunlight.

2:00- 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Whitney Hall, **Final Voter Registration Day** to vote in the January 10 State Primary.

3:00 p.m.

Bible Club Caroling Trip, leaves from RCS

December 22

Predawn hours

Thursday

Ursid Meteor Shower, with the Tuttle Comet sending a meteor per minute shooting from the northern sky.

December 23

After school

Friday

School Vacation begins in ARRS D. Classes resume Tuesday January 3.

December 24

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve

Saturday

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve **Candlelight Service** 2nd Cong. Church

December 25

11:00 a.m.

Christmas Day

Hanukkah starts at Sundown and continues 8 days
Christmas Day Service 1st Cong. Church



December 30 Friday
10:12 p.m. **New Wolf Moon**

December 31 Saturday **New Year's Eve**

January 1 Sunday **New Year's Day 2006**
Japanese New Year 2666

January 2 Monday
1:00 p.m. New hours begin at the Phinehas S Newton Library. Beginning today, the library will be open on Mondays from 1 – 8 p.m. with no dinner break for a trial period that runs through March.

January 4 Wednesday
Predawn **Quadrantid Meteor Shower:** Royalston school kids who await busses in the cold and dark may have some good fortune this morning. Dark skies should provide excellent viewing of as many as 80 meteors a minute from the north. Also, **Perihelion** occurs today, at which time the earth is at its closest: just 91,405,956 miles from the sun (give or take a few miles for solar flares.)



11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club** Chinese Auction at Town Hall
7:00 p.m. **Women's Fellowship** meets in 2nd Congo. parlor
7:30 p.m. **Royalston Fish & Gun Club** meets (Directors @ 7 p.m.)

January 5 Thursday
3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Library meeting.** All welcome.
5:00p.m. **Royalston Community Coop** orders due

January 6 Friday
7:00-10:00 p.m. **Open Mic** at Town Hall

January 12 Thursday
Precincts 1 and 2 **State Primary** to determine candidates in State Representative contest to replace Rep. Knuuttila
Noon Early dismissal RCS

7:30 p.m. **OpenSpaceCommittee Meeting.** Public input sought.

January 13 Friday
7:00 p.m. **The documentary, Under Quabbin, will be shown** at the Phinehas S Newton Library. It a look at the underwater search for the remains of four towns drowned 60 years ago when the Swift River Valley was dammed to form the Quabbin Reservoir. Interesting films will be presented the at at the library @7pm on 2nd Friday of the month throughout the winter. Appropriate for all ages.

January 16 Monday **Martin Luther King Day** observed

January 18 Wednesday
2 – 4 p.m. & 7 – 8 p.m. **Final Voter Registration Day** to vote in the February 7 State Election to replace State Representative Knuuttila Register at Whitney Hall.

January 20 Friday
6:30 p.m. **Village Improvement and Historical Society quarterly meeting** and potluck supper at the home of Peter Kraniak on the corner of Stone and Winchendon Rds. Info: 978-249-7625

January 25 Wednesday
11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club,** Blood pressure clinic; Brown Bag distribution at Town Hall

January 29 Sunday
Chinese New Year 4704; Year of the Dog

January 30 Monday
Sunset **Islamic New Year 1427** begins

Fire and EMS News

The Fire & EMS Association held their annual turkey raffle in November and enjoyed a huge turnout of generous supporters. Firefighters, EMTs and first responders turned out in full force selling tickets, toting turkeys, taking money, ladling out steamy chowder or serving beverages. All proceeds have been added to their general fund, which recently turned over nearly \$80,000 to the Town of Royalston to purchase the construction of a brand new Rescue Vehicle. *FD trainings held 2nd Mondays, Rescue Squad trainings 3rd Mondays and Association meetings/ equipment maintenance nights are 4th Mondays at Station #1 on the Common.*

Memorial Day Committee

Flag retirement was conducted on the Common, Saturday, November 19 beginning at 6 p.m. Close to 800 flags that had decorated veterans' graves in years past were respectfully retired, along with more than hundred full-sized American, Commonwealth, State and MIA/POW flags. Thank you to the many people who stopped for a moment, especially those with children, to contemplate or discuss the symbol of our United States.

Thanks DPW!

A resident of Butterworth Road would like to say "thanks" to the highway department for their most timely response to removing two trees that had fallen across the road.

Street Lists are Compiled

Street lists have been completed for the year 2005. They are based on the forms residents returned – and not all forms were returned. Because the new 2006 street list data must be collected in January and February, and be published by April 2006, copies of the 2005 list will be available @ \$2.00 each by advance request and printed only as needed. Contact the Town Clerk. Thanks to Mary Barclay for her volunteer work organizing the returned census forms; it made the job of entering data and producing the street list much easier.



Town Clerk Melanie Mangum with fresh copies of 2005 Street List

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum

It will be a busy start to the new year. Not only will our town elections be held in April, but Royalston will also have a Special State Primary and State Election at the beginning of the year. The following are important dates related to these elections.

SPECIAL STATE ELECTIONS:

The state is looking to fill the State Rep. seat in the 2nd Worcester District held by Brian Knuttila. Royalston is part of the 2nd Worcester District and will take part in a Special State Primary and a Special State Election.

Special State Primary: January 10, 2006. The last day to register to vote or change your party for this election is December 21, 2005:

Special State Election: February 7, 2006. The last day to register to vote or change your party for this election is January 18, 2006.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION: DATES and REMINDERS

Town Election: Monday, April 3, 2006.

Last day to pick up and submit nomination papers for office: **Feb. 13, 2006 no later than 5.p.m.***

Last day to object or withdraw: **March 1, 2006**

Last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election: **March 14, 2006 (voter registration session from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.)**

All mail-in registrations must be postmarked no later than March 14, 2006.

*Nomination papers for open positions will be available at the Town Clerk's Office in Whitney Hall, 5 School St. My office hours are Mondays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. unless otherwise posted. Those wishing to take out papers can also make an appointment by calling 978-249-0493.

For incumbents seeking re-election, you will also need to come to my office to sign blanket nomination papers or call to make an appointment.

Open positions: Selectmen - 3 years; Moderator - 3 years; Town Clerk - 1 year; Constable - 3 years; Assessor - 3 years; Cemetery Commissioner - 3 years; Board of Health - 3 years; Library Trustee - 3 years; Board of Public Welfare - 3 years; Planning Board - 5 years; Sewer Commission-3 years; for the Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund - 4 terms of one year each; Athol/Royalston School Committee- 3 years, Tree Warden.

Special Elections for State Rep

There are 4 candidates running for the position vacated by State Representative Brian Knuttila, who resigned before his term was completed to take a job with the State Department of Prisons. A primary will be held on January 10 to select among the 3 Democratic candidates: Mike Ellis, Bob Rice and Brian McCallum. The only Republican candidate will be listed unopposed. The winners for each party will face each other on a Special Town election to be held on February 7. *Ed note: Certainly, the RCN favors no candidate, but Mr McCallum phoned the RCN to offer his services to Royalston voters citing his small town experience and his phone # 978-386-5591 for those seeking more info.*

Board of Health Update

Phil Leger

New recycling bins are available for sale at the transfer station for \$7.00. These are 18 gallon size; see Charlie. We have received a bid for compactor service for trash removal. It includes the cement pad set up. It will be reviewed at the next BOH meeting. Transfer station will be open regular hours through the holidays. These are Friday 1-4pm and Saturday 8am-2pm. Telephone number for the transfer station is 978-249-6220. Gift wrap unless it is plain paper is not recyclable. Remember to break down the cardboard boxes before depositing them in the roll offs.

Conservation Commission Seeks New Members

The ConCom is looking for two new members. This commission meets every 2nd Tuesday at Town Hall. Call George Northrop at 978-249-4407 for more information.

Open Space Committee News

Kim MacPhee

When you open your property tax bills next month (ouch!) you will find a present from the Open Space Committee – a brochure describing options and incentives for property owners who are interested in conserving the values of their land. This brochure was researched and designed specifically for our town by Committee member Elizabeth Farnsworth. The brochure contains brief descriptions of available options, including the Chapter 61 and Agricultural Preservation Restriction programs, Conservation and Deed Restrictions, land trust as well as other agency contact information and helpful web sites. Many of the land protection strategies described in the brochure make good financial sense, providing tax benefits and other advantages. We hope you find the information helpful. *The Committee thanks Jon and Becky Hardie for funding a portion of the brochure's printing costs.*

On another note, due to several conflicts members had with our regularly scheduled December meeting date, our next meeting will be held on - Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Visit our web site for copies of past meeting minutes and other info – www.royalstonopenspace.org .



Leaves

**Leaves grow on maple trees
Colorful thick rough brown bark
Owls go in and out**

RCS Poetry Club Group 1: Derek, Kiley, Allisyn, Alyana, Anna and Kadasia

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, 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

Alan Bowers for donating the newest volume in his *On Duty* series

Ashley Berquist for help with the card catalog

Ferron Dooley Fairchild for her endless help with lots of things

Janet Bettey for her wonderful workshop on greeting cards and her donation of a movie.

Benjamin West for helping out by straightening up the books in the young adult and children's room

Becky Divoll, Jim Kelley, Lorraine Casinginho and **Emma O'Connor** for book donations

John Chencharik for fixing our sticky basement lock.

Stephen Chase Contracting for donating materials, and to **Tobey** and **Caleb Chase** for building the new library sandwich board. (Does anyone have any information about the mysterious disappearance of the old sandwich board from the library lawn last August?)

On Duty: Volume 5 Available at the Library

Alan Bowers of Bolton Rd has recently published (and generously donated to the library) his fifth volume in the series of interviews with veterans from the North Quabbin area. This volume features ten veterans whose service spans World War II through the Korean War the "Cold War" and Vietnam. Two of the interviews feature people from Royalston: Viecko Jarvenpaa and Alan and Theresa's son, Bill Bowers. Alan cites Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, and notes that several of the people interviewed are from that era. What he didn't note is that his series of similar stories preceded Brokaw's book. This series of books is an important oral history of veterans from our area, who all have stories to tell. Alan's remarks in the acknowledgment of this volume highlights the importance of making people aware of these stories; these veterans were proud of their service but hope for peaceful solutions to conflict so that others don't have to go to war. The *On Duty* series, including Volume 5, is available at Bruce's Browser in uptown Athol or by calling the author at 978-249-7164.

Free RCN Subscriptions for Military Personnel

Just a reminder that the Friends of the Library send free subscriptions to the Royalston Community Newsletter to any military personnel currently on active duty. This includes former Royalston residents, sons and daughters of residents, and others with strong ties to our town. Please send the complete military mailing address to Royalston Community Newsletter, P.O. Box 133, Royalston or leave the information at the Library. Normally an out-of-town subscription is \$10 per year.

Dishes Looking for their Owners

Did you make a dish and then forget the dish? Dishes were left at the Bundshuh home either after the Ladies Benevolent Society Concert or the Blues Benefit for the Library. The dishes are now at the library and may be picked up during regular hours.

Art Exhibits at the Library

During the month of December local water color artist (and shepherd extraordinaire) Kate Collins will be displaying some of her beautiful paintings at the library. Then during January botanical illustrator (and library substitute) Elizabeth Farnsworth will exhibit several of her fern illustrations most of which are in the new edition of the Peterson Field Guide Series ® *Ferns of Northeastern and Central North America*.

Pottery Program in January

On Friday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall, Rick Hamelin, "The Pied Potter" will present a historical program entitled "Magical Potters Wheel." Hamelin is a potter, who worked at Old Sturbridge Village on the history of Colonial and Early American industries and was involved in archeological digs to learn about the history of Massachusetts potters and brick makers. He has been a potter since 1976 and is committed to learning about the historical Redware potters of Central Massachusetts. With his wife, Garine Arakelian, he has operated Pied Potter Hamelin since 1985 creating Redware and folk pottery. For ten years, Rick has been selected by *Early American Life* as one of America's 100 best craftsmen. His specialty is Redware with an emphasis on 18th and 19th century New England forms. He will give a talk about the history of clay works in New England with emphasis on our local area while he throws four basic shapes and then demonstrates how these basic shapes can be made into different forms found around the world. Each participant will have a chance to make their own pinch pot. This historical, informative, and interactive program is appropriate for all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library with funding from the Royalston Cultural Council.

Documentary Film Series at the Library

During the winter months, beginning on Friday, January 13th, there will be documentary film night on the second Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Films will be shown on the state-of-the-art DVD projection system donated by Henry Felt and Sally Felt. The first film will be the documentary "Under Quabbin" a look at the underwater search for the remains of four towns drowned 60 years ago when the Swift River Valley was dammed to form the Quabbin Reservoir. On February 10th we'll be showing the "Art of the Short Film," a collection of six short films from Australia, India, the United States, Japan and Germany, two of which are animated. In March we'll watch *The Great Flood of 1936*, the Emmy nominated film by Ed Klekowski (the producer of *Under Quabbin*), which uses original film footage and discussions with survivors to relive the worst flood in the Connecticut River Valley in 300 years. Snow dates for each film will be the Sunday following the date at 7:00 p.m.

Shifting and Extended Hours on Mondays

Those of us who work at the library know that if we don't leave exactly at 5:00 p.m. sharp, patrons will stop to borrow materials. We regularly hear the comments that they noticed a car and the lights on, so they stopped; that even though they know we're supposed to be closed, they don't get out of work until 5; and that since we are still here anyway, could they check something out? Well, here's a chance to see how many people really do stop in during the 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. time slot. With the Children's Grant and shifting personnel (and no additional cost to the town), **the library will be open on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. for the months of January, February, and March with no dinner break.** During that time we'll keep track of the number of library users during all time slots to determine the busiest times so that we can then decide whether to change our hours to meet the needs of our users.

Sippin' Saturdays at the Library

Warm up while you browse. Every Saturday in December (and maybe beyond) you can stop by the library and sip on cider, warm coffee, tea, or cocoa while you enjoy your library: browse for books, read a magazine, talk with friends, watch your children play in the children's room, or use the computer.

Library Receives Verizon Grant

The Phinehas S. Newton Library is one of five libraries chosen by Verizon to receive a grant to enhance Information Technology. The \$2,500 award will be used to begin automating the library's collection, produce a brochure detailing the services and resources the library has to offer, and increasing the amount of information on the library's website.

2005 in Review on the Library Website

Remember cross culture club, ice sculpting, contradancing, the summer reading program, matchbook man, or card making? If you participated in a library program in in 2005, there is a good chance your photo is on the library website. Type in www.royalstonlibrary.org and see what the library has been up to this year as well as get information on new library hours and upcoming programs. While there, try out the data base links, which are perfect for school research papers, and add two cents to the message board.

Give Globally :Movie Fines to Benefit the World

Recently, the library and the Friends decided to "Adopt a library" destroyed or damaged after Hurricane Katrina through the American Library Association's program. Unfortunately, many more libraries wanted to adopt than were available in this program, and being small potatoes, Royalston didn't qualify as an adoptive parent. However, after Katrina ,the disasters just kept coming and the Friends group still felt as if it should help somehow. Therefore, during December all monies collected for movie late fees will be donated to Doctors without Borders, a practical group that is not only working in the Hurricane ravaged southern United States but also in Pakistan, India, Sudan, Guatemala, Iraq and wherever there is need. Moreover, the profits from the summer 2005 Royalston Shakespeare Company's Production of "The Tempest." will also be donated, especially since the title of this performance has proved uncomfortably prophetic. Don't feel compelled to run up late fees out of charity though. Contributions to Doctors Without Borders from patrons will be welcomed at the library all month as well.

Pre-School Story Hour welcomes:

Norah Dooley



to the Library for Holiday Storytelling
Monday, December 19th at 10:15am
Please come to hear Norah spin old and new tales
guaranteed to bring holiday cheer.

Songs will be sung and snacks will be served.

Preschool story hour is made possible by a grant from the Athol
Royalston Community Partnership for Children.

Cross Culture Club Forming: Presenters Needed

Cross Culture Club has been held 4 Thursdays in February and March for the past several years at the Phinehas Newton Library. (It replaced the Spanish Club, which had run for 5 years previously.) Kids in grades k-8 come to the library for an hour after school to learn a little about food, sports, art, language, history and ideas from other cultures. Each week is a new country. Presenters who like to work with kids and have first hand knowledge of other cultures are sought. There is a small stipend and supplies are reimbursed. Class size is limited to 20. If you'd like to help, please call the library 978-249-3572.

Shop Locally :

Support the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library

All these cool gifts are available at your local library: "Small Town"

Music CD \$10

Shows our Royalston friends and neighbors living the small town life accompanied by the rockin words and music of John Mellancamp. Produced and edited by Sally Felt and Sonia Vaccari.

1910 Royalston Census on CD \$10

An interesting statistical snapshot of our Town 95 years ago

Royalston Poster \$5

Beautiful nature photography by Noah Siegel, unbeatable price.

Shakespeare and softball team T-shirts \$12

Sizes left are mostly very small or very large, but perhaps someone on your shopping list shares these dimensions?

Autographed copies of "North of Quabbin Revisited" \$27.50
Historic, folkloric and categoric: Butterworth Farm's Allen Young encapsules the area in this regional travel guide.

SOME OF THE NEW BOOKS

ADULT AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Ali, Thalassa *A Singular Hostage*
 Baldacci, David *The Camel Club*
 Barker, Clive *Days of Magic, Nights of War*
 Boxer, Barbara *A Time to Run*
 Collins, Suzanne *Gregor the Overlander*
 Cramer, W. Dale *Levi's Will*
 Hunter, Erin *Into the Wild*
 Hunter, Erin *Forest of Secrets*
 Hunter, Erin *Rising Storm*
 Kelton, Elmer *Six Bits a Day*
 Langton, Jane *Steeplechse: A Homer Kelly Mystery*
 Limb, Sue *Girl, 15, Charming But Insane*
 McCaughren, Geraldine *Not the End of the World: A Novel*
 Salvatore, R. A. *Promise of the Witch-King*
 Slaughter, Karin *Faithless*
 Smith, Zadie *On Beauty: A Novel*
 Smith, Zadie *White Teeth: A Novel*
 Steel, Danielle *Toxic Bachelors*
 Tan, Amy *Saving Fish From Drowning*
 Thayer, Nancy *Hot Flash Holidays*
 Turow, Scott *Ordinary Heroes: A Novel*
 Turtledove, Harry *End of the Beginning*
 Zevin, Gabrielle *Elsewhere*

ADULT AND YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

Robert, Henry M. *Robert's Rules of Order: Newly Revised*
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief
 Harris, Sam *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason*
 Bleier, Edward *The Thanksgiving Ceremony*
 Feynman, Richard Phillips *Classic Feynman: All the Adventures of a Curious Character*
 Weidensaul, Scott *Return to Wild America: A Year-long Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*
 Stokes, Donald & Lillian *A Guide to Nature in Winter: Northeast and North Central North America*
 Sibley, David *The Sibley Guide to Birds*
 DK *Cool Stuff and How It Works*
 Mollison, Bill *Introduction to Permaculture*
 Rodale's *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening and Landscaping Techniques*
 Wilson, James W. *Landscaping with Herbs*
 Schenk, George *The Compete Shade Gardener*
 Roehm, Carolyne *Presentations: A Passion for Gift Wrapping*
 Araki, Chiyo *Origami for Christmas*
 Young, Tammy *The Crafter's Guide Glues*
 Miller, Judith *Furniture: World Styles from Classical to Contemporary*
 Harr, Jonathan *The Lost Painting*
 Feinstein, John *Next Man Up: A Year Behind the Lines in Today's NFL*
 Bowers, Alan W. *On Duty: Interviews from North of Quabbin: Volume 5*
 Benjamin Franklin: *In Search of a Better World*
 Didion, Joan *The Year of Magical Thinking*

LARGE PRINT AND MEDICAL BOOKS

Provided by a grant from the Council-on-Aging
 Flaubert, Gustave *Madame Bovary*
 Karon, Jan *Light from Heaven*
 Karon, Jan *Shepherd's Abiding*
 Kuhn, Daniel *Alzheimer's Early Stages: First Steps for Family, Friends, and Caregivers*
 Mace, Nancy L. *The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for Persons with Alzheimer Disease, Related Dementing Illnesses, and Memory Loss in Later Life*
 Waller, Robert James *High Plains Tango: A Novel*
BOOKS-ON-CD AND TAPE
 McCullough, David *1776*
 Renssion, Louise *Dancing in My Nuddy-Pants*
 Spark, Muriel *Reality and Dreams* CDs
 Pickett, Michael *Blues Money*
 Pickett, Michael *Conversation with the Blues*
 Pickett, Michael *Live at Winterfolk!*
 Pickett, Michael *Solo*

Holiday Books, Movies and CDs

The library has a large selection of children's and adults' books, including craft books, cookbooks, picture books, songbooks, historical and storybooks about Christmas, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, and Kwanza (besides other great books on things with nothing to do the holidays). We also have a large number of holiday videos and DVDs and music CDs.



Haven't donated to the Friend's yet in 2005?

Now is your chance. Join **Grace Belmont, Galen Nelson and family**, who recently contributed. The Friends are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit group, so all donations are tax deductible. Member support, which mails this newsletter, purchases library supplies and equipment, as well as funds local programs and events, is both necessary and appreciated.

The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library support this Newsletter and many other activities.

Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library 2005 Membership & Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships:

Single	\$2.00	_____
Family	\$5.00	_____
Supporting	\$25.00	_____
Donation	\$ _____	_____

I would also like to buy a Newsletter sponsorship ad:
 \$25.00/month x _____ = \$ _____
 \$200/year (10 issues) \$ _____
 (we will contact you for display information)

Tax deductible. Make checks payable to:
 Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

I would like to help with Friends projects



Thank You!

Got Standardized Tests? Practice On-line

Free practice on-line for these tests: AP exams in bio, calculus, lit and US history; SAT and SAT prep; GED, TOEFL, US Citizenship; ESL: grammar, reading, vocab and math; Civil Service; Military Entrance (ASVAB); Grad School Entrance Exams: GMAT, LSAT, GRE, MCAT; MA Real Estate License exam, Career placement tests and others! This service is offered through the Worcester Public Library. Get information and the proper pass code at the Phinehas Newton Library or call Worcester (508-799-1655).

Women’s Pick Up Volleyball

Women meet every week at RCS to play volleyball at 7 pm. All welcome. The exact day changes to fit the custodian’s schedule, so call Andrea Lively 978-249-2705 for info.

Garden Club Christmas Workshop

What smells good, looks good and doesn’t cost much but makes a delightful homemade gift from the heart? Why a decorative Christmas swag, of course. Please join us for a “Natural Decorative Holiday Swag” workshop on December 15, at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, a program of the North Quabbin Club. The presenter is Sharon Harmon of Royalston, a freelance writer and craft and garden lover. Use fruits, leaves and berries as well as wool, and bells to make a swag, which can be displayed on windows, trees, door openings, banisters and mantles. Lemons, limes, apples and cinnamon ornaments will fill your home with spicy scents. This fun workshop includes music and refreshments to get in the holiday spirit. Just bring your imagination and spend an old-fashioned evening at 100 Main Street in Athol. Enrollment limited to 15. Material fees are \$ 4.00 Please mail in by December 7th. Send check to North Quabbin Garden Club, C/O Millers River Environmental Center 100 Main Street Athol, MA. 01331

Royalston Closing in on United Way Goal

U-Way chairman **Ginny Gingras** reports that Royalston United Way donors have been generous, as usual. She’s still awaiting returns from one volunteer, but to date, more than \$2,000 has been raised towards the \$3,000 goal. United Way funds help support Literacy Volunteers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army, American Red Cross and Athol-Area YMCA. Give her a call at 978-249-4951 to donate.

Make a Difference in the New Year

Looking for a unique and fun volunteer opportunity? Spend time with a child going for walks, shooting hoops, baking cookies, bowling, drawing, sledding, or making a snowman. Children make healthier choices in their lives when matched with a caring adult mentor. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 772-0915 for more information.

“Our Lady” Fundraisers Underway

Helen Feliciano, Kathy (Lawrence) Pirro and Millie (Clement) Poor presided over a wildly successful pie sale on Saturday, November 19, to benefit Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel. Proceeds from the event, held in the foyer of the historical society’s building on The Common, will go the general fund. The annual Christmas basket raffle is underway, with tickets available from the Parishioners. Funds help pay the heating bill, so everyone had best buy an extra ticket or two this year. Our Lady Queen of Heaven has begun a special campaign to raise the \$7,000 necessary to replace their roof. As of press time, a letter solicitation to members was underway; other fundraising activities will be announced at a later date.

Steeple Repairs Progressing



As a matter of fact, both the rebuilding and the fundraising are progressing nicely. Skyline Engineering has slowly stripped and replaced rotted sheathing and support members, working their way around the steeple, from bottom to top, using massive bucket lifts. The entire steeple surface was “wrapped” in a semi-permeable membrane – Tyvek – which allows air to circulate but sheds water. The arrival of large steel sheets was imminent which will

completely enclose the steeple and create an exterior that will need no extraordinary maintenance over the next half century. Generous gifts, large and small, including a \$5,000 one from the entire Putney Clan – David & Shirley; Jim, Brenda, Jessica, Emily, Amy & Amanda; Joann, Eddie & Laura – have put the fund over \$20,000. All donations of cash for the fund, goods for future fundraisers, and time for upcoming events are greatly appreciated. Contact the First Congregational Church parsonage at 978-249-9155, John and Helen Divoll at 978-249-3163 or David and Shirley Putney at 978-249-4218.

Wanted: Christmas Concert Singers

The First Congregational Church is organizing a Christmas concert and pot luck supper for Saturday, December 17 in Fellowship Hall. All members of the community – children, teens and adults - are welcome to join in for this celebration. Practices will be held Sun., Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. and on concert day, Sat., Dec. 17 at 12:30 p.m. Pot luck takes place at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by the concert at 6:30 p.m. Both the supper and concert are free and open to the public.

“Blue” Christmas Service

Pastor Ginger Asel

“The holiday season is not always a happy time for everyone. Families touched by the loss of a loved one experience sadness during Christmas. The first Christmas after a death, or divorce, or separation, or . . . can be emotionally draining. The pain may linger on for years when buried deep in the recesses of the inner being. “A ‘Blue’ Christmas Service is a service of compassion, understanding and healing. One is being offered for those who find the above to be true, or would like to prayerfully stand with those who do.” This service of healing will be held at the Second Congregational Church on Friday, December 9, at 7 p.m.



Congratulations and Good News

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

Shower of Cards: Eleanor White (mother) will be 90 on December 11. **Eleanor and Francis White** (mother and father) will celebrate 64 years of marriage on December 13th. The family would like to shower them with good wishes and/or any special memories you would like to share. Please send to: Quabbin Valley Health Center - Room 172; 821 Daniel Shays Hwy; Athol MA 01331. Call Cindy Boucher : 978-249-6685 for more information.

Website with Royalston Producer Wins Prestigious Awards:

Kidzone, the animated, interactive music education website of The New York Philharmonic, has recently received two prestigious awards. **Rebecca Krause-Hardie** of SymphonyWorks, Windhorse Farm, Royalston MA, is the Executive Producer of **Kidzone**. The Awards: The National Endowment for the Humanities selected Kidzone for inclusion on EDSITE, as "one of the best online resources for education in the humanities ... for intellectual quality, content, design, and most importantly, classroom impact." In addition, the American Library Association "Booklist" named **Kidzone** as: "one of the top ten "Fine Arts Websites for Students." Check out this terrific resource at www.kidzone.org, (where there are also lesson plans tied to the interactive games and activities.)

Linq, Royalston's infamous rocker, is back in the studio on a regular basis working with **June Millington** on her next CD. **JOURNEY**, Linq's 2004 release, is getting radio airplay, and she's given some live on-air interviews. Basically, she's having a lot of fun since her career change from mild mannered pharmacist to super singer / songwriter. Details: www.linqmusic.com.

RCS Academic Honor Roll grades 4-6: Straight As: **Michael Campos, Caleb Chase, Megan Degnan and Tyler Tisdale**. As and Bs: **Corey Baker, Devin Bates, Chalia Euvard-Brewington, Alexis Geyster, McKenzie Spear, John Divoll, Allyna Baker, Joshua Roberts, Michele Thompson, Allison Bergquist, Ashley Butterworth, Francisco Carra, Kelly Frazier, Andrea Hubbard, Alisha Linnus and Michael Richardson**

AHS Academic Honor Roll grades 9-12: Straight As: **Marissa Kellner**. As and Bs: **Chet Hall, Blue Otto, Steven Robinson, Christine Sawyer, Kimberlee Thompson, Natalie Whitcomb, Rhett Guimond, Brian Hartin, Elizabeth Ramsdell, Mieka Melbourne, Ashley Bergquist, Brett Jeffrey, Sara Newton, David Coflesky and Kenji Shoul**.

Sports Awards at Athol-Royalston Middle School

Samantha Hutchins, Tasey Chartier, Mackenzie Bennett, Asher Chase, Nick Krasowski, Cady Boucher, Derek Wheeler, Dylan Hall, Nick Mowrey, Hillary Whitcomb and **Marquita Day** received letters for Athol-Royalston Middle School fall sports and **Pat Scribner, Dan Deegan and Kyle McCorquodale** received pins for multiple year participation. Also, **Cady Boucher** had the highest GPA of any the dozen or so straight A student athletes who had participated in any fall sports at ARMS.

News from Royalston Community School

Mitch Grosky, RCS Principal

In November, students were privileged to experience several safety programs, including "Bullying" with Royalston's Officer Sherry Miner and "Officer Phil" assemblies on "Safety on the Go" and "Values." Thanks to Roberta and Peter Newman, who came to RCS to speak movingly to our Veterans' Day assembly. Also, the entire school got the opportunity to experience New England life in 1627 as Plimoth Plantation residents visited RCS in full costume and character. Weeks of study in grades 1 and 2 culminated in a Thanksgiving feast replicating the 1620 feast the Pilgrims enjoyed with the Native Americans.

Professional development for teachers and administrators in the Athol-Royalston Schools continues to focus on a number of important areas. While many teachers individually pursue advanced degrees, others take workshops to further their education in specialized areas beyond their Master's degrees. As a district, elementary teachers have been focusing on the following workshops: English Language Arts and Math Curriculum benchmarks review and development of benchmark assessments, training in new mathematics programs, and CPR recertification. All elementary classroom teachers this year are also taking inservice courses on science at the Millers River Environmental Center, and in social studies with instructors from the Deerfield Teachers' Center. Finally, administrators have been working hard on improving learning, MCAS scores, and School Improvement Plans with Dr. Ladd of Boston College.

ARRSD School Committee News

Royalston ARRSD SchoolCom member Donna Caisse reports that the district's new Superintendent Anthony Polito, is "...just wonderful," and is, "...doing a great job." He apparently allows no moss to grow under his feet - within days of coming aboard, he planned an "all boards" meeting with Athol and Royalston's capital planning and financial boards and both boards of selectmen. Among other things, architect Lee Dore was at this grand meeting to discuss some new building proposals. *Upcoming ARRSD SchoolCom mtgs. held at the media center at ARMS: 12/14 and 1/18*

South Royalston School Association News



Have you EVER attended, taught at or worked in any capacity at the South Royalston Elementary School? If so, you're automatically a member of the S.R. School Reunion Association, and your presence is requested at the **103rd annual reunion** on Saturday, September 30, 2006. To help plan the event, call John Kirkman, Richard Lawrence, Jr., or Roland Hamel. To be added to the mailing list, contact any of the local officers - President Luann (LaRoche) Simula; VP Debra (Alger) Vescovi; Treasurer Ginny (Harrington) Moore - or call Secretary Susan (Alger) White at 508-790-3640.

Recipes of the Month: The Ladies' Benevolent Society of Royalston has been doing good works and sharing all its talents with our community since 1824. Public suppers with pie probably go back to the beginning of the LBS and the current Ladies are keeping up the tradition. The recent Braised Beef Supper to raise money for scholarships had more pie than diners could hope to consume. The ladies are always looking for new members and pie recipes. Here are some of the recipes represented that night:

Apple-Cranberry-Raisin Pie

Kim MacPhee, LBS president

Pastry dough for 9-inch two-crust pie - (use your favorite pastry recipe or two 9-inch deep dish frozen pie crusts)

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup fresh, uncooked cranberries
- 1/2 cup raisins
- grated rind of 1 lemon
- 5 large tart apples (mix different kinds - Pink Lady, Gala, Granny Smith)
- 2 tablespoons butter

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Line a 9-inch pie pan with half the pastry dough. Stir the sugar, salt, and flour together in a large bowl. Add the cranberries, raisins, and lemon rind. Peel, core, and slice the apples and toss them in the sugar mixture. Pile the filling into the lined pie pan and dot with the butter. Drape top crust over the pie. Crimp the edges together and cut several small vent holes in the top crust. Bake for 10 minutes at 425, then lower the heat to 350 and continue baking for 30-40 minutes or until the apples are tender, the filling is bubbling, and the crust is nicely browned.

Lively Pumpkin Pie

Andrea Lively

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| 1- 9 inch unbaked pie shell | 2 cups canned pumpkin |
| 1 cup light brown sugar | 2 eggs, well beaten |
| 1 tablespoon flour | 1 cup evaporated milk |
| 1 teaspoon ground ginger | 1/2 cup sour cream |
| 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg | 1/2 ground cloves |
| 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon | 1/2 teaspoon salt |

Preheat oven to 400. Mix brown sugar, flour, salt and spices in bowl; add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into crust. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or til middle does not jiggle when moved. Cool on wire rack for at least 2 hours. For decorative touch combine 4 ounces of cream cheese and 2 tablespoons of yogurt with a splash of vanilla or even rum flavoring. Mix til well combined and spoon into frosting bag with decorative tip. Make a swirled ribbon around the very edge near the crust and then add adollop for every pie piece that will be cut. For final decoration add a candied pumpkin or candy corn piece and serve.

Monty Tech News

Mary C Barclay, school committee rep

Members of the Monty Tech math department received high praise from Superintendent-Director James Culkeen recently. The group worked long and hard to develop an extremely accurate assessment method, which they are now using to place incoming freshmen math students. Also, thanks to the efforts of Automotive Department teacher Ken Baer and Vocational Programs Director Denise O'Louglin, Monty Tech has received a \$10,000 grant to review the COPS (Certificate of Occupational Proficiency) for that specialty. *Monty Tech School Com meets first Weds of the month: 12/7 and 1/4 at 7 pm.*

Particularly Delicious Pie Crust

(makes two 10" pie crusts)

Brenda Putney, LBS Braiser of Beef and Collations Chair

- 2 cups King Arthur white flour, other brands aren't as good.
 - 2/3 cup whole wheat King Arthur flour
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1 cup Crisco
 - 7-8 Tbsp very cold water
- Mix everything except the water until dry and crumbly. (Two knives or a pastry blender work well for mixing.) Add water and mix until pliable and doughy.

Lemon Meringue Pie

Kristen West, adapted from The Best Recipe, Cooks Illustrated.

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|---|------------------------------|
| Lemon filling- | Meringue topping- |
| 1 cup sugar | 1 tablespoon cornstarch |
| 1/4 cup cornstarch | 1/3 cup water |
| 1/8 teaspoon salt | 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar |
| 1 1/2 cups cold water | 1/2 cup sugar |
| 6 large egg yolks | 4 large egg whites |
| 1 tablespoon grated zest and 1/2 cup juice from 2 or 3 lemons | 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 2 tablespoons unsalted butter | |

For the filling: Mix sugar, cornstarch, salt, and water in a large, non-reactive saucepan. Bring mixture to simmer over medium heat, whisking more and more frequently as mixture begins to thicken. When mixture starts to simmer and turn translucent, whisk in egg yolks, two at a time. Whisk in zest, then lemon juice, and finally butter. Bring mixture to a good simmer, whisking constantly. Remove from heat, place plastic wrap directly on surface of filling to keep hot and prevent skin from forming.

For the meringue: Mix cornstarch with water in small saucepan: bring to simmer, whisking occasionally at the beginning and more frequently as mixture thickens. When it starts to simmer and turn translucent, remove from heat. Let cool. Heat oven to 325 degrees. Mix cream of tartar and sugar together. Beat egg whites and vanilla until frothy. Beat in sugar mixture, 1 tablespoon at a time; continue to beat meringue to form stiff peaks. Remove plastic from lemon filling and return to very low heat during last minute or so of beating meringue (to ensure filling is hot). Pour hot filling into pie shell. (1 pre-baked pie shell, homemade or store bought). Using a rubber spatula, immediately distribute meringue evenly around edge and then center of pie to keep it from sinking into filling. Make sure meringue attaches to pie crust to prevent shrinking. Use back of spoon to create peaks all over meringue. Bake pie until meringue is golden brown, about 20 minutes. Transfer to wire rack and cool to room temperature. Serve that day.

Maple Walnut Pie

Maureen Blasco, LBS secretary

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 nine inch unbaked pie shell | 6 Tbsp melted butter |
| 4 eggs, beaten | 1/4 tsp salt |
| 1 cup maple syrup | 2 Tbsp dark brown sugar |
| 1 1/2 cups walnuts, coarsely chopped | |
- Combine all ingredients and blend well. Bake at 400 for first 10 minutes. Lower heat to 325 and bake 40-45 minutes more.

In Your Own Backyard

Beth Gospodarek

It may not be in your backyard, but it is probably in a nearby stream: brownish foam in the eddies. Those raised in the 50s and 60s, before the insistence on biodegradable detergents, may conclude that the foam is the result of phosphate or other pollution. Actually, however, this foam is probably the result of natural causes related to the strength of water's surface tension. (Smell will tell: detergent is usually perfumed and natural foam is earthy.)

The attraction among water molecules is much tighter on the surface than underwater. This tension creates a considerable barrier between air and water. In fact, other than Mercury, water has the greatest surface tension of any liquid. However, decomposing plant and animal matter can considerably reduce surface tension. When agitation from wind or currents stirs the surface in a body of water which is filled with decaying leaves and other organic detritus, air can break through the water's surface tension. This air may become trapped underwater, creating a bubble. Bubbles piling up create the foam floating down the local streams in late fall. A similar foaming process happens with beer. The decaying organic ingredients like yeast and grains lessen the surface tension and when combined with the agitation of pouring quickly, bubbles are trapped and a fine frothy head is formed.

Venus, Earth and Mars: All Lined Up

You learned in school that Venus is the next planet toward the Sun from Earth and that Mars is the next planet farther out. Right now, see this arrangement laid out in the early-evening sky. After the Sun goes down and twilight begins to fade, Venus will be blazing bright white in the southwest in the Sun's general direction. Now turn around; Mars shines fiery yellow in the direction away from the Sun, in the east. And you're standing on Earth between them. Venus and Mars are hard to miss; they're much brighter than any stars.

Microburst: Strange Weather on Prospect Hill

On November 22, between 11:45 and 12 noon, strong winds and rain were driven north beside Chestnut Hill up the trough over Tully Lake and up Prospect Hill creating a microburst with thunder and recorded wind speeds of 56.5 mph. A microburst is an intense wind shear from a small, very intense downdraft that descends to the ground. The size of the event is typically less than 4 kilometers across. Microbursts are capable of producing winds of more than 100 mph causing significant damage. The life span of a microburst is around 5-15 minutes. They are primarily generated by evaporative cooling and rain loading. When precipitation (rain or snow) descends below cloud base or is mixed with dry air, it begins to evaporate and this evaporation process cools the air. The cool air descends and accelerates as it approaches the ground. When the cool air approaches the ground, it spreads out in all directions and this divergence of the wind is the signature of the microburst.

Wildlife Sightings

Melanie Mangum reports that every day for the past week, at the same time in the morning, in the same exact spot, there has been a **ring-necked pheasant couple** in her neighbor's yard on School St. Also, several South Royalston residents in the Pleasant St./School St./Richmond Ct. area have reported a **red fox** or foxes frequenting their yards.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

November has been the month for hauling. It is a rare day when I am not called upon to move something from one place to another. One day last week I retrieved a truck-load of sawdust from Tom Musco's shop, a truck-load of mulch hay encircling Keith Newton's new septic tank, and a truck-load of fire wood from Jim Draper's Chapter 61 woodlot. To round out the day of fun, I gathered and transported leaves to handy piles (where they begin the slow process of decomposition) and moved finished compost to garden beds, where they were doused with wood ashes, turned in, and covered with previously-mentioned mulch hay.

As I write, it is several days before Thanksgiving; as you read, it is several days after. We make a point of filling our holiday table with as much home-grown (or gathered) food as possible. On Thanksgiving Day, carrots and rutabaga will be harvested to serve as side vegetables. Celery will be cut to add to the stuffing (along with our meager, but sufficient, gathering of chestnuts). Parsley, scallions, and sage will provide fresh herbs wherever they prove handy. From indoor stocks, we will make generous use of our potatoes, onions, and squash. Kathy has gathered cranberries from (dare I say it?) the shores of Tully Lake. The relish, the pies (pumpkin, apple), will be sweetened with our maple syrup. There was a time (not that many years ago) when Kathy, in her role as milk maid, provided the milk, the cream, the butter, the ice cream. Those days are past. Alas, the turkey is not ours; it is Royalston home-grown, however, provided by Deb and Joe Nunes, who have been providing birds to area families for a decade or so.

Almost the entire 10,000 square foot vegetable garden is now enveloped by mulch hay. Left uncovered are next year's pea, spinach, and parsnip beds (where I am encouraging early thaw of the ground; for the first two so that I might plant early, and the last, so I might harvest early) as well as those patches of green from which I might continue to harvest. Kale persists through the deepest of freezes and can be cut several times. Ours has been harvested twice. Regretfully, the cows did the harvesting during of couple of their periodic escapes from pasture.

I will continue garden chores until the ground freezes up; dirt under my fingernails in December is a source of pride. Outside activity in January is a bit of a stretch, even for the likes of me, but it provides the opportunity to engage in the most delightful of garden tasks: reading the seed catalogues, reviewing the garden year, determining need, and placing an order.

Vets Visit Royal Pines' Alpacas

Veterinarian medicine students from U-Mass participating in the school's new "Camelid Certification Program" visited the Royal Pines Alpaca Farm in November. The students and their professor, Dr. Steve Purdy, DVM, toured the farm and spoke with owners Ginger May and Donald Fortin. The group also enjoyed cider and donuts while perusing a variety of products made from alpaca fleece, photos and ribbons. Royal Pines Alpaca Farm is at 30 Brown Road, on the property once known as the Brown Farm. They are in their fourth year of this fledgling agribusiness.

Classifieds

Occasional Brave Babysitter Needed

We are looking someone (or two) to babysit our wild herd of boys from time to time on weekends at our home in West Royalston. There are five boys ranging in age from brand new to 8 years old. We will be on site doing renovations, so we can help pull them off you if things get out of control. Contact Grace Belmont 617.522.0562 or grabel@surfglobal.net

House & Pet sitter needed in Royalston. Must be responsible and dependable; serious inquiries only please. Contact Gary at 508-633-2919 for details.

For sale: **Riedell figure skates** size 4 1/2 like new; paid \$ 175.00 will sell for 75.00. Call Cindy @ 978-249-6685.

The book, *A Patchwork Christmas*, featuring 3 of Royalstons writers will be on sale again at Johnsons Farm in Orange. Make great stocking stuffers.

Limited quantities of the Emily Putney's famous **homemade holiday wreathes and swags** are available. Similarly, limited quantities of Brenda Putney's **prize winning stained glass gifts** may be ordered. First come, fist served: 978-249- 7787 to make arrangements.

Randy Divoll at Birch Knoll Farm will bottle the last of this year's **maple syrup** to order. Limited supplies. **Log-length firewood** for next heating season is also available. Call him at 978-249-3158.

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