

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2010



Volume XIII, Issue I

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

## Calendar of Events

February 1 Monday

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Open Burning Season Begins** (only with FD issued permit) and continues through May 1, 2010. See p.2.

February 2 Tuesday

**Groundhog Day**

February 3 Wednesday

6 p.m. **Family Literacy Night at the Village School**

February 4 Thursday

3:45 p.m. **Friends of the Library meet.** All welcome.

February 5 Friday

7 p.m. **Open Mic** at the Town Hall. Sign up for a time slot with Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arrive by 6:30 p.m. Free admission and delicious food on sale, thanks to the Royalston Cultural Council. House band will be Obsession.

February 6 Saturday

10 a.m. – noon **Village School Annual Winter Open House**

February 8 Monday **Boy Scouts' 100th Anniversary**

7 p.m. **Royalston FD meeting** Center Fire Station

TBA **Community Preservation Committee meets**

February 10 Wednesday

7:30 p.m. **Royalston F&G Club meeting** (Directors at 7 p.m.)

February 11 Thursday

7:30 p.m. **Birch Hill Rangers Snowmobile Club meets** at Royalston F&G

February 12 Friday

**Winter Vacations** begin at close of school today

5 – 7:30 p.m. **Winchendon Rod & Gun Fish Fry** See p. 6

February 13 Saturday 9:51 a.m. **New Snow Moon**

6 - 10 pm **Revival Town Youth Group baby sitting** services for all ages at 1st Congregational Church. Donations accepted. Contact Susan Veilleux 978-249-5004 with questions.

7 – 10 p.m. **Valentine's Dance at the Town Hall** to music of local band "Obsession." FREE, thanks to Royalston Cultural Council

February 14 Sunday **Valentine's Day and Lunar New Year**

February 15 Monday

**Presidents' Day Observed** – Post Office and PSN Library closed

February 16 Tuesday

**Mardi Gras – Shrove Tuesday**

February 17 Wednesday

**Ash Wednesday**

February 19 Friday

7 pm **Rainforest Reptile Program** : See alligators, turtles, and snakes from rain forests of the world at the Royalston Town Hall. Free, sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Royalston Cultural Council. See p. 4.

February 20 Saturday

Noon – 3:30 p.m. **Workshop "Expressive Pastel Painting"** with artist Gregory Maicheck at the Town Hall, sponsored by the Cultural Council, See p. 6

February 21 Sunday

7 – 11 a.m. **Royalston Fire & EMS Breakfast** at the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club. See p. 6

February 22 Monday

**Schools reopen following Winter Vacations**

7 p.m. **Royalston FD meeting** Center Fire Station

**March Royalston Community Newsletter deadline**

February 24 Wednesday

7:30 p.m. **Ladies' Benevolent Society business meeting and program "Armchair Gardening"** with Larry Siegel at the Town Hall; Hostess Nancy D. Melbourne.

February 26 Friday

6 p.m. – midnight **Support Party for SSG Anthony Basso**; Royalston family, friends and those who wish to wish him well in Iraq are encouraged to drop by the Legion Hall in Baldwinville. See p. 7.

February 28 Sunday

1 p.m. **Pampered Chef Pot Luck Party** at the Royalston F&G. All are welcome to attend; those with Pampered Chef cookware are invited to bring along their favorite dishes – filled, of course – to share and enter in a best recipes contest. There will be a variety of prizes and a Chinese auction of PC products. Profits will help re-tool the club's kitchen.

March 5 Friday

7 pm **Open Mic** at Town Hall

March 7 Sunday

2 pm **"Dinos, Dunes, and Drifting Continents"** talk about local geology by Prof. Richard Little at the Town Hall, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, funded by the Cultural Council.



## Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk 978-249-0493

In the recent special senate election to fill the seat of the late Ted Kennedy, 524 out of 894 reg voters cast ballots in the election. This was close to the percentage of voters who participated in the 2008 presidential election. As went every city and town in the county except for Worcester and Harvard, so went Royalston; the Republican Scott Brown defeated the Democrat Martha Coakley. The Royalston results were: Brown 298, Coakley 213, Kennedy 10.

### Annual Town Election: Nomination papers and deadlines

The Annual Town Election will be held on April 5, 2010. Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's office. The deadline to submit nomination papers for certification is February 16, 2010, no later than 5 p.m.

The following are the offices that are up for election this year – terms are 3 years unless noted below:

Selectman; Assessor; Town Clerk; Cemetery Commissioner; Board of Health; Library Trustee; Planning Board – 5 years; Sewer Commissioner; Constable; Board of Public Welfare; Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund – 4 positions of 1 year terms each; Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – 1 position at 1 year, 1 position at 3 years. There are also 3 Athol seats up for election this year on the Athol-Royalston School Committee.

### 2010 Dog Licenses now available:

Licenses are still \$6.00 per spayed/neutered dog, \$10.00 per unaltered dog. Dog tags are a lovely shade of purple this year. Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. Please remember to bring a copy of the dog's updated rabies vaccination.

### Annual Town Census

An Annual Town Census form should be arriving in your mailbox soon. This census is a yearly census, separate from the 2010 Federal Census that will be taking place this year. Please remember that failing to return your census may affect the status of your voter registration, and that changes to your voter registration cannot be made via your census form. Any changes you wish to make to your voter registration should be done via a voter registration form and submitted to the Town Clerk's Office. If you have any questions regarding the census form, including questions about members of your household who have moved, please don't hesitate to call my office at 978-249-0493.

## Royalston Democrats

### To Caucus Feb. 7

Royalston Democrats will caucus Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. in the town hall, it was announced by the town committee chair, Allen Young. All voters registered as Democrats in Royalston are eligible to attend the caucus and vote for a delegate to the June 5-6 convention in Springfield. The main item of business at the convention will be drafting a party platform. Royalston's delegate to the previous convention was Ruth Suyenaga. The committee currently has nine members, and new members are welcome.

## Procedures for Obtaining Brush Burning Permits

Chief Keith R. Newton

The fire department is now issuing "Open Burning" permits on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays of every month at the Royalston Fire Department Station # 1 on Athol Road. To obtain a permit you must come to the station on one of the posted meeting nights at 7:00 P.M. and fill out a permit form. Those wishing to burn must have a current burning permit for the 2010 season, call in on the day you're intending to have a fire, state your name, your street address, your permit number and a telephone number where you may be reached. Please listen when you reach the permit line for any restrictions or cancellations to this process. The number to call is 978-249-8138. Thank you in advance for your care in SAFE burning.



## Schedules for Open Meetings of Town Boards

*(Subject to change, so confirm first. It's an incomplete list.)*

**Tax Collector office hours:** Mondays from 2 - 7 pm at Whitney Hall

**Selectboard meetings:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at Town Hall

**Board of Assessors:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at Whitney Hall

**Royalston Luncheon Club:** Wednesdays at 11:30 - 1:00 at Town Hall; the 1st Weds. is a Chinese Auction, the 2nd is blood pressure clinic, the 3rd is just food and comradery and the 4th features Brown Bag Distribution from Western MA Food Bank. There are groceries to take home every week. Meals are \$2 for seniors and \$2.50 for pre-seniors. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday's meal.

**Board of Health:** 2nd Wednesdays at 7 pm at Whitney Hall.

**Historic District Commission:** 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 at the Town Hall

**Planning Board:** 2nd Wednesdays at Town Hall

## A Pat on the Back

On the afternoon of Dec. 13th my wife had the misfortune of sliding on the ice, on Turnpike Rd, and ending in the snow bank. The Royalston police were excellent in assisting and making sure she was safe and taken care of. I would also like to thank the people who waited patiently while the tow truck driver worked so hard to get the car back on the road. I would also like to thank the highway dept. for sending a sand truck out to assist in the process.

*Thank you, Fred March*

## Help for Haiti

The website below is a list of FEMA suggested relief agencies that could use support in assisting the government of Haiti in providing shelter, sanitation, medical expertise and equipment and long-range planning following the brutally devastating earthquake which struck its most populous regions.

<http://www.interaction.org/crisis-list/earthquake-haiti>

Also, the 1st Congregational Church of Royalston would like to invite you to "join in with us in helping those who are hurting. We want to restore hope & basic needs and show God's love through our financial giving. We have teamed up with Somebody Cares Caribbean. Please mail donations to the FCCR."

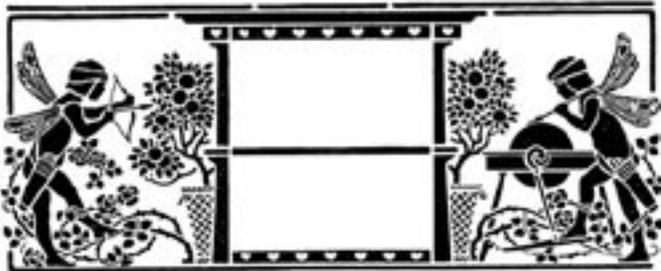
### Selectboard Notes

*Andy West, selectman*

**Budgets:** The Board of Selectmen are working on next year’s budget. Department heads should submit their budget request to the Board if they have not already done so.

**Energy Opportunities:** Royalston has an incredible opportunity to apply for grant monies for a wide array of projects having to do with energy conservation or generation. The Town can tap a pool of \$7 million this year and \$10 million by becoming a Green Community. A Green Community planning presentation will be held February 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Town committee members should attend. The public is welcome.

**Office Hours:** Here is a reminder of the Board of Selectmen’s office hours. Mon, Tues, Thurs, 8am-1pm; Wed, 8am-Noon



### Cultural Council

The Royalston Cultural Council is hitting the ground running for 2010. There’s already a collaborative Interface program slated for January 30 – Sept. 30 with the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem, and a January 31 Art & Nature Workshop with Royalston’s award-winning illustrator Gordon Morrison. Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday February 13 for a Valentine’s Dance, from 7 – 10 p.m. at the Town Hall, with local band Obsession providing entertainment. FREE! Attend another FREE event, a workshop in “Expressive Pastels Painting” on Saturday, February 20 from noon – 3:30 p.m. (Pre-register at 978-249-6771 for this). Watch the RCN for details each month – activities are planned right through the summer.

### Board of Health News

*Phil Leger, chair*

There was a successful H1N1 and seasonal flu clinic held on January 9th at the Athol Royalston Middle School. Over 500 vaccinations were done that day. It’s not too late to get the flu vaccine. Supply is good. Go to [www.masspro.org](http://www.masspro.org) for a location near you.

With the new year upon us, time for a couple of reminders. All trash bags need trash stickers on them. If the attendant’s back is turned and you think it is okay to throw bags in without stickers, this is theft. It is stealing from your neighbors and it is not okay. Also, one sticker is required for 33 gallon size bag. Larger bags such as leaf bags need more stickers. Half stickers are okay for 15 gallon size or smaller.

Also, please, if an item is junk or doesn’t work, it does not go in the reuse area. The construction and demolition box is for bulky waste and large items and requires a fee. Mercury bearing waste are banned from trash. Items such as fluorescent bulbs are to be recycled for a small fee. If in doubt about any item, please see attendant.

### Tully Trail Maintainers Needed;

**Now Is The Time to Volunteer**

The 22-mile Tully Trail, which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary, needs volunteers to help maintain the woodland pathway, most of which is in Royalston. Walker Korby, the Quabbin region manager for the Trustees of Reservations, is coordinating the effort. Royalston residents Celt Grant, Rob Jalbert, Jerry Marcanio and Allen Young have volunteered to work on the section of the trail that extends from Butterworth Road to Bliss Hill Road. There are other sections that need routine maintenance, and interested persons should contact Korby at 078-248-9455 or email him at [wkorby@ttor.org](mailto:wkorby@ttor.org). Korby has divided the trail into distinct sections, and an individual or a crew of volunteers can choose among sections of varied lengths. Maintenance work can take place in the spring, summer and fall, but now is a good time for the stewardship program to be organized. A training session is planned for April 3 at the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol.

Among the Royalston scenic highlights linked by the trail are Royalston Falls, Doane’s Falls, Spirit Falls, Jacobs Hill vista and Fish Brook gorge.

**Dowsing**  
 Jon Hardie 978-575-1454  
 Water Wells ✕ Since 1965  
 A free of charge community service

**DeMar Technologies LLC**  
 15 Oak Hill Lane  
 Fitchburg, MA 01420  
 Tel: (978) 345-8655  
 sales@demarmachine.com  
 www.demarmachine.com  
 Fax: (978) 345-8656  
**Rich DeMar**

# Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

Thank yous

**Boyd Estus and Ann Carol Grossman** for donating a copy of their movie *The Powder and the Glory*

**Boyd Estus and Harriet Reisen** via Boyd Estus for her book *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*

**Tina Plummer and Lorraine and Bob Casinginho** for movies  
**Russell Pearson, Priscilla Dand, and Ben Morris-Siegel** for book donations

**Marcia Flanagan and Cheryl Mahoney** for magazine subscriptions

**Janet Bettley** for an audiobook

**Ian Duffin** for help moving books

**Allison Bergquist** for help processing books

## Donations to the Friends

**John Poor in Memory of Pat Poor**

**Sky Demuro**

**Tom and Leslie Freudenheim**

**The MacPhee family**

**Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski**

**The Spenser Foundation** of Chicago, IL

## Donations to the Library

**The Humblet family**

**Donald Stanton**

**David Matthews**

**Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski**

## Cross Culture Club

Learn about the world at your library as guests from around the world show a bit about their home culture, including geographic features, songs, games, language, and food. This year's program meets weekly on Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Students from RCS can take the bus with a written note. All welcome. Free. The line up includes visits to:

March 4 **Bosnia** with Athol High School exchange student and musician Edin Huljdek.

March 11 **China** with recent immigrant Yi Chi, an Athol High School student.

March 18 **Surinam** with Elizabeth Farnsworth, who will have just returned from this northern South American country.

March 25 **Italy** with Patrizia DeLibero, a noble Roman

## Art Exhibit at the Library

The exhibit of Donald Shambroom will remain until the end of February. Don has entitled his exhibit "The Children's Room" and it includes larger than life paintings of his daughter in a topsyturvy world, posters denoting the state of the world, and evocative painted flowers in the later stages of their lives.

During March and April, Liane Brandon will exhibit still photographs taken during the filming of *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*, which was named the Top of the List for movies by the American Library Association's Booklist.

## Rainforest Reptile Program

### a Cold-blooded February Vacation Family Outing

See alligators, turtles, and snakes from the neo-tropical rain forests to the subtropical rain forests of the world on Friday, February 19th at 7:00 pm at the Royalston Town Hall. Joaney Gallagher and Michael Ralbovsky will bring a selection of their 200 exotic reptiles for a fun and educational program. Learn about background information on rainforest reptiles and their habitats, specific reptile characteristics (from vision to innate defense mechanism) while getting to see the animals up close. Rainforest Reptiles provides animals for Discovery and Animal Planet as well as training and assisting the Massachusetts Environmental Police and conservation officers all over New England. This free program is suitable for all ages, is funded by the Royalston Cultural Council, and supported by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. For more information, call the library and check out the website at [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org) for links to Rainforest Reptile Shows and further information.

## Geology Program in March

Have you ever heard of the Athol fault? Join us for an evening of rock talk with Greenfield Community College Professor Emeritus Richard Little featuring a program entitled **Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents** on Sunday, March 7th at 2:00 pm at the Royalston Town Hall. He will lead us through 600 million years of the geologic history of the formation of the Connecticut River Valley and touch on some history of our area as well. Delicious refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library. A grant from the Royalston Cultural Council is funding the program. For more information, call the library and check out our website.





**Some of the New Materials at your Library**

**Adult Fiction**

Alexie, Sherman *War Dances*  
 Ali, Monica *Brick Lane*  
 Armstrong, Lori *No Mercy*  
 Balogh, Mary *At Last comes Love*  
 Balogh, Mary *First Comes Marriage*  
 Balogh, Mary *Then Comes Seduction*  
 Beaton, M.C. *There Goes the Bride*  
 Beaton, M.C. *Death of a Valentine*  
 Berry, Steve *The Paris Vendetta*  
 Byatt, A.S. *The Children's Book*  
 Card, Orson Scott *Hidden Empire*  
 Chevalier, Tracy *Remarkable Creatures*  
 Coetzee, J.M. *Summertime*  
 Coonts, Stephen *The Disciple*  
 Cornwell, Bernard *The Burning Land*  
 Crais, Robert *The First Rule*  
 Delinsky, Barbara *Not my Daughter*  
 Doetsch, Richard *The 13th Hour*  
 Flynn, Vince *Pursuit of Honor*  
 Garwood, Julie *Sizzle*  
 Godwin, Gail *Unfinished Desires*  
 Goldstein, Rebecca *36 Arguments for the Existence of God*  
 Grafton, Sue *U is for Undertow*  
 Hall, James *Silencer*  
 Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia *Fell Purpose*  
 Higgins, Jack *The Wolf at the Door*  
 Hoag, Tami *Deeper than the Dead*  
 Hunter, Stephen *I, Sniper*  
 Jin, Ha *A Good Fall*  
 Jordan, Robert *The Gathering Storm*  
 Kostova, Elizabeth *The Swan Thieves*  
 Krentz, Jayne Ann *Fired Up*  
 Lescroart, John *Treasure Hunt*  
 Mantel, Hilary *Wolf Hall*  
 McCall Smith, Alexander *La's Orchestra Saves the World*  
 McCall Smith, Alexander *The Unbearable Lightness of Scones*  
 McLaughlin, Emma *Nanny Returns*  
 Morgan, Brooke *Tainted*  
 Oates, Joyce Carol *A Fair Maiden*  
 Parker, T. Jefferson *Iron River*  
 Petterson, Per *Out Stealing Horses*  
 Porter, Henry *The Bell Ringers*  
 Robb, J.D. *Kindred in Death*  
 Roth, Philip *The Humbling*  
 Shepard, Sam *Day Out of Days*  
 Singer, Randy *The Judge who Stole Christmas*  
 Tyler, Anne *Noah's Compass*  
 Wheaton, Ken *The First Annual Grand Prairie Rabbit Festival*  
 Woods, Stuart *Kisser*

**Adult Nonfiction**

Crocker, Betty *Betty Crocker Christmas Cookbook*  
 Duncan, Dayton *The National Parks*  
 Foer, Jonathan *Eating Animals*  
 Gilbert, Elizabeth *Committed*  
 Johns, Susie *The Felted Bag Book*  
 Lattin, Don *The Harvard Psychedelic Club*  
 Lourie, Peter *Whaling Season*  
 Love, Susan *Live a Little!*  
 Mortenson, Greg *Stones into Schools*  
 Nelson, Sandra *The New Planning for Re-sults*  
 Pollan, Michael *Food Rules*  
 Siegel, Daniel *Mindsight*  
 Smith, Rick *Slow Death by Rubber Duck*  
 Turk, Jonathan *The Raven's Gift*  
*The Mayo Clinic Diet*

**Adult Audio**

Davis, Wade *The Wayfinders*  
 Grafton, Sue *U is for Undertow*  
 Mortenson, Greg *Stones into Schools*  
 Reisen, H *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*  
*Selected Shorts*  
 Siegel, Daniel *Mindsight*

**Young Adult Fiction**

Delaney, Joseph *Clash of the Demons*  
 Flanagan, John *Erak's Ransom*  
 Hale, Shannon *Forest Born*  
 Mackler, Carolyn *Tangled*  
 Patterson, James *Witch and Wizard*  
 Von Ziegesar, Cecily *Devious*  
 Wiseman, Rosalind *Boys, Girls, and Other Hazardous Materials*  
 Zahn, Timothy *Dragon and Thief*

Young Adult Nonfiction  
 LeVine, Harry *The Great Explainer*

Young Adult and Children's Audio  
 Benedictus, David *Return to the Hundred Acre Wood*  
 Meyer, Stephanie *Twilight*  
 Slade, Arthur *The Hunchback Assignments*  
 Woodson, Jacqueline *Feathers*

**Children's Fiction**

Buckley, Michael *Nerds*  
 Gaiman, Neil *Odd and the Frost Giants*  
 Holm, Jennifer *Babymouse*  
 Mccaughrean, Geraldine *The Death Defying Pepper Roux*  
 Na, Sung *A Book of Sleep*  
 Numeroff, Laura *Happy Valentine's Day, Mouse!*  
 O'Connor, Jane *Fancy Nancy*  
 Peterson, Cris *Birchbark Brigade*  
 Ray, Mary Lyn *Welcome, Brown Bird*  
 Rylant, Cynthia *Brownie & Pearl Step Out*  
 Van Draanen, Wendelin *The Gecko and Sticky*  
 Yep, Laurence *When the Circus Comes to Town*

**Children's Nonfiction**

Cassino, Mark *The Story of Snow*  
 Coppendale, Jean *The Great Big Book of Mighty Machines*  
 Crowther, Robert *Cars*  
 Jenkins, Steve *Almost Gone*  
 Juettner, Bonnie *The Seed Vault*  
 Kibuishi, Kazu *Copper*  
 Phelan, Matt *The Storm in the Barn*  
 Price, Sean *Attila the Hun*  
 Smith, Caroline *Meteorites*  
 Walsh, Molly *How to Draw Endangered Animals*

**DVDs:** *500 Days of Summer, Cahill, Chisum, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Drop Zone, Food Inc., Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, Julie and Julia, Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian, The Powder and the Glory, Public Enemies, Sci-Fi 4 Films Collector's Set, and Terminator Salvation*

**CD's**

Boyle, Susan *I Dreamed a Dream*  
 Jones, Norah *The Fall*  
*Lady Antebellum*  
 Lady Gaga *The Fame*  
 Petty, Tom *The Live Anthology*

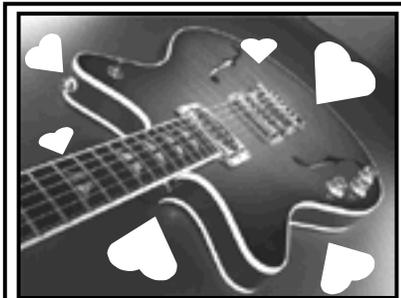
**Card Games:** Monopoly Deal and Scrabble Slam!

**"Winter for a moment takes the mind; the snow  
Falls past the arclight; icicles guard a wall;  
The wind moans through a crack in the window;  
A keen sparkle of frost is on the sill..."**

Conrad Aiken

## Local Cures for Cabin Fever

music



**Valentine's Dance**  
featuring  
**Obsession**

**Saturday, February 13**  
**7pm-10pm, Town Hall**

**Great music! Free!**

Sponsored by Royalston Cultural Council

The band Obsession lead by Royalston singer, Sandra Bruso, will also be the house band for the Feb 5 open mic at Town Hall.

Watch for Dan Vaccari's band, Ms. Lead, playing jazz standards like Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk at the Blind Pig Pub in Athol on February 20.

Also consider traveling over-the-border to Fitzwilliam, where the 230 year-old Fitzwilliam Inn has re-opened as a bed and breakfast serving dinner Thursday - Saturday; there is an open mic on Thursdays and live music in the barn most Saturdays.

Expressive pastel painting for adults and teens  
**Van Gogh: Starry Night**  
No Experience Needed

Back by popular demand, artist Greg Maichack offers a pastel workshop!  
**Saturday, February 20, 2010**  
**Noon-3:30pm, Royalston Town Hall**  
Free, all materials provided. Please register.  
Call Elizabeth (249-6771) before 2/10  
and Lorraine (249-5151) after 2/10 to sign up  
Sponsored by Royalston Cultural Council

art

### Fish and Game Clubs

Coming into Royalston from most directions means passing a sportsmen's pond or club, hubs of comradery, competitive cribbage and cards, appreciation of the local natural environment and neighborly meals.

### Upcoming Winchendon Rod and Gun Club Meals

located on the east side of Priest Brook in Royalston

### Royalston Fire and EMS Association Breakfast Buffet

February 21, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Winchendon Rod and Gun Club on Winchendon Road

\$7.00 for adults \$4.00 for children under 12.

Tickets available at the door or from any Royalston Firefighter The current fundraising focus is for a special rescue boat that can be used in Royalston's varied bodies of water, while minimizing rescuers' risk. Advance tickets from firefighters or purchase at the door.

food

Monthly Fish Fry: Every second Friday, from about 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. For \$14-\$20, (depending upon choices), enjoy deep-fried haddock, shrimp and/or scallops, served with very fresh, hand-cut French fries, and crunchy cole slaw. Children are welcome; you can have an extra plate to share a meal (about a 12-16 oz serving of haddock, for example!). The bar is open, offering both non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages. Keep in mind this is an all-volunteer effort; start time can be as late as 5:30 p.m. and when the food's gone, the doors close! Call the Winchendon Club at 978-297-3955 for tickets, or buy at the door.

games



### Royalston Fish and Game

### Roast Beef Supper and Pampered Chef Party

A Club Roast Beef Supper is coming up, serving tossed salad, crusty bread, roast beef in varying degrees of doneness, mashed potatoes with gravy and green beans are served family style along with coffee, tea and dessert. The bar is open throughout. Funds from the \$10 tickets go to support the facility, and an array of public, private and organizational events. Dinner usually sells out, so reserve in advance. There are plenty of seats, however, for those who wish to drop in for a few boards of BLITZ.

If you enjoy cooking or eating, attend the Club's first-ever Pampered Chef Party on Sunday, February 28 at 1 p.m. All are invited, but PC owners are invited to bring along recipes using the company's products; prizes to winning entries in this pot-luck party. There will be a Chinese auction of Pampered Chef products, too. Linda Robison is the demonstrator and Marie Holmes is hosting the fundraising event on behalf of the F&G. Proceeds will be used to re-tool the kitchen. For information on these and other upcoming public functions, contact the Club at 978-249-3004. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings.



## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

**Alice Landon** from South Royalston who is in a nursing home in Leominster will be celebrating her 97th birthday on Feb. 4th.

Last October, **Robert Anthony** of Morse Road entered five of his scrolled woodwork pieces into the New England Woodcarvers Association annual show and competition, "Spirit of Wood." It is one of New England's largest wood carving shows. He took home two first place prizes, a second place, a third place and an honorable mention.

### Lydia Musco: New Sculpture

New work by sculptor Lydia Musco, who grew up on North Fitzwilliam Rd, will be shown in North Carolina at Davidson College's Belk Gallery from March 12 - April 14, 2010, with an opening reception on March 11, 7 - 9 pm. This exhibition will feature new concrete and paper sculptures as well as a series of new etchings. Musco is Davidson College's 2008-2010 Visiting Assistant Professor of Art. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and in China. She is the recipient of numerous awards and grants. For information go to <http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x36658.xml>



**Bruce's Browser**, owned by Royalston resident **Diane Lincoln**, is celebrating its **FIFTH** anniversary on Saturday February 6th. Diane will be offering a 20% discount on everything in the store all day (9AM-7PM), and there will be raffle drawings, free coffee and snacks. WJDF will broadcast live from the Browser from 10AM until 1PM, and they'll be interviewing several authors in attendance for the occasion. The Browser is located in uptown Athol at 1497 Main St.

*Some say the forests like to talk.  
But I say the trees are watching over us.  
They watch. They listen.  
They talk some more.  
Then they walk to a different town.*

Rhiannon Fletcher



*I use my spoon to eat soup. My mother made it look like goop.*  
Hannah Bartkus

RCS Poetry Club Musings

## Academic Honor Rolls

Monty Tech 1st quarter academic honor roll; *high honors*: **Marquita Day, Amanda Putney, Meredith Carrier, Storm Easton, Michael Persson, and Ian Duffin** *honors*: **Michael Demboske, Amy Putney, and Rebecca Paine**  
Cushing Academy fall term; *high honors*: **Grady MacPhee**



**Geography whizzes:** **Owen MacPhee**, 4th grader, recently won the Royalston Community School geography bee and **Devon Bates**, 7th grader won the geography bee at the Athol Royalston Middle School. Both persevered through qualification tests and run-off and elimination rounds answering a wide variety of questions provided by the National Geographic Society about the United States, cities, resources as well as other countries and continents.

## Recipe of the Month

*Just in time for Valentines Day baking, Joni LeGrand, who runs Little Farmers Day Care on Winchendon Rd, offers this month's recipe. Says Joni, "My daughter Emma and I acquired this recipe with the purchase of horse shoe cookie cutters that we use to make cookies for our 3 horses on their birthdays. The children at Little Farmers Child Care also enjoy this recipe making Christmas cookie cut outs. My child care business has been opened since June of 2009 and we currently have full and part time opening and our hours of operation are from 7 am - 6 pm Monday thru Friday. It's next to RCS, 10 min. from Winchendon. Toddler to pre-school curriculum for ages birth-5 years. Call 978-575-1083."*

## Maresy'dotes Sugar Cookie Cut-outs

### Ingredients

1 cup softened butter or oleo	3 c. flour
1 cup sugar	1/2 tsp baking soda
2 large eggs	1/2 tsp salt
1 tbsp vanilla extract	

Cream oleo or butter until pale yellow. Add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and vanilla. In separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. Beat dry ingredients into butter mixture. Chill dough 2 hours. Roll out 1/8" thick on waxed paper. Cut shapes with cookie cutters and place on ungreased baking sheet. If using as an ornament, make a hole with a drinking straw before baking. Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees F for 5 - 8 minutes until the edges turn golden. Cool on rack.

## Royalston Community School Updates

- 2/10 Half day for all students
- 2/8-12 Valentine Hershey Kiss Sale
- 2/11 12:30 - 3:00, Winter Field Day
- 2/12 Grade 5 DARE program graduation at 1 pm.
- 2/15 Winter Recess; return to school on 2/22
- 2/22 PTG meeting at 3:15
- 2/23 Mobile Dentist Program at RCS
- 2/26 Half day - all students 3rd qtr progress reports

Pictured is Royalston Police Officer, Sherry Minor, with her teaching assistant, Shawken Awe. Along with presenting the "DARE" program at RCS, Sherry utilizes her talented, trained German shepherds to teach the children about safe "Trick or Treating", and other various safety programs. Thank you to Sherry, her assistants, and Royalston Police Department for helping to keep our children safe. We would



also like to take this opportunity to thank Chief Newton and other members of the Royalston Fire Department for bringing the "Fire Trailer" to RCS this fall and for presenting the Fire Safety and Awareness Program. These programs, along with the expertise by which they were conducted, are invaluable learning experiences for all of the students. RCS is very thankful for the help and support it receives from the community of Royalston. *photo Lajoie*

## Adopt an AHS Marching Band Uniform

The Athol High music scene is humming under the direction of Sean Wallace, a hard working, energetic, and (let's face it) cool recent graduate of Berklee. Several performances are scheduled this spring including a pops concert (a la the TV show Glee) and a collaboration with the drama club for the musical Bye Bye Birdie. The pep band is renewing formation as well and hoping to sport some much needed new uniforms.

Community help is needed in purchasing the uniforms as the going price is \$300 each and AHS is hoping to buy 100 uniforms. Individuals, community groups and businesses are encouraged separately or in collaboration, to "adopt a uniform." In recognition the name of the donating group or individual will be embroidered on a label inside the uniform. This can be a nice gift in memory of those who love music.

**LADIES' B.** The LBS managed to keep busy over the cold months of December and January – two dozen "Holiday Cheer" Mugs & Baskets were delivered around Town to shut-ins, elders and those the group thought would enjoy being remembered during the holiday season. Also at that meeting, Nancy S. Bolton convinced members to make a United Way Donation of \$225. Officers for the LBS's 186th year of service are President Laurie M. Deveneau; Vice President Kristen A. West; Treasurer Maureen G. Blasco; Secretary Mary C. Barclay; Devotions Leader Andrea L. Lively; Remembrance Secretary Helen E. Feliciano; Program Committee members Nancy D. Melbourne and Andrea L. Lively; and Scholarship Committee members Nancy S. Bolton, Elizabeth A. Gospoderek, and Theresa A. Quinn. In January, the Society provided delicious election-day bake sale offerings at both precincts 1 and 2. Kristen A. West headed up the center's sale, and Laurie M. Deveneau, the South Village's sale. The LBS Scholarship Fundraising Bake Sales brought in a total of \$367.50. Also in January, a Craft'n'Chat Night Valentine Party with all invited to continue working on lap quilts for veterans, or to create homemade Valentines to send to friends, family, and community members. The 2010 Program Guide will be available this month. Members will receive one automatically; non-members who wish to have one can contact Mrs. Barclay at [mbarclay@juno.com](mailto:mbarclay@juno.com) or 978-249-2598. All are invited to attend programs. Potential members are invited to join at any time of the year.

## At the Village School

Wednesday evening, February 3 6-8 pm **Literacy Night**  
Invitation to Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st-6th grade parents: Come to the Village School for an overview of the reading and writing curriculum for preschool to 6th grade. Discover how the foundation for reading is built in preschool and kindergarten. Visit each classroom, listen to teacher presentations, and see student work that exemplifies their learning. Discover how the unique literacy curriculum builds from grade to grade, and how students develop into motivated and accomplished readers and writers, ready for 7th grade and beyond. Please arrive promptly at 6, so you don't miss any of the presentations. If you are considering sending your child to the K-6th, you don't want to miss this!

Saturday February 6 10 a.m.- noon **Open House**  
Visitors have an opportunity to see classrooms, meet teachers, talk to current parents and students, and learn about the engaging curriculum. From 10 to 11:45 a.m. children can join in arts and crafts and science activities in each of the classrooms. At 11:45 a.m. everyone will gather together to meet with school director Risa Richardson. Refreshments are served.

The Village School is an independent school for children from preschool through 6th grade, located on the Common, in the old brick Raymond School building, just across from the Post Office. For more information, call (978) 249-3505, or go to [www.villageschool.to](http://www.villageschool.to) In addition to hands on, in-depth academic studies, the school focuses on kindness and attention to the individual. Director Risa Richardson says, "The school is an affordable, grassroots response to local parents expressing the desire for more educational choices in the North Quabbin region. We have found that daily extended outdoor experience in the natural world refreshes students' minds, and enhances learning. We are a hands-on school; using project-based learning to respond to children's varied learning styles. Academics are rigorous and challenging. Each class is immersed in a central theme study (for example, Ancient Greece) for the year, connecting to all parts of the academic curriculum. Village School students are inquisitive, self-directed learners, who actively engage in the world around them. If you can't make the Open House, we welcome visitors – call to arrange a visit!"



## Monty Tech News

If you haven't yet seen MontyTechNites offerings (Monty Tech's evening division) you need to! Need to bolster employability? How about a 10 or 30 hour OSHA training class, a program in clinical medical assisting or a course in purchasing foreclosed properties? Are you bored? Try cake decorating, ballroom dancing, or several levels of drawing and painting. Thinking about career changes? Become a phlebotomist, electrician, LPN, plumber or how about being on the leading edge with certification as a photovoltaic system installer?! Children will enjoy and profit from lessons in babysitting, CPR, cooking and art. Maintain elusive New Year's resolutions in a variety of nutrition, self-hypnosis and exercise classes. Take hands-on classes or sit in your jammies at home to enjoy on-line courses. As their tag-line says, Monty Tech "can show you a new future!" Call 978-345-9200 x5220 or check out website [www.montytech.net](http://www.montytech.net).

Also be sure to stop by the newly-renovated Monty Tech restaurant! Royalston's own Gia Smith provided the interior design for the spaces which include dining area, conference room, and a retail area with sunroom bumpout. The value added is \$850,000; thanks to student labor, generous donations, etc., the cost of materials and paid services was just \$270,000, less than one third the worth of this structural improvement. The investment was made with buy-in money from the Town of Holden, which could be used only for capital improvement.

### Calendar:

- 2/3/10 7 p.m. Monty Tech SchoolCom meeting
- 2/4/10 "High Schools That Work" assessment for Monty Tech students at Sheraton Four Points in Leominster. (snow date 2/5.)
- 2/12/10 7 p.m. Monty Tech's Valentine and Class Ring Dance
- 2/18/10 6:30 p.m. Monty Tech School Council Meeting
- 2/23/10 6 p.m. Monty Tech JROTC Formal Dinner
- 2/25/10 Monty Tech's "Hats On Day"
- 3/4/10 Monty Tech Winter Sports Awards

## Classifieds

**Library Substitute Needed:** Looking for a bibliophile, who is personable, quite computer savvy, familiar with our library, and preferably has some library experience, to fill in on sporadic, and occasionally last minute notice, time slots at the Phineas S. Newton Library. Bachelor's degree preferred but not required. \$9.00/hr. For an application and more information stop by the library during regular hours.

**Census Bureau 2010 Now Hiring.** Are you looking for temporary work? The U.S. Census Bureau needs workers from your neighborhood. Hundreds of field positions to fill starting at \$15/hr. Call and make an appointment to take the preliminary test being offered at the Athol Town Hall and YMCA. Call for scheduling, toll free at 1-866-861-2010. (Information pamphlets available at the library.)

**Wanted: someone who can repair an old rag quilt.** Full size front and back call Susan @249-8636

**Wanted: One house.** Royalston resident looking for his own house to purchase in town, ideally in the \$125,000 range. Please call Joshua at 508-733-2243.

**An Organizational Goddess** has settled in Royalston and will make house calls to unclutter your living space from attic, office, kitchen, closets, basement and garage. I will help you make room for more things you probably don't need either. 978-249-2722.

**Housekeeping** or other odd jobs upon request, \$15.00/hr. Call 978-249-9774.

**Taking orders for firewood** for spring delivery: 978-249-3379. Leave a message.

**Hand-knitted:** baby sets, ski hats, mittens, socks, etc. Winter clearance now. Call Shirley Anderson, 978-249-4013.

In the Middle of Nowhere: "Snow Day" By: Megan Wessels



## Wildlife Sightings

Patty and Paul Cormier spotted these **bear tracks** on Dec 13th in their backyard at 230 Deland Rd. Patty reports, "Apparently someone thought the weather was too warm to go into hibernation just yet! I don't think he or she will come back after early January's frigid temperatures. Our window box with evergreens and winter berries was knocked to the ground. Here is the good-sized footprint, compared to my size 7 foot."



Nancy Feron has an "**I don't know what I saw**" wildlife sighting. "On upper Chestnut Hill Avenue, before Doane's Falls, I saw a long, lithe animal that moved like a feline running across the road. It was a distance in front of me, at night, so I did not see it closely. However, I swear it reminded me of large cats I have seen on tv (think cougarish). Is this possible? I am certain that it wasn't a deer or domestic animal, and it was big."

Samantha and Carrie Hutchins had a **Barred Owl** fly over their car and sit in a tree for several minutes when they turned into their driveway in December. It was beautiful to see with all the snow around it.

## Inquiring minds want to know:



*ed note:* A half dozen correspondents submitted this **moose** to the RCN. It comes with this caption, "Dan Patterson, a hunter near the St. Laurent Campground, took this photo last December. He took the shot and then ran like a schoolgirl." This moose is so big it is hard to believe. Is it real? Here is the evidence. There is a part time Patterson family at the campground, but they are not in residence right now. There are also reports that there were massive moose tracks and a bunch of half eaten cabbage on Turnpike Rd last fall. Others say that the photo is a ringer for a photo on the web attributed to Maine or BC, Canada and that the spruce forest in the background is not typical of Royalston. Photoshop or photo op? Does anyone know for sure?

## Garden Notes

January 22, 2010

I generally find it useful to look back before I look forward. With the absence of a newsletter last month, it is back a ways I look. On December 5 the garden was thriving, the grass was green and I was performing a variety of garden chores. On December 6 all was enveloped by three inches of snow, snow which remains to this day. I was in denial, of course, venturing out the next day coatless. In sneakers. Three days later an additional eight inches accumulated. The tops of the broccolis and brussel sprouts provided the only contrast to the sea of white. And then I was in a funk (ignoring the fact that it was the second week in December). I got over it, sort of, because the alternative was not to get over it. Since then it has been snowy, though not horridly so, with alternating stretches of frigid and moderate temperatures. Persistent winds out of the north, especially here atop a hill, have provided the least attractive element to the winter thus far.

There is something a wee bit wacky about venturing out to the garden on a 15° day, encased in overcoat, mittens, scarf, and hat (with ear muffs of course) to pick frozen kale and brussel sprouts. But..... in a very small way and for a very short time it provided me the illusion that I was somehow beating winter. Maureen Blasco has been beating winter on a much grander scale. Still growing in an unheated greenhouse attached to the south side of her house were arugula, New Zealand spinach, and watercress, uncommon greens all but hardy and prolific. Three cherry tomato plants still had useful quantities of ripe tomatoes. Ironically, it will not be the cold which will curtail output, but the relative absence of cold. Because aphids survive, Maureen is obliged to empty the greenhouse, effectively eliminating their food source and ensuring an aphid-free start for April's seedlings.

Once again, the snows arrived before the heavy frosts and that can only bode well for the plants beneath. During some snow melt last week a few patches of lawn emerged. The grass was green. George Northrop reports some thriving parsley under some blankets. My own efforts to extract some spinach from beneath the mounds of snow and mulch were futile, but I have every confidence they remain green.

I'm even gardening, sort of. After an absence of many years, I have resumed growing alfalfa sprouts. It is not rocket science. One-quarter cup of alfalfa seed is placed into a half-gallon cheese cloth-covered jar, soaked overnight and drained. Thereafter, they are rinsed a couple of times each day. In five to seven days (depending upon the ambient temperature) the jar will be packed with about a pound of sprouts. They are grown in the dark except for the last day when light will green up the leaves. They are an integral part of our winter salads, which include shredded carrots, cabbage, and daikon radish, all comfortably ensconced in the root cellar. Otherwise, my gardening has been reduced to picking dead leaves off house plants.

In February I will spend a bit of time pruning the fruit trees (primarily because there is nothing else above snow line), February persisting as do-nothing a month as exists in the world of gardening. A pause in the action.

The North Quabbin Region's Only Daily Newspaper Since 1935

Website: [www.atholdailynews.com](http://www.atholdailynews.com) Email: [adn@atholdailynews.com](mailto:adn@atholdailynews.com)

**Athol Daily News**  
205 EXCHANGE STREET ATHOL, MA 01331

Fax: (978) 249-9630 Tel: (978) 249-3535

**YOU CAN BE A NEWSLETTER SPONSOR TOO**  
**\$200 ANNUAL DISCOUNT RATE (10 ISSUES)**

PLEASE CONTACT STEPHEN CHASE  
**978-249-0358** OR [CHASEGOS@GIS.NET](mailto:CHASEGOS@GIS.NET)  
LEAVE A MESSAGE

**BEAR'S DAIRY SERVICE**  
**978-249-6843**  
Home Deliveries Since 1980

Home Delivery of Local Farm Fresh Milk in Glass Bottles

INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR OWNED:  
Robert Laakkonen (Teddy Bear)

**BRUCE'S BROWSER, INC.**  
1497 Main Street, Athol, MA

BOOKSTORE • CYBER CAFÉ • CARDS & GIFTS

*Come in and Browse!*

Open 7 AM to 7 PM, 7 Days a Week  
978-249-3978 [www.brucesbrowser.com](http://www.brucesbrowser.com)

**Athol Memorial Hospital**

*Quality healthcare close to home*

For information about our outpatient services  
call 978-249-3511  
or visit us on the web at  
[www.atholhospital.com](http://www.atholhospital.com)

**union music**

New & Used Musical Instruments  
Sales, Service, Rentals  
Sheet Music, Accessories, Amps, PA's  
Lessons, Rehearsal Space, Events  
[www.unionmusic.com](http://www.unionmusic.com)

142 Southbridge Street, Worcester, 508-753-3702  
Carl Kamp, Royalston, 978-249-9675

**ROBICHAUD**  
**PLUMBING SERVICE**  
**978-297-3555**  
LICENSE #23440  
174 WINCHENDON ROAD - ROYALSTON, MA 01368

*Pearson Rubbish*  
**978-249-5125**

127 Bliss Hill Road, Royalston  
Full Service Disposal  
**Weekly Pick Up in Royalston**

Prompt Courteous Service Call Russ

Thanks to the team at Fieldstone Press for donating the printing of the Royalston Community Newsletter

527 South Main Street • Orange, MA 01364  
978.544.3221 • 800.757.7377  
[print@fieldstonepress.com](mailto:print@fieldstonepress.com)

**Fieldstone Press**  
Yes, we can do that for You... [www.fieldstonepress.com](http://www.fieldstonepress.com)

**Stephen Chase Contracting**  
Restoration and Preservation Services

Royalston  
978-249-4860

Construction Supervisor #044817

### Military News

And the Bassos keep on serving... **Anthony Basso**, son of Anthony Basso, Sr. of Royalston and Sheril Basso of Athol will depart February 28 for Iraq. His company is part of a U.S. Army transportation battalion, moving heavy equipment out of Iraq and into Kuwait. Anthony was married last year to Amanda Simmons, daughter of Marcia Flanagan of Royalston and Frank Simmons of Gardner. Their first child is due one week before his deployment.



A Support Party for Anthony and his family is slated for Friday, February 26 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Baldwinville American Legion. Family, friends and those who want to wish Anthony well on his deployment are all invited to attend. Those who wish to correspond can address letters and packages to: SSG Basso, Anthony; 1166 Hett Transportation Co.; 930 A NW; Ft. Sill, OK 73503.

Other Bassos having served in the U.S. Army were Lisa who returned from Iraq a year ago, and Brandon, who returned three years after serving in Guantanamo Bay.

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

### Newsletter Staff

Editor: Beth Gospodarek  
Layout and Sponsorships: Stephen Chase  
Circulation: Becky Divoll, Lorraine Casinghino  
Treasurer: Barbara Willhite  
Staff: Maureen Blasco, Theresa Quinn, Mary Barclay, Larry Siegel

Submission deadline for March issue is: Feb. 22

### Please Contact Us

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

E-mail: [chasegos@gis.net](mailto: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

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

### Out of Town Subscriptions

are available for \$10/calendar year (10 issues)

by mailing a check to: Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton  
Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ATHOL MA  
PERMIT NO. 42

Royalston Resident  
Star Route 80  
Royalston MA 01368