

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dec/Jan 2012



Volume XIV, Issue X

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

Calendar of Events



December 1 Thursday
3:45 **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

December 2 Friday
Open Mic series begins with Melanie and the Blue Shots as the house band. Light supper fare and goodies for sale. Free admission. The series continues on Jan. 6.

December 3 Saturday
11 am **Meeting to organize new monthly book discussion group** forming at the library. Come give input on times, genre and format. Can't make it? Call the library 249-3572 to express interest.

December 4 Sunday
2 pm **Create unique gift bags** using stamps and decorative papers at Town Hall. Free for Friends of the Library and \$1 for non-members. Call the library 978-249-3572 to register.

December 7 Wednesday
6 pm **Christmas Tree Lighting** with caroling, hot cocoa and cookies at Town Hall, sponsored by the Cultural Council.

7 pm **Special Town meeting** at Town Hall.

December 10 Saturday
9:36 a.m. **Full Cold Moon**
10 a.m. **LBS Holiday cheer baskets and election of officers at Theresa Quinn's home.** All welcome.

December 11 Sunday
2 pm **Wheat weaving workshop** with Kathy Morris. Craft several types of ornaments. Cost \$5. Call the library 978-249-3572 to sign up.

December 13 Tuesday
Geminid Meteor Shower – possibly the very best light show nature has to offer this year. More than a meteorite a minute will streak across the skies, perhaps most obviously in the northeastern skies, where they originate. The show lasts all night long and can be seen tomorrow with some stragglers on the 15th.

December 18 Sunday
8 a.m. **Our Lady Queen of Heaven Christmas Basket Drawing**

December 19 Monday
10 am **Preschool story time holiday party** at the library.

December 21 Wednesday **First day of Chanukah**

December 22 Thursday
12:30 a.m. **Winter Solstice** – First day of winter

December 24 Saturday
1:06 p.m. **New Wolf Moon**

December 25 Sunday **Christmas Day**

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

January 1 Sunday
Happy New Year – 2012; also, Japanese New Year 2672.

January 5 Thursday **Twelfth Night**
7 p.m. **250th Celebration Committee** meets at Town Hall

January 6 Friday
7 p.m. **Open Mic** at the Town Hall with house band Nexus. 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.

January 16 **Martin Luther King Day** – Schools, Post Office, Library Closed in observance

January 17 Tuesday
6 p.m. **State Representative Rich Bastien at Town Hall**
7 p.m. Board of Selectmen meets at Town Hall

January 20 Friday
Historical Society Meeting with guest speaker. New members sought. Watch for more information.

January 21 Saturday
7:30 – 10:30 a.m. Monthly **Phillipston Lions' Club Breakfast**

6 p.m. **Royalston F&G Roast Beef Supper**

January 23 Monday
2:39 a.m. **New Snow Moon**

January 28 Saturday
6 p.m. **250th Celebration Chicken Supper**

February 4 Saturday
10 am **Village School open house**

Selectboard Notes

Linda Alger, chairperson

The Board continues to work on the projects that have been mentioned in the past. It is happy to report that the Town Hall septic system leech field project is nearly complete.

In mid November, the board held a financial update meeting with all department heads as we begin the budget process. We anticipate that the FY13 (which begins July 1, 2012) budget to be our biggest challenge and we advised all departments to be very prudent in their planning. The school district has already indicated that they too have budgetary constraints and while the "O" word was not used yet, Royalston may be faced with an override request. The Town has always under budgeted the Snow and Ice account. We have budgeted \$140,000 the last several years and we generally are spending an average of \$190,000. The surplus is then taken out of our Stabilization account; unfortunately, this cannot continue as our Stabilization Fund will at some point be depleted. The Town is at a crossroad and needs to consider being more proactive and actually planning for an increase in our Snow and Ice account, a Capital Planning budget, and additional support to our school district. While no one wants to increase the tax rate, it would be remiss to simply think this situation might improve. The RCS mortgage will be paid in full in 2016 and it is unlikely that Athol will have their new school built by this time, so Royalston will have "some" revenue for a brief period of time. Using this revenue to defray operating costs would not be wise as this too is short term and will evaporate. I raise these issues as a beginning point for everyone to begin thinking about our options.

The Planning Board and Board of Selectman are looking for an interested resident to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board until the next election. If interested please contact our Administrative Assistant, Helen Divoll, or the Planning Board.

Special Town Meeting on Dec 7th at Town Hall at 7pm

The Board of Selectmen would like to wish you all a happy holiday season.

Royalston's 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Thanks to all who purchased the committee's tree ornaments, which sold out quickly. Watch for a newly designed ornament with artwork by Patience Bundschuh next year. The group's **T-shirt depicting Royalston's three waterfalls is still available for holiday giving** and can be purchased at the Royalston Store or by calling Geoff Newton 978-249-3726.

Want to get involved in the celebration? Come to the meeting on January 5, 2012 at 7 pm at Town Hall to plan upcoming fundraisers and celebratory events.

Don't miss the **Community Chicken Supper on January 28th**. Enjoy some cozy comfort food in the company of your neighbors and help raise funds for the Town's anniversary bash.

State Representatives Plan Constituents' Hours to Hear Local Concerns

Representative Rich Bastien is holding office hours in Royalston on Tuesday, January 17, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall. He has extended an invitation to Representative Denise Andrews of the Second Franklin District, our Rep-to-be under redistricting. All residents are encouraged to drop by for light refreshments and a visit. This is a great opportunity to let our legislators know about local issues and find out what can be done together to address them.

Royalston Cemetery Commission

Be sure to check out the Hillside Cemetery on Route 68 just north of the South Village. Two-hundred feet of custom-made, picket fencing was installed last month by Johnson Fencing Company of Rutland. The project was the first CPA Project funded through the Community Preservation Committee, established by a Town vote in 2008. The project used \$7,367 of the \$7,500 grant. Taking a moment to enjoy the results are (l-r) Cemetery Commissioner Roy A. Smith, Jr.; Linda M. Alger, Chairman for the Board of Selectmen; CPC Chairman Marsha Charest; Cemetery Commission Chairman and CPC delegate Roland G. Hamel; Cemetery Commissioner Wayne R. Newton; and Jack Morse, CPC delegate from the Board of Selectmen.



Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Jim Barclay, EMD ema@royalston-ma.gov or call 978-249-2904 After action reports for "Hurricane Irene" the "Octoblizzard" and the "Ice Storm of 2008," have motivated Town leaders to work towards upgrading Royalston's formally-designated emergency shelter, the Royalston Community School, to meet Federal Homeland Security requirements. In a wide-spread emergency, RCS would serve as a predictable gathering place for sharing of information and resources, a warming and feeding station, and as a shelter for displaced residents. One of its primary functions would be to facilitate the continuous operation of government.

Physical upgrades like a generator, storage pod, and the mandatory equipment and supplies are only a part of what is needed to open such a shelter. While the "stuff" is necessary to bring the building into compliance, it can only be opened if there are sufficient certified people to work there; people willing to invest some time in advance for in-shelter training. REMA has eight shelter (both operations and management) certified residents, about a third of what would be needed to open a full shelter for days.

If this is a volunteer position you would consider, please contact EMD Jim Barclay at ema@royalston-ma.gov or call 978-249-2904. Courses are offered throughout the year, either on weekends or week nights. Depending upon the level of certification, courses are between eight and 32 hours.

Open Mic Series Returning

The Royalston Cultural Council is pleased to announce that the award winning Open Mic series begins on Friday, December 2nd at 7 pm, with Melanie and the Blue Shots as the House Band. Delicious food will be provided by Deb Nunes and Patti Carrier, with goodies provided by other Cultural Council members. The series continues on first Fridays: Jan. 6th, Feb. 3rd, March 2nd, and on the second Friday in April, the 13th (Good Friday is the first Friday that month). The band Nexus will be the host for the Jan 6 Open Mic. They are a local band based in the Orange-Wendell area.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Wednesday, December 7th beginning at 6 p.m. Following the tree lighting the Cultural Council will serve hot cocoa and cookies in the Town Hall, and the wonderful singers from the Royalston Community School will serenade us.



Town Clerk News

Melanie A. Mangum, town clerk

978-249-0493

Office hours Mondays, 9 a.m. -1 p.m. and 6p.m. -8:30 p.m.

Dog license tags

Dog tags will be available in late January for the 2012 dog licensing season. 2012 licenses must be obtained by March 31, 2012. Please call before coming to license your dog to make sure that dog tags have arrived. Prices remain the same at \$6.00 per neutered/spayed dog and \$10.00 for an unaltered dog.

Annual Town election

The following are important deadlines for the town election that will be held April 2. Open positions and terms will be posted in January.

1. Nomination papers will be available at the town clerk's office beginning January 9, 2012. The town clerk's office is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School Street.
2. The last day to submit nomination papers for Board of Registrars certification is Monday, February 13, 2012, by 5 p.m. Bring the papers to the Town Clerk's office in Whitney Hall.
3. The last day to object or withdraw from the election ballot is Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

A reminder that the transfer station will be open on the last Friday of the month 1-4pm through December. That will give folks a chance to get cleaned up after the holidays. In January, we will return to the Saturday only 8am-3pm schedule.

Please note the new location of the bottle return box outside to the right of the recycling building. Please do not leave returnables inside.

Please take the time to remove packing materials such as styro-foam and other plastic items from cardboard and other holiday boxes because, as you know, YOU CAN'T MAKE PAPER OUT OF PLASTIC! Same goes for holiday wrap. If it's paper and it tears, it can go into the paper roll off. If not, put in regular trash.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season, from the BOH and the staff at the RRTS.

Royalston Luncheon Club

Warm and brighten the cold, dark days of winter by joining the Royalston Luncheon Club some Wednesday for a hot meal and great company. The meal is served at 11:30, but the doors open earlier for those who wish to visit, play cards or work on their craft projects. Take chances at the First Wednesdays' Chinese Auctions; participate in Second Wednesday health clinics; and pick up Western MA Food Bank "Brown Bag" commodities on Wednesdays. At \$2/senior and \$2.50/senior-to-be, the meals are affordable, too! Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday's meal.



ROYALSTON GENERAL STORE TO THE RESCUE!

Once again, the Royalston General Store became the place to be following the October 29 snow storm. Not to be deterred by the lack of power, Pat and Tom fired up the trusty generator and kept the store open, providing meals and hot coffee to those affected by the black out. We are very fortunate to have the General Store. (Photo by Rene' Lake-Gagliardi)

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you

To the Community Reading Day Readers: Roberta Newman, Barbara Richardson, Nancy Melbourne, Clarence Rabideau, and Jen Bartkus

To the Athol Public Library for organizing and obtaining the books for Community Reading Day

To Clarence Rabideau for continued help weeding the collection

To Allison Bergquist for help processing books

Donations to the Friends

Donna and Scott Caisse

Donations in Memory of Werner Bundschuh

Meryl and Marie Willhite	Dawn and Christopher Dawson
Don and Jeanne Stanton	Antonia and Jack Petrash
Vyto and Pat Andreliunas	Skip and Shafiya Ciccarelli
Karl and Doris Bittenbender	The Ladies' Benevolent Society

Library Events

Tai Chi with Rebecca Krause-Hardie continues this fall Tuesdays from 6-7 pm. Everyone is welcome at this free program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more info, contact Becky at 978-575-1454.

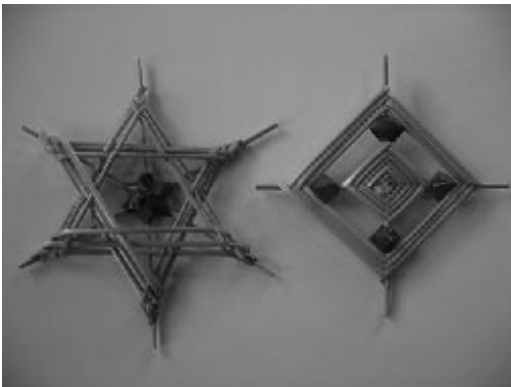
Zumba with Kristin Killay continues on Mondays at 6 pm throughout the winter at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Donations welcome.

Preschool Holiday Party

There will be a special pre-school story time holiday party on Monday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the library. Holiday stories, crafts and goodies will be offered. All pre-schoolers and their caregivers are invited to attend. No pre-registration is required. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others with preschool children. There will be no story time on December 26 but it will resume on Monday, January 2.

Holiday Craft Workshops Continue

There are still a few spaces left in each of the upcoming holiday craft programs. Both will be on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. On December 4th, Janet Bettey will be assisting individuals in creating unique gift bags and tags using decorated paper and hundreds of different rubber stamps. Participants are asked to bring small scissors or additional bags to decorate. On December 11, Kathy Morris will lead a group making holiday ornaments or decorations out of wheat, including God's eyes, stars, and Belarusian beads. Participants should bring small scissors, a small towel, and ruler if possible. The cost for the gift bag workshop is free for Friends and \$1.00 for non-members



and \$5.00 for the wheat weaving workshop. Both are sponsored by the Friends of the Library. You must be pre-registered to be able to participate and you may do that by calling or emailing the library at 978-249-3572 or royalstonlibrary@gmail.com.



Need More Holiday Gift Ideas? There is a large selection of craft and cooking books waiting to be checked out at the library.

Artist Exhibit

Caleb Chase, a junior at Cushing Academy and life-long resident on Northeast Fitzwilliam Road, will have his paintings and fused glass pieces on exhibit at the library through December. Caleb has been painting for years and has created several of the posters used for library and Royalston Shakespeare Co. programs.

Attention Readers:

Book Discussion Group Forming

The Friends of the Library is gauging interest for a new book discussion group in town. Interested? Sign up at the library and/or come to an exploratory meeting to share input on genre, format and meeting times on Saturday, December 3rd at 11 a.m. The group will borrow multiple copies of books through inter-library loan. It plans to get started reading, thinking, and chatting as well as digesting ideas and refreshments in the New Year. All welcome. Free.

Commemorative Books of the Phinehas Newton Library's 100th Anniversary Celebration Available: On Sale Now

Last June's observance of the library's centennial generated lots of lovely photos of a particularly picturesque and sweet community event. The parade, speeches, games, tea party, living history and town hall ball all provided fine fodder for a camera shoot.

The images were captured digitally, but therein lies the rub. With changing and crashing technology, digital photos are easily lost. Photos printed out on inferior paper with ordinary inks fade fast. Thus, the idea of creating a high quality scrapbook of the day's events emerged. The book contains hundreds of excellent photos of your friends and neighbors having fun on a beautiful summer's day. With time, it will look like history.

The cost of the book for the first copy is \$25, which is a price subsidized by the Friends of the Library. Additional copies are \$35, the actual price. (Sorry the price was increased slightly since last month as pages were added as more fabulous photos were found. Books ordered in November will have last month's price.) To see a copy or place an order, visit the library.

Shop at the Library this Holiday

The library is a great source for Royalston-abilia and all purchases benefit the Friends of the Library, the group that produces this newsletter, many programs for adults and kids, and supports the library infrastructure and staff.

Sets of very cool Note-cards with artwork by local artists



Royalston Shakespeare Co. Stuff

Mugs and t-shirts: priced to move (Interestingly, the new Bullock-McCormick history mentions a group called the "Shakespeareans," who met regularly to read Shakespeare 100 years before the RSC formed.)

Oldies but goodies...

Royalston Poster - \$5
Allen Young's books on the North Quabbin region

New Book on Bullock Family History



From Farm to Finance: A New England Family, Its Town and Its Time by Fair Alice Bullock McCormick is more than an in-depth look at the history of the Bullock family from roughly 1830-1920. It also chronicles community life in the early days of Royalston and the other areas of the country where the family lived. The author's intention is to relate information about not only "the people involved" but also "how the weft of their lives intersected the warp of the place and times." Fair Alice was fortunate to have ancestors who left a wealth of correspondence and she lets their words enhance the story. For instance, the blizzard of 1888 is described by Mary Miller Bullock (Calvin Bullock's widow) on day one as "a fearful day - a terrible blow all night - snow sifted in in quantities at every crevice, no one out - no horse - nobody shoveling" On the third day, "storming still this morning & wind blowing... 21 men worked till 6 o'clock shoveling before breaking-out teams could pass... Unprecedented." The following day she noted "31 men shoveling snow in road from here to South Royalston." This well-written and researched book includes relevant maps, documents and photographs as well as a carefully cited appendices and a thorough bibliography. It is available for borrowing at the library.

P.S. (I Love You) New-ton Organic Cotton Tote Bags, perfect for wrapping up the gift of a bibliophile.

Library 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book and the Library 100th dvd.



John Poor and former librarian Millie Clement Poor are featured, along with dozens of other happy residents, in this new photo album.



Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Fiction

Baldacci, David *Zero Day*
Coleman, Rebecca *The Kingdom of Childhood*
Coulter, Catherine *Prince of Ravenscar*
DeLillo, Don *The Angel Esmeralda*
Eco, Umberto *The Prague Cemetery*
Evans, Richard Paul *Lost December*
Flanagan, John *The Lost Stories*
Grafton, Sue *"V" is for Vengeance*
Grisham, John *The Litigators*
Harrison, Jim *The Great Leader*
Krentz, Jayne *The Wedding Night (Large Print)*
Macomber, Debbie *1225 Christmas Tree Lane*
Maguire, Gregory *Out of Oz*
Murakami, Haruki *IQ84*
Nattress, Laurel Anne *Jane Austen Made me Do It*
Oz, Amos *Scenes from Village Life*
Patterson, James *Kill Alex Cross*
Rankin, Ian *The Impossible Dead*
Roberts, Nora *The Next Always*
Steel, Danielle *Hotel Vendome*
Woods, Sherryl *An O'Brien Family Christmas*

Non-Fiction

Alexander, William *The \$64 Tomato*
Bastianich, Lidia *Lidia's Italy in America Basic Italian*
Hessel, Stephane *Time for Outrage!*
Lemov, Doug *Teach like a Champion*
Miller, Donna *Crash Course in Teen Services*
Naifeh, Steven *Van Gogh*
Nhat, Hanh *Savor*
Oliver, Jamie *Jamie Oliver's Meals in Minutes*
O'Rourke, P.J. *Holidays in Heck*
Rasmussen, Eric *The Shakespeare Thefts*
Ridge, Brent *The Beekman 1802 Heirloom Cookbook*
Rothenberg, David *Survival of the Beautiful*
Stevens, John *Five Chiefs*
Steves, Rick *Rick Steves' Italian Phrase book & Dictionary*
Updike, John *Higher Gossip*
Vinton, Sherri *Put 'em Up*
Wolf, Anthony *I'd Listen to My Parents if They'd Just Shut Up*
Audiobooks
Baldacci, David *Zero Day*
Jones, Darynda *Second Grave on the Left*
Morgenstern, Erin *The Night Circus*
Oates, Joyce Carol *The Corn Maiden and Other Nightmares*
O'Reilly, Bill *Killing Lincoln*
Seuss, Dr. *The Bippolo Seed and Other Lost Stories*

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Cast, P.C. *Destined*
Flanagan, John *The Outcasts*
Mooney, Carla *Online Predators*
Paolini, Christopher *Inheritance*

DVDs: *Agatha Christie Poirot, Atlas Shrugged: Part 1, Bad Teacher, Captain America- The First Avenger, Cars 2, The Change-up, The Christmas Bunny, Crazy, Stupid, Love, A Golden Christmas 2: The Second Tail, Green Lantern, Life Long Health (DVD/Book combo), Mickey Mouse, Clubhouse Space Adventure, Monte Carlo, Optimizing Brian Fitness (DVD/Book combo), Penguins of Madagascar: All Nighter Before Christmas, Shaun the Sheep: We Wish Ewe a Merry Christmas, Understanding Complexity, Understanding the Brain (DVD/Book combo), Water for Elephants, and Winnie the Pooh Movie*

Recipe of the Month

This month, the recipe is from Leslie Williams, who has lived in town for almost three years, after living in Athol for 9 years. She explains, "I moved to Royalston when my old neighborhood became "too populated" and LOVE the openness of my new hometown. I am a farmer wanna-be, and would love to raise chickens and maybe alpacas one day. I am an avid hiker and walker (I am the crazy woman who walks her dog on Rt 32 almost every day) and love the variety of trails in the area, and plan to hike all of the Tully Trail one weekend soon. This recipe is from my mother-in-law and was a family favorite for years (so my husband told me) ."

Chocolate Eclair Cake

Crust and Filling

1 lb. box of graham crackers
2 boxes instant French Vanilla pudding
3 1/2 cup milk
8 oz container Cool Whip

Butter the bottom of a 9x13 glass pan. Line the bottom of the pan with one layer of graham crackers (do not crush). Mix the pudding mix with the milk, and beat at medium speed for two minutes, then blend in the Cool Whip. Pour one half of the mixture over the graham crackers, then place a second layer of graham crackers on top of the filling. Cover with the remaining filling, then top with a final layer of graham crackers. Refrigerate for two hours, covered.

Frosting

1 3/4 cup powdered sugar
3 tbs softened butter
2 tsp vanilla
2 pkg unsweetened baking chocolate (melted blocks or presoftened, either OK)
2 tsp corn syrup
Blend all ingredients together with a whisk until smooth, then spread evenly over the top layer of graham crackers in the pan. Serve chilled.

Young Adult Audiobooks

Paolini, Christopher	<i>Inheritance</i>	Sitomer, Alan	<i>The Downside of Being Up</i>
Scott, Michael	<i>The Warlock</i>	Stiefvater, Maggie	<i>Forever</i>
Stiefvater, Maggie	<i>The Scorpio Races</i>	Stiefvater, Maggie	<i>Shiver</i>

Children's Fiction and Nonfiction:

New works by Eve Bunting, Eric Carle, Gail Gibbons, Daisy Meadows, Cynthia Rylant, Bob Dylan and Dr. Seuss as well as many other children's authors are now on the shelves. For the complete listing please go to www.royalstonlibrary.org.

Music: Tony Bennett *Duets*; Justin Bieber *Under the Mistletoe*, Michael Buble *Christmas*, Coldplay *Mylo Xyloto*, Gavin DeGraw *Sweeter*, Lambert, Miranda *Four the Record*, Hugh Laurie *Let Them Talk* and Scotty McCreery *Clear as Day*

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS



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

Wishes for every happiness go out to **Jeffrey Scribner**, son of Mary Ellen and Charlie Scribner of Royalston, and **Jessica LaFountain**, daughter of Laurie and Pete Rivers of Orange, who were married on October 19, 2011 at Orange Lake Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. They reside in Orange with their 6-year-old son Tyler.



Residents **Elizabeth Farnsworth and Gordon Morrison**, created didactic illustrations featured in the new book, *New England Wild Flower Society's Flora Novae Angliae: A Manual for the Identification of Native and Naturalized Higher Vascular Plants of New England*.



Grady MacPhee recently traveled to London with peers from Cushing Academy to attend the 28th International Churchill Conference, which examines the leadership and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill. While the diplomatic, intelligence, defense and cultural ties across the Atlantic were naturally a point of focus, Churchill's personal relationship with the US was also discussed. The state of the alliance between the US and UK are always a subject of worry on both sides of the Atlantic, but the participants pointed out that it is fundamentally sound and healthy.

Owen MacPhee made High Honors this semester at RCS. **Athol High School first term academic honor roll:**
Straight As: **Amanda Bergquist;** *All As and Bs:* **Allison Bergquist, Alexis and Ashley Javier, Jacob LaJoie, Amber Simington, Beau Guimond, Tiffany Lusco, and Katie Robinson**

Melanie and the Blue Shots will be appearing at "Starry, Starry Night" in Orange this year. See the *Athol Daily News* for the schedule.

Classifieds

Services Available

Graphic digital artist for hire. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, invitations, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Call Barbara at 508.364.3339 or email brguiney@wildblue.net.

House cleaning in your home. 4 hr - \$60.00. Experienced with references. Royalston resident. Home - 978-249-4596 or cell - 895-0817, ask for Fran.

Do you need help with **housekeeping, outdoor work, or other odd jobs?** \$14/hr. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. Mariah Mallet 249-9410.

For sale

Pool table: 4'x8', 1" slate base, newish felt. all bells and whistles. \$400/b.o. Call Larry 249-4260.

Russo Glass View Wood Stove \$200; **20 wildlife collector plates** (18 white tail scenes, 1 black bear, and 1 elk) \$25 each, 20 for \$400; **Heywood-Wakefield China Hutch**, beautiful condition, glass doors and shelves on w/ lights 72"Hx48"Wx18"D \$750; and **Gorilla 15' ladder tree stand brand new \$125.** Call Teddy 978-249-6843.

Free-Range, pasture raised pork. All natural, raised in Royalston. \$2.00/pound; hanging weight, plus processing fees. Whole pig or half. Range 140 to 200 pounds. We ship and arrange processing for you. Come see and pick one out. Call Chet Hall IV 978-249-2183

Grass-fed Beef: All cuts available. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.

Squier Davis Farm honey; \$6.00 / 1 lb.; Deb & Joe Nunes, 249-4000. Makes great hostess/stocking/Christmas gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

Nature books and prints suitable for children and adults. Commissions accepted for portraits and other subjects in a variety of media. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

Hand knitted baby sweater sets, hats, mittens, socks, etc. All colors and sizes. Call 978-249-4013.

Firewood - Green, cut, split and delivered in Royalston for \$165/185 cubic feet (loose cord). Call Tom Ramsdell at 978-249-2586.

Firewood- \$210/\$225 for partially/fully seasoned delivery of 170 cubic feet. Call Jim Putney at 978-249-3379

Local Maple Syrup from Richardson's sugarhouse is now available at Pete & Henry's. Of course, it is also available from the Richardsons at 978-249-6283.

Fresh Royalston Produce from Neale Farm: ornamental corn, corn stalks, baled hay, and a limited number of winter keeper veggies. Call ahead to see what's available. Divoll's Maple Syrup there, too. 249-6872

Royalston Maple Syrup, made at Divoll's Deland Hill Sugar House. Prices \$9/pint; \$15/qt; \$28/half gal.; \$50/gal. Call Randy Divoll at 978-602-5583.

Pete and Henry's Gift Certificates are available by phone at 978-249-8375.

"Where Many Rivers Fall" t-shirts sold to benefit 250th committee. \$15. Buy at Royalston store or call Geoff 249-3726. Make good gifts.

At the Village School

January 3 Teacher Inservice Day

January 4 School resumes for students

Wednesday, January 11 6:30 p.m. Math Night with Polly Wagner, Math Coach. It's always an exciting evening when Polly Wagner gives a presentation about how children learn math and develop lifelong math thinking. Polly has worked across Massachusetts, in both urban and rural schools as a Kindergarten-8th grade Math Coach, including 7 years as a K-8 coach for the Boston Public Schools. Polly's coaching experience includes collaborating with teachers about teaching and students' work in classroom settings; facilitating professional development seminars for groups of teachers and as a staff member of the Developing Mathematical Ideas Leadership Institutes at Mt. Holyoke College. Polly has been the Village School math coach for over 10 years.

The Village School is also hosting an Open House on Saturday February 4 from 10 a.m. to noon. Visitors have an opportunity to see classrooms, meet teachers, talk to current parents and students, meet alumni and learn about the engaging curriculum. Bring your children! Find out about openings for next year and how to apply. 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 to meet with school director Risa Richardson. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served.

Monty Tech News

Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay – mbarclay@juno.com
– 978-249-2598

Monty Tech's Marine Jr. ROTC recently conducted a ten-mile fundraising march that raised \$14,500 towards the cost of training a NEADS Combat K-9 as a partner for a wounded combat veteran in need of a service dog. The 180 cadets were aiming for the full cost of \$21,000, and were delighted when the North Central Marine Corps League Detachment provided the additional \$6,500 necessary.

Despite the fact several schools have begun prohibiting their eighth graders from attending Monty Tech's "Tour Day," Monty Tech was pleased that so many families took the time to attend the fall open house – nearly 1,200 more participants than in years past.

Monty Tech's new Superintendent-Director Steven C. Sharek reports he is committed to ensuring that Royalston is invited to take advantage of some of Monty Tech's community service projects during his tenure. Surrounding communities had numerous projects completed, like a complete re-do of an abandoned floor now turned into town offices; sidewalks for the schools, complete body work and painting of fire engines, additions to DPW buildings, dental cleanings for elementary school children, cabinetry in a public safety building, masonry building restored – there are many things Monty Tech can do for Royalston through its 20 trades and professions! If you have an idea for a project that would benefit Royalston, contact Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay or Superintendent-Director Sharek.

R.C.S. News

Bella O'Connor

Another busy December awaits R.C.S. The annual Holiday Concert, kindly directed by Erin Girouard, the music teacher will be December 16 at 6:30 p.m. Also, the children are eagerly awaiting the traditional Toy Bingo night, supervised by the PTG. The PTG will have a meeting on Dec. 6th at 3:15. The Student Council's Christmas Shop will be open and students will be able to buy presents for anybody and everybody. The school will be having the Holiday Hat Day on the 9th and an ornament workshop early this month. Students are working on care packages for soldiers and gathering money for Heifer International. The food drive is going well, and has collected a lot of holiday items. In addition, RCS is also looking for Box Tops and Campbell's Labels, so if you have any, you can drop them off at the library on the common or the school itself. Thanks!

Dates to remember:

Dec. 2 - Thayer Symphony Orchestra - Music Connection, String Trio, sponsored by Royalston Academy (9:00 & 10:00AM performances)

Dec. 5 - Safe Touch Program - Grades K - 3, Wk. 1

Dec. 6 - PTG Mtg. @ 3:15 pm

Dec. 7 - 1/2 day, all grades, all schools, professional development

Dec. 8 - After-school Christmas Crafts 3:15 - 4:30

Dec. 12 - Safe Touch Program - Grades K - 3, Wk. 2

Dec. 12 - 16 - Holiday Shoppe

Dec. 14 - 1/2 day, No Kindergarten, Lunch served, noon dismissal

Dec. 16 - RCS Holiday Concert @ 6:30pm

Dec. 19 - Safe Touch Program - Grades K - 3, Wk. 3

Dec. 19 - Student Council Party - 3:15 - 4:30 pm

Dec. 22 - 1/2 day, all grades, lunch served, noon dismissal

Dec. 23 - January 2, NO SCHOOL, Winter Break

Jan. 3 - Classes resume

Jan. 6. - NO SCHOOL - ALL DISTRICT STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jan. 9 - Safe Touch Program, Grades K - 3, Wk. 4 (last session)

Jan. 16 - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 25 - 1/2 Day, NO K, Lunch served, Noon dismissal

RCS Poetry Club has started its meetings. There are 4 groups that meet once a week. Here's an "I'm From" poem that the older groups did on their first meeting. This certain type of poem explains the poet's past.

I am from a homemade book

To beetle juice and cough drops

From my unclean room and dirty windows that make me blue

To the great full moon

I am from cats and fur and John Adams and William Bradford

To talking grandmothers, a reading sister and a UU Church

From turkeys and sweet potato casserole

The new colony

Governors

A purple piggy bank

I am from the moments of finding my cat, Gracie.

Erika Gambill 11/10/11

The Royalston Historical Society

The society will hold its meeting on January 20, 2012, weather permitting and there will be a guest speaker TBA. Call Peter Kraniak for more information in the new year. xxx

Tickets on Sale for Our Lady Queen of Heaven Basket Raffle

Our Lady Queen of Heaven is currently conducting their annual Christmas Basket Fundraising Raffle, the winner of which will be drawn after mass on Sunday, December 18. One very lucky winner will end up with everything needed for a big breakfast on Christmas morning and a turkey dinner with all of the fixings later that day. This is the one big fundraiser each year, so be generous when a parishioner asks if you'd like to take a chance on a Christmas basket! Tickets are also available through Ginny Gingras at 978-249-4951.



Fun and Food at Lion's Club Breakfast

Lions' Club Breakfasts are December 17 and January 21 at the Phillipston Center Church from 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. The December special is "Skillet Banquet" featuring home fries with onions, peppers and ham, two scrambled eggs topped with cheese sauce. The January special is "Santa Fe Omelet" with a generous omelet filled with chili and cheese, served with home fries. Both breakfasts come with choice of English muffin, white or wheat toast, coffee or tea and juice. Also available are build-your-own breakfasts with your style eggs, sausage and French toast, also with beverages and choice of toast. Specials are \$6 and all other meals are \$6/adults; \$5/seniors; \$4/under 12. The Lion's Club welcomes members from area towns, including Royalston.

Breastfeeding Support Group

Free Gathering the first Monday of the Month, 9:30-11:00 am at the Levi Heywood Memorial Library Children's Room, Gardner. Facilitated by Nursing Mother Council of Gardner. For breastfeeding help or more information call Melissa at 617-909-4118.



Ladies' B.

The second ever Drive By Pie Sale, held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, was again a drive-away success, with more than 75 pies (including 40 plus pre-ordered) flying off the tables by 10 a.m. Also a hit was the annual "Taste of Royalston" Basket Raffle, which contained home canned goods, a hand-crocheted afghan, some "green" reusable cups along with some beautiful artwork by Gordon Morrison; a couple of pounds of Squire Davis Farm's Royalston Honey; one of Allen Young's autographed books; a half-gallon of Richardson's Pure Royalston maple syrup; and gift certificates to Pete & Henry's, the Royalston General Store, and Nancy Monette's Subway restaurants in Winchendon, Rindge and Athol. The funds earned will go towards academic grants and scholarships to Royalston students of all ages.

The Society's annual meeting takes place Saturday, December 10 at 10 a.m. in the home of member Theresa Quinn. Officers will be elected to preside during the group's 188th year of continuous service, and Holiday Cheer Baskets will be assembled and delivered following the meeting. Contact LBS President Laurie M. Deveneau at lmdeveneau@msn.com or 978-249-5807 for more information.

ROYALSTON F&G

The Royalston F&G has begun their legendary, monthly roast beef suppers. A \$12 ticket buys a sumptuous meal that begins with tossed salad and Italian bread, roast beef with delicious brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, coffee and an ice cream. Many choose to stay after the meal to play BLITZ – just a quarter a board. Tickets are available at the Club, 978-249-3004 or from Marie at 978-249-2836.



The Royalston F&G is open every Tuesday and Friday night. Memberships are available at the bar or at the Royalston General Store. If you are interested in more information, contact Marie at 978-249-2836 or the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004.

2011 Deer Hunting Season Dates

Wear bright colors in the woods. (No hunting is allowed on Sundays.)

Shotgun Deer Season: Nov. 28 - Dec 10, 2011

Blackpowder Deer Season: Dec. 12 - Dec. 31, 2011

Wildlife Sightings

Phil Leger and Mariah Mallet saw a very large **gray fox** crossing the Winchendon Rd. near Norcross Rd. In 40 years of living in Royalston, Phil has seen a gray fox only once before near the old Bodman Farm on N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd. Chet Hall believes it was a male because of its size.

On November 21, John Poor and his son Mark watched a mid-sized **opossum** eating Japanese dogwood fruit at 7 Northeast Fitzwilliam Road. First such visitor in a long, long time John says.

While camping in the depths of Royalston with friends, Mark Shoul saw a **large black otter** swimming down a rushing stream.

A robust, six-point **deer** did a bit of dance around Mary Barclay's vehicle in the late afternoon of November 16. The buck was in the middle of Winchendon Road just uphill from the Jonas Alliene Cemetery, apparently somewhat disoriented by the dense fog.

Deb and Joe Nunes found this **bobcat** in their large trap the morning of the snowstorm. He was about 25 lbs and 3 feet long. It was very exciting to see a bobcat up close, but as he was not a happy camper we gave him a wide berth when we released him.



Deb was detained one night recently on Warwick Road near Austin Cook's house by a huge **bull moose** with a big rack. He wasn't about to let her by, so she waited more than ten minutes for him to finally amble into the woods.

Garden Notes

November 23, 2011

I thought I had undertaken every imaginable garden task but that was preceding the storm on October 29. Let me back up a bit. On that day I was still peddling product at the Amherst Farmers' Market. Obliging, the storm did not start until the market ended and I was on the road before the first snow fell. The problem was that I had every intention of attending the following week's market as well. So, Monday morning, while most of us were shoveling out our cars, I imagine I was the only one shoveling out garden beds as well! (I abhor exclamation points but what better time for an exclamation point.) It worked, after a fashion. The following Friday I was able to harvest a modest amount of crops (the un-shoveled portion of the garden remained snow-covered). Since sales the following day were even more modest, the principal beneficiary of these activities was Garden Notes, where I've been able to chew up a third of the column relating the event.

I suppose most of you curtailed your garden activities at that time (or even before). I did not. The snow, of course, melted, and the plants recovered, assisted by temperatures well above normal throughout November. I ambled through the garden yesterday to report on what remains green and growing and it is no small list. Roots: carrots, beets, daikons, winter radishes, celeriac, rutabaga, leeks; greens: lettuce, spinach, chard, kale, scallions; brassicas: broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, brussels sprouts; herbs: parsley, cilantro, chervil, sage, thyme, mint. There are even a few flowers, mostly wild, but as attractive to the eyes now as the finest rose in June: dandelions, chickweed, lamium, Johnny jump-ups, some mustard, one forlorn calendula.

Currently, my principal 'garden' activity (compost-to-be) is raking leaves. (Perhaps not today; an inch of snow on the ground provides a disincentive to raking.) It was an unusual leaf season. Fall foliage fizzled. The maples provided little in the way of color; in fact, they provided little in the way of leaves. I was obliged to wait until the oaks and fruit trees dropped theirs and that has only occurred in the past week. Last year's piles have been flipped one more time. Some will be applied this fall; most, however, will remain in place, mellowing an additional six months before being transferred to the garden.

Just for yucks, I dropped fish tanks over some pepper plants in late October, insulating them further with wool blankets. The plants survived though the peppers thereon were less than perfect. The fish tanks have been transferred to the lettuce patch. Fresh salad for New Years?

Tomorrow we observe the National Day of Overeating. At least I'll be over-eating my own foodstuffs. Some of it will be freshly-picked, today's snow notwithstanding, but most will be provided by the piles of potatoes, garlic, onions, squash, chestnuts, cranberries, and apples scattered here and there throughout the house, all of it washed down with cider pressed just days ago. There is even corn to pop if we are so inclined. It seems particularly appropriate for me to give thanks.

Larry Siegel

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Thank You to the Royalston EMTs

I wanted to say a giant, "Thank you!" to the Royalston emergency response team who came to my house late on a Thursday night to help my 3-yr-old daughter, who was having hard time breathing. The responders were kind and reassuring during a very scary time for me, my daughter and my 7-yr-old son, who stood bravely aside while the EMTs did their job. The ER staff at the Athol Hospital was wonderful and compassionate. I also want to say another giant, "Thank you!" to my very first Royalston friend (of 6 years now), Lynn Nystrom, who left her own family to come rescue mine twice during that same night and to my dear friend Kim Bryant from Orange, MA who also listened to me late that night and brought warm muffins and ran errands for us the next day. Also a, "thank you" to my wonderful parents Robert and Louise Anderson of Walpole, NH – Mom's home cooking was just what we needed in the aftermath. We are all healthy and safe and reassured that if we every have an emergency in the future, we will be in very good hands. Plus, it made for quite a story for my husband when he returned from his business trip in Barcelona, Spain.

Christina Conry (Butterworth Road).

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