

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2007



Volume X, Issue II

A Publication of the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, Royalston, Massachusetts

## Calendar of Events

March 1 Thursday

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting** at the Phinehas S Newton Library. Discuss this newsletter, library support and upcoming programs. (Meetings alternate monthly between 3:30 in the afternoon and 6:30 in the evening.)

March 2 Friday

7pm **Penultimate 2007 Open Mic** at the Royalston Town Hall. All are welcome to this free event. (Mark your calendar: the last Open Mic for 2007 will be on April 6.)

March 3 Saturday

3:16 p.m. **Total Eclipse of the moon** begins; continues through 9:25 p.m.

6 p.m. **Spaghetti Supper and 60 Raffle to benefit Our Lady Queen of Heaven**, at the Royalston Fish and Gun Club.

6:17 p.m. **Full Worm Moon**

March 5 Monday

3:30-4:30 pm **Kids' Cross Culture Club explores Italy** at the library with Mary Carnie.

7 pm **Library Trustee meeting** at the Phinehas S Newton Library

March 7 Wednesday

6:30 – 9:30 pm. **Hunter Safety Course** (1 of 3) at Royalston F&G

March 11 Sunday

**Daylight Savings Time changes**; spring forward one hour at midnight. The time change is three weeks earlier than usual in a national attempt to conserve energy. Some computers may not be programmed to handle the change. E-contact, download and install a free Microsoft or Apple "DST patch" so all your e-appointments aren't off by one hour.

7:30 – 11 a.m. **Fire Department Fundraising Breakfast Buffet** at the Winchendon Rod & Gun. Eggs, meats, home fries, French toast, beverages all for \$7 (\$4, 12 and younger) Advance tix from firefighters recommended.

2 p.m. **One-Day Pitch Tournament** at Royalston F&G (Bring a partner!)

March 12 Monday

3:30 pm **Cross Culture Club at the library:** rescheduled "visit" to **Germany** with Francesca Graziano. Free. Call 249-3572 for info.

March 13 Tuesday

12:30 **Early Dismissal at Monty Tech** :professional development

7 pm **Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting** with The Royalston Planning Board and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. Public Input sought.

March 14 Wednesday

noon **early dismissal at RCS** (and all ARRS D elementaries.)

March 17 Saturday

**St. Patrick's Day**

6:30 p.m. **Roast Beef Supper** at Royalston F&G (not corned beef!) Advance tickets from Tracy Smith at 978-249-3103.

March 18 Sunday

10:43 p.m. **New Pink Moon**

March 19 Third Monday

7 p.m. RFD EMS meeting **Childbirth seminar**

March 20 Tuesday

8:07 pm **Vernal Equinox – Spring**

7 pm **Candidates' night** at RCS, a chance to ask questions of those running for seats in upcoming Town election, including select board, planning board and school committee.

March 22 Thursday

**Saka – Indian New Year 1929**

March 24 Saturday

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. **Rabies and License Clinic** at the Uptown Fire Station, the Common. Rabies vaccinations for both cats and dogs will be available as will dog licenses for owners with proof of the dog's current rabies vaccination.

March 25 Sunday

8 am -4 pm **Hunter Safety Course** (2 of 3) at Royalston F&G

March 26 Monday

1 pm **Greek myths performed** by Norah Dooley at the Royalston Town Hall. Free. Everyone is welcome, but program is aimed at 8 - 12 year olds. Sponsored in part by the Cultural Council.



March 28 Wednesday

8 a.m. **24-Hour Dispatch Committee meets** at Center Fire Station  
11:30 a.m. Royalston Luncheon Club and Brown Bag commodities distributed

**Monty Tech Big Night:** (snow dates Thursday or Friday), includes: 5 pm **Spaghetti Supper**, 6:30 p.m. Monty Tech Open House and 6:30 p.m. **Monty Tech Classic Car & Antique Auto Show**

March 30 \_\_\_\_\_ Friday

6 pm **Lasagne Supper and Fabulous Student Talent Show** at 7 pm at RCS. Get your acts together. Supper benefits Nature's Classroom scholarships. Info: 249-2900

March 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday

7 p.m. **Local filmmakers series** begins at the library with Werner Bundshuh, who will show clips from some of his many documentaries. Refreshments, including wine and cheese, served.

April 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Hunter Safety Course** (3 of 3) at Royalston F&G

April 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Monday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Polls open for Annual Town Election** Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall on School St. in South Royalston.

April 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday

10 a.m. sharp **Easter Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting.** Meet at Town Hall. Rain or shine. Bring a basket or bag to carry eggs. Donations of plastic eggs, wrapped candy and funds to purchase items for the event can be left at the Country Store or Phinehas S Newton Library by March 31. Call Rene Lake: 978-249-4639 for info.

April 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday

2 a.m. **5-Alone, an outstanding a-capella group** from the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter High School sing their hearts out at Royalston Town Hall. They recently won the state championship and are raising funds for a trip to Disneyworld where they will compete at the national level. A donation of \$5 is suggested. Students and children are free. CDs available.

April 28 \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday

9 a.m. to noon- Bullock Park: **Roadside Trash Pick Up.** Clean your own street and help keep Royalston beautiful. A cookout will be held at 12:00 with Hot Dogs, Chili, Chips and soda. Contact Charlie Scribner - 978-249-2647

## Fire Department News

**Oxygen Masks for Pets:** Thanks to a donation to the Worcester County NEADS Lion's Club by resident Phil Leger, Royalston's fire department now has oxygen masks that assist dogs and cats during emergencies.

## Royalston Luncheon Club

According to COA president Betty Woodbury, members of the Luncheon Club have pretty well resorted to "just the usual" during the winter months. The February 13 storm forced a cancellation of the Valentine luncheon last month. Despite New England weather, the luncheons generally continue. All are welcome at 11:30 on Wednesdays in Town Hall to share a hot meal, a warm room and a good chat. Please call Betty at 978-249-9656 (by the Monday before) to reserve a Wednesday luncheon seat.

## From the Select Board

*Andy West, chair*

The Board of Selectmen will host a **Strategic Planning meeting** at the Town Hall on March 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Strategic Planning is a way for all the Town departments to communicate and establish a common direction toward 3-5 year goals. We will discuss departments' future needs and develop and prioritize goals. The public is welcome. So come share your vision!

The Board has created a **Broadband Committee** charged with bringing high speed internet service to Royalston. Beware, it may take awhile. There are limited immediate options. However, the members have some very innovative ideas. We'll put some to the test. The first meeting of the BC will be March 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. If you have an interest in high speed access, come to the meeting. You can also keep an eye on what's going on at the meetings and keep up to date with the latest broadband news. A Listserve (email broadcast group) has been set up to share information. Any message sent to the listserv will be broadcast to all members of the list. It's easy to subscribe to the list or unsubscribe. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Royalston-Broadband> and follow the instructions. Need help? E-mail [bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:bos@royalston-ma.gov).



Have an opinion? Email the Board at [bos@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:bos@royalston-ma.gov)

## Board of Health News:

### What Goes Where at the Transfer Station

*Phil Leger, BOH chair*

There has been some confusion at times as to what goes into the large roll off container. Starting with the roll off nearest the road and trailers and continuing clockwise, the containers are set up as follows:

- #1 METAL-large metal items, not acceptable gas cylinders, any item that has liquid in it such as gas, oil, antifreeze etc.
- #2 DEMO-construction and demolition debris, bulky waste items such as furniture and mattresses. Any item going into this container must pay a fee. \$120/ton See attendant.
- #3, #4, #5 PAPER-any paper, newspaper, cardboard, magazines etc. If you can tear it, it would go here. Avoid gift wrap that is not plain paper tissue and waxed covered cardboard. Please break down boxes. Space is of the essence in managing the materials.

**If you are unsure of what goes where, don't just dump; see the attendant.** Recently, a ladder had to be placed into the paper roll off so that large furniture pieces could be taken out. This is unnecessary and creates a safety hazard and the potential for the load to be rejected, which would cost all of us money. We also know at times that the roll offs can be full or near full. Room often can be found along the edges. See attendant when this happens. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Town Clerk News

*Melanie Mangum*

*Office Hours: Mondays - 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Whitney Hall*

**ELECTION UPDATE:** There are 2 contests on the ballot for the Annual Town Election, which will be held Monday, April 2. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall on School St. in South Royalston. If you have any questions regarding your voter status or where to vote, please call my office. 978-249-0493.

There will be a three-way race for Thomas Kellner's seat on the Board of Selectman. Mr. Kellner is not running for re-election. Jon Hardie, Wayne Newton and Gary Winitzer will compete for his three-year term. Kate Collins and Chet Hall are running for a 5-year term on the Planning Board. No one took out nomination papers for an open 3-year term on the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee, and, as of this writing, no one has expressed an interest in starting a write-in campaign. A full list of the candidates running for office will be posted at Town Hall, the Post Office, Whitney Hall and the Country Store.

**DOG LICENSES and RABIES CLINIC:** 2007 Dog Licenses are available. For dogs registered last year, the license is good until March 31, but owners encouraged to come in any time to get their 2007 licenses. On Saturday, March 24, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., my office and the Gardner Animal Hospital will be holding a Rabies and License Clinic at the Uptown Fire Station. Rabies vaccinations for both cats and dogs will be available, and I will be licensing dogs who come in for their shots. If you are not getting a rabies shot but want to license your dog, please make sure to bring in documentation of the dog's current rabies vaccination.

## Planning Board Prepares for Emergencies

*Tom Musco*

In response to the rising cost of responding to, and recovering from, disasters, the President signed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) on October 30, 2000. Among other initiatives, the law encourages a planning process based on cooperation between state and local authorities, and the community-at-large to reduce the effects of disasters. The law rewards local and state pre-disaster planning and promotes sustainability as a strategy for disaster resistance. Under the regulations implementing this law, states and local governments must have an approved, adopted hazard mitigation plan to continue to be eligible for disaster assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for reviewing and approving state and local plans. Hazard mitigation planning is the process of determining how to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from natural and human caused hazards. Hazard mitigation planning is a collaborative process whereby hazards affecting the community are identified, vulnerability to the hazards is assessed, and consensus is reached on how to minimize or eliminate the effects of these hazards.

Hazard mitigation planning increases public awareness of risks associated with disasters. It identifies critical facilities and structures. It helps to mitigate future problems and increase safety. It establishes a town and regional understanding of the issues and encourages inter-municipal cooperation to tackle problems. Finally, it helps to access funding, because in recognition of the importance of planning, all states, counties and municipalities with an approved All Hazard Mitigation Plan in effect at the time of a disaster declaration may receive additional Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. **An important part of hazard mitigation planning is direct input from the people who live and work in town. The Royalston Planning Board and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission are hosting a public meeting in March 13 at 7 pm at Town Hall.** This meeting will provide an opportunity for public input on the hazard assessment, prior to beginning the mitigation plan.

Town residents, businesspeople, non-profit groups, and other agencies with knowledge of past disaster events, including repetitive areas of repair after storms and floods, and locations of critical facilities and utilities and special needs populations that could be impacted by a disaster, are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting and provide that information to the Planning Board. For information contact: Tom Musco; 978-249-9633

**CENSUS TIME:** You should have received your Annual Census form in the mail. Please keep in mind the following when filling out your Census form:

\*Please indicate in the space provided if you receive mail at an address other than your residence. (i.e., P.O. Box)

\*If a member of your household is no longer living at your residence and is listed on the form as a registered voter (a one-letter designation will appear under "Party"), that person must also sign the census form and indicate that he/she has moved in order to be removed from that address and remove them as a voter. If that isn't possible, whoever is filling out the census form can provide a forwarding address so that I can send that person an inactive notification card. If that voter returns the inactivation card, he/she can be taken off the voter rolls. Otherwise, that person will remain listed as a voter at that address until they are inactive for 2 state elections.

\*Residents cannot change voter registration by marking the Census form (i.e., changing party designation or registering to vote.) If you wish to change something about your voter registration, you can mail in a voter registration card or come to my office and fill one out.

As always, don't hesitate to call me with questions. Remember – filling out and returning your census form is required under M.G.L. Ch. 51, section 4 and Ch. 56, Section 4. The Census process takes several months from start to finish and results in the Street List and the Annual Register (which becomes the active voting list). Copies of the 2006 Street List are still available at my office for \$2.00.



# 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:noon

979-249-3572 [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

## Thank you

**Celt Grant** for book and CD donations

**Diana Newton** for books and movies

**Sandy Knight** for books-on-tape

**Herb Bosse** for books and books-on-tape

## Membership Donations to the Friends

*Many thanks to these recent donors to the Friends of the Library.*

**Charles & Anita McDowell**

**Donald Igoe & Patricia Shea**

**Frank & Patricia Stearns**

**John and Millie Poor**

*This support helps make our library a center of our community. Funds collected purchase supplies, DVDs and technology upgrades at the library. They help publish and distribute publications such as this newsletter, the Town directory and the Pink Pages. In addition, they sponsor creative and educational enrichment programs, like the Middle East lecture series, the Royalston Shakespeare Co, and the Cross Culture Club. To become a member send a donation in any amount to the Friends of the Library, PO Box 133/ Royalston 01368. Watch for our membership letter in your mail in the next few weeks.*

## Upcoming Art Shows at Library

During the months of March and April, Doreen Sawyer will be displaying several of her quilts at the library. Doreen has been quilting since 1980, eight years before she and her husband moved to Royalston. Several of the quilts are traditional designs, including a Civil War reproduction, and others are original designs. Doreen works in both patchwork and appliqué. Quilting is one of her

many talents and hobbies. Pat Kelley will be displaying her tole painting projects during May and June and Lian Cutting will display her paintings during July and August.

*In this photo, Angela and Laurinda Dion work on a "still life with kiwi and papaya" at he recent school-vacation-week painting classes*

*generously taught by Sonja Vaccari and sponsored by the Friends of the Library. All of the participants created impressive pieces which will be displayed at the library sometime in the near future.*

*photo: Mangum*



## Local Filmmaker Documentary Series

### Bundshuh, Brandon and Estus Screen Their Work

Three documentary film makers who reside in Royalston have each agreed to present a program at our library. This series is appropriate for adults and mature children. Refreshments, including wine and cheese, will be served.

On Saturday, March 31st at 7:00 p.m. at the library, Werner Bundshuh will show scenes from films and TV programs he has made over the years, possibly including *The City of Promise*, part of a PBS series on America's War on Poverty or *Gun Fight at the OK Corral* or *Suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge* from his History/ Discovery Channel work. Bundshuh may also offer a couple of scenes from the PBS series *Out of the Past*: one about ancient economic systems and another about Maya and Aztec political systems.

Werner Bundshuh is a former Royalston selectman and school committee member who has lived on Royalston Common since 1979. He has a degree in filmmaking from Boston University and got his first job making industrial films with the Worcester Film Corp. He has worked for many years shooting and editing film for public television station WGBH, including a steady job with a daily local news program called *News at 10* and freelance work shooting and editing hour long documentaries and short films around the country for the kid's shows ZOOM and Re-bop.

Coming Attractions: Boyd Estus and Liane Brandon will continue the series on April 16th and April 27th.

## Royalston Poet Laureate Contest '07:

'Lest thou forgest; we remindest:

Right now there is a poetry contest

for poets of all ages

who reside or work here to express

their thoughts of life in Royalston:

whatever- the characters, the buildings, school recess

the roads, the mood, Town meeting, the forest...

Work must be original and not previously published.

Any form is OK but one submission per entrant seems fairest.

Names, address and phone #s on separate sheets.

All due at the library,

PO Box 133, or [chasegos@gis.net](mailto:chasegos@gis.net) by April 15.

So come on, have your say; get those ideas off your chest.

See if you're the best; put your pen to the test.

Wearing the laurel crown is a worthwhile quest

and we promise the prizes are quite fabulous.

Call 249-3572 if you need more information. (Then, you can rest.)



## Some of the New Books at the Library

### New Adult Fiction

Auster, Paul *Travels in the Scriptorium*  
 Beaton, M.C. *Death of a Maid*  
 Bernardi, Adria *Openwork: A Novel*  
 Blunt, Giles *By the Time You Read This*  
 Bohjalian, Chris *The Double Bind: A Novel*  
 Brashares, Ann *Forever in Blue: The 4th Summer of the Sisterhood*  
 Braun, Lillian Jackson (LT) *The Cat Who Had 60 Whiskers*  
 Cornwell, Bernard *Lords of the North*  
 Crider, Bill *Murder Among Owls: A Sheriff Dan Rhodes Mystery*  
 Delinsky, Barbara *Family Tree*  
 Ford, Richard *The Lay of the Land*  
 Gardner, Lisa *Hide*  
 Haddon, Mark *A Spot of Bother: A Novel*  
 Krentz, Jayne Ann *White Lies*  
 Mailer, Norman *The Castle in the Forest: A Novel*  
 Orenstein, Denise Gosliner *The Secret Twin*  
 Parker, Robert B. *High Profile*  
 Phillips, Susan Elizabeth *Natural Born Charmer*  
 Rice Luane *The Edge of Winter*  
 Smiley, Jane *Ten Days in the Hills*  
 Westerfield, Scott *Pretties*  
 Zahn, Timothy *Star Wars: Allegiance*

### New Adult Nonfiction

Brodie, Christina *Drawing and Painting Plants*  
 Crocker, Betty *Betty Crocker Cookie Book*  
 Day, Jerry R. *How to Raise Kids You Want to Keep: The Proven Discipline Program Your Kids Will Love (And That Really Works!)*  
 Harris, Mark *Grave Matters: A Journey Through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial*  
 Pulliam, June Mitchell *Read On. . . Horror Fiction (REFERENCE )*  
 Sabbath, Ann Marie *One Minute Manners: Quick Solutions to the Most Awkward Situations You'll Ever Face at Work*  
 Sedaris, Amy *I Like You: Hospitality Under The Influence*  
*The Iraq Study Group Report*  
 Trueit, Trudi Strain *Surviving Divorce: Teens Talk About What Hurts and What Helps*

**Cross Culture Club :** Alyana LaJoie and Derek Bates are counting Australian pounds at a recent gathering of the library's cross culture club. In February, dozens of kids "visited" Australia, Senegal and Indonesia. The club has two more meetings this season. On March 5, Mary Carnie will teach about Carneval traditions in Italy and on March 12, Frances Graziano has been rescheduled to tell about Germany. Both programs are on Mondays at 3:30 pm and include snacks. Free. It's not to late to join the club. Kids are allowed to take the bus from RCS with a note from home. Call the library for information: 249-3572.

### Pre-School Story Time at Library

Preschoolers and their caregivers are welcome to the library each Monday from 10 - 11:30 am. Each week, after listening to library staff read from a picture book, kids create a related craft. Books can be checked out and healthy snacks are served. Free. Pre-registration not required. Call the library for more information. Royalston's geographic spread and cold winters can be isolating, but pre-school story group can be a warm, close knit place to connect with other toddlers and parents in our small town.

The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library publish this newsletter and sponsor many other activities throughout the year.

### Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library 2007 Membership & Contribution Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Single \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Family \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to buy a Newsletter sponsorship ad: \$25.00/month or \$200.00/year\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (we will contact you for display information)

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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!**

**Candidates' Statements:** *The April 2nd Town election has contests for the open 3 year Select Board seat and the open 5 year planning board seat. All other candidates are running unopposed. In addition, there are still several open positions, including a 3 year Royalston seat on the school committee with no one running to fill the vacancies. Here are statements from the candidates for the contested seats:*

**Gary L. Winitzer - Candidate for Select Board**

Two important things are coming soon: Spring, with its warmer weather, bulbs blooming and buds appearing on trees; and the Annual Town Election when we vote for a new Selectman.

Most of you know me. I served as Selectman for almost two years. You know that at times I can rather passionately express myself. You know that if I say I will do something, I do. You know that I have a unique way of making sure any task gets done.

When elected, expect me to:

- Continue working for the best education for our children,
- Team with the other members of the Board to finish projects not yet completed,
- Identify and seek available sources of revenue to improve our infrastructure and services,
- Ensure that your tax money is spent responsibly,
- Lead the Town forward while maintaining its character and values,
- Be available to discuss your issues.

Be it touch if you'd like me to clarify my promises: 249-8957 or e-mail at glw110@gmail.com.

Remember YOUR VOTE COUNTS. Please vote SELECTMAN: GARY WINITZER on April 2nd.



**Wayne R. Newton - Candidate for Select Board**

Having consideration for room of all candidates' statements; in brief, I am liable to first say, thank you for the opportunity to run for the election for Selectman.

Also I would like to express, when elected I will bring to the board the in depth knowledge I have of your interest's, the history of Royalston, MA General Law, MA Regulations, Zoning, Historic and Town By-laws, and last but not least the truth of matters. I have observed, with the aim of these practical qualifications, this has not been met in recent years.

I have with privilege, served you for over 45 years in various capacities utilizing all the above qualifications and still serve you with great honor. I appreciate my hometown of 62 years and the people in it. I appreciate being able to give all that I can give.

I ask you to consider allowing me to utilize my knowledge with the Select board, for the best interest of you and our town, Royalston." I now am approaching you, for your vote on April 2, 2007 enabling me to extend my capabilities to serve you."

Respectfully Yours,  
Wayne R. Newton

**Jon Hardie – Candidate for Select Board**

I believe that we're all in this together.

I believe in capable, responsive & effective town government, where the lines of responsibility and authority are clear. Town officials should be open about their decisions, and be held accountable for measurable results. No office, department, or individual should operate on its own.

I believe there are more needs than resources, so we have to choose wisely. Each of us has the right & responsibility to participate actively in deciding how town money is spent.

I believe everyone should be able to express his or her concerns and be heard respectfully. If I'm elected to the Selectboard, I'll invite your participation throughout the year, to build understanding & agreement on financial and other issues, not just an up or down vote at town meeting. For example, we could rotate select board meetings between Whitney Hall & Town Hall. We need to be sure that no one is left out.

I believe you expect town officials to lead by example. That means treating everyone with dignity, fairness, & respect; building consensus; anticipating problems when possible, solving them creatively when not; and holding themselves accountable for all their actions.

I believe town officials are elected to make decisions that are in the interest of all citizens. They can best make those decisions by considering all the facts of a situation and listening to all citizens' opinions.

I believe we can best accomplish what we set out to do, if we work together with care, thoughtfulness, patience, persistence, respect, decisiveness, & hard work. For that reason, if elected, I believe that I would work well with Linda Alger & Andy West, and get the job done ... they are both good people.

Your opinions, and your vote, are very important. Thank you.

**Royalston United Way Comes up Short**

Last year's United Way solicitation in Royalston was such a success, this year's goal was upped to \$3,500. Unfortunately, donations are down from last year, so not even last year's goal of \$3,000 has been met. If you can make a first or additional donation, please give Town Chairman Ginny Gingras a call at 978-249-4951

**Military News**

February's American Legion magazine reported that the National Personnel Records Center will attempt to recreate missing military records if asked by a veteran or his or her next of kin. These records are necessary to obtain markers for deceased vet's graves. About 80 percent of Army personnel discharged between November, 1912 to January, 1960, and about 75 percent of Army and Air Force records from the name Hubbard through names beginning with Z were lost in a fire. Requests for record recreation can be made through [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov), or by calling 314-801-0800, or by e-mailing [mpr.center@nara.gov](mailto:mpr.center@nara.gov).

**Candidates' Night:** *At 7 pm, Tuesday March 20 at the Royalston Community School, come hear candidates for the contested select board and planning board seats make brief statements. Other candidates on the ballot or running write in campaigns are also welcome to speak briefly. Questions will be taken from the audience. Sponsored by the Royalston Community School Parent Teacher's Group. Call 249-0358 for more information.*

**Kathleen Collins- Candidate for Planning Board**

Planning is something we all do in the course of our daily lives. In the context of town officials, it's part of their job responsibility. As a member of the Selectboard, I helped plan for budgets, improvements, maintenance and future needs. Our short and long term needs were projected in Community Action Plans which we used to successfully secure grant moneys for water supply, sewerage extensions, new schools, and road improvements, among others. Common sense, fairness and objectivity were required as a member of the Selectboard and would apply as well to the Planning Board.

As a member of the Capital Planning Committee I am involved with identifying, prioritizing, and planning for future capital expenses the town will incur.

Planning Board work is an extension of a specific area of this kind of work, that is looking ahead and anticipating the community's needs, both short and long term. In part this will be met by making sure that we have the most up to date tools to deal with land use questions as they arise. The process of amending zoning by laws is guided by detailed procedures required by state law with the aim of encouraging broad public involvement. Royalston is your town and these are your zoning by laws so please participate in the process. The final approval of any change is the vote of town meeting. I look forward to completing the work of the zoning task force by bringing to the voters an updated set of zoning by laws for town meeting approval. This is an opportunity for all of us to participate in guiding the direction our town will take in years to come.

A parallel responsibility of the Planning Board is in regulating any permissible development to assure that it is carried out within our guidelines. Through this regulation, the Board acts to protect the town's interests, lawfully, financially, and environmentally. I believe that I have demonstrated through my years of community service that I have the interest, skills, and commitment to do this job successfully.

Please go to the polls Monday April 2. I would appreciate your vote.

**Write-In Campaign:**  
**John Divoll** is running a write-in campaign for constable

**Ecumenical Lenten Services Offered**

Area Christian churches are providing a slate of ecumenical Lenten services to commemorate the events leading up to Easter. The schedule is as follows:

March 2: 2 p.m. World Day of Prayer at the First Church of Templeton (written by the Women of Paraguay)

March 7: 7 p.m. Phillipston Congregational Church

March 14: 7 p.m. Memorial Congregational Church in Baldwinville

March 21: 7 p.m. St. Vincent's in Baldwinville

April 5: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service ;1st Church of Templeton

April 6: 7 p.m. Good Friday Healing Service at the Second Congregational Church, South Royalston

**Chet Hall - Candidate for Planning Board**

Hello: My name is Chet Hall. I'm proud to say that I've been a Royalston resident for 25 years. I live on old Beryl Hill Farm with my wife and three sons. I have a daughter who after receiving her Masters Degree is a fifth grade teacher in Westford, MA. I grew up in Wilmington, MA; 15 miles north of Boston. 25 years ago, my wife and I moved to Royalston. We built our current home from the timber on our own land. When I was a child, Wilmington was a rural farm community. There was a lot of room to ride horses, hike and play. I liked it then; a great place to roam, wander and grow up. Today, 25 years later, liberal zoning driven by the proximity to Boston and other factors has taken its toll. It's a good place to visit friends and family but I wouldn't want to live there.

I've seen how quickly things change. Royalston, due to good planning, has changed little in 25 years. We have some of the most restrictive zoning in the state. It provides for a minimum lot size of 3 acres and 300 feet frontage. Royalston has character and charm that is rare in America today. Most of you know my commitment to the town from my time spent from my time spent working with the school as the President of PTG and School Improvement Council and the Board of Health. I am committed to keeping Royalston our small town for our families to grow up in and want to call home for generations to come.

I'll work for your interest as a Planning Board member to keep Royalston our charming small community that we call home. Thank you for your vote. Feel free to call me with any concerns or questions: 978-249-2183.

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**Royalston Gets Electronic Voting Machines:**

**The End of an Era?** The state has provided the town with two electronic voting machines. The machines have a voice option for the visually impaired and a touch screen. Residents will have the option

**Attention Registered Democrats:**

The Royalston Democratic Town Committee will reorganize at a special meeting in the town hall on Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m., to be chaired by State Sen.. Steve Brewer. All registered voters who are enrolled as Democrats and reside in Royalston are invited to attend. Committee officers will be elected at the meeting. This meeting is being held because the previous committee expired due to inactivity.

**Shop Locally**

It's official; as of February 19, 2007, Tom and Pat Bushee are the owners of record of the Royalston General Store. They are fully licensed for spirits and have a new Massachusetts Lottery machine. Tom has just about completed work on the upstairs, 2-bedroom apartment and Pat says she has people coming to check it out. If you haven't already, check out the offerings: penny candy, locally-produced items on consignment, a take-out or sit-down deli, and newspapers - not to mention the usual offerings of groceries and snacks. Hours are M, T, W, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Th, F, from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturdays 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## **\$50 for the Winner of T-Shirt Design Contest**

On July 15, 2007 the popular Royalston MusicFest will celebrate its fifth edition. It is an outdoor festival featuring local musicians and groups playing a wide range of musical genres. It will remain free this year thanks to the generosity of the Athol Savings Bank, the Athol agency of Godin Real Estate and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



To celebrate this anniversary the event will be particularly fancy: more music, more food, more games for the children, and surprises... Moreover, the Royalston Cultural Council is launching a t-shirt design contest for keepsake t-shirts to be sold at the festival; all entries to this contest will be exhibited at the festival and the winner will receive \$50.

The contest is open to all. The designs should be drawn in black on a white, unlined sheet of paper with no writing as it will be added later. It is important to remember that to be effective the design needs to be simple and bold so that it remains striking even from afar. The name, address and telephone number of the artist should be written on the back of the sheet. The designs should not be folded and should be sent to the Royalston Cultural Council, Box 125, Royalston, MA 01368. The deadline for submission is April 1, 2007. For information call Marie Humblet 978-575-0654 or 617-868-4076.

## **Royalston Fish & Game Club News**

A reminder to those signed up for the F&G sponsored Hunter Safety Education Course: The course is overbooked at 52 students; others had to be turned away. Don't forget to show up Wednesday, March 7 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., AND Sundays, March 25 and April 1 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.! Successful completion of this course requires 100 percent attendance and is necessary to obtain a License to Carry (LTC) or a Firearms Identification Card (FID).

The F&G's annual One-Day Pitch Tournament is slated for Sunday, March 11 beginning at 2 p.m. It's simple. Bring a partner and play cards.

One of the famously delicious Roast Beef Dinners is planned for Saturday, March 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Advance tickets, through Tracy Smith at 978-249-3103, sell out very quickly, so call today.

## **Royalston Community Coop**

March orders were due in February 22, and will arrive March 1. Members are reminded to keep their March price lists, for the second March orders, which are due by Thursday, March 22, and will be delivered the following Thursday, the 29th.

## **Royalston Community School Busy**

There is a lot of true and distressing talk about the finances of the Athol-Royalston Regional School District; however, it's also true that a lot of good happens in these schools each day.

Right now, there is a renaissance of enriching **after-school programs offered** at RCS free of charge. Through a creative combination of grants and volunteerism, students are participating in extra help in reading and math, the poetry club, Bible club, indoor soccer intramurals, talent show rehearsals and "Stomp", a home-made percussion and dance group. Also, many children are looking forward to a weekend improv comedy workshop to be offered this month.

**Kindergarten registration:** If you (or someone you know) are a Royalston resident and have a child that will turn five years old on or before August 31, 2007, please call the office at RCS to ensure you will be contacted once registration begins: 978-249-2900.

**Donations for soldiers in Iraq:** Mr Hains, the 3rd grade teacher at RCS, is coordinating donations of travel tissues, Chapstick, and hard candies for soldiers serving in his son's unit in Iraq. Donations can be dropped off during school hours.

## **Public Welcome at Several Upcoming Cultural Events Facilitated by the Village School at Town Hall**

On Monday afternoon, March 26 at 1:00, **Norah Dooley** will perform a number of the **Greek myths** aimed at the 8-12 year old audience. Come and enjoy these rollicking great stories, and connect to their relevance to this day and age. Free.

Also, there will be two musical performances in April:

On Tuesday, April 10 at 2:00, **5-Alone, an outstanding high school a-capella group** will sing their hearts out. 5-Alone consists of 5 students, including Village School graduate Isaac Richardson, from Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter High School. 5-Alone recently won the state championship, and is raising funds for the national competition in Disneyworld in May. A donation of \$5/ adult is suggested. CDs available. In addition, **Tim Van Egmond of Yankee Notions will perform a medley of early American songs and stories** for young and old at the Royalston Town Hall on Monday April 23 at 2:00. Free. *Norah Dooley, storyteller, and the Tim Van Egmond performance are supported in part by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*

## **Monty Tech's Annual Open House**

A big night is slated for Wednesday, March 28 at Monty Tech. The evening begins with a delicious spaghetti supper at 5 – 6:30 p.m. priced for families, followed by an Antique Auto and Classic Car Show, and the Open House opportunity to visit 20 professions and trades areas. Visitors can speak to staff and students, as well as committee members and administrators. It is an excellent opportunity for Royalston's fifth, sixth and seventh graders to find out how much Monty Tech has to offer (and for Royalston taxpayers to verify they're investing their money wisely). Also, find out about a possible new Pre-Engineering Honors Program entitled "Project Lead the Way", a response to the increasing number of high achieving students at Monty Tech.





## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

*Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at library.*

### Royalston Students on the Second Quarter Academic Honor Rolls:

Royalston Community School (grades 4 -6): *-Straight As:* **Tobey Rose Chase** and **John Divoll**; *All As and Bs:* **Beau Guimond, Bobby Javier, Kadasia LaJoie, Tiffany Lusco, Emily Mangum, Tristan Melanson, Cody Nolette, Katie Robinson, Felicia Tourigny, Corey Baker, Michael Campos, Shyla Curtis, McKenzie Spear, Lainey Wright, Allyna Baker, Caleb Chase, Alexis Javier, Ashley Javier** and **Michele Thompson**.

Athol-Royalston Middle School: *Straight As:* **Cady Boucher, Ashley Guyer, and Samantha Hutchins**; *all As and Bs:* **Shelby Bronnes, Jacob Lajoie, Allison Bergquist, Ashley Butterworth, Franciso Carra, Megan Degnan, Tasey Chartier, Asher Chase, Dylan Hall, Nicholas Krasowski, Joseph Ridell, Ashley Sawyer**; *As and Bs and one measly C:* **Derek Wheeler and Krista Erikson**.

Pioneer Valley Middle School: *straight As:* **Amy** and **Amanda Putney**

Athol High School: *straight As:* **MacKenzie Bennett, Patrick Scribner and Christine Sawyer**; *all As and Bs:* **Alyssa Bergquist, Hillary Whitcomb, Sofia Brighenti, Chet Hall, Marissa Kellner, Kimberlee Thompson, Ellee Bronnes, Ashley Campos, Mieka Melbourne, Ashley Bergquist** and **Dustin Short**. In addition, **Steven Robinson** was “*student of the month*” for January.

Monty Tech Honor Roll: **Jessica** and **Emily Putney**; also, **Jessica Putney** was elevated to Major in Monty Tech’s Marine Corps Jr. ROTC program. This means she is the Battalion Executive Officer, the second in charge and the second highest ranking female in the Corps., so she can give orders to her cousin, **Amber M. McCassie**, a First Lieutenant in the ROTC .

Fall semester at Mount Wachusett Community College: *dean’s list:* **Catherine Carlson** and **Miranda Monahan**; *president’s list:* **Jennifer Crandall** and **Gary Winitzer**

Fall semester at Fitchburg State: *Dean’s List:* **Gina Verelli**

Royalston singer/songwriter **Linq** has just released CHANGE THE PICTURE, GEORGE!, a 2-song enhanced CD with video that attacks the status quo with the sharpness of a stiletto. Linq pulls no punches as she challenges us to look at the roots of hatred and prejudice to gain insight toward a more peaceful world, and provides an Orwellian wake-up call complete with an accompanying video in CDr format that can be viewed by computer. It’s available locally at Bruce’s Browser in Athol, MA, and on-line at www.cdbaby.com. See her live at the Royalston Open Mics, and she’ll also be at the New Salem Old Town House on Thursday April 5th at 7:30PM.

### Milestones

**New Grandchild:** congratulations to Maureen and Jim Meausky of Athol - Richmond Rd. on the arrival of their new grandson, Jack Vincent Knechtel born Dec. 23, 2006 and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces. Parents are Kristen (Meausky) and Joshue Knechtel of Orange.

**Kevin Nunes**, US Army, recently spent several weeks home on leave from Military Police duty in South Korea, spending time with his brother **Brian**, who reported for Basic Training with the US Navy on Feb. 12th. Brian will spend 14 weeks in Great Lakes, IL and Pensacola, FL in their aircraft mechanic program. Brian and Kevin are the sons of Deb and Joe Nunes of Athol Richmond Rd.

**Wayne N Taylor**, 73, of 189 Warwick Rd. died February 5, 2007. Burial will be in the spring at the Jonas Alliene Cemetery, Royalston

**Irene Clark**, 88, of South Royalston and recently of Worcester passed on February 21, 2007. Funeral will be private.

### RCS Poetry Club

*“This poem is from a lesson on “found poems”. Poems created with an assortment of random words.” Mary Carnie, club facilitator*

In the bright gleam of dawn  
A withered rose  
Graceful and shy,  
Sways in the gentle breezes  
That blows along the tide  
Leading to the cliffs  
While above  
The wolf is on the prowl for a feast,  
Listening  
Running  
Lost in the dust  
The dust is gone and evening comes  
*Tobey Chase and Katie Robinson. Feb. 8, 2007*

### Recipe of the Month

Betty Cook, long time resident of Warwick Road, and avid knitter, quilt maker and craft person, selected this recipe which she says is great for pot lucks and family get togethers.

### Sweet and Sour Hot Dogs

3 or 4 pks. hot dogs  
(sliced into 1/2 pieces)  
1 1/2 - 2 cups brown sugar  
1 12 oz. jar spicy brown mustard

Turn crock pot on high.  
Place brown sugar and mustard in pot.  
Mix well.  
Add sliced hot dogs to pot.  
Cook on high for 1 hour. Stir occasionally.  
Then turn pot on low and let simmer



## Bird Watchers Look for Signs of Spring

March 18th and 24th (Sunday/Saturday) at 8:00 am., join a local search for migrating waterfowl and early spring migrants. Meet at Millers River Environmental Center: 100 Main St/ Athol. Led by Jacob Morris-Siegel and Jeff Johnstone. For information, call 249-9052.

## In Your Own Backyard

*Beth Gospodarek*

### Pussy Willows

Spring opens its eyes:  
dry brown stems; soft pearly buds,  
mottled sheaths like ticks.



Since I've been paying attention, no one from Royalston has ever won the YMCA pussy willow contest. In fact, no one ever seems to beat North Orange. However, coming out of snowy February, any flower is welcome, even a puny Royalston pussy willow. Put on some Wellies and nose around in our town's many wetlands and it's quite likely to come across *Salix discolor*, the goat willow (or another of the super-similar cross breeding willows.) During a warm spell in March, the long branches of these shrubs are apt to be covered in silky gray catkins, which after a few days coat with a yellow pollen. The plant is dioecious, which means that its flowers are either all male or all female. (Male pollen patterns look like a powdery-spikey-Sputnik and pollinated females resemble dusty corn-on-the-cob.) Because they are one of the only flowers blooming in March, early-stirring, hungry bees and other insects head straight for them, insuring pussy willow cross-pollination. People who cut pussy willows to cheer up their wintery homes often dry the catkins to avoid pollen production. The dried catkins can be used as everlasting.

From a human perspective, pussy willows are very convenient. Not only do they bloom copiously and sensually just when we yearn for spring, they are also extremely hardy and handy. Pussy willows are so tough Martha Stewart recommends cutting them nearly to the ground every few years for larger flower production, conservationists plant them for erosion control on stream banks and cut stems send out viable roots within a fortnight. Pussy willows can make a dandy free bouquet from your own backyard as well. Cut 12" branches anytime after February 1. Cut an "x" in the bottom of the stem with a sharp tool. Put stems in lukewarm water out of direct sunlight until the buds start to open; change water often. Move to the sun to hasten blooming.

Like pussy willows, many local trees and shrubs have formed their flower buds last fall. After a 2 month period of dormancy, (2 months constantly below 40 degrees), they can be tricked into blooming indoors using the same method as for the Pussy Willow. Forsythia, birch, alder, witch hazel and prunings from fruit trees like crab apple, quince, cherry, or apple all work well. The closer the outdoor blooming date, the quicker the forced indoor bloom will unfold.

## Classified Ads:

**Wanted:** an orange and white kitten or an adult child-friendly cat. Call Susan 249-6189

**House cleaning service:** 4 hrs for \$60. Royalston resident. Call Fran : 978-249-8431 or cell # 978-895-0817.

## Garden(less) Notes

*Larry Siegel*

Hey, cut me some slack here. Even I am hard-pressed to come up with some meaningful garden task to perform. The garden appears (what else?) wintry: snow-covered, of course, but not quite hidden. The hay-covered beds rise above the aisles, everything framed by some funky fencing. It is not so apparent to our dog. During the growing season she would not consider entering the dog-free zone; now she wanders through as if the garden did not exist. Under the snow, there remain remnants of green. The kale is alive, though you'd hardly realize it. Some lettuce survives under the fish tanks but I'm not about to toss a salad with it. There are glimpses of green among the parsley and some of the perennial flowers, a reminder that life goes on under the blanket of snow.

In lieu of gardening, I have increased my woods-wandering. After leaf-drop, two features stand out. One is the network of wood roads, far eclipsing the town's maintained roads. Some are so old that large trees have grown up in their paths; others did not exist a year ago. It is Royalston's own interstate highway system. The second, more awe-inspiring feature, is the network of stone walls. And, while most of the roads owe their existence to the internal-combustion engine, the walls are a product of hand. Yes, oxen no doubt assisted in moving stones from the fields to their edges, but every single stone on that wall was picked up and set in place by a person (during a time when laboring was a way of life, something to be embraced, not avoided). Now? Now, we've evolved into a society of soft-bellied slackers, unwilling or unable to bend over for much of anything.

From observing these walls, I developed the notion that they should somehow be documented and determined that I would begin the effort to map them. The project received a huge jump-start from Glenn Freden, who manages many of the town woodlots. Each lot is mapped; each map notes the location of stone walls. It fell to me to fill in the blanks and transfer the results to copies of the assessors' tax maps. Glenn's data, of course, is precise; mine, a product of the seat-of-my-pants approach: counting off paces to determine length, glancing at the sun to determine direction. My initial swath was a rectangular sort of piece enclosed by the New Hampshire border to the north, the common to the south, Lawrence Brook to the east and Boyce Brook to the west. I have estimated 40-45 miles of wall within this area. Since it represents four or so square miles and since Royalston is forty-two square miles in size, it is not unreasonable to conclude that there are in excess of 400 miles of walls within the town. I have every intention of walking each one of them.

At least one gardening activity has been accomplished. Seeds have been sorted, catalogs studied, orders placed. By the onset of March, the first of these seeds (onions, leeks, celery, parsley) will have been planted. Spring may be just around the corner, though that corner is not quite within sight.

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**Mrs. Mary C. Barclay**  
*School Committee/ Royalston Rep.*

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# Athol Daily News

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### **Eating for Good: Public Meals in March**

**The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is holding a Bottomless Breakfast Buffet** on Sunday, March 11 from 7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club. Grab a hot or cold beverage; then, help yourself to mounds of eggs and homefries, heaps of savory bacon and sausage and towers of freshly-made French toast along the buffet table. Advance tickets are suggested and are available from most firefighters or rescue squad members; they're also available by calling Joshua Morris- Siegel at 9249-4260

**An Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel spaghetti supper** is on March 3 at 6 pm at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Tickets available in advance for \$6 per person. A limited number may be available at the door. The evening will conclude with a 60 Club Raffle (half of the better known 120 Club raffle.) with tickets for that available for \$20/chance. Contact Ginny Gingras at 978-249-4951

**RCS Student Talent Show and Lasagne Supper:** A night of song, dance, jokes, and lots of clever student razzmatazz at RCS Friday, March 30 at 7 pm. Lasagne Supper preceding to raise funds for Nature's Classroom trip. Call school for tickets: 249-2900.

**Monty Tech's Spaghetti Supper** at 5 pm precedes the annual open house on March 28.

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

Royalston Resident  
Star Route 80  
Royalston MA 01368

### **Newsletter Staff**

Editor: Beth Gospodarek  
Layout: Stephen Chase  
Circulation: Jim Kelley  
Treasurer: Barbara Willhite  
Sponsorships: Stephen Chase  
Staff: Maureen Blasco, Mary Barclay, Larry Siegel, Theresa Quinn

### **How to Contact Us**

Submission deadline for April issue is: March 22

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net

Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386

Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)

Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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