

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2006



Volume IX, Issue I

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

Here at the newsletter, we are out to make new Friends and keep the old. Expect an '06 Friends of the Library **membership appeal** in the mail in February. Please contribute any comfortable amount to defray costs of this newsletter as well as help pay for library events and purchases. Also, please notice that **for March only, the deadline for the RCN has to be changed.** Please punctually send all March submissions: articles, kudos, ads, calendar items, wildlife sightings, and what-have-you by February 15. Schedule change is inevitable with a volunteer staff. Is there a reader who would take on the responsibilities of occasional guest editor/ layout person?

Calendar of Events

February 2 Thursday **Groundhog's Day**
Desperate for the arrival of spring, our culture imputes powers of divination to a large rodent in Pennsylvania .

February 3 Friday **Open Mic** at Royalston Town Hall. This event just gets better and better. Free, but donations for refreshments accepted. Proceeds will be used to buy new sound equipment. Call Jim Bennett 978-575-1052 for details or arrive early to sign up to play.

February 4 Saturday **Shay's Rebellion**
1787 Central Massachusetts farmers rise up against government

February 7 Tuesday
Special State Election between Jonathon Dennehy (R) and Bob Rice (D) for position of state Representative of the 2nd Worcester district. Precincts 1 and 2.

February 8 Wednesday
Noon early **dismissal** ARRSD elementary schools

February 9 Thursday
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. **Cross Culture Club** for kids of all ages begins at the library. Mary Carnie will give a hands on presentation about **Italy**. Pre- registration helpful, but not required. Free. Refreshments. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 978-249-3572

February 10 Friday
6:30 - 8:00 **Cake Dance** at RCS
7:00 p.m. **The Art of the Short Film** will be shown at the Phinehas S Newton Library. Come and enjoy award winning short films from around the world. No admission charge; free popcorn.

February 11 Saturday
10:00 - noon **Village School Open House.** Arts and crafts projects and hands-on science activities for in each classroom (Pre-school, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-6). Get information about curricula, school philosophy and financial aid. Refreshments.

6:00 p.m. **Valentine Pot Luck for Couples** at 1st Congregational Church Fellowship Hall

February 13 Monday **Full Snow Moon**
5:00 p.m. Deadline for submission of nomination papers for positions in town elections.

February 14 Tuesday **St Valentines' Day**
6:00 p.m. **Valentine Pot Luck for singles** The Parsonage

February 16 Thursday
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. **Cross Culture Club** for kids at the library. Learn about **Lesotho** (Southern Africa) with Beth Gospodarek.

February 17 Friday
6:30 p.m. **Hip hop dancing performance** by all students at RCS. The culmination of a 6 week workshop funded by the Royalston Academy. Kids from our rural, white bread town digging the coffee grinder and the freeze. PTG bake sale. All welcome.

February 20 Monday **Presidents' Day**
ARRSD and Monty Tech vacation. Classes resume Mon. 2/27.

February 22 Wednesday
1:30 p.m. **Museum of Science Starlab** program at the Town Hall. Come learn about the stars in a portable planetarium. Space crafts as well. Free. Funded by the Royalston Cultural Council and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

February 26 Sunday
2:00 p.m. **Pitch Tournament** at Royalston Fish and Game Club. Bring your own partner. Call Roy or Donna Smith for details, 978-249-9687. Open to non-members.

February 27 Monday **New Worm Moon**
February 28 Tuesday **Fat Tuesday**

March 1 Wednesday **Ash Wednesday**
Last day to object to or withdraw nomination papers for positions in annual Town elections.

March 2 Thursday
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. **Ireland** will be the focus of the **Cross Culture Club** for kids at the Library. Emma O'Connor of Laurel Lake Road will present. Pre-registration helpful, but not required. Free. Refreshments. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 978-249-3572 for info.

March 5 Sunday
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Rami Khalaf, History Professor at Worcester State College, will discuss *The U.S. Presidency and the Middle East* in this first meeting of the **Understanding the Modern Middle East discussion series** at the library, based on the book Beyond Memory and Desire: the Middle East in a Troubled Age, available for purchase or to be checked out at the library. (Prior reading is enriching but not required.) Sponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, Polly Longworth and the Friends of the Library. The series continues March 19th and April 2nd.

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum

The new year is a busy time for the Town Clerk's Office, and a bit busier this year with a Special State Primary and Special State Election. Don't forget to come out and vote on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 in the Special State Election for State Rep. for the 2nd Worcester District.

Some interesting data from the Special State Primary held last Jan 10:

Total Registered Voters in Royalston: 917

Voters who actually participated: 85

Total Staff for the polls in 2 precincts: 9 Election Workers, 2 Police Officers, 2 Constables and 1 Town Clerk

Hours most Election Workers spent staffing the polls/counting: 14

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION: Speaking of elections, the Town Clerk's office is gearing up for the **Annual Town Election** on Monday, April 3, 2006. So far, two candidates have signed blanket nomination papers: Bobbi Newman, who will run for the seat she currently holds on the Athol Royalston Regional School Committee, and Barbara Richardson for her seat on the Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund. John Chencharik has taken out nomination papers for the position of Constable (which he was appointed to last year) and I have taken out nomination papers for the Town Clerk position, which will finish out Lloyd LeBlanc's term until 2007.

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 - 2 terms - 1 for 3 years and 1 for 2 years; 4 terms of one year each for the Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund; Athol/Royalston School Committee - 3 years, Tree Warden - 3 years.

Nomination papers for open positions will be available at the Town Clerk's Office in Whitney Hall, 5 School St. 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, come to my office to sign blanket nomination papers or call to make an appointment.

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.

Census: The yearly census process has begun, and I'm looking for a volunteer to help me fold, stuff and stamp envelopes at the end of February. There's a lunch at the Royalston Country Store in it for a willing person! Street lists based on last year's census information are available for a cost of \$2.00.

Dog Licenses: License Tags will be available mid-to late February. Call before coming in to get a license to see if the tags have arrived.

Assessors' Notes

Tax bills should go out sometime in February. Delays were caused in part by damaged computer files and a new state form which requires an interim reassessment. Abatement forms must be filed within 30 days of issue or they cannot be acted on. It is the taxpayers responsibility to see that their bill is paid regardless of mailing issues.

Personal Property Glitch: Delays in issuance were caused in part by a glitch in a state-sponsored consortium software upgrade, which caused a loss of data in the personal property files. Taxpayers who own farm equipment, unregistered vehicles, businesses, and second homes are among those who also receive personal property bills. We will be updating those files by sending out new forms to those payers of record and others who may owe these taxes.

Trees on Town Land

Beth Gospodarek

The roads in Royalston are more than just picturesque; they are legally designated as scenic and shaded. Every road is included under Town by-laws adopting state statutes called the Scenic Roads Act and the Shade Tree Act. This means that the Town controls the trees on the rights of ways of all roads. (On most roads, the right of way extends 25' from the center line to either side, but there are exceptions where the right of way is 33.3' from the center line.) It is illegal to cut trees on Town right of way without going through a permitting process with the Planning Board. Calling the Town tree warden, Larry Siegel, at 978-249-4260 is the first step in obtaining a permit.

Last December, Town trees were cut and removed at 18 on the Common without a permit. Most of these healthy trees were small, but several exceeded 12 inches in diameter and three black cherry trees were impressively large. The Town and the owner are working to resolve ongoing disagreements over responsibilities and penalties in this case. More recently, permits were requested to cut three different sugar maples at the same location. Two of these trees are somewhat unhealthy. The remaining one is quite healthy but so close to the front porch on the property that it could prevent the homeowner making desired architectural changes. The permits were denied by the Town Planning Board based on comments at a public hearing, three letters received from neighbors and recommendations from the Tree Warden.

The sugar maples on the Common are struggling; six were cut last summer. (The firewood from this culling is available to townspeople. Although it is easily accessible at roadside, it is in large diameter, unwieldy lengths. The Tree Warden can be contacted for details.) The state arborist has toured the Common with town officials. He will be conducting an inventory and making recommendations for future plantings.



State Rep Candidates' Debate

Jonathon Dennehy and Bob Rice, candidates for State Representative from the 2nd Worcester District will participate in a final debate Thursday, February 2 in the Mount Wachusett Community College Commons. Admission is free and residents from the constituency towns of Ashburnham, Ashby, Gardner, and Royalston are especially encouraged to attend.

A Word from the Superintendent of Schools

Anthony T. Polito

As most of you probably know by now, the Athol-Royalston Regional School District is facing a \$650,000 budget shortfall for the present fiscal year (FY06) which ends on June 30, 2006. The shortfall came as a result of a reduction in revenues this year as well as over-expenditures in some of our accounts. Right now, there are four possible solutions:

1. Asking the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for help in overcoming the deficit.
2. Asking our state legislators to sponsor a legislative bill to help in overcoming the budget deficit.
3. Asking the Towns of Athol and Royalston to transfer free cash and/or stabilization funds to cover the deficit.
4. Reducing the staff of the schools in February.

The most troubling of these options is the last one. Cutting staff would reduce programs and increase class sizes. A cut at mid-year would also necessitate a shut-down of the Middle and High Schools for a few days to reschedule the students. If the Towns are to help us, we would need special town meetings in both Towns. The Athol vote is a simple majority. The Royalston vote must be 2/3 in the affirmative.

We are going through a difficult time now but I have every confidence that we will solve our problems and provide quality education to our students and their families. We need your help with this. School districts that have active parental involvement are the most successful in promoting high levels of student achievement! Thank you!

Fire and EMS News

Recent sopping, soaking weather has been good for brush burning. Permits are required and can be obtained at Fire Station #1 at 7pm the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month. The day of the fire, call to activate the permit. All permits must be activated before noon and all fires must be out by 4 pm.

The Royalston Fire Department has begun their 2006 training schedule, a comprehensive review of basic firefighting tactics and strategies. The first module, "Understanding Fire Attack," concentrated on the behavior of fire under various circumstances. The second module, "Successful Scene Management," will concentrate on the Incident Command System/Incident Management System

The R.F.D.'s **2006 Emergency Medical Services training** is also underway. Upcoming programs begin at Station #1 at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. They include: February 20, Ice Rescue, part I (classroom); Saturday, February 25, 7:30 a.m., Ice Rescue, part II (practical drill); March 20, Case Reviews and Pediatric Immobilization; April 17, Mass Casualty Incidents; May 15, Motor Vehicle Collisions; June 19, Mortality and Morbidity Clinic and Vehicle Check; July 17, High Angle Rescue part I (classroom); Saturday, July 22, 7:30 a.m., High Angle Rescue part II (practical drill); August 21, Patient Assessment; September 19, Case Critiques and Sudden Cardiac Arrest; October 16, Altered Neurological Status; November 20, Orthopedic Injuries; December 18, Case Critiques and Immobilization Techniques. Area EMTs and First Responders are welcome to attend. Contact Gary Winitzer to determine which classes offer Continuing Education Credits for EMTs.

Royalston's Recycling Record

Phil Leger, Board of Heath chair

Royalston's recycling rate for 2004 was 69%. This is the 2nd highest in the state, only surpassed by the town of Blandford's rate of 70%. Although Blandford's rate was higher, our recycling tonnage was more than doubled at 560 tons of material diverted. We landfilled 254 tons. Congratulations to all who use the transfer/recycling station and helped achieve this milestone. Every ton diverted means less cost to you the users and the town. Keep it up. Recycling bins are on sale for \$7.00. They are 18 gallon size and are recycling blue. See Charlie for purchase.

Open Space Committee News

Kim MacPhee

The members of the Open Space Committee prepared a memo to the Board of Selectmen requesting that the Board take action on land in town that is currently listed as "unclaimed". The Committee considers much of this land to be a priority for conservation as open space and critical wildlife habitat.

An unclaimed parcel of land is defined by the Assessors as a tract of land whose owner is not known and therefore no property taxes can be collected against the parcel. If the Town takes the land for non-payment of back taxes then there are several things that can happen, all of which benefit the town. For example, the town could place conservation restrictions on the most sensitive parcels and possibly leave one or more building lots available on the property, and then offer the land for sale. A conservation-minded buyer could then purchase the property, build a house if they were so inclined, and the land would be back on the property tax rolls and generating some revenue for the town. Some of the land might be suitable for sustainable forestry practices under the Chapter 61 program which would also generate tax revenue, but at a reduced rate. Other parcels could be sold without restrictions and developed for housing while some land might be purchased by the state or other agencies for recreational purposes.

This whole process of taking the land for unpaid back taxes is lengthy. It involves going to land court and complicated negotiations between the town and the state. Once the town owns these parcels, deciding their appropriate use will take more time as well as the involvement of town residents via Town Meeting. Various Town Boards, including the Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Open Space Committee will also need to collaborate.

Remember, you can keep up to date with the work of the Open Space Committee by attending one of our regular meetings which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, or by visiting our fabulous web site www.royalstonopenspace.org. The web site contains minutes of past meetings, the Smart Growth Grant Scope of Services (in case you are also interested in the Town's zoning project), and the Conservation Options brochure. All of these documents can be downloaded in .pdf format. The web site also has beautiful pictures of some of the special places and rare plants and wildlife in Town which were taken by John Burk and Noah Siegel.

Changes at the PO

With the New Year, Royalston's postal patrons bid goodbye and thanks to Sonja Vaccari, postmistress for the past 3 years. Sonja worked to fill the shoes of her inimitable predecessor, Arline Vining, who ran the PO for more than 30 years. Sonja increased sales and did a lot of work sprucing up the interior of the post office and installing more period post boxes. The post office under her tenure was especially friendly and happily quirky and many are sad to see her go. However, because Sonja left the post office for a new "dream job", using her impressive artistic talents creating backgrounds for museum installations, patrons will just have to wish her well and move on. You go, Mme V!



Welcome to Pamela Caranfa, the new postmistress in Town. She is working hard getting organized and putting her stamp on things. I would like to introduce myself to those who may not know me. My name is Pamela Caranfa. And as of January 1st, I have taken over for Sonja. I have worked for the United States Postal Service for over four and a half years, mainly working out of the Athol office, as a Rural Carrier Associate as well as a Casual Clerk. Although I am not a Royalston resident, I feel a connection to Royalston, having served both Athol and Royalston on the school committee for nearly six years, the past two as Chairman. I have been married for over 19 years and have three children ages 17, 15, & 13.

The Post Office will continue in Royalston as it has in the past with a few updates. For those of you who are new to town, the post office is located in School House #1, the Historical Society Building on the Common. The hours will remain the same: 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Monday through Saturday, with the exception of holidays. Current services include: secure post office boxes (at no charge), money orders, mailing packages—Express (Overnight Mail), Priority, Parcel Post & 4th Class (Media, Library, and Book rate), and of course stamps. I also have free shipping boxes, of various sizes available. As I am a Notary Public, I would like to offer this service at no charge for town business and for a nominal fee to private individuals. I hope to add other services in the near future.

If the hours of the post office don't work for you, why not buy your stamps through the mail? Just put a note, along with a check in a stamped envelope in your mailbox addressed to the Royalston Post Office; your order will be mailed to your home in a day or two.

I look forward to serving the town of Royalston as your "Postmistress" for many years to come. Please stop in and introduce yourself; have a piece of candy, and perhaps a little conversation with your neighbors even if you don't have a box here. This is Americana at its best.

United Way

The Royalston United Way campaign exceeded its \$3,000 goal, raising \$3,225. United Way funds help support Literacy Volunteers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army, American Red Cross and Athol-Area YMCA. Chairman **Ginny Gingras** says THANKS!

News from the Dept. of Public Works

Keith Newton

So far, this winter has been mild. Rain alternating with snow and the accompanying roller coaster temperatures have been hard on the roads. The road crew has been kept busy trying to prevent icy patches from freezing runoff. The DPW appreciates that most residents are following the winter parking ban. All cars must be parked completely off Town roads now. Illegally parked cars create a dangerous situation as they impede plowing and sanding. Also, when moving snow from driveways, remember that it is illegal to push, blow or plow any snow into the roads. These humps freeze solid and can be difficult for the DPW to remove.

How Warm was it in January?

The average daily temperature recorded by Jon Hardie on North Fitzwilliam Rd in January 2005 was 19.6 and the average daily temperature this year thru January 22nd was 30.2 F. That's a 10.6 degree difference.

Zoning Bylaw Update

Vyto Andreliunas

With a Smart Growth grant from the Commonwealth, our Town has embarked on a project to update our town's zoning bylaws. Our immediate challenge is to construct a game plan to involve as many of you as possible in reaching a consensus on matters which affect us all.

The grant money, together with what we have on hand, plus assistance from MRPC, will enable a full review of the existing zoning bylaws, consideration of ideas from various studies, and, most importantly, a sense of what our community thinks. Efforts will be assisted by an attorney specializing in land use law and by a professional planner who has prior experience working with Royalston.

Clearly, since a town meeting must eventually adopt changes or new measures by a two thirds vote, the zoning committee needs to focus on the importance of maximum participation in discussions. There needs to be consensus on the key zoning issues. It will serve no purpose to go into Town Meeting without a measure of confidence that all sides of issues have been thoroughly explored and essentially resolved.

Current zoning bylaws, along with new zoning proposals and other relevant material, will be posted on a website. Also, hard copy handouts, a bulletin board in the Town library, phone contacts, and informational articles, especially here in this newsletter will be sources for information. Planning is an iterative process, which means back and forth, lots of it. We will try and schedule forums at regular board meetings, including the Planning, Conservation, Selectmen, Open Space, Seniors and others. In addition, there will be special sessions at critical junctures. The idea is to reach as many interests and ideas as possible.

Our existing zoning has served us well for twenty years, but the times they are a changing. Let's put our minds to thinking about what those changes may mean to our town, and what we need to do to make sure that those values that make this a good place to live are protected. What might we all do to make this Town better?



Congratulations and Good News

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

Proud Grammie and Grampi: Naomi and Michael Voldahl-Corliss announce that their son, **Marshal Carrier**, and his wife, **Stephanie (St. John)**, gave birth to another baby girl. **Piper**

Alexis Carrier was born on Dec. 23, 2005. She was welcomed heartily by her 2 big sisters **Cailey** (3 1/2 yrs) and **Adrienne** (1 yr). Marshal is still with the US Army and is stationed in Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville NC.

Students Make their Marks: Nearly half of Royalston's 28 Monty Tech students achieved honors status during the first quarter. The Royalston students earning honors include **Dylan Bates, Megan Deegan, Timothy Deschenes, Ashley Gladden, Ryan Peters, Emily R. Putney, Jessica A. Putney, and Brittany Warren.** Those students who earned the distinction of high honors include **Cotey Basso, April Doucette, Ryan Gaudet, Andrew Parnanen, and Megan Wessels.** Congratulations to the students and a nod of recognition to their parents and former teachers.

Chief Choice From Royalston: Karen L. (Divoll) Kolimaga has been named Chief of Safety and Security Mount Wachusett Community College. She recently retired from 18 years with the Athol Police Department where she served as dispatcher, patrolman, sergeant and lieutenant and was instrumental in hiring that department's first female chief. She attended Worcester State College and Mount Wachusett Community College, and completed a B.A. in Criminal Justice at Curry College, earning recognition for her 4.0 GPA. Karen is the first woman in the history of MWCC to be named Chief.

Royalstonians to the Rescue: Gene Kolimaga of Deland Hill, and former Royalston Patrolman **Len Crossman** gave a 46 year old man a reason to celebrate this past Thanksgiving. On Saturday, November 25, 2005, these Gardner Police officers responded to reports of an occupied vehicle fire. They arrived to find an engulfed car with an unresponsive man at the wheel – and locked doors! Using extinguishers to keep the fire under control and smashing windows to gain entry, Gene and Len managed to extricate the man. The driver apparently came out unscathed, but Gene and Len both had to be treated for smoke inhalation. Somewhat similarly, Gene's brother-in-law **Ed Wheeler** was on his way to work on Route 2 one early holiday season morning, and came upon a vehicle precariously perched and dumping its fuel on the slope of the median. Along with some other bystanders, he assisted the frantic passengers out of the vehicle through a window.

Lucky Luann: Five Strikes in a Row

Talented **Luann (LaRoche) Simula** is a member of the Monday morning Katz Bowling League comprised of women from Royalston and surrounds. She not only scored an impressive 212 bowling game just before Christmas at Playaway Lanes in Winchendon, but threw five consecutive strikes! She and team member **Donna Smith** were smiling like Cheshire Katz over that laudable feat.

Part time resident, **Boyd Estus**, is the Director of Photography of a film currently showing at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. "SOME KIND OF FUNNY PORTO RICAN?" (A Cape Verdean American Story) is about the destruction of a vibrant community of immigrants from the Cape Verdean Islands in the Fox Point section of Providence, Rhode Island during the "urban renewal" of the 60s and 70s. Showing Wednesday, February 1st at 8:30 pm. (tickets at 617.369.3306)

Phil Rabinowitz of Athol Road, performs with the group "Work in Progress." He and the band will be performing on February 2 at the Copper Angel to benefit the North Quabbin Adult Education (NQAE) Center in Orange. Phil was the executive director of the Literacy Project, the parent organization of NQAE, and also served for nine years as NQAE's first site director. These organizations have positively changed the lives of hundreds of our friends and neighbors. The Copper Angel is on Rt. 2A in Erving, just over the Orange Line, near the Rt. 2 junction. A \$29 donation includes dinner and entertainment. Profits benefit adults learning new job skills and working to improve reading and writing abilities.

Royalston's **Elizabeth Farnsworth**, co-author of the new *Peterson Field Guide to the Ferns*, will present a talk at the Millers River Environmental Center (100 Main St, Athol) on Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. She will discuss the making of her book, with special reference to our local ferns of interest. She is a Bullard Research fellow at Harvard University and will be illustrating the forthcoming *Flora of New England* for the New England Wild Flower Society. Catch an exhibit of her illustrations at the Phinehas S. Newton Library this month.

Buddy is Back: There were more than a few frantic phone calls during a recent weekend in January when **Kelly Newton's** houseguest "**Buddy,**" an elderly Dalmatian, took an unaccompanied walk about town. He wandered in the vicinity of The Common, up Northeast Fitzwilliam Road, and was apparently disoriented and dehydrated by the time he was found by **Stephanie McLure** near Tony Cooper's on North Fitzwilliam Rd. Buddy is now safe at home.

Recipe of the Month

Gert Corser of Warwick Rd is well known for her good works and talents as a baker. All year through, she serves up birthday cakes decorated with sugared flowers from her own summer gardens. This month she offers a recipe for a quick and easy meal that can be mixed right in the pan where it will bake and can be served any time of day. It's perfect for pot lucks.

Broccoli or Spinach Quiche

1 pkg frozen chopped broccoli or spinach – thawed and drained
8 oz. grated cheddar cheese
1/2 stick melted margarine
1 24 oz. tub cottage cheese
6 unbeaten eggs
6 T. flour (about 1/3 cup)
(Sausage, bacon bits, ham, etc can also be added.)
Salt, pepper, and herbs to taste: basil, oregano and mustard work well

Mix all ingredients together and pour into in a 13x9 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until done in center. Served with salad, it makes a nice light supper.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00am - 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

Norah Dooley for a great Holiday Preschool Program as well as singing in the new year with gusto and community spirit

Raeann LeBlanc for a magazine subscription

Ashley Berquist, Ferron Dooley- Fairchild, Dianna Newton, and **Benjamin West** for volunteer work

Boyd Estes and Heliotrope Studios for donating several of his documentaries and films

Werner Bundshuh for getting our projection equipment to function and the loan of the proper cords

Royalston Cultural Council for funding The Pied Potter Hamelin Program and to the Friends for yummy refreshments

Janet Bettey for book donations

Tom Musco for donating a movie

Kathy Morris for her well prepared and patiently given wheat weaving workshop.

Library Patons who bought Friends fundraising items at the library last December. Sales were quite brisk and we took in over \$400.

Overdue Homage

Certainly, **Elsie B. Jewett** was the most tenacious of all Royalston librarians. She served as library director from 1928-1973 without a stop. However, until recently, neither the library nor historical society had a single photo of Ms. Jewett. Now, thanks to the donation of a photograph by Jean LeRay of Brown Rd, there is a portrait of Ms. Jewett hanging in the library. The Friends of the Library had the photograph enlarged and framed and will soon add an informational plaque.

In Ms. Jewett's day, patrons never took books off the shelves. Instead they requested them from the librarian, who would find them in the stacks and hand them over the counter. In the days before electricity, she ran the library by kerosene lamp. Like all Royalston librarians, she had a great memory; she held the card catalog and patrons' overdue notices in her head. Some in Town remember her as a stern guardian of the books, but others, like Arline Vining remember her as an especially friendly mentor. Ms. Jewett was librarian for 45 of the Phinehas S Newton Library's 96 years. Everyone who enjoys the library today owes her a debt of gratitude.

Documentary Film Series Continues

On Friday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the library, the second documentary, *Art of the Short Film*, will be shown. This film is a collection of six short films from Australia, India, the United States, Japan, and Germany. They range from two animated shorts: Mt. Head, a fantasy about a man who ends up with a cherry tree growing out of his head after eating some cherry seeds and Das Rad, a discussion between two rocks that have stood atop a hilltop for centuries. Other short films show a South African landowner attempting to separate a child and his puppy, a subway conversation between a newly arrived Indian and a disillusioned Indian-American, a physicist building a time travel devise to enable him to change the course of his love life, and a mock documentary featuring the Grim Reaper. This promises to be an intriguing film night. Free popcorn and other refreshments add to the enjoyment. For more information contact the library.

Remember: Extended Monday Hours

Just a reminder, that the library is now open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Mondays. Those who get out of work at 5 and are driving home can now stop in and check items out. The library realized from patrons rushing in when staff were trying to leave for dinner that this could be a popular schedule. Staff is tracking usage to verify if this is a good option for the future.

Library Internet has gone Wireless

We've finally connected the wireless router and those who have a wireless card in their laptop computers will be able to access our "high speed" satellite internet 24 hours a day without plugging in. We're interested in seeing how far from the library people can connect, so if you've got a WiFi card in your laptop, stroll around the library and try to get on-line. (Avoid the middle of the night when you might draw unwanted attention to yourself!). Of course, if you'd like to sit in the warm comfort of the library, you can easily connect inside while we're open. The new wireless router is thanks to Jon Hardie and Rebecca Krause-Hardie and the team at Fieldstone Press, who continue to donate newsletter printing costs to "beyond the box" technology needs at the library.

2005 Website TrafficWay Up

The library's web master, Jeff Mangum, has tabulated the number of visits in 2005 to the library's web site. This year there were 1,261 visits to the site with a significant increase in the number of visits in the last four months. Jeff launched the site in April 2004 and it received 215 visits through the end of the year. In November and December of this year there were more visits each month - almost 300 - than in the whole of last year. In 2005, he also improved the design and content by adding features such as access to licensed databases and a discussion forum. He also built archives of library event photos and Royalston Community Newsletters. Jeff estimates that some of the visits, perhaps 12%, are utilizing the links on the web site. He hopes to add many more features this year including a long-range calendar of events, links to other sites, maps and directions, and greater details about upcoming events. If you have suggestions for the site, you can call the library or email them to royalston@cwmares.org. Jeff has done an incredible amount of work setting up this great site and we are very lucky to have such a dedicated and talented volunteer.

A Planetarium in the Town Hall

On Wednesday, February 22nd we have tentatively scheduled a visit by the Boston Museum of Science Starlab. This portable inflatable planetarium will fill the second floor of the Town Hall and provide an excellent opportunity to view the night sky to learn about the constellations, deep space, and planets. There will be two programs, one at 1:30 for younger and around 2:00 older children. Crafts related to the constellations will be ongoing while each group is inside the planetarium. This entertaining and educational program is funded through the generosity of the Royalston Academy and the Judith Jenkins Musco Scholarship Fund. Watch for more information at the library, in newspapers and on fliers in children's backpacks.

Understanding the Modern Middle East

This important and timely topic will be the focus of a reading discussion series at the library. Three lectures and discussions will take place on Sunday, March 5th, March 19th, and April 2nd between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Discussions will revolve around the book Between Memory and Desire: the Middle East in a Troubled Age by R. Stephen Humphries. Participants wishing to own the book may purchase copies at a 60% discount for \$11, or it may be borrowed from the library. On March 5th, Rami Khalaf, History Professor at Worcester State College, will discuss *The U.S. Presidency and the Middle East*. He will also lead the discussion on March 19th. Finally, on April 2nd, David Mednicoff of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst will lead the discussion. This program was developed by and will be partially funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. Donations from Polly Longworth and The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library are also funding this informative program. For more information or to register and obtain a book, contact the library.



What Goes Around, Comes Around

Adopt-a-library: Several months ago the Phinehas Newton Library applied to adopt a library in the Gulf region that had been damaged by Hurricane Katrina. We didn't hear anything and thought that we hadn't been chosen. But just last week we received notice that we had been selected along with two other libraries to adopt the Mose Husband Tapia Library in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. I spoke to the Library Director, Ada Williamston, who told me the history of their building. Their library, a small log structure built as a library in 1939, 23 years before their town even became a town, was completely destroyed. It was the only public library in Alabama completely destroyed by the hurricane. Water from the storm filled the building to within 4" of the ceiling and everything was destroyed including their whole collection, which totaled 15,000 volumes. At present they have funding from the State Library in Alabama to cover the rent on a new location for a year but everything after that is up in the air. The Gates Foundation has donated new computers to them and they have also had an overhead projector donated. Bayou La Batre is a town of 2400 people but the library serves a much larger community and has over 4000 registered patrons. Donations to help rebuilt and restock their library may be left at our library and checks may be made out to the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library with Mose Tapia Library on the memo line. Since this Gulf Coast library was destroyed by a hurricane, it seemed fitting that the Friends give their \$250 in profits from last summer's theatrical production of *The Tempest*.

Drs w/o Bdrs: Thank you to all who donated to the Friends' effort to raise money for Doctors Without Borders after the terrible earthquake in India and Pakistan. A little over \$200 in movie fines from the last December as well as earmarked donation from patrons will be given to this dedicated group which provides medical aid around the world.

Royalston Featured in Periodicals

The newest *New England Quarterly* has arrived at the library; it features a fascinating story from Halloween Week, 1895 about the **Wild Man of Royalston**. It is a true account of our Town at a time of mysterious happenings, including an exploding woodstove, a clock pendulum thrown in a window, a sheep with a broken back and a burning barn. It involves Charley Richardson, a young, bored Royalston farmer with a hankering to move West and Annie Kopchovsky (aka Nellie Bly jr.), an adventurous reporter from the *New York World* who hyper-sensationalized the story and splashed Royalston all over the New York Sunday newspapers. Local law enforcement efforts eventually solved the case. Visit the library to read the story and discover the true identity and motive of the Wild Man.

A photographer from *The Magazine Antiques* was recently on the Common to take pictures of the homes draped in snow and holiday finery. Many interior shots were also taken. The photos should appear in the December 2006 issue. A copy will be available at the library.

Cross Culture Club

There are a lot glowing adjectives to describe growing up in Royalston, but "multi-cultural" isn't one of them. That's why the kids' cross culture club will again be offered on Thursdays from 3:30-4:40 at the Phinehas S Newton Library. (Students from RCS can take the school bus to the library with a note from home.) It's a fun time with games, food, crafts and songs. International snacks are provided and it's free.

The schedule this year:

February 9th	Mary Carnie on Italy
February 16th	Beth Gospodarek on Lesotho (Africa)
March 2nd	Emma O'Connor on Ireland

All ages that can sit still are welcome. Participants don't have to attend each session. (Prior registration by contacting the library is helpful as it helps to plan for supplies).

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

ADULT AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Atwood, Margaret *The Tent*
Banville, John *The Sea*
Bradford, Barbara Taylor *Just Rewards*
Brookner, Anita *Leaving Home: A Novel*
Evanovich, Janet *Manhunt*
Garwood, Julie *Slow Burn*
Godwin, Gail *Queen of the Underworld: A Novel*
Hapka, Cathy *Pardon My French*
Harrison, Lisi *Invasion of the Boy Snatchers: A Clique Novel*
Harrison, Lisi *Revenge of the Wannabes: A Clique Novel*
Hunter, Erin *Dawn*
James, P. D. *The Lighthouse*
Kendrick, Beth *Fashionably Late*
Koontz, Dean *Forever Odd: A Novel*
Linz, Cathie *Good Girls Do*
McCaffrey, Anne *Changelings*
Norton, Andre *Silver May Tarnish*
Oates, Joyce Carol *Missing Mom: A Novel*
Patterson, James *Mary Mary: A Novel*
Pratt, Tim *The Strange Adventures of Rangergirl*
Roberts, Nora *Red Lily*
Sutherland, Regina Hale *The Red Hat Society's Acting Their Age*

ADULT AND YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

Carter, Jimmy *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*
Truss, Lynne *Talk to the Hand: The Utter Bloody Rudeness of the World Today, or Six Good Reasons to Stay Home and Bolt the Door*
Dinwiddie, Robert *Universe*
Trudeau, Kevin *Natural Cures "They" Don't Want You to Know About*
Pleasant, Barbara *The Complete Houseplant Survival Manual*
Katz, Jon *Katz on Dogs*
Kafka, Barbara *Vegetable Love*
Beaman, Sarah *Scrapbooking 100 Techniques with 25 Projects Plus a Swipefile of Motifs and Mottoes*
Angelou, Maya *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem*
Whiteman, Dorit Bader *Lonek's Journey: The True Story of a Boy's Escape to Freedom*
Fonda, Jane *My Life So Far*
McCourt, Frank *Teacher Man*

New Homegrown DVD at the Library: The Arline Files

Who has been the library's most consistent patron? Whose house is built at the site of an exploded still? Who had so many older brothers that her family built an "Old Woman in the Shoe" float for the Town's Bicentennial parade? Who successfully skied down Doanes Hill with eggs on her back? Who met her husband when he came to Town to cut downed trees after the '38 hurricane? Who weekly mowed the whole Common with a push mower and looked after the adjoining fancy homes and their residents for many years? Who ran the Town post office for decades? Who didn't particularly care for the 60s when new residents that were trying to build boats from cement wouldn't pick up their registered mail? It's Arline Vining of Stone Road, of course. There is a new DVD about Arline available at the Phinehas S Newton Library. It is rough edit of interviews made by Daniel and Jan Ray Vaccari. Although it is still in a rough form, Arline is a natural storyteller and there is an awful lot of information about Royalston and its people during the 20th Century in this DVD. To learn something new, check it out.

Royalston Fish & Game Club News

Big TV Raffle : Win a 61" RCA Projection TV. Chances are \$10.00 and there will be approx. 200-250 sold. The winning ticket will be drawn immediately after the Superbowl on February 5. The TV can be seen at the club. Tickets are available at the club or at the South Royalston Country Store.

Wintertime means card games and roast beef suppers at the Royalston F&G. They're inviting all to join in for the **Pitch Tournament** on Sunday, February 26 at 2 p.m. Bring your own partner for Pitch. No information was available at press time on the suppers, but you can call Roy or Donna Smith in early February for details, 978-249-9687.

"Our Lady" Fundraisers Successful

The funds necessary to replace the roof at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel were raised through a letter solicitation and the annual Christmas Basket raffle during the last couple of months. The roof is the original one, and certainly owes nothing to the parishioners! It is expected that the new roof will be complete in time for the Chapel's 50th anniversary celebration in October, 2006.

Congregational Churches

Valentine's Day will be celebrated by the Congregational Churches at 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 11 for couples, and on Tuesday, February 14 for singles. The couples' dinner will take place in Fellowship Hall and the singles' dinner will be held at The Parsonage. All are welcome, regardless of church affiliation. RSVP with the Rev. Ginger Asel at 978-249-9155.

The **Women's Fellowship** from the Second Congregational Church has been planning events for the upcoming year. A Saturday, May 20 **spring yard sale** is planned with spaces available on a first come-first serve basis. The group will organize the **pancake breakfast** for Saturday, July 8 at the Town Hall, held in conjunction with the First Church's annual Country Fair on The Common. A **chicken barbecue** is planned for Saturday, July 29 at the Royalston Fish & Game Club. The ladies also are planning to participate in the Second Congregational Church's **Centennial Celebration** on Saturday, September 9. The popular **Jingle Bell Christmas Fair** is slated for Saturday, November 18.

There is no February meeting of the Women's Fellowship. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Second Church's parlor. Meetings are held there the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. All women are welcome to attend.

Scholarships For Royalston Students

NOW is the time for high school students to go to the guidance office and request a list of scholarships available to them. The process of completing an application can take weeks; many require official transcripts or other documents that take time to obtain and most will want at least one and sometimes several essays.



Snowflakes

snow light as feathers
crunchy, squeaky, sparkly cold
freezing wet crystals



RCS Poetry Club Group 1: *Kadasia LaJoie, Alyana LaJoie, Derek Bates, KileyLeBlanc, Allisyn Mowery, Emma Finochhio, Abby Divoll*

Royalston Community School News

Mitchell R. Grosky, principal

The weather may be gloomy and the news (both global and local) have been discouraging lately, but at the Royalston Community School, we are continually heartened by the children and adults who work hard to educate the mind, stimulate the imagination, and excite the senses. Children's faces remain bright and eager. Their smiles are enough to warm us, even in the midst of winter.

Students singing "We Shall Overcome", hearing a re-enactment of the "I Have a Dream" speech, and watching a presentation by Mrs. Carnie's Class on Martin Luther King imbued Martin Luther King Day with meaning for us. Students participated in interdisciplinary reading, writing, and art activities related to the holiday.

On Thursday, February 2, we will have a grade six pizza party at 6:00 p.m. Afterwards, we will view a very important presentation on Nature's Classroom and discuss what needs to be done for this excellent program to take place, as scheduled, in June.

Student Hip Hop Dance Recital at RCS



photo: Grosky

Here, Danielle LaTulippe, Kelsey Bushee, Andrea Linnus, Chalia Euvard-Brewington and Brandon Tisdale rehearse for the upcoming Hip Hop Dance Performance.

Thanks to the support of the Royalston Academy, all RCS students have been learning hip hop dancing for the past few weeks. It is great, high energy, aerobic exercise that the kids enjoy. A recital to strut students' hip hop skills will be held at RCS Fri. Feb. 17 at 6:30

South Royalston School Reunion Association News

President LuAnn (LaRoche) Simula has announced the SRS Reunion Association's first ever **TRIVIA CONTEST**. Each month's RCN will feature a question about South Royalston Elementary Schools. Answers from anyone who has ever attended or worked at Royalston schools (including non-residents) may participate. E-mail answers to royalston_community_news@yahoo.com or call Mary Barclay at 978-249-2598. A winner will be drawn at the 103rd annual reunion on Saturday, September 30, 2006. A bonus prize will be provided if the winner of that drawing is in attendance. **February's Question:** What popular South Royalston Elementary School principal was noted for his annual winter concert performances, during which he sang and frolicked about to the tune "Here Comes Suzie Snowflake"?

Joann Deacon thanks everyone for their prayers and get well wishes as she recuperates from lymphoma.



Open House at the Village School

The Village School is holding an Open House on Saturday, February 11, from 10 a.m. to noon. Arts and crafts projects and hands-on science activities for children will be offered in each classroom (Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-6). There are openings in preschool and kindergarten for the upcoming school year. Interested families are invited to come visit the school, see the classrooms, meet with the teachers, and talk to current students and their parents.

The Village School is an independent school offering a supportive learning environment for children from preschool through grade 6. The school has a unique curriculum based on direct contact with the natural world, kindness, and attention to the individual. School Director Rise Richardson says, "The Village School was created in response to the needs of this local community, with the aim of addressing the question of balance in education. We are determined to feed the body, the feelings, and the mind, so they can work together, and so the child can develop harmoniously. It is important that the emotional life be able to grow, in balance with the mind and the body, so that no part is overdeveloped at the expense of another part. The emotional life grows in the atmosphere of kindness and respect. We also try to connect children with nature, where children feel most at home. Last but not least, our tuition is kept as low as possible, and is considered very reasonable in comparison with other independent non-parochial schools. Of course, we have a financial aid program in place for K-6th grade, and will help families apply for Community Partnership funds for preschool." The school is located on the Common in Royalston, by the Post Office (in the old Raymond School building). For more information call School Director Rise Richardson at (978) 249-3505, or visit the school's web site at www.villageschool.to

Raffle at the Village School

Win big money and help grades 4-6 at the Village School defray costs of their upcoming class trip to England. Raffle tickets are \$5/each or 5/\$20. 1st prize: 30% of collection, 2nd prize: 15% of collection, and 3rd prize: 5% of collection. Call Kristen West for more details: 978-249-5993.

Monty Tech News

The spring Continuing Education schedule is out and is offering nearly 100 opportunities to expand your mind and earning potential. Career licensing is available for practical nurses, phlebotomists, electricians and plumbers. Teens can learn to cook, babysit or perform lifesaving CPR. Would you like to speak Spanish? How about French, German, or American Sign Language? Want to learn to dance? Choose from ballroom dancing courses or line dancing. Get in shape while learning golf, Pilates or yoga. Ever wanted to invest in stocks? Scared of computers? Try a "getting started" course. Call director Rich Ikonen at 800-853-6689 or e-mail conted@montytech.net.

Wildlife Signs: Saturday Jan. 7, unmistakable bobcat tracks, only a few hours old, running for 30 or 40 yards along the path leading from Athol Road to the Ledge were identified by Phil and Carla Rabinowitz.

Red Fox are looking for mates this month Sniffing rocks with multiple fox tracks around them at Tully Lake on January 15th revealed several strong, musky (rather skunk like) calling cards d'amour.

In Your Own Backyard

Beth Gospodarek

Just why are the sugar maples in Town often unhealthy? David Putney, a lifelong Royalston resident who maintained a 500 tap sugar bush for over 30 years in the northeastern part of town, has seen 70% of his trees die since the 1980s. No one knows definitively what is happening, but it is clear that maples are susceptible to stress from old age, disease, insects, pollution and climate change. Our maples are probably suffering from a combination of all these maladies.

Bacteria, viruses and fungi can attack sugar maples, but they usually just weaken the tree. Curly and bird's eye patterns in maple furniture are actually caused by these fungi. Similarly, bugs like the pear thrip and tent caterpillars can lessen the number of leaves on a tree and interfere with food production. This hurts, but isn't usually fatal. Salt, used in de-icing roads, gets in the soil and enters a tree at its roots. Eventually, the salt accumulates throughout the tree tissue. The tree can withstand the salt during wet springs, but in dry summers, high salt concentrations can kill twigs, branches, and whole sections of a maple.

Another stress factor may be acid rain, caused by burning fossil fuels. Sugar maples prefer calcium rich, basic soils. Not only does acid rain cause the soil to acidify, but it also makes aluminum, which is naturally bound up in the soil, water soluble. This aluminum damages roots and prevents nutrient absorption. However, local observation points to acid rain having an unexpected up-side. Mr. Putney has noticed that the healthiest sugar maples in Town tend to be near granite outcroppings or stone walls. He hypothesises that some beneficial minerals could be being leached from the stone by acid rain and made available to the trees.

Lastly, climate change is probably creating problems for sugar maples. Studies at the Climate Change Research Center at the University of New Hampshire report a 30 year trend of fewer days with snow cover and smaller average yearly accumulations of snow. This exposes tree roots to harsh temperatures, leaves less ground water available during the spring conversion of stored starches to sugary sap, and allows more temperate pests and diseases to spread northward.

New England weather has always been fickle, but maple syrup producers have also noticed worrisome climate trends. For sap to run, sugar maples require nights below freezing and days with temperatures around 40 degrees. According to the New England Regional Assessment of the US Global Change Research Program, these conditions seem to be creeping earlier in the year and the period when the temperature conditions are right for sugaring seems to be growing shorter. Last year's sapping season was reported 6 days shorter than in 2004. Canada is rapidly becoming the new Vermont when it comes to maple syrup production; this is partly due to government subsidies, but weather changes are also a documentable factor. Tourism boards worry that spectacular fall foliage will also head further north in the coming decades.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

I'll be performing my February garden chores from the same place I'm writing these garden notes: sitting upon a funky recliner, feet atop and even funkier ottoman. Catalogues are near at hand; (others are conveniently situated near that other seat in which I might tend to linger). Seeds will be ordered, and I can glance out the window at the snow-shrouded garden. The snow did its shrouding early this season, December 9. Ground opened up at December's close and I took advantage of those couple of days to mulch, finally, the strawberries, garlic, and spinach and to dig some parsnips. In spite of the frigid temperatures through the first half of December, frost had hardly penetrated the ground, snow serving as useful a mulch as the heaps of hay I spread. Since then, the snow has been on again, off-again. Presently (January 22) it is off; by tomorrow it will have returned.

While foraging through the re-useable area at the dump, I snagged a couple of fish tanks. These, as well as several others stashed here and there around the home, were, at last, put to some constructive use: the mysterious mounds under the snow in the garden are, in fact, upturned fish tanks. Serving as mini-greenhouses, they cover wee bits of parsley, cilantro, and some late-planted lettuce. Occasionally I'll brush off the snow to determine whether or not the plants remain green. Green they remain though growth is miniscule at best. Only the parsley has provided me with sufficient quantities to harvest.

With virtually no physical activities to perform, February is the perfect month to exercise the mind mulling over the truly important issues of the day: like, for instance, the matter of lawns. There is a certain neatness and orderliness to the well-kept lawn, but it is no more diverse than different blades of grass. Monoculture. Left mostly untended, a dozen or more wildflowers would emerge the following year and many more thereafter. There are residents throughout town who would experience angst if their lawns missed their weekly manicures. And there is Carl Kamp. Carl is a resident on the common with an abiding interest in butterflies and moths. There are no butterflies or moths on mowed grass; there are many at Carl Kamp's, whose lawn is a wildflower meadow, offensive to some, a pleasure to others.

Our lawn maintenance program has evolved over the years. It started, twenty-eight years ago with the cows tethered in the yard. Growth was more or less evened out with the help of a scythe. We progressed to a series of rotary push mowers, all of which performed poorly over the rugged terrain which passes as our lawn. We advanced, naturally, to an assortment of gas-powered pushers and settled (finally, inevitably) into the seat of a garden tractor. Currently, we've come full circle and brought the cows back to the yard. The occasional drive through on the rider is more to spread the manure than mow the lawn.

On a final note, February is not as desolate as it appears; it is but 28 days long (at least, this year.. and, at month's end, I will be 28 days closer to some meaningful garden work.



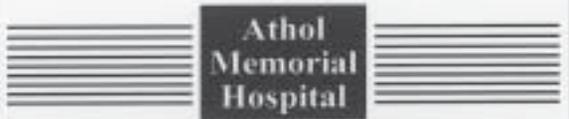
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Classifieds

Babysitter needed: Seeking someone with babysitting experience to care for two girls aged, 10 and 4 at my home. Babysitting would be one evening weekly during the school year with opportunity for more hours during school vacations. For more information: 249-2713.

To give away: a 60" by 30" wood, executive style desk. It is a dark mahogany laminated desk with 6 drawers. Call Chris at (978)249-7179.

For Sale: used pick up truck. It is a 1994 Isuzu Pup, two wheel drive, 4 cyl., standard shift. It is in good shape with 134,500 miles on it - asking \$600.00. Call 978-249-4587 after 4:00 PM.

New members sought: There is room for a few new families in the Royalston Community Coop. Call Mary Barclay 249-2598 for details.

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

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RCN reserves the right to edit and restrict all submissions. This Newsletter is provided free of charge to all residents of Royalston as a public service provided by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library with support from the Royalston Cultural Council and the entire community.

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