

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2012



Volume XV, Issue II

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

Calendar of Events

March 1 Thursday

3:30 pm **Cross Culture Club visits Puerto Rico** at the Phinehas Newton Library with presenters Marizah Rios, Javier Burgos and Melvin Rivera. Learn about giant centipedes, sing the coqui song, play Twister in Spanish and eat arroz con gondules.

March 2 Friday

1:30 p.m. **RCS DARE Graduation**

7 p.m. **Open Mic** at the Town Hall. The house band will be Nobody's Fat featuring Dan Vaccari, Joel Cameron, and Dan Babineau.

March 5 Monday

3:30 - 4:30 **Hip hop lessons** for elementary-aged kids commence and continue for 6 weeks on Mondays after school at town hall.



March 6 "Super" Tuesday

7 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Polls open for presidential primary**
Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., S. Royalston.

March 8 Thursday

Purim begins at sundown

4:09 a.m. **Full Worm Moon**

3:30 p.m. **Cross Culture Club visits Nepal** with Bishnu and Akash Darjee at the Phinehas Newton Library. Learn about the country with the highest mountains in the world. Practice a new alphabet. Listen to drums and songs in Nepali. Hear about school and life in a Nepali camp for Bhutanese refugees.

3:45 p.m. **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome to discuss library support, the newsletter and upcoming events.

7 p.m. **250th Celebration Committee** meets at Town Hall. Come, get involved.

March 11 Sunday

2 a.m. **Daylight Savings Time Begins** (spring forward)

March 15 Thursday **Ides of March**

"Absolutely Incredible Kids Day," a day to express to kids that they are loved and valued.

7 p.m. The North Quabbin Garden Club presents **"Growing Small Fruits in the Home Garden"** with Sonia G. Schloemann, UMass professor at the MREC 100 Main St, Athol.

March 17 Saturday **St. Patrick's Day**

7:30 - 10:30 a.m. Monthly Phillipston Lions' Club Breakfast third Saturdays at the Phillipston Center Church. Specials are \$6 and all other meals are \$6/adults; \$5/seniors; \$4/under 12.

10 - 11 a.m. **Annual Rabies and Dog License Clinic** at the Uptown Fire Station. Rabies vaccinations for dogs or cats are \$10.00. Dog licenses are \$6.00 per neutered/spayed dog, or \$10.00 per unaltered dog. Bring exact change or a check as well as proof of the dog's current rabies vaccination to receive a dog license.

4 p.m. **Winchendon R&G Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper**

6:30 p.m. **Royalston F&G Roast Beef Supper**

March 18 Sunday

1 p.m. **Royalston F&G One Day Pitch Tournament**

March 19 Monday

4:30 **Library Book Discussion Group** talks about Julian Barnes' *Arthur and George*. Book available at the library. All welcome.

March 20 Tuesday

Vernal Equinox

According to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, this is the earliest celestial start of spring in 112 years.

March 21 Wednesday

8 pm sharp **The 9th Annual Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Concert** in the ballroom of the Maples, the Bundschuh home. Refreshments. For information, call 249-4000.

March 22 Thursday

10:37 a.m. **New Pink Moon**

March 24 Saturday

7 a.m.- noon **250th Committee's Big Breakfast** at Town Hall. Geoff's pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee - \$8/adult or \$4/kid.

March 28 Wednesday

12:15 **One man play - "Jerry Atric,-The Older I Get"** at Town Hall. Free and open to the public. (To attend the COA luncheon beforehand, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday, March 26th. The cost is \$2.00 for Seniors and \$2.50 for others.) Funded by the cultural council.

6 p.m. **"When Your Kids Push Your Buttons,"** a seminar at the Village School with Bonnie Harris, author, counselor and Director of Connective Parenting. 978 249-3505 to reserve a seat. \$10/person.

April 2 Monday

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Annual Town Election**

Selectboard Notes

by Linda Alger

The Select Board is pleased to announce that the Town has been awarded a federal grant in the amount of \$382,375 to replace the Waste Water Treatment Facility. The 40-year-old plant, which had an original life expectancy of 20 years, has been in desperate need for the last decade.

The remaining amount of \$1,147,125 will be paid back through a low-interest loan over 40 years, which must be approved through a debt exclusion at the April 2 election. The Select Board has already applied for an additional grant of \$165,000 for the road repair of Blossom and Park Streets once the plant is installed, and also intends to apply annually for grant funds to help defray the cost of the loan.

The state Department of Environmental Protection has issued a compliance order, but has not fined the town as a result of our pursuit of a new plant. If the plant were to fail, however, the Town could be fined \$10,000 per day.

We will hold informational meetings before the election, but we urge you to support this project and vote Yes on April 2.

Budget: In other news the Board continues to prepare the FY2013 budget. The Annual Town Meeting warrant will open on February 21 and close on April 3.

Trees and Power Lines: As a result of the Board's communication with National Grid regarding the October snow storm power outages, the company has sent a forester to mark trees and limbs threatening the power lines throughout town. In concert with Tree Warden Larry Siegel, the forester has identified which trees will require a hearing. Once the list is complete, that hearing will be held by the Planning Board. Trees deemed already dead, however, will be removed as soon as possible. Wood left on the roadsides then becomes the property of the abutter.

Vote on April 2!



Please Follow Town Hall Parking Policy

Over the last month, there have been several events where people are parking along the semicircle and on both sides of the road. No parking is allowed in this area as it limits access for emergency apparatus. In addition, there is no parking allowed in front of the building except the one handicap spot. There will soon be an additional motion sensor light installed on the side ramp and in the rear. Whomever reserves the hall should be the lead person in implementing this policy. There are cones that can be placed in restricted areas. Lastly, there are grave concerns that at recent events, cars have been driven across the lawn in front of the building and directly in front of the monument, which shows not only poor judgment but also a lack of respect for Town property.

Thank you for your attention to this matter so that we all can enjoy the festivities in Town while maintaining a safe environment.

Bring the American Elm Back to Royalston!

Want another good way to prepare for Royalston's 250th celebration in 2015? Plant an American Elm!

The town will be doing so – it has joined the Liberty Tree Memorial Program and will receive a free 15-foot Liberty elm (*Ulmus americana* 'Liberty') from the Liberty Tree Society in Keene, New Hampshire. Taxpayers at the recent special town meeting also approved a \$500 municipal membership, for which we will receive two 13-foot trees. One of the trees will be planted on the common in Royalston Center, one on the common in South Royalston Village, and one at Royalston Community School.



What's the catch? The town doesn't receive the free tree until the Liberty Tree Society raises another \$2,000 beyond our \$500 municipal membership. The society raises money all over the country, but residents can "target" Royalston by joining the society. For a \$50 donation, you will also receive a three-foot Liberty elm, and for a \$100 donation, you get a six-foot tree. With a \$15 donation, you can buy a range of larger elms at cost starting at \$300. Brochures and applications are available at the office of the Select Board, the library and the Royalston General Store. Want to help but can't use a tree? Make a donation in any amount, and if you get a tree, give it to someone else or to the town!

In the mid-20th century, Dutch Elm Disease wiped out over 100 million elms in the United States. Over time, the non-profit Elm Research Institute developed the spectacularly resistant American Liberty Elm with a lifetime warranty against Dutch elm disease. Of over 300,000 trees planted, only 1% have been lost to DED.

The affiliated Liberty Tree Society ties together the institute's research success with American history, recalling the founders of the nation gathered under a huge tree known as the Liberty Elm to plan the American Revolution – a first symbol of freedom.

For more information: www.libertytreesociety.org or contact Selectwoman Christine Long at 978-249-0246 or chris.long@royalston-ma.gov.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Jim Barclay, EMD ema@royalston-ma.gov or call 978-249-2904

Before the trees begin to leaf out, look up...especially at young sugar maples...and check for tell-tale signs of the Asian Long-horned Beetle. These destructive creatures, introduced accidentally to the US in wooden packing materials from China, were first discovered in 1996 in New York. An infestation in Worcester caused the complete clear-cutting of trees in a residential area just last year. Early identification and eradication of damaged trees is the only way to address the problem.

The only "prevention" is to limit the spread. That means no wood should be brought to Royalston from other locations. Many public and private rentals/campgrounds will no longer allow people to bring their own firewood. Residents who notice signs of ALB damage in their firewood should immediately report it.

REMA (Royalston Emergency Management Agency) offers programs on ALB identification for groups of all ages and varying interests. *To obtain materials, arrange for a presentation or report a concern regarding ALBs, contact REMA at 978-249-2904 or ema@royalston-ma.gov, call the MA ALB hotline at 866-702-9938 or check out on-line information at www.BeeleBusters.info*

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.

Elections:

The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 6.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. -8 p.m.

Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., S. Royalston.

The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 2. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. - 8p.m. There is one contest on the ballot. It is for the Royalston member of the Athol-Royalston Reg. School Committee. Roberta "Bobbi" Newman will be challenged by Angelica Favreau for a 3-year seat on the school committee. There are also a few positions with no candidates running, and they are: Assessor - 3 years; Board of Public Welfare - 3 years, and two, one-year seats on the J.N. Bartlett Fund.

The following is the list of the remaining positions and candidates on the ballot:

Selectman - 3 years - Linda Alger;

ARRSC (Athol member) - two, 3-year terms - Deborah Kuzmeskas and Joao Baptista;

Board of Health - 3 years - Eugene Kolimaga;

Cemetery Commission - 3 years - Roy Smith, Jr.;

Constable - 3 years - John Chencharik;

Library Trustee - 3 years - Barbara Guiney;

Moderator - 3 years - George Northrop;

Planning Board - 5 years - Kathleen Collins;

Planning Board - 2 years - Joshua Doub;

Sewer Commission - 3 years - Gary Wintzer;

Tree Warden - 3 years - Larry Siegel

Trustees of the J.N. Bartlett Fund - four, 1-year positions - 2 candidates and 2 open positions - Wayne Newton and Roy Smith, Jr. running.

There will also be a question on the ballot, asking voters whether to exempt from Prop. 2 1/2 the amounts needed for a bond for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Rabies/Dog License Clinic

In conjunction with the Gardner Animal Hospital, Royalston will hold its Annual Rabies and Dog License Clinic on March 17, from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Uptown Fire Station. Rabies vaccinations for dogs or cats are \$10.00. Dog licenses are \$6.00 per neutered/spayed dog, or \$10.00 per unaltered dog. Please bring exact change or a check to license your dog. You must have proof of the dog's current rabies vaccination in order to receive a dog license.



Annual Town Census

Town Census forms have been mailed out - please return your signed census form as soon as possible, with any changes noted, to the Town Clerk. Forms can be mailed to the Town Clerk at P.O. Box 127, or dropped off at Whitney Hall during office hours. Please note that returning your census form does not register you to vote, nor can you make changes to your voter registration via the census form.

Royalston Luncheon Club Presents...

A One Man Play "Jerry Atric - The Older I Get"

On Wednesday, March 28th, beginning at 12:15, at the Town Hall, the Council on Aging will welcome Steve Henderson, starring in "Jerry Atric - The Older I Get", a one-man play about an elderly gentleman and his experiences with ice cream, health care, romance and more. This program is funded by the Royalston Cultural Council and the public is welcome to attend. If you wish to attend the luncheon, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday, March 26th. The cost is \$2.00 for Seniors and \$2.50 for others. For more information, call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

Royalston's 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee's Big Breakfast



Come to the March 24 Big Breakfast at Town Hall 7 a.m. - noon. Enjoy Geoff's pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee while raising money for the upcoming 250th anniversary celebralooza. Tickets available from any committee member. T-shirts and raffle tickets will be available.

Have input about the 250th celebration? Want to get involved in town? Come to the next 250th committee meeting at 7 pm on March 8th at town hall. All welcome.

Rent the Tent for your spring event! \$40/day for a 20x30' tent. Will help set up and take down. Call Geoff 249- 3726. Proceeds benefit the 250th cause.

Board of Health News: Recycling Textiles

Phil Leger, chairperson

A recent Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), revealed that 15% of Massachusetts trash is textiles. Over 85% of good reusable textiles are being thrown away each year. That's over 70 lbs. per person a year. The textile reuse industry has a very good existing infrastructure in Massachusetts, consisting of small businesses and charitable organizations. If it's clean, dry, and doesn't have a hazardous stain such as oil or blood etc., it can be recycled. At the transfer station we have a Salvation Army box which collects the textiles and creates jobs and revenue for its programs. All used clothing, even pieces with stains (as long as not hazardous) or missing buttons, can be re-used and repurposed. Besides the usual shirts, pants, and suits, don't forget hats, gloves, socks, underwear, belts, ties, purses, handbags, all of any age or condition, are accepted. Also, shoes, boots, (even single shoes and socks) curtains, towels, sheets, pillows, pillow cases, tablecloths, linens, and throw rugs can be recycled as long as they are CLEAN, DRY, AND HAVE NO HAZARDOUS STAINS. Wet, however, is big no, no because it can ruin the whole load with mold, mildew and odor. What doesn't get resold goes to the wiping cloth industry which supplies rags to industry. So, support local small businesses and charities and let's keep that 10 million tons of textiles from the landfill. Put that used clothing to good use, one bag at a time.

Reminder, the traffic flow at the transfer station is counter clockwise. Try not to block traffic with your vehicle. And above all, be patient and courteous to one another. Thanks !

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

Melanie Mangum for troubleshooting and installing software
Allison Bergquist, Clarence Rabideau, and Pat Worth: our steadfast, efficient volunteers

Jen Basso, Ben Morris-Siegel, and Jim Draper for their help with the Zoomobile program

Jennie Membrino- Nano for her great preschool program

Donations to the Friends Group and to its Newsletter

Linda Alger

Stephen and Donna Carter

Bob and Lorraine Casinghino

Bruce and Sylvia Chapman

Sylvia Cosseboom

Deborah D'Amico

Major Robert Davenport

Robert and Barbara Denis

Frances and Paul Dias

Michael and Sara Dilg

Jeff and Bren Hopkins

Don and Malene Jarvenpaa

Brian and Sandra Knight

Dan and Cheryl Mahoney

Richard and Philippa Monahan

Jayne and Larry Porter

David and Shirley Putney

Phil and Carla Rabinowitz

Donald and Elvira Richards

Kenneth and Doris Stewart

Arthur Yebnon and Shirley Hubbard

Nanji Davison-Thornton and Walt Thornton

Lillie Dobson

Virginia Gingras

Celt Grant

Shirley Anderson

Joseph Bourque

Jeff Hendrickx

John Kallel

Diane Lincoln

Gordon Morrison

Mark and Emma O'Connor

Gert Parnanen

Paula Paul

Milton Rexroad

The Sawyer Family

Steve and Cindy Savoy

Bob and Faye White

Jim and Pat Kelley

Allen Young

Ralph and Joy Cutter

Beginning Hip Hop Dance Lessons for Elementary Students - (free!)

Join Jennie Membrino-Nano to learn Hip Hop on Mondays at 3:30p.m., beginning on March 5 and continuing for 6 weeks at the Royalston Town Hall. Jennie will teach basic dance movements as well as exposing participants to some beginner Hip Hop/Jazz technique. Each class will begin with a warm-up that will stretch and strengthen muscles and develop proper body alignment, coordination and flexibility. Students then will participate in across the floor and center combinations.

Jennie has a Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree in Dance and currently teaches dance at The Dance Center in Winchendon, Nashoba Valley Dance Academy in Groton, and the Paula Meola Dance in Sterling. She is the founder and artistic director of Jennie & Company, a modern/jazz dance company based in Fitchburg. Children may ride the bus from the Royalston Community School with a note from parents or caregivers. This free after-school program is sponsored and funded by the Friends of the Library. To sign up or for more information, call the library or visit the website. Pre-registration is helpful.

Cross Culture Club for Kids (and interested adults)

Interact with the world without leaving Royalston. Cross Culture Club returns to the library on Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30. It's free ; most presentations include a geography lesson, a slide show and a fun activity; international snacks are provided. Students from RCS can take the bus with a permission slip and be picked up at the library. Pre-registration by calling 978-249-3572 is helpful.

March 1 **Puerto Rico** with *Melvin Rivera, Javier Burgos, and Marizah Rios.*

March 8 **Nepal/ Bhutan** with *Bishnu and Akash Darjee*

Ongoing:

Tai Chi with Rebecca Krause-Hardie continues Tuesdays from 5 - 6 pm. Everyone is welcome at this free program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more info, contact 978-575-1454.

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

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30 - 5:45 p.m.. It just finished up the fascinating and factual *1491*, about the Americas before the Columbian Exchange and in March is moving onto historical fiction with *Arthur and George* by Jullian Barnes. This is a fictional account of real events involving Sir Arthur Conant Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes books, and George Edalji, a wrongfully accused man. Copies of the book are available at the library and all are invited to join the discussion.

Photography Exhibit -

High View School (Camp Caravan in the 1920s)

Thanks to the Levi Heywood Memorial Library in Gardner and Local History Librarian Pamela Meitzler, the Phinehas Newton Library has a unique exhibit of Royalston photographs from the 1920's on display until the end of March. The glass negative prints were donated by former Gardner resident Minnie Lemon, who grew up at High View School on Route 68, now known as Camp Caravan. The exhibit shows scenes of the school, the girls and teachers at Halloween and July 4th festivities.

The school was established in 1922 for troubled or orphan girls. Minnie, one of the girls at the school, was adopted by the Lemons and lived at the school. She became a teacher and taught there until 1947, leaving two years after the death of George Lemon and moving to Needham. She passed away at the age of 102 in 1999.

Also on display is the *Town Scrapbook*, which contains more history of Camp Caravan and information on Minnie Lemon.

New Materials March 2012

Fiction

Addison, Corban *A Walk Across the Sun*
 Beaton, M.C. *Death of a Kingfisher*
 Byatt, A.S. *Ragnarok*
 Card, Orson Scott *Shadows in Flight*
 Crais, Robert *Taken*
 Ellory, Roger Jon *A Quiet Vendetta*
 Gardner, Lisa *Catch Me*
 Hannah, Kristin *Home Front*
 Harris, Robert *The Fear Index*
 Houston, Pam *Contents May have Shifted*
 Jackson, Joshilyn *A Grown Up Kind of Pretty*
 Jance, Judith *Left for Dead*
 Johnson, Adam *The Orphan Master's Son*
 Karon, Jan *Shepherds Abiding (Large Print)*
 Kellerman, Faye *Gun Games*
 Kinsella, Sophie *I've Got Your Number*
 Lightman, Alan *Mr G*
 Lively, Penlope *How it all Began*
 Lourey, Jess *November Hunt*
 Mallon, Thomas *Watergate*
 Mosley, Walter *All I Did was Shoot my Man*
 Paretsky, Sara *Breakdown*
 Patterson, James *Private*
 Patterson, James *Private Games*
 Preston, Douglas *Gideon's Corpse*
 Rice, Anne *The Wolf Gift*
 Robb, J.D. *Celebrity in Death*
 Todd, Charles *The Confession*
 Unsworth, Barry *The Quality of Mercy*
 Vincenzi, Penn *Another Woman*
 Willig, Lauren *Garden Intrigue*
 Wolitzer, Hilma *An Available Man*

Non-Fiction

Cemetery Inscriptions of Royalston/S.Royalston
 De Waal, Edmund *The Hare with Amber Eyes*
 Iannotti, Marie *The Beginner's Guide to Growing Heirloom Vegetables*
 Kyle, Chris *American Sniper*
 McMillan, Kate *Williams Sonoma Soup of the Day*
 Smith, Claire *The Rules of Inheritance*
 Tack, Karen *Cupcakes, Cookies, and Pie, oh My!*
 Taylor, Elizabeth *A Slave in the White House*
 Weiner, Tim *Enemies*

Audiobooks Dalai Lama *Beyond Religion*
 Jones, Darynda *Third Grave Dead Ahead*

Music

Dierks Bentley *Home*
 The Fray *Scars & Stories*
 Little Willies *For the Good Times*
 Various Artists *2012 Grammy Nominees*

DVDs: 50/50, *Abduction, The Big Year, Courageous, Curious George Saves the Day, The Double, Downton Abbey Season 2, Drive, Friday Night Lights Season 5, The Ides of March, Project Nim, Real Steel, The Rum Dairy, The Sunset Limited, Top Secret Rosies, Treasure Buddies, and The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*



Young Adult Fiction/ Nonfiction

Anthony, Jessica *Chopsticks*
 Apelqvist, Eva *Getting Ready to Drive*
 Block, Francesca *Pink Smog*
 Clark, Jay *The Edumacation of Jay Baker*
 DeStefano, Lauren *Fever*
 DeStefano, Lauren *Wither*
 Gantos, Jack *Dead End in Norvelt*
 Harrison, Lisi *Monster High*
 Harrison, Lisi *Where There's a Wolf, There's a Way*
 Kate, Lauren *Fallen in Love*
 Ness, Patrick *A Monster Calls*
 O'Connell, Mary *The Sharp Time*
 Rosoff, Meg *There is no Dog*
 Walker, Brian *Black Boy/White School*
 Woodson, Jacqueline *Beneath the Meth Moon*
 Wroble, Lisa *Dealing with Stress*

Children's Fiction

Barnett, Mac *Extra Yarn*
 Curtis, Christopher *The Mighty Miss Malone*
 Depaola, Tomie *Strega Nona's Gift*
 Enersen, Adele *When my Baby Dreams*
 Fogliano, Julie *And Then it's Spring*
 Gammell, Stephen *Mudkin*
 Hunter, Erin *Island of Shadows*
 Muth, Jon *Zen Ties*
 Nesbo, Jo *Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder*
 O'Connor, Jane *Fancy Nancy and the Mermaid Ballet*
 Oliver, Lauren *Liesl & Po*
 Ormerod, Jan *Maudie and Bead*
 Petersen, David *Snowy Valentine*
 Rosenthal, Amy *Plant a Kiss*
 Willems, Mo *Knuffle Bunny Too*
 Williams-Garcia, Rita *One Crazy Summer*

Children's Non-Fiction

Elliott, David *In the Sea*
 Goodman, Michael *The Story of the Boston Red Sox*
 Kelley, K.C. *Bungee Jumping*
 Mara Wil *What Should I Do?*
 McCranie, Stephen *Mal and Chad*

Royalston Review of Books

The Richardsons were some of the first settlers to Royalston, and over the centuries, their clan has produced some notable stories. Thus, the family that conjured the "Wild Man of Royalston", also provides the protagonist for the *Sea Captain's Wife, a Story of Love, Race & War in the 19th Century* by Martha Hodes, a biography of Eunice Richardson Stone Connolly.

Eunice Connolly's life was unique. Her fortunes and decisions carried her from our corner of Massachusetts to the mills of the Merrimack River and on to Alabama and back during the Civil War. (Her husband and brother-in-law fought for the South while her brothers fought for the North.) As a war widow, she eventually marries Mr. Connolly, a sea captain of African descent. For a time, lives comfortably in a mixed-race conjugation on Grand Caymen Island.

Eunice's father, Luther, was a Royalston Richardson. raised on a Prospect Hill farm in the earliest decades of the 1800s. He married a woman from Northfield and sired 7 children, including middle child Eunice. For many years, the family struggled as hardscrabble farmers on a small plot of meager land in Northfield before leaving agriculture and joining the industrial economy in Manchester NH in the late 1850s. Financially, the family still struggled. Luther died in rather ignoble circumstances. The widow and daughters soon married tradesmen, scattered, and sought, with varying success, to better their situations for their own new families. Eunice's brother, Charles Henry Richardson eventually became the agent, the highest local executive, at Appleton Mills in Lowell. In old age, Henry proudly publicized his rock-ribbed Yankee roots.

This biography relies on the Richardson family's letters to tell the unusual story of Eunice's life. Certainly the Richardson's were caught up in an era of big changes. Many New England farms were played out, yet wages and working conditions in the industrial mills also led to a harsh living. Floods of Irish immigrants in the North and cheap Black labor in the South (both slave and free men) meant there were more workers than well-paid work. Economic hardship as well as the Civil War split families. New train track and steam engine technology was making it more reasonable to travel large distances. Intransigent yet localized, ideas of race and class were an unavoidable factor of daily life. Eunice's life was affected by all of these events and attitudes. The family's letters are homey and personalize these changes. The private thoughts expressed are illuminated by the author's insightful connections to the times. This book is extremely readable and was named one of the Best Books of 2006 by *Library Journal*.



Patience Bundshuh and grandchild pose with E. Bunny in 2011.

Annual Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting on April 7

The time for the annual Royalston Egg Hunt is approaching once again. This year, the event will be held on Saturday, April 7. Keeping with tradition, the egg hunt will be based at the Royalston Town Hall with hundreds of eggs "hidden" on the Royalston Common. In the event of heavy rain, the hunt will be moved indoors.

The egg hunt will begin promptly at 10:00 AM and will be followed

by an opportunity for the participants to mold more than twenty pounds of melted chocolates into a variety of familiar shapes. Last year, Mr. Bunny showed up to egg the participants on.

The annual egg hunt is a community project, organized by Rene' Lake-Gagliardi for the past 12 years and supported by many generous contributors and volunteers.

Donations to offset the cost of candy are especially welcome since the cost of candy has risen. Those who wish to contribute may leave their donations at the Phinehas S. Newton Library or the Royalston General Store. In addition to cash contributions, people may also donate candy. All candy must be individually wrapped, and the individual pieces must be small enough to fit into the plastic eggs. Donations must be received no later than Saturday, March 24, since the volunteers who stuff the eggs will need time to do so before the big event.

Each year, the plastic eggs are returned and recycled for use in the following year. Everyone's support in this effort allows the event to continue to grow.

Volunteers who are willing to help on the day of the hunt may contact Rene' at 978-249-4639.

RCS Poetry Club

Noodle soup with saltines on the side
near the dish trying to hide.

I eat it up,

I eat it down,

I never, ever, EVER frown. *Julia Benoit*

Vanilla ice cream with a rainbow sprinkle
It always makes my eyes go twinkle!

Bailey Fortwengler

The unicorn left her castle
to play outside in the grass
I think I'll stay here
Where the water looks like glass.
Sydney Ayres

Cookie dough I like to lick
I even eat it with a chopstick!
Rebecca Nano



Strawberry ice cream all by itself
Is a perfect treat for a tiny, little elf
Zoe Wilder

The cranky cat went off to play
"Let's roll around," a giraffe did say.
No, thank you I want to go to bed instead.
Karissa Agnelli

Recipes of the Month:

Brenda Hopkin's Baked Broccoli Casserole

"We've lived in Royalston 30 plus years coming from the city to build our home and 'live off the land'. We laid our roots, worked hard and certainly 'enjoyed the journey'. We were blessed raising our son and daughter here and now embrace watching our grandchildren flourish in this beautiful town. This yummy recipe was passed down from a special friend of the family, Mary Coflesky, and is now made at our gatherings by my sweet daughter-in-law Jessie."

Baked Broccoli Casserole

1 (10 oz) frozen chopped broccoli

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1/2 C shredded cheddar cheese

1/4 c milk

1/4 c mayonaise

1 egg, slightly beaten

2 tbsp melted butter

1/4 c bread crumbs

Cook broccoli as directed. Drain and cool. Place cooled broccoli in baking dish. Mix soup, cheese, milk, mayonaise and egg. Pour over broccoli. Top with buttered bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Bill Clark's Florida Lemon Squares

Thanks for the memories Uncle Bill Clark, with love, Vicki

Ingredients:

1 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt

1 14 or 15 oz. can of sweetened condensed milk

finely grated rind of one lemon

1/2 cup lemon juice

10 2/3 tbsp. butter (about a stick and tbsp.) softened

1 cup brown sugar 1 cup old-fashioned oatmeal

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter 9x13x2" pan. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. In a small bowl, pour the condensed milk, rind and juice and whisk well. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar, beat well and gradually add sifted dry ingredients. Mix in oats. Sprinkle a generous 2 cups of mixture in pan. Pat down firmly. Top with filling and spread evenly. Sprinkle remaining crumbs over top, patting lightly. Bake 30-35 min. Cool completely and then refrigerate 1 hour. Cut in small squares. Keep refrigerated.

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.

All good wishes to Janice & Jim Draper, who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to **Ray Anair** for completing the Goofy Marathon in January at Disney World - 39.3 miles run!

Academic Honor Rolls: Semester 2

Congratulations to **Ashley and Alexis Javier** for making the honor roll at Athol High School and because they recently received recognition by the United States Achievement Academy as national honor students.

Royalston Community School, straight As: Molly Divoll, Jamieson Francis, Erika Gambill, Anthony Oro, Jocelyn Trenga, Hannah Bartkus, James Laford, Owen MacPhee, Amber Mahony, and Destiny Wrigley

All As and Bs: Tayiah Neale, Haylie Baker, Justin Blake, Alyssa Cassarino, Kayla Gerry, Jack Normandin, Isabelle O'Connor, Kyla Rathburn and Kristopher Selanis

Athol-Royalston Middle School, straight As: Tayne Bousquet, Rhiannon Fletcher, Cassandra Frazier, and Alyanna LaJoie.

All As and Bs, maybe one C: Derek Bates, Loryn Killay, Allisyn Mowrey, Charlie White, Ann Reynolds, Autumn Tourigny, Abigail Divoll, John Knight and Ivers Lawrence.

Upcoming Musical Events

First Friday Open Mic Continues 7 - 10 pm at Town Hall. Free local music and delicious refreshments on sale. Sign up to play or come to listen. It's always fun and always different.



Attn. **Gleeks:** The "Warblers" are coming to Athol High School on March 9. This group, seen by bajillions on the TV show Glee, is actually the mega-award winning all-male capella singing group, the Beezelbubs, from Tufts University. A spaghetti supper precedes the music. The supper costs \$5 and the concert tickets cost \$10. Seats are first-come, first-served. Call Sean Wallace 978-249-2435x123 to reserve tickets or for information. Sponsored by the Athol Music Boosters.

LBS Memorial Concert: The Ninth Annual Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Concert will be held on Wednesday evening, March 21st, in the ballroom of the Bundschuh manse. The concert will begin at 8 pm sharp and last about an hour, followed by delectable desserts provided by the Ladies. This year's participants include Carl Kamp, Rene Gagliardi, Elizabeth West and Deb Nunes. Come welcome spring in this always beautiful venue. For more information, please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

Save the Date: Cultural Council Blues Night Coming

May may seem like a long time away, but it is not too early to mark your calendars for Blues Night at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 19th beginning at 7 pm. Featured band to be announced. Beer and wine will be available for sale, and tickets will be \$10.00. More information to come. This program is put on and funded by your active Royalston Cultural Council.

Obituary

William H. Clark, 80, of Okeechobee, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, in the Hospice of Okeechobee. He was born in Royalston, Mass., on June 14, 1931, the son of the late Walter E. and the late Alice (Bowers) Clark Sr. William grew up in Royalston and was a life-long resident, moving to Florida at age sixty-five.



He worked as a truck driver and for Richardson & Son Excavating for several years. He drove bus for the Athol-Royalston School District for many years and was manager of the school bus company. He also worked for the *Athol Daily News* and the L.S. Starrett Company as well as operated Bill's Auto Body in Royalston, the place where everyone went to get inspection stickers. He served on the Royalston Board of Selectman, on the Board of Assessors and on the Auxiliary Police Department. He and his wife Phyllis ran Clark's Mowing Service in Florida. He was past president of the River Acres Homeowners Association in Okeechobee, Florida.

He leaves his wife of 58 years, Phyllis A. (Buis) Clark; two daughters, Nancy D. Melbourne and her husband James of Royalston, Laurie M. Deveneau and her husband Curtis of Royalston; three sisters, Marguerite Langlois of Royalston, Virginia Gingras of Royalston, Patricia Berry Lamb of Orange; five grandchildren, William Deveneau of Bennington, Vt., Jameson Melbourne of Japan, Nathan Melbourne of Brighton, Mass., Christopher Deveneau of Royalston, Mieka Melbourne of Royalston; three great grandchildren, Colden Deveneau, Benjamin Deveneau and Nomidai Melbourne; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two sons, Eugene Emerson Clark who died in 1980, and by John W. Clark who died in 1957.

Royalston town flags were flown at half staff in honor of his service to the community. The Christmas tree outside town hall was also lit to pay tribute to the joy he brought to 1000s of children during the holiday season, carrying on a tradition of more than 60 years begun by his father. He will be buried in Lawrence Brook Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made in his memory to the Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.



Community service can sometimes be difficult.

R.C.S. News

Bella O'Connor

March 02 - 5th grade DARE graduation @ 1:30
March 07 - 1/2 day elementary, no Kindergarten
March 09 - Keith Michael Johnson - Bubbleology - 9:00 - 10:15
March 14 - 1/2 Day - All Schools
March 23 - Spring Pictures by O'Connor Studio

Before February vacation, the community of R.C.S had many events that were loved by everyone, even staff. Among those are the Annual 100th Day, Valentine's Day Parties, the Kindergarten Homemade Sled Races, and the rhythmical Tony Vacca Concert. Students return refreshed for March to participate in new convivial attractions, like the D.A.R.E. graduation, the Spring Fundraiser (selling key chains made by a local Royalston resident), and 2 half days: March 7th and 14th. In addition, the second graders will be receiving notes from the one and only Lucky the Leprechaun, all the way from Ireland. Plan ahead for April, we don't know the dates for these, but there will be a Subway Night, and the yearly River Rat Reading Race. We are collecting Box Tops and Campbell's labels, so please bring them to the school. The Box Tops need to be in by the end of this month (March). Thanks!



RCS recently enjoyed an energetic and informative month of percussion workshops led by Tony Vacca. Students hand-stenciled shirts to wear to the culminating performance. This memorable event was sponsored by the Royalston Academy.

Monty Tech News

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

March at Monty Tech is a busy month. The **drama club** is presenting *Godspell* at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday March 2 & 3, and a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, March 4. This is an ambitious undertaking and will impress even the fussiest of play-goers!

Monty Tech's **Annual Open House** is Wednesday, March 7, from 6 – 8 p.m. Enjoy a delicious spaghetti and meatball supper at amazingly family-friendly price of \$3/person with kids younger than 5 years admitted free of charge! See the school's 22 trades and professions, speak with administrators, staff, faculty, and students present and past. A formal admissions presentation will be held from 7:45 – 8:15 p.m. for families seriously considering a Monty Tech education.

Monty Tech's JROTC Cyber Patriot Team competes in National Finals March 21-24, 2012 in National Harbor, Maryland. It defeated 235 teams during three months of incredibly tough competition to achieve this prestigious position. This premier national cyber defense competition is organized by the United States Air Force Association, and seeks to inspire high school students to work towards careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines critical to our nation's future.

Village School March News

Now we are heading into sugaring season, and all the classes will be making field trips to the Richardson Farm in Phillipston for sugaring and lambing. The K-6th classes start swimming at the YMCA on Fridays.

Literacy Evening Wednesday March 7 6:00 p.m. All the Village School teachers present how literacy is taught at the school, and how it flows into great writing. It's not a mystery anymore- come and find out why Village School kids love to read and write. The public is welcome.

Science Night Wednesday evening March 21 7:00 pm
Back in January, 4th-6th grade students chose a topic to investigate, and with the help of scientist Cathy Szal, designed experiments to prove or disprove the initial hypothesis. Peer review is part of the process. Students will enthusiastically display their work at Science Night and be ready to explain it. Come see their work and ask questions! Everyone is welcome.

Openings for next year: There are just a few openings in the classes for next year, including Preschool. If you are interested, call to schedule a visit as soon as possible, observe a classroom, meet teachers, and set up a child visit. 978 249-3505.

When Your Kids Push Your Buttons *The Village School Parents Group is sponsoring a night for parents: An Evening with Bonnie Harris* Wednesday March 28 6 p.m. at the Village School. Please call the school at 978 249-3505 to reserve a seat. \$10 per person.

That certain look, attitude or behavior and your child "makes" you see red. Ever find yourself yelling those words you swore you never would? When children push our buttons, we revert to the "road rage" of parenting and react automatically and regretfully. In a split second, authority is lost, control is gone, and our children manipulate us by pushing those buttons again and again. Find out where your buttons come from, why your children push them, and how to defuse them in order to effectively respond instead of react, regain authority, and become the parent your child has been asking for all along. Bonnie Harris, MS Ed, Director of Connective Parenting, has been a child behavior and parenting specialist for twenty-five years. Based on her highly acclaimed books, *When Your Kids Push Your Buttons* (2003) and *Confident Parents, Remarkable Kids: 8 Principles for Raising Kids You'll Love to Live With* (2008), Bonnie counsels parents, teaches parenting workshops, leads professional trainings and speaks internationally. Go to www.villageschoolma.org for more information.

Royalston Democrats Hold Caucus

At a caucus Thursday in the town hall, Thomas Kellner of Blossom Street was elected delegate and George “Buddy” Dyer of Butterworth Road alternative delegate to the June Democratic Party convention in Springfield. Allen Young, chair of the town committee, is an ex officio delegate.

Several caucus members indicated they favor Elizabeth Warren as candidate for U.S. Senator to oppose Republican Sen. Scott Brown in the November election. Delegates were given freedom to vote their conscience at the convention, as there are two other candidates to consider.

Young welcomed two guests to the caucus, Grady MacPhee of Stewart Road, 17, a student at Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, who plans to attend the convention as a guest, and Brian Eno, vice chair of the Orange Democratic Committee.

Eno presented information about a postcard campaign supported by the state party to encourage voters to replace Brown with a Democrat. The Royalston committee will work with other North Quabbin Region Democrats in support of this campaign.

The caucus observed a minute of silence to remember longtime committee member Werner Bundschuh, who died last year.

Royalston Scholarships Available

Royalston Academy

The Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship in the amount of up to \$1000 is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. This scholarship is sponsored by the Royalston Academy in memory of the academy’s founder, Katherine Cole. Contact your local Guidance Office or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma. 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2012.

The Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs. Contact your local Guidance Office or Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma. 01368. Deadline for the application is April 15, 2012.

South Royalston School Reunion Committee offers a higher education scholarship to those who ever attended Royalston Schools. Contact your local Guidance Office or Virginia Moore, 17 Main Street, Royalston, Ma. 01368. Applications are due March 19, 2012

Royalston Community School PTO Scholarship offers a scholarship to those who ever attended Royalston elementary schools. Contact your local school guidance office. Deadline is April 13, 2012.

Ladies’ Benevolent Society Scholarships are awarded to residents pursuing higher education. Applications are at the Athol High School guidance office and the Phinehas Newton Library on Royalston Common. Submit to Theresa Quinn, Box 108, Royalston 01368. Deadline: April 1, 2012.

Spring is here- Get Outside

Two workshops: Frugivores Can Learn Phenology

On Thursday, March 16, 2012, 7 p.m. the North Quabbin Garden Club presents “**Growing Small Fruits in the Home Garden**” with Sonia G. Schloemann, a fruit specialist in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The meeting will be held at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. It’s free to members; guests are asked for a donation.

Learn to Monitor for Climate Change and Invasive Species

April 14th, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will offer a Citizen Stewardship Workshop at Red Apple Farm from 9 to noon to train volunteers to monitor invasives and climate change. John O’Keefe from Harvard Forest will train participants in tracking how plant and animal life cycles are influenced by climate change—the study of phenology.



Stacy Kilb, Asian Longhorned Beetle Outreach Coordinator for the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources, will be available to teach how to help prevent the spread of invasive plants and insects. Her focus has been the ALB which has been found as nearby as Holden. The event is sponsored by Mount Grace, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, and Red Apple Farm. To volunteer, or for more information, contact MassLIFT-AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator, Aja Lippincott at outreach_ameri corps@mountgrace.org.

Royalston Fish and Game

The Royalston F&G is hosting a March 10th **Meat Raffle** to help raise a few dollars to keep working on the Club’s facilities. It begins promptly at 7 p.m. and will offer all manner of meat and a great time for all attendees! Also, coming down the homestretch for a Royalston F&G **Roast Beef Supper** – the second to last is Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Stick around 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.

Winchendon Rod and Gun Club:

St Patrick’s Day Supper

A traditional **Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper** is planned for St. Paddy’s Day, which is Saturday, March 17, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club, located just past RCS in Royalston at the Winchendon line. Tickets are \$12 each and all profits will go to the R&G’s general fund; go see all the work they’ve done, including a beautiful new, wheelchair/handicapped access ramp. The Winchendon R&G is also holding a **March Meat Raffle** on Sunday, March 25 beginning at 1 p.m. Proceeds from this event will help support its children’s fishing derby. *Additional information is available by calling the Club during business hours at 978-297-3955.*

Classifieds

Services Available



Little Farmers Child Care, located next to RCS now has full and part time openings! It also has before and after school child care. Hours are 6am-5pm Call Joni @ 978-575-1083

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.

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

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.

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

Albert Peter Sawicki, **Insurance Agent**, 19 Frye Hill Rd. Royalston.
tel. 508.820.8301 ext 272 cell 978.396.0039 www.bankers.com

Free: Dark pine trestle table (60" x 36") with 4 chairs and bench. 978-249-4038.

For sale

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.

Squire Davis Farm honey; \$6.00 /1 lb.; Deb & Joe Nunes, 249-4000.

First Cutting Hay - 200 bales from 2011 at \$5/bale; 100 bales from 2010 at \$4/bale. 50 bale minimum - you pick up. Call Anne Vining Bedaw at 603-313-4906.

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- Taking orders for spring delivery of green firewood \$185/170 cu feet. also, limited supply of semi-seasoned and seasoned wood. Call Jim Putney. 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.

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.

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

To see a list of local farmers and the produce/ products they sell, look under the community resources heading on the library web-site www.royalstonlibrary.org.

Garden Notes

February 22, 2012

It was seven years ago when Beth Gospodarek approached me and asked if I might consider writing a few words on gardening for the upcoming issue of the newsletter. Seventy issues and 38,500 words later, I am still writing 'a few words.' Who woulda thought? As satisfying as the writing has been, the overriding pleasure has been the gardening itself. It is difficult to convey to those of you who do not garden, how the simple acts (well, maybe not so simple) of dropping seed in the ground, tending the growing plants, and harvesting the resulting crops can be so pleasurable, but there is nothing, nothing, I'd rather be doing. I as eagerly anticipate this growing season as my first in Royalston, thirty-five years ago.

We awoke to a dusting of snow on the ground. It is remarkable that this be newsworthy, but it is the first such dusting this month. Snow 'removal' will involve brushing the windows of the vehicles. Alternatively, if we wait a couple of hours the snow will remove itself (with temperatures forecast to be in the 40s). February weather has been a reprise of January's; every day but two has been above freezing. A red-wing blackbird was spotted early in the month. Trees were tapped five days ago (and could have been tapped a week before that), three weeks earlier than normal. In spite of all indications to the contrary, I have a gnawing suspicion that winter might finally make an appearance in March, an unfortunate turn of events indeed. If my gnawing suspicions prove to be unfounded, if winter continues to pass us by, I can jump-start the growing season. March gardening is a hit-or-miss proposition. Last year there was almost none. Two years ago, I was uncovering and working beds; the garlic and rhubarb were up, and parsnips were being dug.

Absent its snow cover, the garden appears forlorn. 'Fencing' is in disarray and aisles are muddy but there are hints of things to come. Kale, chervil, a few self-seeding flowers (nigella, burpleum, and lunaria), and a leaf or two among the perennial scallions provide patches of green where mulch was not laid. Beneath the mulch (I peeked), spinach and cilantro are green. So, too, is the parsley, but, as in times past, it is beginning to rot at its base. Patience is a virtue in gardening, never more so than during the unpredictable days of March.

Of course, weather conditions have no impact on indoor seeding; that proceeds according to the calendar, the schedule varying little from year to year. March seedings last year were onions and leeks on the third, celery and parsley on the eleventh, and peppers on the eighteenth. Because the compost pile has always been frozen in March, I haul in several bucket loads the prior fall. This year I need not have bothered, frost barely penetrating the pile.

The planting of onions is a mixed blessing. On the one hand, it represents the start of a new season. On the other, I plant with the knowledge that the onions have not performed particularly well in quite some time. But I persevere, carefully setting six hundred or so seeds into the potting mix, convincing myself that this will be the year of the onion. And, if it isn't, I will be reminded of the fact that gardening can be a humbling experience. I could always benefit from a bit more humility.

Larry Siegel

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Wildlife Sightings

Mark Shoul and Maureen Blasco saw a big **bobcat** on Friday Feb. 17 on the shore of the Millers River downstream from Blossom St. It was running away from the noise of a passing train and went to the river's edge. Maureen and Mark were directly on the other side of the river.

Carl Kamp saw an adult **Bald Eagle** at Little Pond on Sunday Feb. 12.

Spring

*A little Madness in the
Spring
Is wholesome even for
the King.
Emily Dickinson
(1830-1886)
No. 1333 (c.1875)*

"The first day of spring
is one thing, and the first
spring day is another.
The difference between
them is sometimes as
great as a month."
Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)
Fisherman's Luck (1899)



Newsletter Staff

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

Submission deadline for April issue is: Mar. 22

Please Contact Us

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

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net
Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386
Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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