

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan 2011



Volume XII, Issue X

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

Fire-up the Presses

Glad tidings: Thanks to generous public response, the Royalston Community Newsletter is still publishing. It is gratifying to know that many residents, even the ones I've never met, are reading and care enough to voluntarily subscribe. It's not too late to help. Pls send checks made out to the Friends of the Library/ Box 133/ Royalston 01368. Suggested subscription rate is \$10/year. Adding to the coffers, the Performance Press has given a great rate for printing and there are a few new paid advertisers as well.

New blood in the new year: As long as the money holds, the newsletter shall remain 12 pages. Now, the question "Is there enough quality news fit to print?" This community newsletter needs community input. The usual news and features are great and come via the kindly donated and much appreciated time and thought of your neighbors. However, many months there is yet more space to fill. Anyone with an idea for sporadic or regular Royalston-specific family-friendly submissions, perhaps cartoons, town history, photographs, serialized short fiction or other cool ideas, should please contact the newsletter or drop by the library. The deadline is always the 22nd of the preceding month. There is no pay, but your neighbors will read and enjoy the work so much that they may pony up \$10/year. All good wishes for the season.

Beth Gospodarek

Calendar of Events

December 2 Thursday **First Day of Hannukah**
3:45 **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

December 3 Friday
7 pm **Open Mic** with host band, Dan Vaccarri's Nobody's Fat. Sign up for a playing slot on arrival or call Jim 978-575-1052. Admission free. Refreshments on sale.

December 5 Sunday
2 pm **Balsam wreath making workshop** with Brenda Putney. \$5 for members/ \$8.00 for non-members of Friends of the Library. Stop at the library or call 978-249-3572 to register.
12:36 p.m. **New Cold Moon**

December 10 Friday
6 pm **Toy Bingo** at RCS

December 12 Sunday
2:00 pm **Weave a traditional wheat ornament workshop** at Town Hall with Kathy Morris. \$5 materials fee. Register at the library. 978-249-3572

6:30 pm **Christmas Charity Concert** at the First Congregational Church on the Common. Bring non-perishable food items to donate. Desserts and drinks served.

December 13 Monday
Dark to Dawn **Geminid Meteor Shower**, the most active shower of 2010. Although the general direction is northeast, the sky will be streaked with light – more than one a minute at peak times.

December 14 Tuesday
6 pm **RCS holiday concert.** Every student participates. All welcome for an infusion of holiday spirit.

December 15 Wednesday
noon **half day dismissal at RCS**

December 18 Saturday
10 a.m. – noon **Annual LBS Holiday Basket Packing** with hostess Theresa Quinn

December 25 Saturday
Christmas

January 1 Saturday
New Year's Day 2011

January 4 Tuesday
4:03 a.m. **New Wolf Moon**
Quadrantrid Meteor Shower



7 p.m. **Royalston F&G Pitch Tournament** - continues for the next 12 Tuesdays (see pg. 8)

January 6 Thursday
3:45 **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

January 7 Friday
7 pm **First Friday Open Mic.** Sign up for a playing slot on arrival or call Jim 978-575-1052. Admission free. Refreshments on sale courtesy of the cultural council.

January 10 Monday
6 - 7 pm **Zumba classes begin** upstairs at Town Hall and continue for 8 weeks. Free but donations welcome.

7:00 pm **Broadband meeting** at Town Hall

January 15 Saturday
6 p.m. **F&G Roast Beef Supper** (see pg. 8)

January 17 Monday
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (observed)

January 19 Wednesday **Full Wolf Moon**

January 24 Monday
10 am **Shake Off the Winter Blues** pre-school program with Jenny Nano at Town Hall.

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West, selectman

Broadband Update: Great news! In early November, the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) Board of Directors voted to formally include Royalston in the MassBroadband123 project! Your letters and surveys, combined with help from Senator Brewer and Representative Rice, really turned the tide. This project brings a high speed fiber optic connection to town buildings. Does this mean you will get broadband now? No! This just means that the state will bring a fiber optic cable to town and make it ready for internet distribution. The next step for how it is distributed to each house is up to the town. In this case, "Town" means YOU! Come to the next Broadband committee meeting to find out the next steps to getting broadband to your house.

The next Broadband meeting will be Monday, January 10 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

Signs: The Board of Selectmen would like to remind everyone that all temporary signs in town require a permit from the Board of Selectmen. This includes political and event signs. To make one part easier, Town Hall event approval includes sign posting approval. Please be sure to send your sign requests before your event. Permanent signs are governed by our Zoning Bylaw.

Selectmen Winter Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-2pm



Winter Parking Ban: In order to facilitate snow removal and treatment, the annual street parking ban is in effect from Dec 1 to April 30. There is no overnight parking allowed on any public way during these months.

Community Preservation Committee

Community Preservation Committee has accepted and approved two applications that have met the requirements for CPC funds. They are Cemetery Fence Replacement (Hillside) and Portrait Restoration of Joseph Estabrook and Ruth Greenwood Estabrook, which hang in the Phineas S. Newton Library. The CPC committee encourages anyone to continue to submit applications for any Open Space, Recreation, Historic Preservation or Community Housing as our next meeting will be January 10, 2011 in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Deer Shotgun Seasons Have Begun

Jim Barclay, Director, Royalston Emergency Management

We have observed, from time to time, hunters whose trigger finger was somewhat faster than their situational analysis. We haven't had anyone shot in over 20 years and we probably want to continue along that path. Anyone outdoors should be wearing as much bright orange as possible. This includes in your own yard or walking along public roads. You cannot depend on the legal limitations being observed. The last person shot here in Royalston was within the supposed safe zone of 150' from a public road. And this suggestion should certainly include dogs and cats. I know getting a cat to wear a orange vest can be somewhat eventful but a bright orange collar is helpful.

Some have noticed with delight and others with disdain the new solar-powered "message board" trailer that displays limited messages in LEDs. Although it officially belongs to the Homeland Security Department, it is now at its new home in Royalston thanks to Emergency Management Agency, which applied to have it located here, with the blessing of the Board of Selectmen. It is first and foremost for an emergency, and is available to all communities in need, just as their resources are available to Royalston. All of Royalston's public safety agencies have access to the message board.

Board of Health News

The transfer station will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. It will be open on Christmas eve day and New Year's eve day Friday 8am-3pm. Remember, paper still can't be made from plastic and visa versa. Check holiday wrap before trying to recycle. "Have great holidays!" from the BOH members and transfer station staff.

Workshops and Work-outs at Town Hall



Dawn and Chris Dawson were smiling big at the recent holiday card making workshop led by Janet Betsey. Plan to attend the upcoming wreath-making and wheat ornament-making workshops, on Dec. 5 and 12 respectively. \$5 materials fee.

Don't miss drop in Tai Chi on Tuesdays at 6 pm and Zumba beginning Jan. 10 at 6 pm. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers can move at the "Shake off the Winter Blues" work-out on Jan. 19 at 10 am.

All these events sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Drop by or call the library at 978-249-3572 to register or get information.

Royalston Homeowners!

Housing Repair Program

The Towns of Royalston and Phillipston are submitting a joint Community Development Block Grant application for funds for the home repair program. The program helps owners by paying for repairs to correct health and building code violations, abate lead paint and hazardous materials, repair septic systems, and so on.

There is still time to pre-register for the next round of grant funds. A registration form is included in this newsletter. Forms also are available at the Town Hall, Selectmen’s Office, or you can phone your registration information to: Kevin Flynn, Grants Administrator, (978) 248-9558. For this grant round, we need your response by Friday, December 4, 2010.

Town of Royalston - Housing Rehabilitation Assistance

The Town of Royalston, in cooperation with the Town of Phillipston, is applying for funding to assist qualified homeowners in making necessary repairs to their homes.

If you

undertake other necessary repairs to improve the quality of living in your home please fill out the following pre-registration form and return it to the Selectmen’s Office; or phone in your registration information to: Kevin Flynn, Phillipston Grants Administrator at (978) 248-9558. ALL information received is strictly confidential. Please return your response no later than Friday, December 4, 2010.

Thank you!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Type of improvements needed: _____

NOTE: “Household” refers to all the people living in your dwelling unit, even though you may not be related to each other.

1. Total number of people living in the household:
2. Number of elderly residents (65 years or older) living in the household: _____
3. Number of handicapped persons living in the household:
4. INCOME RANGE: Please check the line that includes your total household gross income. In other words, add together all sou

My household income is: (check one)

- ___ less than \$43,800
- ___ greater than \$43,800 but less than \$50,050
- ___ greater than \$50,050 but less than \$56,300
- ___ greater than \$56,300 but less than \$62,550
- ___ greater than \$62,550 but less than \$67,600
- ___ greater than \$67,600 but less than \$72,600
- ___ greater than \$72,600 but less than \$77,600
- ___ greater than \$77,600 but less than \$82,600
- ___ greater than \$82,600

Please return to: Grants Administrator, c/o Selectmen’s Office
50 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

OR CALL: Kevin Flynn, Phillipston Grants Administrator, (978) 248-9558

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank yous

Allen Young for an insightful look into communal living and a wonderful personal story as well.

Janet Bettey, master card maker, for such a well-organized, fun, and productive program

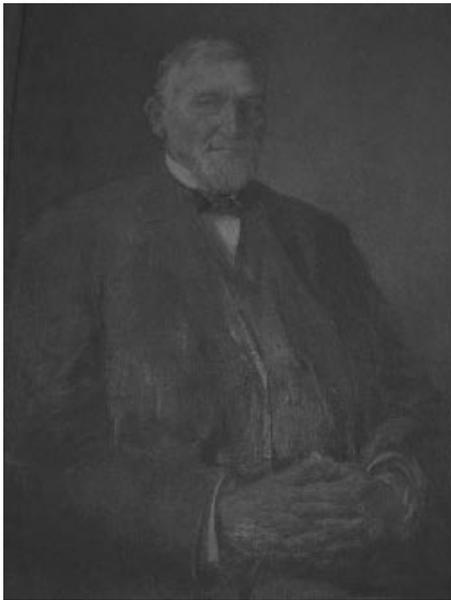
Allison Bergquist for help processing books and lots of other things

Art Exhibit

Ruth Suyenga's paintings will continue to be displayed at the library during the month of December. Her work is influenced by her life in Hawaii as a Japanese American and here in Royalston as a resident of our lovely rural town. Ruth has put a journal in the room so that viewers may make comments about her work. Stop by, browse, and comment. During January and February, Hugh Blake of Stewart Road will display his wood carvings. He has been carving birds and people since 1995 and has lived on Stewart Rd since 1978.

Where's Phinehas?

For almost 100 years the portrait of Phinehas S. Newton has hung over the fireplace in the large South room in the library. In that century, Phinehas (like the rest of us) has aged. Each year, he becomes a little less distinct and somewhat darker. Now, in celebration of his 100th year above the library mantle, Phinehas is getting a make-over. He will travel on December 8th to the Worcester Art Museum where he



will be cleaned and repaired before once again assuming his post over the fireplace. The staff had originally planned to apply for community preservation funds to have the portrait of the library's benefactor cleaned, but the timing would have prevented Phinehas from appearing at the library's anniversary in his typical dapper form. Thus, with the help of the Friends of the Library, he will be buffed and shined before the celebration. The Worcester Art Museum usually works on its own collection but occasionally does outside work. The library is fortunate that WAM has consented to do this work on the library's portrait of Newton. He should be ready for the celebration next May and June. We hope you are too. Anyone wishing to make a contribution towards the portrait's cleaning is welcome.

New Library Email

About two weeks ago, our email stopped working. We contacted C/WMARS technical support, who has overseen our email and provided an address for us since we first went online. After much searching and lots of technical assistance, they discovered that we had been eliminated as only members of C/WMARS will have emails through them now. Not being a member, we were dropped from the server. Consequently, that email will not work. If you emailed the library in the last two weeks, we did not receive your email and there is no way for us to retrieve them. You can now reach the library by emailing: royalstonlibrary@gmail.com. You can also email us through the website and those emails will be forwarded to us by our webmaster, Jeff Mangum.

Work off that Holiday Surplus:

Zumba and Tai Chi at the Town Hall

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring different exercise options this winter: Tai Chi under the direction of Rebecca Krause-Hardie on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall, and now for an aerobic workout, Zumba. Kristin Killay, a certified Zumba instructor, will lead classes each week for 8 weeks on Monday evenings from 6 - 7 pm. Donations welcome.

Holiday Craft Programs

Wreath making: On Sunday, December 5 at 2:00 pm, the Town Hall will be redolent with fresh balsam as Brenda Putney again leads the popular wreath-making program. For \$5.00 each person will receive a wire ring, wire, balsam, excellent instructions and a cozy venue to craft wreaths while chatting with friends and neighbors. Bring decorations for the wreath or purchase a bow from Brenda.



Wheat-weaving: On Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 pm, there will be an opportunity to create a traditional wheat ornament at Town Hall, led by National Association of Wheat Weavers member, Kathy Morris. Each participant will create two wheat straw holiday ornaments, a star and a wreath, to take home. This easy project can be adapted to many other designs. There is a \$5.00 materials fee which benefits the Friends of the Library.

Saturday Refreshments at the Library in December

To provide a haven from the cold and sometimes hectic nature of the season, the library will again offer light refreshments each Saturday morning in December. Stop by and browse, peruse a magazine, catch up on some reading, or search the internet while enjoying a cup of hot cocoa, coffee, tea, or cider.

Preschool Story Time Winter Program

On Monday, January 24 at 10:30 at the Town Hall, Jenny Nano will have preschoolers and their caregivers dancing around the room during a "Shake Off the Winter Blues," music and dance program. This free program is open to all and no pre-registration is necessary. Refreshments will be served after the program.

It's in the Bag

Although you probably already own several tote bags for carrying things around, consider purchasing one of the new Phinehas S. Newton Library (P.S. I love you) fair-trade, recycled cotton bags to benefit the projects and programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The contest for a slogan to grace the bags garnered several entries and in the end, and after much debate, the slogan submitted by Werner Bundschuh was selected for the bag. The bags are 10 ounce cotton, 16" tall by 15.5" wide with a 5" bottom and 22" handles, large enough to carry lots of items and many books, including larger children's books. They make great gift bags too. The bags are \$10 and available at the library.



New Books, Music and DVDs at your Library

Adult Fiction

- Baldacci, David *Hell's Corner*
- Casey, John *Compass Rose*
- Child, Lee *Worth Dying For*
- Crichton, Michael *The Lost World*
- Cross, Patterson *Cross Fire*
- Deaver, Jeffery *Edge*
- Flagg, Fannie *I Still Dream about You*
- Harvey, John *Far Cry*
- Harvell, Richard *The Bells*
- Johansen, Iris *Chasing the Night*
- Kelton, Elmer *Texas Standoff*
- King, Stephen *Full Dark, No Stars*
- Koontz, Dean *Winter Moon*
- Krauss, Nicole *Great House*
- Mosley, Walter *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey*
- Perry, Anne *A Christmas Odyssey*
- Robb, J.D. *Indulgence in Death*
- Roberts, Nora *Happy Ever After*
- Rushdie, Salman *Luka and the Fire of Life*
- Trevor, William *Collected Stories*
- Willig, Lauren *The Mischief of the Mistletoe*

Adult Audiobooks

- Eisenhower, David *Going Home to Glory*
- Leonard, Pete *Quiver*
- Sharlet, Jeff *C Street*
- Stroud, Jonathan *The Ring of Solomon*
- White, Stephen *Cold Case*
- Winchester, Simon *Atlantic*

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

- Card, Orson Scott *Ender's Game*
- Kinney, Jeff *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
- Reichs, Kathy *Virals*
- Westerfeld, Scott *Behemoth*

Children's Fiction

- Baicker, Karen *Yum Tummy Tickly!*
- Coman, Carolyn *The Memory Bank*
- Lin, Grace *Thanking the Moon*
- Park, Linda *A Long Walk to Water*
- Weisner, David *Art and Max*

Children's Non-Fiction

- Arnold, Caroline *A Moose's World*
- Askew, Amanda *Bulldozers*
- Askew, Amanda *Cranes*
- Askew, Amanda *Diggers*
- Askew, Amanda *Loaders*
- Burns, Loree *The Hive Detectives*
- Carson, Mary Kay *The Bat Scientists*
- Sfar, Joann *The Little Prince*
- Turner, Glennette *Fort Mose*
- Wells, Robert *Why Do Elephants Need the Sun?*

CDs:

- Jason Aldean *My Kinda Party*
- John Mellencamp *No Better Than This*
- Kenny Chesney *Hemingway's Whiskey*
- Kings of Leon *Come Around Sundown*
- Maroon 5 *Hands all Over*
- Robert Plant *Band of Joy*
- Sugarland *The Incredible Machine*
- Taylor Swift *Speak Now*



Adult Non-Fiction

- Guinness World Records 2011*
- Eisenhower, David *Going Home to Glory*
- Garten, Ina *Barefoot Contessa, How Easy is That?*
- Gussow, Joan *Growing Older*
- Lawrence, R. *Insight Guide to Boston*
- Sedaris, Amy *Simple Times*
- Sullenberger, Chesley *Highest Duty*
- Twain, Mark *Autobiography of Mark Twain, Vol. 1*
- Winchester, Simon *Atlantic*

DVDs: *Charlie St. Cloud, Charlotte's Web, Disney Nature: Oceans, Get Him to the Greek, Grown Ups, How to Train Your Dragon, Magic & Bird, Marmaduke, Prancer, Romana and Beezus, Scott Pilgrim vs. the World, Sex and the City 2, Single Man, Spongebob Squarepants Christmas, The Dog Who Saved Christmas, The Girl Who Played With Fire, The Kids are All Right, The Last Airbender, Toy Story 3 and Winter's Bone*

Milestones



Deb and Joe Nunes announce the arrival of their seventh grandchild, Gabriel Isaiah Nunes, born November 20, 2010 in Peterborough, NH. Gabriel is the son of Jen and Brian Nunes, US Navy, of Virginia Beach. Brian is currently serving aboard the USS Lincoln in the Pacific, but was fortunate to be on liberty in Bahrain and was able to be in touch by cell phone during the delivery. Jen, Gabriel, and sister Kylie will join Brian in Virginia Beach when he returns home in late February.



Isaac Hugh Santillo was born to Emily Bundschuh Santillo & Christopher Santillo on November 9, 2010. Isaac joins his big brother, Oren Bligh Santillo who will be three in February.



Ginger May on Brown Rd. delivered a baby girl alpaca and then, put the turkey in the oven on Thanksgiving morning. She sighed, "thank god for the Ladies Benevolent Society making the pies...would have never had time to do it all."

Clayton Holmes, 73, of 22 Pleasant St., South Royalston, died unexpectedly on Monday, Oct. 25, 2010 at the Heywood Hospital in Gardner. Mr. Holmes grew up in Townsend and graduated from the former Townsend High School with the class of 1955. He resided in Leominster for several years before moving to South Royalston in 1973.



Clayton was a very active member and vice president of the Royalston Fish and Game Club and was a manager of the bar for many years. He was a former member of the Royalston Water Improvement

Corporation and Sewer Commission. Clayton enjoyed playing card games such as poker and pitch and visiting the Atlantic City casinos. He was an avid fisherman in the Royalston area and had a great appreciation of the outdoors. He was often found sitting in his front yard throughout the day keeping a friendly eye on the neighborhood and watching the birds.

He leaves his companion, Sandy Graf of Royalston; four daughters, Marie Mello and her husband George of Royalston, Donna Holmes of Pepperell, Sally Pratt of Royalston, Mary Amadon of Gardner; two sons, Kevin Holmes of Royalston, Scott Amadon and his wife Paula of Royalston; seven grandchildren, Sarah Couture of Orange, Kevin Nelson of Athol, Cassandra Nelson of Gardner, Amber Amadon of Royalston, Jason Mustakangas of Gardner, Luke Mustakangas of Gardner and Mason Mello of Royalston; two great-grandchildren, Zoey Couture of Orange, Caleb Mustakangas of Gardner. He was predeceased by his wife, Joan E. (Hyatt) Holmes, in 1987; also by her son, Timmy Amadon, in 1990; by a sister, Pat Holmes; and by two brothers, Lester Holmes and Wallace Holmes.

Clayton's family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to Royalston Fire & EMS for their rapid and professional response, and to the Royalston Fish & Game Club for their support during the difficult days following his death.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Academic Honor Rolls

Athol High School; All As and Bs: **Amanda Bergquist, John Divoll, Shelby Bronnes, Ashley Javier, Amber Simmington, Allison Bergquist, Ashley Guyer, Samantha Hutchins, Dylan Hall, and Joseph Riddell**

Cady Boucher made the principal's list for the first semester at Narragansett High School.

The National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research has announced that Nancy D Melbourne has been selected as the 2010 Outstanding Customer Service Representative of the Year for the State of Massachusetts. Nancy was chosen as a state winner for exemplifying the commitment of providing exceptional service to clients within the insurance industry as well as for her commendable service to her community.

Nancy began her insurance career in 1978 as a customer service representative at the Kimball Cooke Insurance Agency of Athol, where she is currently the Personal Lines Manager and a Customer Service Representative. She has earned the designations of Certified Insurance Counselor and Certified Insurance Service Representative. In the community, Nancy is a member of the Ladies Benevolent Society of Royalston, Athol-Royalston Educational Foundation, a committee member of Athol Royalston Regional School District, a committee member of Boy Scout Troop 16 of Athol, and a volunteer community reader. She and her husband James have three children, Jameson, Nathan, and Mieka.



Presenting the award from left to right; Francis A Mancini, Esquire, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents; Nancy D Melbourne, CIC, CISR; Dr William T Hold, Ph.D, CIC, CPCU, CLU, President of the National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research.

RCS Poetry Club

I'm thankful for my wiggly feet
I'm thankful for my comfy seat
I'm thankful for Daddy's hugs
I'm thankful for my little pugs
I'm thankful for cookies my Grandma bakes
I'm thankful I can swim in lakes
by grades k-2: Hannah, Avah Y., Ryan D., Ava L., Katrina B., Nova L. and Hannah C.

Recipe of the Month



Here's a family recipe from the Lawrence household given by Kathy (Lawrence) Pirro.

Dick and Frances Lawrence moved to South Royalston in 1945. Kathy, their 2nd oldest child, attended schools in Royalston and Athol. In 1969, Kathy married and moved to Townsend, helping her husband run an auto body business. Later, she moved to Leominster. She worked as a bank teller for 13 years and then got an accounting degree from MWCC. Last year, she retired after working as an accountant for 20 years. In 2005, Kathy moved back to the family home and continues to live there with her sister.

Peach Upside Down Cake

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Mix dry ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt

Combine wet ingredients

- 1/4 cup soft margarine
- 1 beaten egg
- 6 tbsp milk
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Stir dry ingredients into wet. Put margarine in 9 x 9" baking pan. Put in oven briefly to melt. Add 1/2 cup brown sugar; put back in oven for one minute to dissolve sugar in margarine. Add 2 cups sliced canned peaches. (Kathy advises, "Do not drain peaches too much. Adding some peach juice will make the cake moist.") Pour batter on top. Bake 50 minutes.

Community School Update

Principal Somes is looking for a community member who does not have a child attending RCS to be on the School Improvement Committee. If you are interested please call the school @ 249-2900.

The RCS Student Council is concluding its veteran Christmas Card Drive. It has collected homemade cards that will be sent in care packages to veterans in time for the holidays.

RCS will hold its annual Toy Bingo on Friday, December 10th. Doors will open at 6:00 and the games begin at 6:30. We are in need of new toys to use as prizes, any donations can be dropped off at the school.

The Holiday Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 14th.

Stupendous Nature's Classroom Gift Certificate Raffle

The 5th & 6th grades at RCS are running a gift certificate raffle to benefit their Nature's Classroom trips. Tickets are being sold at the school, by any participating 5th or 6th grader, at the South Royalston Store, & the Royalston Post Office. Cost is \$2.00 each or 3/\$5.00. Gift certificates/cards include: \$25.00 to the South Royalston Store, \$25.00 to Pete & Henry's, \$28.00 Wed. night buffet @ the King Phillip, (5) \$5.00 cards and 3ft. party sub from Subway, \$15.00 Tool Town Pizza, large cheese pizza from Friendly Town Pizza, 2 small pizzas from Athol House of Pizza, a \$25.00 Christmas arrangement from To Each His Own Design, (2) \$10.00 certificates to Baldwinville Station, \$10.00 credit to Pattie's Jewelry, a month's membership to Spin-etics, \$25.00 to Eddies Restaurant, \$10.00 at Target, \$10.00 at Ocean State, Free cut & shampoo at Dugan's Wildcuts, \$5.00 off at Friendly's, a car wash @ House of Wax, \$50.00 to SpeedDee in Hannaford Plaza, oil change @ Spee Dee in Gardner, \$25.00 to Herrick's Tavern, \$10.00 Dunkin Donuts, \$25.00 to Olde New England Seafood, and more!! A huge thank you to all the businesses who are supporting this raffle and to all who buy a ticket.

Monty Tech News

Final figures are in for the 16th annual Monty Tech Scholarship Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Business Education and Enrichment Foundation. This year's event added an impressive \$15,800, all of which will be returned to students as awards, academic grants and scholarships.

Having received a Clean Energy Center of Mass. grant of \$62,315, which will include photo voltaic, wind and rainwater reuse systems, Monty Tech is going even greener. Funds are for the components as well as staff training. The resource is a valuable way for Monty Tech students to be exposed to these new technologies, their installation and continuing maintenance.

TOPS Comes to Royalston!

"Take it off-Keep it Off!" is the key goal of a non-profit, weight loss support group called TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) taking place Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church by organizers Luann Simula and Joyce Neale. Anyone who needs to drop some pounds is welcome regardless of religion. This is a high enthusiasm, low cost method of supporting oneself through a sensible weight loss regime. For more information, contact Joyce at 978-249-8966 or Luann at 978-249-8746.

YMCA Offers Babysitters' Training

The Athol Area YMCA YouthReach! Program invites all area youth ages 12 to 18 to participate in its bi-annual American Red Cross Babysitters Training Course. This workshop will teach young people everything they need to become great babysitters. This fun and interactive course teaches first aid and safety skills, as well as elements of infant and child CPR so that participants can prevent and respond to emergencies, as well as gain valuable employment skills. This one day workshop will be held on Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Attendees should bring a lunch and snacks for the day. Cost for the program is \$65.00 per person and space is limited to 12 participants. For more information call the YMCA at 978-249-3305.

Royalston Fish and Game Club

The F&G's Annual Meeting is slated for Sunday, December 12, at 11 a.m. Contact the clubhouse at 978-249-3004 for information.

Friday, December 31 is a **New Year's Eve Party**. The hall opens about 6 p.m., and music will begin about 8 p.m. Bring a dish to share for the pot luck buffet and also some non-perishable goods for donation to a local food bank. After midnight, help celebrate the 100th combined birthdays of Charlie Gorham who is turning 60 and Marie Holmes Mello, who is hitting the 4-0. For additional information and reservations, contact Marie at 978-249-2836.

A new Pitch Season begins Tuesday, January 4, at 7 p.m. Bring a partner and enjoy the next 12 Tuesdays playing cards in the warm clubhouse. Walk-ins welcome.

F&G Roast Beef Suppers continue Saturday, January 15 at 6 p.m. Donation of \$12/meal helps support the Club's maintenance and buys a sit-down, family-style, all-you-can-eat meal of perfectly roasted beef, mounds of mashed potatoes, delicious gravy, steaming hot green beans, bread and real butter, tossed salad and an ice cream dessert. Tickets sell out well in advance; call Marie at 978-249-2836 to reserve a seat.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Basket Raffle



Royalston's Catholic chapel, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, is holding its annual Christmas Basket Raffle during December. Tickets are \$1 each, and all will go to support the maintenance and upkeep of the chapel building. The basket – two of them, actually – consists of a substantial supply of non-perishable items, but also everything needed for a delicious holiday week of eating. There will be breakfast fixings, a tur-

key, fresh vegetables and home baked goodies. Your donation is appreciated and very much needed, this year more than ever. All parishioners have tickets, or call Ginny at 978-249-4951.

Ladies B

The Ladies' B. wrapped up a very busy and impressively lucrative November with another successful braised beef supper, bringing in approximately \$600 towards their annual scholarships. The Society's first-ever "Drive-By Pies," held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, was a smashing success, with some 20 pies reserved in advance, the 30 remaining sold in less than 90 minutes and a few after-the-fact orders accepted from pie-less customers who arrived after the last pies had sold. The income of nearly \$700 will also be applied to the scholarship fund. LBS scholarship application forms should be available in the spring from the Athol High School Guidance Dept. The scholarships are open to residents of all ages and genders interested in pursuing higher education. Recipients are announced in June.



Drive by Pies 2010

Congregational Churches News

Pastor Jeff Francis

With Christmas season upon us, our churches would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Christ-centered New Year! It is our prayer that this new year brings hope and truth to you in a very personal way.

This month is a very busy time of festive activities shared with loved ones and community. It is our dream to fill every home with hope and good cheer. In the middle of a financial crunch and economic recession, FCCR and SCCR, are partnering together to provide food baskets for families within the area that are suffering from unemployment or financial crisis. On December 12th, we will be hosting a Christmas Charity Concert at FCCR. Our goal is to help as many families as possible by raising funds for food baskets in the area. If you would like to support these families you may make a donation of non-perishable goods or give a charitable gift at the concert and together we can make someone's holiday season special. The concert time is 6:30 pm and the music will be provided by FCCR with desserts and drinks provided.

Please join us throughout the Christmas season for our special services every Sunday morning at 9:00 and 11:00 am. If you would like more information about the food baskets please contact the church at 978.249.9155. May the true meaning of Christmas be expressed through the joy of knowing Jesus, good cheer, and peace on earth! Always remember, Jesus is the REAL reason for Christmas.

The "Taste of Royalston" basket drawing brought in about \$300, which will go towards the final payment to the Village School Capital Campaign Fund. The Society will turn over a final check for \$1,000 to the Village School in December, bringing to \$6,000 the total donated during the three-year commitment.

Holiday baskets and mugs of cheer will be packed Saturday, December 18, 10 a.m. at the home of Theresa Quinn. If you know of someone who needs a little brightening up during the holiday season, contact LBS President Laurie M. Deveneau at lmdeveneau@msn.com or 978-249-5807.

United Way Fundraiser



John and Terry Cloutier held a mini-fundraiser for the United Way recently - raising well over \$300. Two lucky Athol-Area United Way donors each received a \$50 gift certificate to Pete & Henry's .

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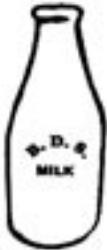
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Classifieds

Got stuff to sell or services to offer? The RCN classifieds are a free service to Royalston residents, space permitting.

For Sale: Our Lady Queen of Heaven is selling an electric stove \$50. It's about 5 years old and in good condition. It was donated to the church, but can't fit in the backdoor. Call Peter Kraniak at 978 249 7625 to view it. Leave a message if need be.

Royalston honey , \$5.00/l lb. jar. Makes great holiday/hostess gifts. Deb & Joe Nunes, Squier Davis Farm; 978-249-4000.

Grass fed beef. All cuts. Call Kathy, 978-249-4260.

Hand-knit baby sweater sets, mittens, hats, boot socks. All colors and sizes. Shirley Anderson 978-249-4013.

Firewood - \$180/170 cubic feet for green, cut, split and delivered locally. Call for prices on limited supply of semi-seasoned and fully seasoned. Also available: Sawdust for bedding or mulch. Leave message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

Birch Hill Computers - Sales, Repairs and Parts. 978-790-7876. birchhillcomputers.com.

Housekeeping or other odd jobs. \$14/hour. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

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PO Box 133
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Royalston Resident
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Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386

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In person: Drop off at library

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