

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2012



Volume XV, Issue IV

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

## Calendar of Events

May 1 Tuesday

9 a.m. **Old fashioned May Day Celebration** at the Village School. The public is invited. Children can join in May pole weaving and dancing. Traditional songs and Morris Men.

May 3 Thursday

3:45 p.m. **Friends of the Library annual meeting.** Elections, rhubarb squares, and library support. All welcome.

May 5 Saturday

**Cinco de Mayo**

**11: 35 p.m. Full Flower Moon**

May 6 Sunday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby Royalston F&G**

**Town Congregational churches participate in Crop Walk.** Call for more information.

May 11 Friday

7 pm **Annual Town Meeting** at the Royalston Community School.

7 - 9 p.m.

**A-REF's Father Daughter Dance** at Athol Town Hall. Proceeds benefit enrichment programs in the local public schools, including the recent Bubbleology and family art night programs at RCS, the spring musicals at AHS and ARMS, the Multicultural Fest and several school garden program with royalston ties. Tickets at the door or ahead of time through the schools or Kimball Cooke Ins. Info: Laura 978-249- 9782.

May 12 Saturday

5 pm **Royalston Fish and Game chicken supper.** Tickets \$10.

6-9 pm **Mother- Son Dance**, benefits Pop Warner Football programs at Athol Town Hall.

May 13 Sunday

**Mother's Day**

May 14 Monday **2012 Final Real Estate Tax bills due.**

May 18 Friday

7 pm. **An Original Play**, written and performed by the Village School Players at the Royalston Town Hall. This year's theme is the Middle Ages, and the 4th-6th grade class is writing the script. Free to the public.

May 19 Saturday

**Armed Forces Day**

6 pm **Chicken Breast Supper to benefit Royalston 250th celebration at Town Hall** prepared by Fire Chief Wayne R. Newton. See any member for supper tickets (\$12 adult/ \$6 children 12 and under) or big raffle tickets. Call Geoff Newton for more information.

May 20 Sunday

8:19 pm **New strawberry moon**

May 21 Monday

5:30 p.m. **Library Book Group** discusses Alexandra Fuller's *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* at the library. All welcome.

May 28 Monday

**Memorial Day (observed)**

Town offices, schools, library, post office all closed

May 30 Wednesday

7:30 pm **Ladies' Benevolent Society meeting** at the home of Nanji Davison (58 South Royalston Road). Walt Davison will be presenting the program "Camp Caravan - Past, Present and Future." All welcome.

**Save the Date**

June 2 Saturday

**The Royalston Blues Night**

June 9 Saturday

**Saturday Morning on the Common**, featuring the Village School pancake breakfast and silent auction, the library plant and book sale, Morris dancers, entertainers and more!

June 16 Saturday

3- 6 p.m. Nashville recording artist and Royalston resident, **Will Corey performs at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club**. Contact Geoff Newton 978-249-3726 for tickets: (adults \$15 and children under 12 free.) Benefits Town 250th Celebration. Burgers, beer, dogs and such for sale at event.



## Selectboard Notes

*Christine Long*

The Select Board thanks voters for their strong support of the debt exclusion question: 140 in support, 49 opposed. The board has already received a projected timeline for the new wastewater treatment plant and intends to proceed as expeditiously as possible. Completion of this crucial project is expected in 12 to 18 months.

The board also wishes to congratulate Angelica Favreau for winning a seat on the Athol-Royalston School Committee and to thank Roberta Newman for her many years of service: 15 years on the School Committee and 12 as the School Committee representative to the Royalston Advisory Committee. At its April 10 meeting, the board presented Newman with a certificate of appreciation.

Also on April 10 the board met with the Finance Committee to finalize its budget and other spending recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013. The budget is balanced without any cuts in services – but no raises for most town employees. If voters approve, the town will be able to fund all or part of other requests, including making a start on what needs to be done to allow the Royalston Community School to function as an emergency shelter.

Once again, however, the town must recommend against funding the demolition of the abandoned building at 1 School St. and the clean-up of 2 King St., as well as against a five-year lease-purchase plan for a new dump truck.

The Community Preservation Committee will be recommending several more projects to be paid for by the Community Preservation Fund – Phase II of the portrait restorations at the library, construction of a fence and gateway at Riverside Cemetery, and construction of an electrical panel at Bullock Park – and both the Select Board and the Finance Committee support these recommendations.

Both boards will also recommend that certain purchases be made from the Stabilization Fund, and that certain other funds be returned to this account, leaving it with a net of around \$100,000.

All these matters and more will be taken up at the annual town meeting on May 11 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Royalston Community School. Both boards urge voters to attend and to participate in the democratic process.

## Assessors' Notes

*Stephen Chase, Chairman*

The second half of the 2012 Real Estate Tax bills have been mailed and are due Monday May 14. This is the "actual" bill for which you can file an abatement form with the Assessors' office if you feel your valuation is incorrect. Forms are due by May 14.

Residents who have received conservation restrictions on their land should contact the Assessors' office as we are not automatically notified. The restriction may or may not have an effect on your valuation. The Assessors meet every first and third Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m. Whitney Hall. 978-249-0337.

## Memorial Day Exercises

Memorial Day exercises will take place beginning at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 28, in the South Royalston Park. Public participation will be asked at the Hillside and Riverside Cemeteries, where wreaths will be laid at the grave of each veteran. A pot luck luncheon will take place at the 2nd Congregational Church following the exercises with veterans and parade participants as guests. Those interested in helping with the pot luck should contact Kathy Pirro or Luann Simula. Anyone interested in participating in advance by helping with the removal of old flags and installation of new flags can contact Brenda Putney at 249-7787.

## Congressman Visits

*Mary C. Barclay*

Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA), potentially Royalston's next Congressman as the result of redistricting, dropped in to hear some of the concerns of those who work



with and for Town government. He made brief stops at the Royalston General Store and Royalston Town Hall to meet some of the more politically active residents. About two dozen residents including representatives from the Board of Selectmen, fire and police departments, Department of Public Works and various appointed and elected officials discussed an array of topics including public safety, job creation, physical and communications infrastructure, internet and cellphone connections, and unfunded mandates. Thank you to Allen Young, chairman of the Royalston Democratic Committee, for coordinating the visit.

## Royalston Emergency Management Agency

*Jim Barclay, EMD [ema@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:ema@royalston-ma.gov) or call 978-249-2904*

April saw the installation of a cement pad and equipment shelter as well as the erection of a 140 foot tall tower at the top of Route 68, all part of a \$1.64 million project being underwritten by the Department of Commerce to improve public safety communications. Once transmitters and receivers are in place, anticipated to be towards the end of this month, local police officers, fire fighters and EMS responders should see remarkably improved radio communications throughout the Town of Royalston. Once up and running this system will immediately enhance communications in Central and Western Massachusetts as well, and its completion marks an important step towards complete interoperability in a state-wide, and ultimately nation-wide public safety communications network.

## Fire Department, Burning Permits

Chief Kieth R. Newton

The “open burn” permit process is going well and most folks are burning safely. Thank you all for doing such a great job keeping things safe. I have noticed some fires are still a little close to your buildings. The law requires a minimum distance of 75 ft. from any structure. This year we are having extreme dry periods, and when it does rain, most times its not enough to burn safely. The Commonwealth of Mass. has been careful in their recommendations for “Red Flag” warnings and “No Burning Orders”. Please continue to follow the warning messages posted on the sign board at Fire Station 1 and also on the recorded message you receive on the 978-249-8138 non-emergency recorded phone line at my office. Thank you all once again for your understanding and full cooperation.

## Bring the American Elm Back to Royalston

*Spring is a great time for planting – why not plant an American elm?*

You will be helping the town, which will be receiving a free 15-foot Liberty elm (*Ulmus americana* ‘Liberty’) and buying two more from the Liberty Tree Society in Keene, New Hampshire. 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.

The catch is that we don’t receive the free tree until the Liberty Tree Society raises \$2,000. And while the society raises money all over the country, you can “target” Royalston by joining the society. For a \$50 donation, you also receive a three-foot Liberty elm, and for a \$100 donation, a six-foot tree. With a \$15 donation, you can buy a range of larger elms at cost starting at \$195.

Brochures and applications are available at the office of the Select Board, the library and the Royalston General Store.

Note, however, that the prices on the printed pieces are wrong – the society has significantly lowered the price on all its trees. Just call the society to find out the correct price. You can also contact Selectwoman Christine Long at 978-249-0246 or chris.



long@royalston-ma.gov.

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 one percent 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 – our first symbol of freedom. More information is available at [www.libertytreesociety.org](http://www.libertytreesociety.org).

## Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

The new vehicle annual stickers are in. They are red, \$15, and due by July 1st. See attendant to purchase. Also, new bag stickers are now in. They are greenish strips. They are the same price -\$2.50 for one 33 gallon size bag. Half a sticker for the small white bags.

A reminder that recycling is free. There are three separations:

- 1: anything paper, newspaper, cardboard etc.- include no plastic or other non paper items.
- 2: rinsed bottles, cans, and plastic containers.
- 3: Large metal items are free also; put them in metal roll off container. **If it’s in your hand, put it in the right can!**

## Royalston’s 250th Anniversary

Call Geoff Newton for information about any of these events- 978-249-3726. Help the committee raise money and plan for the upcoming cele-bralooza. There are many good ways to get involved:

**Raffle:** See any board member for a chance to win: a cord of Royalston wood, \$100 in cash, a NASCAR jacket, a handmade Royalston 250th blanket, Royalston maple syrup, gift cards from Market Basket, Best Buy, and Edible Arrangements and much much more. Tickets cost \$1 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets.

**Eat:** Chicken Breast Supper - Saturday, May 19 at 6 pm. at town hall. See any committee member for tickets, \$12 adults, \$6 children under 12.

**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.

**Hand crocheted afghans** by Marlene Jarvenpaa for sale to benefit the 250th committee. \$75.

**Local foods supper is coming** in September. **Plant an extra row** this spring for the 250th committee. To help with the supper in any way, call or e-mail Beth Gospodarek. 978-249-0358

## Come to a country music concert:

Nashville recording artist and Royalston resident, Will Corey, performs at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club on June 16 from 3-6 p.m. Gate opens at 1:00. Tickets are \$15 for adults, children 12 and under are free. Pre-sale tickets are available at [www.willcorey.com](http://www.willcorey.com) or by calling Geoff Newton at 978-249-3726. Also available at the gate on the day of the show.



Have **input** about the 250th celebration? Want to get involved in town? Come to the next 250th committee meeting at 7 pm on May 10th at town hall. All welcome.

# 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](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

## Thank you

Jennie Membrino-Nano for a great after-school Hip Hop Dance Program.

Jamieson Francis and Jayce LaJoie for their dance performance at Hip Hop.

For help during kite flying: Kelly Gauvin and Lynn Nystrom. Allison Bergquist and Clarence Rabideau, competent, careful, and consistent volunteers extraordinaire.

Sonja Vaccari for making the garden beautiful again.

## Donations to the Friends Group and to its Newsletter

Donald Shambroom	M. Victoria Kamas
Mike and Dadgie Scott	Susan Case
Sue Divirgilio	the Boucher family
	Virginia Moore



**Please Pot up your Thinnings and Save those Extra Seedlings: Friends of the Library Plant and Book Sales on Saturday, June 9th from 9 - noon.** This annual event is a big success thanks to the green thumbs and kind instincts rampant in this community. Call the library for more information.



*Hip Hoppers at the recent library-sponsored after-school dance program. Thanks to the Select-board and Cultural Council for providing a venue and a beat.*



## Kite Poems from Kite Flying Day at the Library

It stuck in the tree.  
The string broke  
So I played bubbles instead  
And then there are pinwheels.  
*Jackie Nystrom, Age 4*

Not a lot of wind  
So bubbles and cake instead.  
Great way to spend a great day.  
*Brent Nystrom, Age 7*



**SATURDAY MORNING  
ON ROYALSTON COMMON**

**JUNE 9  
2012**

<p><b>VILLAGE SCHOOL PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> Organic blueberry pancakes &amp; local maple syrup 7:30-10:30 AM • Town Hall • \$6/\$3 kids</p> <p><b>SPECTACULAR SILENT AUCTION</b> <a href="http://www.villageschoolma.org">www.villageschoolma.org</a> for list of items 8:00-11:00 AM • Town Hall</p> <p><b>TAG SALE</b> 8:30-11:00 AM</p>	<p>9:30 AM <b>MILLERS RIVER MORRIS MEN</b></p> <p>10:00 AM <b>LIVE BIRDS OF PREY</b> with Tom Ricardi</p> <p>11:00 AM <b>OLD-FASHIONED CAKE WALK</b> Everyone is a winner!</p> <p><b>RAFFLE</b> 4 Red Sox tickets</p> <p><b>ANNUAL LIBRARY PLANT SALE</b> at the Royalston Post Office</p> <p><b>BOOK SALE</b> at the Phinehas S. Newton Library</p> <p><b>BAKE SALE</b> RCS Parent Group</p> <p><b>FACE PAINTING BOOTH</b></p>
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## Ongoing events

**Book Discussion Group** meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 5:30-6:45 p.m. In May, it will discuss Alexandra Fuller's *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*. All welcome.

## Art Exhibit

The photographs of Bill Manser will continue to be on display throughout the month of May. Action photos, quiet scenes, and collages speak to his competence and versatility as a photographer.

**Zumba and Hip Hop are done for the season.** So many thanks to the cultural council for the use of sound equipment and the Selectboard for their flexibility in allowing use of the town hall for these popular programs.

Watch for information about participating in the **Royalston Shakespeare Company's *The Tempest*** in the next newsletter.



## The History of the April Fool's Sign



*New original fiction by Bella Cooke*

This sign was made in 1756 in a town called Joker Town. It was called Joker Town after a man named Jack L. Joker.

Jack L. Joker was the first man to create a joke. He always pulled pranks on everyone. The town soon agreed to run Jack out of town. They made a mob, grabbed their torches and pitchforks and never left his house until he promised he wouldn't pull a prank on them for life. He left the town and traveled all over the towns and cities and the world. He posted a sign that said "April Fool" on every door of every place, but they all blew away and disintegrated in the wind. He nailed one to the ceiling of the stage of the Royalston Town Hall. It's nails rotted off and someone found it.

You see, Jack created April Fool's Day on April 1, 1756. That was the day he made the world's first joke. Thank you Jack.

## New Materials May 2012

### Fiction

Bradford, Barbara *Letter from a Stranger*  
 Clark, Mary Higgins *The Lost Years*  
 De Robertis, Carolina *Perla*  
 Ephron, Delia *The Lion is in*  
 Gordimer, Nadine *No Time like the Present*  
 Grisham, John *Calico Joe*  
 Howe, Katherine *The House of Velvet and Glass*  
 Leon, Donna *Beastly Things*  
 McCall-Smith, A. *The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection*  
 Oates, Joyce Carol *Mudwoman*  
 Patterson, James *Guilty Wives*  
 Scottoline, Lisa *Come Home*  
 Trigiani, Adriana *The Shoemaker's Wife*  
 Tyler, Anne *The Beginner's Goodbye*  
 Wambaugh, Joseph *Harbor Nocturne*

### Non-Fiction

Bittman, Mark *How to Cook Everything*  
 Duhigg, Charles *The Power of Habit*  
 Dyson, George *Turing's Cathedral*  
 Healy, David *Pharmageddon*  
 Johnson, Rebecca *National Geographic Guide to Medicinal Herbs*  
 Lamott, Anne *Some Assembly Required*  
 Nasser, Dave *Giant George*  
 Williams, Terry *When Women were Birds*  
 Wilson, Edward *The Social Conquest of Earth*

### CDs

Madonna *MDNA*  
 Springsteen, Bruce *Wrecking Ball*  
 Various Artists *The Hunger Games Soundtrack*  
 Various Artists *The Muppets Soundtrack*

### Audiobooks

Prokofiev, Sergey *Peter and the Wolf*

**DVDs:** *Carnage, The Debt, The Descendants, Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Happy Feet Two, Hop, Melancholia, The Muppets, My Week with Marilyn, Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, War Horse, and We Bought a Zoo*

### Young Adult Fiction/ Nonfiction

**Black, Holly** *Black Heart*  
**Child, Lauren** *Ruby Redfort Look into my Eyes*  
**Grant, Michael** *BZRK*  
**Grant, Michael** *Fear*  
**Hautman, Pete** *The Obsidian Blade*  
**Hiaasen, Carl** *Chomp*  
**Hunter, Erin** *The Last Hope*  
**Jeffrey, Gary** *Cleopatra*  
**Jeffrey, Gary** *Julius Caesar*  
**Johnson, R.** *The Shark King*  
**LaFevers, Robin** *Grave Mercy*  
**Price, Lissa** *Starters*  
**Roth, Veronica** *Divergent*  
**Stewart, Trenton** *The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict*

### Children's Fiction

Babbitt, Natalie *The Moon over High Street*  
 Davies, Nicola *Just Ducks*  
 Graham, Bob *A Bus Called Heaven*  
 Hest, Amy *Letters to Leo*  
 Kooser, Ted *House Held up by Trees*  
 Lerangis, Peter *The Dead of Night*  
 Lester, Helen *All for me and None for You*  
 Marino, Gianna *Meet Me at the Moon*  
 McCall-Smith, A. *The Great Cake Mystery*  
 Potter, Alicia *Mrs. Harkness and the Panda*  
 Rocco, John *Blackout*  
 Seuss *The Lorax*  
 Willems, Mo *The Duckling gets a Cookie!?*  
 Wood, Maryrose *The Unseen Guest*

### Children's Non-Fiction

Farshtey, Greg *Mask of the Sensei*  
 Nivola, Claire *Life in the Ocean*  
 Tagger, Sam *Great Games!*

## Obituaries

**Arlene M. (Stowell) Dunham**, 95, of 5 Baldwinville Road, South Royalston, died peacefully at her residence Monday morning, April 9, 2012 with her family at her side.

She was born in Hopewell, Va. on May 31, 1916, daughter of the late Harry and Mary (Berard) Stowell, and graduated from Murdock High School, Winchendon with the Class of 1934. She had lived in South Royalston for 63 years.



Arlene was an assembler for ND Cass Co in Athol and for Gem Crib and Cradle in Gardner for several years. She later worked for an elderly lady and her husband in Royalston and did homemaker services for Catholic Charities. She was a long time member of the Second Congregational Church and was a former member of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Arlene found her greatest enjoyment from spending time with her large and loving family.

Her husband, Lewis A. Dunham, died in 1982. She leaves eight children, Roger A. Dunham of South Royalston, William R. Dunham of Polk City, Fla., Harry A. Dunham of Hampton, Va., Alice M. Leonard of Polk City, Fla., Doris A. Smith of Westminster, Rita L. Gates of South Royalston, June M. Smith of Orange and Sally J. Berry of Orange; a sister, Geraldine Davis of Baldwinville; thirty-four grandchildren, sixty-seven great-grandchildren and twenty-two great-great-grandchildren.

Arlene was predeceased by a son, Lewis A. Dunham Jr, a grandson Sean Berry, a great granddaughter Miranda Berry, two brothers, Donald Stowell and Edwin "Jimmy" Stowell, and two sisters, Irene Clark and Frances Greeley.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Oral Roberts University, 7777 S. Lewis Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74171.

*The following is an excerpt Mrs. Dunham wrote about her life in 2002 for the Town Scrapbook. The full essay includes a stunning portrait, more history and some original poetry. The scrapbook can be viewed at the library. New entries welcome.*

"It all started in Royalston back in the early 1900s. Harry Stowell lived on a farm on Beryl Hill Rd, and Mary Bedard lived on a farm on Deland Rd. They fell in love and married in 1913.

The war started in 1915. The couple moved to Virginia to work in a munitions plant. I was born in Hopewell, Virginia in 1918."

With the armistice, they headed North, stopping in Fabyan, Connecticut. "Dad got a job with a logging company... A tree fell on him. He was nearly killed and spent months in the hospital with a broken back."

When he was well enough to leave the hospital, "Mr Chaffee, the owner of the company, made arrangements for us to return to the Old Homestead in Royalston and had Walter Shine provide a horse, cow, pigs and 100 chickens. The neighbors were wonderful, stopping by often to help with the heavy work. My father strengthened and soon was racing us kids across the fields on his crutches. We all worked together on farm chores. It was a happy time. Then, the house burned down in the heat of summer...."

**Richard Irwin Hood**, 74, died Saturday, March 31, 2012 at UMASS Memorial Medical Center University Campus in Worcester.



Richard was born in Athol on October 22, 1937 the son of Elton and Eva (Stevens) Hood. He graduated from Athol High School in 1956. He grew up in Athol and also lived in Petersham, Barre and Royalston. He served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and Port of Whittier, Alaska. Richard earned his Associates Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester State College in 1976.

Richard was a Manufacturing Manager for many years, working at the Barre Wool Combing Company, the L.S. Starrett Company, Adell Corporation in Orange, and was a CNA at a nursing home in Gardner. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening.

He leaves his children, Keith Hood and his wife Lynn of Wales, Kevin Hood and his wife Sandra, Kathleen Godfrey and her husband Joseph and Kenneth Hood and his wife Amy, all of Barre; 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. He also leaves his brothers William and Steven, and sister Sandra. He was predeceased by his brother Laurence and sister Carla.

A graveside service will be held at Lawrence Brook Cemetery in Royalston at a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions in Richard's name be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 311 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA 02472.

### Poems by Mary Carnie's Poetry Club at RCS

This is just to say

I was the one who wrote on the wall at school.  
Now everyone knows you're actually an alien.  
Forgive me, everyone already knew cause you're green.

*Isabelle O'Connor, Grade 6*

This is just to say

I ruined the organization of your book shelf that took eight years to organize.

Now you have to re-organize it.  
Forgive me, no one reads them anyway.

*Erica Gambill, Grade 5*

This is just to say

I was the one who let your dog out.  
The police called and said they found him on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Street.  
Forgive me he was a bad dog anyway.

*Mackenzie Mastaler, Grade 6*

## 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.*

### Monty Tech 2nd quarter academic honor roll:

*Straight As:* Amanda Putney, Amy Putney, Meredith Carrier, and Michael Persson

*As and Bs:* Sydni Ayers, Joshua Roberts, Devin Bates, Emma LeGrand, Emily Mangum and Ian Duffin.

### Royalston Community School 3rd quarter honor roll:

*High Honors:* Molly Divoll, Anthony Oro, Erika Gambill, Haylie Baker, Hannah Bartkus, Owen MacPhee, and Destiny Wrigley

*Honors:* Miranda Carpenter, Justin Blake, Jamieson Francis Kayla Gerry, Tayiah Neale, James Laford, Jocelyn Trenga Amber Mahony, Isabelle O'Connor, Kyla Rathburn, and Christopher Selanis

*Bronze:* Emma Alger and Lindsay Leadbetter

*Teacher Award:* Sarah Demboske

### New Nonagenarians:

**Roger LeBlanc Sr.** enjoyed a great 90th birthday celebration hosted by his children, Roger Jr., Jane, Arthur & Carla on April 1st, at the Gardner Deer Club. (His actual birthday is April 2nd). Roger Sr. was selectman for Royalston from 2001 - 2004.



Happy birthday to **Millie Poor**, who turned 90 on April 13th.

Good wishes for a speedy recovery to **Rose Lawrence**

Marathon Man: Congrats to **Ray Anair** for finishing the Boston Marathon, a long race on a hot day.

Full Frame Film Festival in Durham, North Carolina recently honored the 40th anniversary of New Day Films, a groundbreaking distribution company democratically operated by over 100 filmmakers. **Liane Brandon's** "Anything You Want to Be" and "Betty Tells Her Story" were screened, discussed, and archived at the Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University.

**Deane Marchbein M.D.** of Prospect Hill Rd. was recently elected President of the United States section of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF - Doctors Without Borders). Deane joined MSF in 2005 and just returned from Lebanon where she was coordinating efforts to aid victims of the conflict in Syria.

## Upcoming Entertainment

**Scott Alarik at the Back Corner:** Dar Williams says that Scott Alarik is "the finest folk writer in the country", and Pete Seeger says he's "one of the best writers in America", but don't just take their word for it. Come to "the back corner" at Bruce's Browser in Athol and meet him. Browser owner Diane Lincoln is pleased to host an evening with Scott on Friday May 11th at 7PM. *For the last 25 years, Scott Alarik has been arguably the most prolific and influential folk music writer in the country. He covered folk for the Boston Globe, contributed regularly to public radio, wrote for many national magazines, including Sing Out, Billboard, and Performing Songwriter. He's a popular presenter of talks on folk music, a folksinger, and an author. Scott will present his latest release, REVIVAL, his first novel set entirely in the folk world. More information is available at www.ScottAlarik.com and at www.BrucesBrowser.com.*

**The Royalston Blues Night** will be on June 2. Proceeds will benefit the Royalston 250th Celebration Committee and the Royalston Cultural Council.

Save the date and grab your scootin' boots... **Big country music concert, featuring Royalston's Will Corey, coming on June 16** to benefit the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration. Held outdoors at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club. Catch him before he plays the Big E in September. Tickets: \$15/ adult and 12 and under are free. Call Geoff Newton for early ticket sales 978-249-3726.

### Melanie & The Blue Shots Spring Tour:

May 5th Cheshire Tavern, Fitzwilliam Inn 8-11pm. Come open the Inn after winter break.

June 2nd Royalston Town Hall, 7-11pm Blues Night w/The Scott Monette All-Stars

June 25th Gardner Ale House 7-10pm Blues Night.

**Athol Community Theater (ACT)** is putting on its first every play, *Harvey* by Mary Chase and directed by Luke Meunier and Mitchell Grosky. The show will be performed at Athol Town Hall on May 17, 18, and 19 at 7pm with an additional 2pm matinee on May 20. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Stars Royalston residents Erin Girouard and Noah Dawson.



104 Federal Street Greenfield  
Get ready for Spring with a bicycle tune up.  
Reasonable rates and skilled mechanics.  
Free local pick up and delivery if you mention this ad!  
Call Bert Sawicki at 978-396-0039 for details.

## R.C.S. News

*Bella O'Connor*

Happy May Day! It's going to be another busy month at RCS, with a PTG meeting on Tuesday the 8th, and Teacher Appreciation Week the 7th through the 12th. After the math MCAS, the 6th grade is going to Nature's Classroom, an educational camp on the Maine coast, where they will learn lots of hands-on informative lessons. This month is going to be interesting!

The 6th grade will have a Snack Attack (an event where students sell snacks) from Monday the 30th Friday the 4th, to benefit their Nature's Classroom fund.

Coming up in June: This year's Spring Musical has been revealed! It is scheduled for June 1st. The 6th grade class will manage all of the aspects of the production. It is about two kids who are friends, but when they graduate from 6th grade, one of them gets a video game, he gets obsessed with it, and won't play with his friend anymore. Come see the play to realize why the moral is live life to the fullest.

May 07 6:00 – 7:00 PM \*Family Arts Night – Creating keepsake boxes with Whitney Archambeault. Funded by A-REF.

May 09 10:00 – 2:00 \*Grade 2 to Eric Carle Museum

May 14 – 18 Grade 6 to Nature's Classroom

May 23 1/2 DAY – NO K – lunch served, noon release

May 28 No school; Memorial Day observed

May 30 9:00 – 11:00 RCS students at AHS to see Scottish Highlanders

May MCAS schedule:

May 08 – 11 grades 5 & 6; May 15 – 18 grades 3, 4 & 5

Save the date:

**Joann Deacon's retirement reception on June 19:** Community members who have been influenced by Joann's long tenure as kindergarten teacher are encouraged to stop by. Refreshments.

## Village School News

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School:

Go to [www.villageschoolma.org](http://www.villageschoolma.org) to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 9 to July 23, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up and new this year, Woodworking with Kids, ages 8 and up. Scholarships are available to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

Tuesday, May 1 May Day Celebration

On Tuesday May 1st, at 9:00 a.m., the Village School will host an old fashioned May Day celebration. The public is invited. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing. There will be singing of traditional songs, and rounds, and local musicians. The aging Millers River Morris Men will appear, unable to contain themselves, and leap and pound the earth to drive out winter and awaken the earth, and bring fertility to the crops, the fields, the animals and the people! Young and old will join in the uplifting "Shepherds' Hay" to complete the event. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies. .

Friday, May 18 7 pm. An Original Play, written and performed by the Village School Players at the Royalston Town Hall. This year's theme is the Middle Ages, and the 4th-6th grade class is writing the script. Free to the public.

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common - Save the date

June 9 from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall: Adults \$6 Children \$3 Organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup

Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Auction and Breakfast will benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan.

Friends of the Library have plants for sale at the Post Office and books for sale at the library.

The program of events will include a tag sale, the Millers River Morris Men, Live Birds of Prey, storytelling, a Cake Walk for children and lots more.

## Monty Tech News

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

Congratulations to Monty Tech's Marine JROTC (Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps) CyberPatriot team, comprised of Royalston's own **Ian C. Duffin**, along with Catelyne Farrell, Billy Ghio, Brett Grant, John Pfeiffer and Connor Quick. The team participated in a two-day, National cyberspace computer defense contest in National Harbor, Maryland sponsored by the Air Force Association. Monty Tech competed against 12 service divisions (Army, Navy, Marine JROTCs and Civil Air Patrol teams), 12 open divisions (from comprehensive, voc tech, academy-style high schools), and two international teams. Monty Tech took the "TOP Marine JROTC," "Fourth Place in the Service Division" and placed "Seventh Over All." Monty Tech's success is especially noteworthy given this is just the second year they've participated!



The students also participated in a "teaser" competition by the Department of Defense, called "Digital Crime Scene Challenge." Teams had to pat

down a dummy sporting nearly two dozen forms of digital media. They had to identify all digital media, hack into the various media and identify the case-sensitive data.

Monty Tech is hoping to assemble an "open division" team to join the JROTC team, and perhaps another team specifically to compete in the DC3 Cyberforensics challenge by the DOD.



## Congregational Churches News

*Monique Brown*

Service times for Sundays start at 9:00 AM, at the South Royalston Church on 3 School Street, and at 11:00 AM at the First Congregational Church located on the Common. Join anytime for worship and an encouraging word to help you through the week.

On May 1st, FCCR will join Project Bread in Boston for the annual "Walk for Hunger". Come join us in taking steps toward helping those in need as well as stopping hunger in Massachusetts.

The FCCR would like to let the community of Royalston know about its food pantry. If you are a family experiencing hunger, please come by or give us a call. We are here to help. If you would like to make donations to the food pantry, you may do so as well. Everyone doing his/her part can lead to brighter tomorrows.

To inquire about the food pantry, or the Walk for Hunger, please feel free to call the office at 978-249-9155. You can also check us out on line at [WWW.FCCRLIVE.COM](http://WWW.FCCRLIVE.COM)

## North Quabbin Garden Club

*Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 7 p.m.*

Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, **Daylilies:** Denise Pavlovich, Pepperell, MA owner/operator of Covered Bridge Perennials and member of the board of directors of the New England Daylily Society, will speak about daylily anatomy, forms, colors, sizes, growing conditions and seasons. She will include information about local hybridizers and growers, The American Hemerocallis Society, The New England Daylily Society, and daylily websites. Coupons to her garden will be raffled off at the meeting.

*Saturday, May 19, 2012, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Annual North Quabbin Garden Club Plant Sale:** Find delightful plants from our members' gardens and help out the Millers River Environmental Center. Your purchases support our speakers' programs and pay for the plants that are forming the new gardens at the center.

## Royalston Democrats Reorganize

The Democratic Town Committee reorganized April 10 at the home of George "Buddy" Dyer of Butterworth Road. The group voted to add Tom Kellner to the committee, bringing the total membership to nine. The reorganization meeting was held to conform with state law. Officers elected were Allen Young, chair; Tom Kellner, vice chair; Carla Rabinowitz, treasurer; and Christine Beckert Long, secretary. Grady MacPhee, 17, attended the meeting and will be eligible for membership when he turns 18. Members approve of having more young Democrats participate. Denise Andrews and Rebecca Bialecki, two of four Democrats seeking to be the party's candidates for representative in the Second Franklin District, attended the meeting. They spoke about their interest in serving the community in the State House.

There will be a state primary on Sept. 6 and the general election on Nov. 6.

## Royalston Fish and Game Club News

The Royalston F&G is gearing up for their busy spring and summer seasons. Beginning in May, all are welcome to participate in horseshoes. The pits are open for 7 p.m. games; teams are selected about 6:45 p.m.

## The Walter E. Carlson Annual Children's Fishing Derby



happens Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to noon. Member children participate and enjoy a cook-out lunch at no cost. Non-member children are \$2 each for the Derby

and the cook out lunch available for a nominal fee. Adults are welcome to participate in the 1 p.m. adult fishing derby.

The first **Chicken Barbecue** of the season is slated for Saturday, May 12 at 5 p.m. on the pavilion or inside the hall, depending upon weather. Tickets are \$10 each and will buy half-chicken, bread and salad, baked potato, desserts and coffee or tea.

## 2012 Egg Hunt Success

### Builds on 12-Year History of Community Support

Eighteen years ago, the Royalston 4-H Club started a custom of decorating eggs in the Ukrainian style and melting chocolate to be molded into individual candies at Easter time. This was done annually for several years.

After the 4-H club discontinued, another informal local group, known to each other as the "breakfast club", consisting of Linda Alger, Joyce Neale, Rene' Lake, and Nancy Skowonski, decided that it would be a good idea to open up this tradition to the entire community. Enlisting members of the Teen Club, which met regularly in the basement of Whitney Hall, the breakfast club launched the first annual Royalston Egg Hunt twelve years ago. The breakfast club members pitched in for the first two years, getting it off to a great start, after which the Teen Club members continued to help with the Annual Egg Hunt.

Over the years, many local residents pitched in to carry on the tradition. For many years, the Ramsdell family were regulars at the event. Often, people just show up to help on the morning of the egg hunt and others have contributed money, candy, and plastic eggs. The Library and the General Store have very generously helped to collect the contributions each year.

This year's Egg Hunt was another great success, enhanced by wonderful weather. Nearly 80 local children participated while their parents and grandparents looked on.



*L-R: Linda Vaidulas, Debbie Castine, Irene Lawrence, Natalie Lawrence, Rene' Lake-Gagliardi, Peter Gagliardi, and Ivers Lawrence. Not shown: Gordon Morrison and Barbara Richardson.*

## Classifieds

**House mate wanted**, small three bedroom home in quiet Athol neighborhood to share. Close to down town Athol on a dead end road. \$300/month plus some utilities. Contact Lee Ann @ 978 830-4261 or llarue@mass.rr.com.

**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.** 4 hr - \$60.00. Experienced with references. Royalston resident. Call Fran: home 978-249-4596 or cell 895-0817.

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

Seventeen year old Royalston Resident can help a few days a week with **yard work or other odd jobs** for \$8.50 an hour. Call Joe (413) 559-7152

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

**Custom Sawmilling Service** - Our portable mill can turn your logs or ours into boards, planks, or beams. Log capacity is 36" diameter 21' long. Call for pricing: Josh Doub (978) 249-2871 or Tom Musco @ Royalston Oak Timber Frames at (978) 249-9633. We also make beautiful timber frames for additions, barns, sheds and homes.

### For sale

**'Crazy Johns' the vegetable, fruit and flower seller** that used to be by the Depot Store in Fitzwilliam operated by Royalston's Clair Alix and John Jeffrey, is now open for business next to Mr. Mikes at the intersection of Routes 12 and 119 in Fitzwilliam.

**Free-Range, pasture raised pork.** 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 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.

**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. 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 \$180/ 170 cu feet. Also, limited supply of semi-seasoned wood. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.

**Local Maple Syrup** from Richardson's sugarhouse is now available at Pete & Henry's. 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 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.

## Garden Notes

22 April 2012

I know it is spring: my body is adorned with bumps and bruises, cuts and scrapes, slivers and thorns, blisters and abrasions, bites from black flies and ticks. (Less visible are the aches and pains.) The body beautiful. All of this for a home-grown tomato. So it goes.

There were actually ten or so days at the onset of April when temperatures hovered around normal for that time of year. A blip. Temperatures soon returned to levels considerably above normal. More telling was the lack of rain. The proverbial April showers have been April sprinkles. (There was no more mud during mud season than snow during snow season.) It is never too early to fret about the lack of rain (though, admittedly, I've never fretted so early). I have taken to watering in some of my seedlings. I'm supposed to be doing this in June, not April. In April I'm supposed to be waiting for the ground to dry out. Rain is forecast for tonight. It remains to be seen whether we turn the corner or experience another blip. So it goes.

I've taken a new approach with the brassicas. (Listen up, folks, it is the final time I remind you that the brassicas include broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbages, and cauliflower.) Started indoors the seedlings tend to get leggy and difficult to handle. I've established an outdoor nursery, direct seeded them, and enveloped them with row covers (to keep out the flea beetles, which are capable of punching so many holes in the leaves as to render the seedlings unrecognizable). Once established I will move them to their final destination in the garden, still protected by the row covers.

Yes, I did jump the gun in March, my first planting of peas and spinach occurring on the twentieth. Germination was a bit less than perfect but quite satisfactory given the almost total absence of rain. Potatoes went in even earlier (the fifteenth), though I have yet to see a potato emerge. Everything is ahead of schedule. Daffodils have been sparkling for a week and it is quite the display. Seemingly, they are thriving in the dry environment. Peaches and pears are in full bloom, early as well. We were even eating asparagus by mid-month. Unprecedented. On the other hand, the black flies were eating us by mid-month. Unprecedented as well.

Actually, April is a fine time to be in the garden (assuming I can dodge the black flies). Everything is so politely in place, so easy to manage. I am busy but not so busy that my mind does not wander to larger issues. Like the matter of aging. (Can there be a larger issue?) I am one year older than the onset of last year's garden, seven years older than the onset of Garden Notes, thirty-five years older than my first Royalston garden. Yet my mind remains alert (my co-members on the Financial Advisory Committee might disagree) and, with some notable exceptions, my body continues to function in much the same manner as it did those thirty-five years ago. The daily glance in the mirror doesn't help; sort of looks like I did the day before, I mutter. But then I unearth some photos of my early years in Royalston, half a lifetime ago, and they provide me with a dope slap of reality. The inevitable passing of time. So it goes.

Larry Siegel



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 Owners- Sandy and Dick Creamer  
 87 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475  
 978-297-0433 Fax: 9778-297-1719  
 email: perf4man@verizon.net  
**color copies .50 wedding invitations**  
**soup to nuts printing**

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### **Wildlife Sightings**

Lynn Anair spotted an Eastern Bluebird on the Village School playground on April 4th.

### **South Royalston Improvement Corporation**

As we all know it has been a very, very dry winter and spring so far, and we don't know how long this lack of precipitation will last. For the people who don't know us, the South Royalston Improvement Corporation is a small, private water sytem that serves South Royalston. We would like to let ALL Royalston residents know we can help you if you suffer from a water shortage.

The SRIC is willing to supply water, free of charge, to any residents in need. Small quantities for drinking can be obtained at the Royalston General Store (bring your own containers.) If you need water in larger volume, for livestock or gardens, for example, contact Vickie Paine at 978-249-8443, and we can arrange for you to fill your own large containers from a hydrant at the Royalston Water Treatment Plant.

Please do not wait until you're out of water - if you're going to need water, plan ahead!

Additional information is available from Vickie at the number above or Tom Bushee at the Royalston General Store, 978-249-2798.

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

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Submission deadline for June issue is: May 22

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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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