

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2012
January 2013



Volume XV, Issue X

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

Calendar of Events

December 1 Saturday **Winter Parking Ban** begins

December 2 Sunday
5:30 - 7:30 pm **Jewelry-making workshop** with Lauren Pecota of Noho Beads. Craft 3 pairs of sterling silver and bead earrings, perfect for gifts. \$30 materials fee. All tools provided. Sign up at the library.

December 3 Monday
3:45 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

December 5 Wednesday
6 pm **Tree lighting on the Common** - rain, snow or stars. Free. Carols, RCS chorus, hot chocolate and a visitor with a long white beard, sponsored by the Cultural Council.

December 7 Friday
7 pm **Open Mic inaugurates its 2012 - 2013 season** in Town Hall. Host band: Nexus. Sponsored by the Cultural Council.

December 8 Saturday **Hannukah begins**
10:00 am **Ladies Benevolent Society meeting,** election of officers, and making of gift baskets for shut-ins. At the home of Theresa Quinn.

December 9 Sunday
2 pm **Weave a wheat straw ornament** with Kathy Morris, Materials fee \$5. All materials provided. Register at the library.

December 10 Monday
6 pm **RCS holiday concert**

December 17 Monday
10 am **Pre-school storytime holiday party** at the library

4:30 pm **Library Book Group** discusses *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. Copies available at the library. All welcome.

December 18 Thursday
7:30 pm **Historic District Commission public hearing** to discuss plan to add an external addition to the back of the Town Hall to add an elevator and stairs, which would improve the building's handicapped accessibility.

December 21 Friday **Winter Solstice**

December 23 Sunday

6 pm **Christmas service** with choir and special singing, at the 2nd Congregational Church, School Street, South Royalston. All are welcome.



December 25 Tuesday **Christmas**

December 28 Friday
5:21 am **Full Cold Moon**

December 29 Saturday

7 - 9:30 pm **Friendziwig's Ball** contra-dance at Town Hall. All dances called and taught by Norah Dooley backed by the No Name Band. Fun for all ages. Refreshments. Free, but donations appreciated. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

January 1 Tuesday **New Year's Day 2013**

January 4 Friday
7 - 10 pm **Open Mic at town hall.**

January 9 Wednesday
6:30 p.m. **Math Night** for parents with Polly Wagner, math coach at the Village School.

January 20 Sunday **Inauguration Day**

January 21 Monday **Martin Luther King Day** observed

January 26 Saturday
11 am - 8 pm **Souper Bowl:** ice skating, snow fun and games along with bottomless bowls of home-made soup at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. Benefits the 250th Anniversary.

11:38 pm **Full Wolf Moon**



The Town Hall in 1880- For handicapped accessibility, imminent change to this building is likely. See back cover for information about architectural plans. Public hearing on 12/18 at 7:30 pm.

Selectboard Notes:

Christine Long, member

A number of initiatives to report on this month:

- The town is very close to issuing a bond to pay for the new wastewater treatment plant. Once the plant is built, that bond will be converted into a very low interest loan from the United States Department of Agriculture.
- A plan to make Town Hall more fully accessible is close to completion, and when it is, the town will apply for another grant to turn the plan into reality.
- The Common Restoration Committee has held its first meeting and is digging in to achieve significant improvements to the common in time for the town's upcoming 250th anniversary in 2015.
- Thank you to all the vendors and volunteers who made the first Craft Fair so much fun and to all the residents who came to shop last month – that event, too, was in support of the 250th celebration.
- More thanks to all who participated in the housing survey, the first step in developing an affordable housing plan for Royalston. That plan will help the town promote the creation of affordable housing for residents and employees and avoid the threat of inappropriate development being imposed on the town.
- The pod is in place at Royalston Community School, and the town will be exploring grants to acquire a generator to enable that facility to be used as an emergency shelter.
- In the near future residents will be able to find a lot more information on the town's website, including a calendar of events and agendas for board and committee meetings.
- Yes, it's already that time – over the next couple months the Selectboard will be reviewing department budget requests and proposed warrant articles in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 town budget and town meeting action.

Town Hall Parking Policies

The Selectboard wants to remind all users of the Town Hall to be cognizant of the parking policy. Over the last month there have been several events where people are parking along the semi circle and on both sides. 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. An additional motion-sensored light is being 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, it is disconcerting that at one of the recent events, someone drove a car across the lawn in front of the building directly in front of the monument which shows not only poor judgement but also a lack of respect for Town property.

Department of Public Works - Rules for roads in winter

Keith R. Newton

A winter parking ban will be in effect from Dec. 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013. This will apply to all public ways in the Town of Royalston and is intended for 24 hours per day. Anyone who does not adhere to this town by-law will be subject to fines and possible towing of vehicles and will be responsible to pay all cost associated with the process.

Mail boxes should be made secure from snowplowing and should be placed back from the street a safe distance so snow removal will not impact the receptacle. It is unlawful to plow, throw, push or block any public way with snow from a private drive or roadway. This is not allowable under Town Bylaws and will be subject to fines and actions by the Town of Royalston. Please, for everyone's safety, think what happens when this snow freezes in place and causes traffic hazards. The home-owner will have legal processing to deal with if an accident is caused.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Assessors' Notes

The Assessors' Clerk, Jen Bartkus, is stepping down to pursue exciting opportunities elsewhere. She will be sorely missed not only by the assessors but by the taxpayers and information seekers who have come to depend upon her for accurate, timely and cheerful reporting. The assessors wish her the best of luck in her new pursuits.

Anyone interested in the assessor clerk's job may contact any of the assessors. The job entails about 10 hours per week at a rate of \$10-11. The Assessors meet the first and third Wednesday of the month 7-9 PM at Whitney Hall 978-249-0337.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

The transfer station will be open on Friday, December 21 and 28 1-4pm to allow folks some access for the holidays. Please make a note of it.

A reminder for those that have not gotten their annual windshield sticker that they are available from the attendant for \$15. The sticker should be placed on the driver's side lower windshield. It is red.

A big thank you to Hopkins Masonry and the RDPW for cementing the blocks where the roll off containers are. This work has secured the blocks and with the asphalt on top has made this area safe from erosion. Again thanks for a job well done!

A reminder with holiday wraps etc. Take the styrofoam pieces out of the boxes prior to putting them in the paper roll off. Also, if the holiday wrap is coated, metallic, or waxed, don't put it in the paper bin. Remove all bows, strings etc. Remember, you can only make paper out of paper!

The Board of Health and the attendants at the transfer station would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Cultural Council's Open Mic Returns in Early December

On Friday, December 7, 7:00 pm in the Town Hall, the Royalston Open Mic will inaugurate its 2012 - 2013 season featuring the houseband Nexus. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, with Royalston legend Phil Leger as Master of Ceremonies, the Open Mic offers blues, folk, bluegrass, jazz and rock from your favorite local musicians, plus talented performers from throughout our area. Come hungry. A homemade main dish and delicious baked goods are always available. Additional Open Mic sessions will take place on the first Friday of each of the following four months: January 4, February 1, March 1, and April 5, 2013.



Tree Lighting

Royalston's Annual Tree Lighting will take place on the Wednesday, December 5th, at 6 pm, rain or shine. Activities include the tree lighting, carol singing, arrival of Santa Claus, singers from the Royalston Community School, and cocoa and cookies. This free event is sponsored by the Cultural Council.

Cultural Council Grants Awarded

At the November 5th meeting of the Royalston Cultural Council, a total of \$3,892.00 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council was awarded to a variety of organizations including the Royalston Community School (Theatre at the Mount), the Village School (Live Birds of Prey; Shea Theatre or Theatre at the Mount), the Phinehas Newton Library (Musical Petting Zoo, Observing Electricity and Magnets, Drumming Away the Blues, Royalston Shakespeare Company), the Orange Revitalization Partnership (Starry, Starry Night), Manuel King (Athol Y Youth Outreach Summer Theatre), John Porcino (Storyteller/Musician, to be presented at the Senior Luncheon), Sue Jones (Native American Storytelling), Quabbin Pro Musica (choral concert), and Open Mic.

ROYALSTON RESULTS OF STATE ELECTION -NOV 6, 2012

Out of 877 Registered voters, 678 voted 77.30%

OFFICE/CANDIDATES	PCT 1	PCT 2	TOTAL
President and Vice President			
JOHNSON AND GRAY	5	3	8
OBAMA AND BIDEN	225	166	391
ROMNEY AND RYAN	170	97	267
STEIN AND HONKALA	6	4	10
OTHER		2	2
TOTALS	408	270	678
SENATOR IN CONGRESS			
SCOTT BROWN	195	135	330
ELIZABETH WARREN	206	133	339
BLANK	6	2	8
OTHER	1		1
TOTALS	408	270	678
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS			
JAMES MCGOVERN 296	197	493	
BLANK	111	73	184
OTHER	1		1
TOTALS	408	270	678
COUNCILLOR - EIGHTH DISTRICT			
MICHAEL ALBANO	196	144	340
MICHAEL FRANCO	138	65	203
BLANK	74	61	135
TOTALS	408	270	678
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT			
HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN, WORCESTER			
STANLEY ROSENBERG	288	185	473
BLANK	119	85	204
OTHER	1		1
TOTALS	408	270	678

250th Committee Events

At the recent craft fair, the weather was great and the people of Royalston showed up to the Royalston Community School in good numbers. The members of the 250th celebration committee came out two times: to set up on Friday the 16th and then again on Saturday the 17th at 6:30a.m. Carol Rogers was the person to suggest this good fund raising event and to see it through to the end. The only issue was that there were not enough vendors to fill the school gym. Maybe next year it will be bigger. A big thank you to all that helped out and especially to the public for driving to the school to see the show.

Thanks to Jan St. Jean for making many baskets for the silent auction; Lenny Hoffman for donating the turkey, ham and other foods for the two holiday baskets; and Robert Anthony for donating the proceeds of his sales to the event. Also, the committee would like to recognize all the appreciated contributions that John Poor has given in the last year. He was a man who demonstrated his dedication to the town in many ways.

Upcoming 250th committee events



*Dec. 8 **120 club drawing**

*January 26 **Souper Bowl.** The brainchild of Marlene Jarvenpaa, come enjoy ice skating, snow fun and games along with bottomless soup slurping at the Royalston Fish and Game Club, all at one low price. Great for kids and their adults as well as anyone who likes winter or hearty food and convivial company.

*February 23 **Chicken Pie Supper** followed by Royalston's first ever **trivia night.** Get together a team of 5 players to compete for the coveted trivia title and prize.

Have input about the celebration? All welcome to come share ideas on December 8 at 7 pm at the next committee meeting.

SECOND FRANKLIN DISTRICT	PCT 1	PCT 2	TOTAL
DENISE ANDREWS	172	113	285
SUSANNAH WHIPPS LEE	176	100	276
SRICHARD SCHOBER, JR	40	34	74
BLANK	19	23	42
OTHER	1		1
TOTALS	408	270	678
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT			
CLERK OF COURTS			
DENNIS P.MCMANUS	287	180	467
BLANK	121	90	211
TOTALS	408	270	678
REGISTER OF DEEDS			
ANTHONY VIGLIOTTI	283	186	469
BLANK	125	84	209
TOTALS	408	270	678
QUESTION # 1 Mfg Auto Repair Manual Avail			
YES	334	218	552
NO	52	38	90
BLANK	22	14	36
TOTALS	408	270	678
QUESTION # 2 End Life With Dignity			
YES	251	154	405
NO	146	109	255
BLANK	11	7	18
TOTALS	408	270	678
QUESTION # 3 Medical Marijuana			
YES	271	182	453
NO	125	80	205
BLANK	12	8	20
TOTALS	408	270	678
QUESTION # 4 Overtum citizens United			
YES	269	183	452
NO	81	44	125
BLANK	58	43	101
TOTALS	408	270	678

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you

To our Community Readers: **Joanne Deacon, Jim Draper, Janice Lefevre, Christine Sawyer, Megan Shaunnessy, and Linda Stone.**

Jennie Nano for the great Hip Hop classes for kids.

Jess Benoit for help at Hip Hop

Clarence Rabideau and Katie Robinson for volunteer help.

Sharon Harmon for a fragrant beautiful swag.

Marcia Flanagan, Raeann Leblanc and the Gronowitzes for magazine subscriptions

Donations to the Friends

Robert Anthony

John Poor

Shop at the Library this Holiday Season

* Raffle tickets for water color and ink drawing by Phil Mickey. Framed. \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

*Tote Bags: eco-bag, all natural cotton, fair-trade, imprinted with a Sonja Vaccari drawing of the library, buy one for \$5, buy two for \$10, get one free.

*Allen Young's new book: *The Man Who Got Lost: North Quabbin Stories* - \$15.00 and *North of Quabbin Revisited* - \$29.95

*Notecards: sets of 6 note cards and envelopes, each with a different drawing done by local artists - \$10.00

*Phinehas S. Newton Postcards – collectibles - \$.50

*T-shirts – Royalston Shakespeare Company T-shirts. mostly in small children's sizes from various years - \$5-\$10.

*Coffee Mugs from the Hamlet Production of the Royalston Shakespeare Company- \$5.00

*1830 and 1871 Maps of Royalston donated by the Royalston Historical Society - \$5.00

*Library's 100th anniversary photo book (very few)

*Scenes of Royalston Poster – various natural scenes and flora and fauna of Royalston by Noah Siegel - \$5.00

All proceeds benefit the Friends and go to support library programs and needs.

Zumba

Grab your sneakers. Zumba, led by Kristin Killay, is back at the Town Hall on Monday nights from 6 - 7 pm. Every fitness level is welcome in this accepting workout program that crosses Latin rhythmic dancing with aerobics. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library with sound system help from the Cultural Council and generous permission to use the hall from the Selectboard. Free but donations appreciated.

Story Time Holiday Party

The preschool story time will have a winter holiday party on Monday, December 17 at 10:00 at the library. Participants will make holiday crafts, hear a winter story, enjoy healthy snacks, and meet a surprise visitor. All preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to attend. No pre-registration is required.

Friendziwig's Ball - Holiday Contra Dance

Live music, steamy windows, smiling neighbors, holiday sweets, and traditional dancing in the beautiful Royalston Town Hall on December 29 at 7 pm. All dances called and taught by Norah Dooley as the No Name Band plays, reels, jigs, waltzes and more. Seasonable light refreshments. Fun for all ages. Free, but donations welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Two Holiday Gift-Making Classes

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring two gift-making classes on Sundays in December in Town Hall:

On Sunday, December 2, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, Lauren Pacosa of Northampton Beadery will lead a workshop on hammered wire earrings. Using sterling silver wire and beads, participants will learn various techniques on how to work with different hardness wire and create three pair of earrings. All tools will be provided. The cost of this workshop is \$30 which includes the sterling silver wire, beads, and all necessary pieces to create the earrings.

On Sunday, December 9, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., Kathy Morris will teach participants to create compressed straw braids using two different weaves. Participants can create ornaments to hang and/or make a pin or earrings. The \$5.00 supplies fee will cover the cost of all materials.



Pre-register for either class by visiting or contacting the library.

Restored Estabrook Portraits Returning to Royalston

The cleaning and restoration of the portraits of Ruth Greenwood Estabrook and Joseph Estabrook have been completed by Birgit Straehli of the Worcester Art Museum; they will be returning to the library soon. Funding for the restoration project came from the Community Preservation Funds. It was discovered that the portraits were done by the renowned portrait artist, John Greenwood of Hubbardston, a relative of Ruth's. His paintings hang in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Worcester Art Museum and are noted for their attention to fine detail and accomplished style. In Greenwood's journal he relates being trapped by snow in Royalston at about the time these portraits would have been painted. As they were most likely a wedding gift to a relative, they do not appear in his listing of over 600 commissioned portraits that he painted but provide a historically unique example of fine art. The artist was also related to Mrs. Elvira Woodbury, the secretary of the Ladies Benevolent Society, cited as being the prime backer of a public library in Royalston. Birgit will be giving the Pat Poor Memorial Lecture this coming spring on Painting Conservation and Restoration with emphasis on the portraits of Phinehas S. Newton and the Estabrooks.

Jen Bartkus Leaving Library

Kathy Morris



It is with a sad heart that we say good-bye to Jen Bartkus, who has worked at the library for twelve years. Jen and her family will be taking advantage of a wonderful opportunity and moving to Ohio.

At the library, she originally answered the ad for the preschool story time coordinator after the Community Partnership for Children gave a grant to open on Monday mornings. At that time, Jen and Tim's daughter, Hannah, was only a baby, the perfect age for the story time. Since then Hannah has been joined by two sisters, Carly and Laura, who are all avid library users. During these last twelve years Jen has proven to be indispensable. Her insight and keen observation have helped to make the story time and later all the preschool programs inventive, entertaining, and educational. Even though the position is part time, (only two hours for the story time and two hours one evening at the library), her dedication and commitment to the job have made it function as though she were full time. She has logged many additional hours: purchasing snacks, gathering craft materials, creating displays, setting up, cooking, and cleaning up. She also coordinated the Summer Preschool Programs, after school programs, Community Reading Day, and Family Fun Day. All these efforts were in addition to her regular duties and done just because these things needed to be in place to make the programs extraordinary. Her kindness is noticed by all and she has made people who use the library feel appreciated because she truly cares and takes the time to notice what people like to read and to further recommend or save items for them that she thinks and knows they would enjoy. I have loved working with her over the years and feel grateful to have been so lucky to have had the experience. There will be an empty space in all our hearts when she leaves and we will miss her dearly.

Library Welcomes Paula Pralinsky as Preschool Story Time Coordinator

Paula Pralinsky of Frye Hill Road, who has been filling in as Preschool Story Time coordinator, will take over the responsibilities from Jen Bartkus. Paula was raised in Athol but lived in San Francisco for twenty years before moving to Royalston two years ago with her husband, Bert Sawicki, and their two children, Rhea and Stashu. Paula is trained as a social worker in mental health, loves reading and the library, and looks forward to getting to know more people in town.



Art Exhibits

Scott Griffin of Stewart Road will exhibit his photographs and carvings at the library during the months of December and January. Scott was one of the winners in the photo contest held in preparation for the 100th anniversary celebration of the library. He has seriously been taking photos and bird carving for four years.

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. In December, the group will discuss *People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks. Copies of the book are available at the library. All are welcome to come munch cookies and chat about books and people.

Some New Materials at the Library December

Fiction

Baldacci, David	<i>The Forgotten</i>
Bowen, Rhys	<i>The Twelve Days of Christmas</i>
Bujold, Lois	<i>Captain Vorpatri's Alliance</i>
Coplin, Amanda	<i>The Orchardist</i>
Cronin, Justin	<i>The Twelve</i>
Flynn, Vince	<i>The Last Man</i>
Francis, Dick	<i>Dick Francis's Bloodline</i>
Hart, Carolyn	<i>What the Cat Saw</i>
Kingsolver, Barbara	<i>Flight Behavior</i>
Mayle, Peter	<i>The Marseille Caper</i>
McDevitt, Jack	<i>The Cassandra Project</i>
McEwan, Ian	<i>Sweet Tooth</i>
McKinty, Adrian	<i>The Cold Cold Ground</i>
Munro, Alice	<i>Dear Life</i>
Patterson, James	<i>Merry Christmas, Alex Cross</i>
Perry, Anne	<i>A Christmas Garland</i>
Riley, Lucinda	<i>The Girl on the Cliff</i>
Roberts, Nora	<i>The Perfect Hope</i>
Scott, A.D.	<i>Beneath the Abbey Wall</i>
Toibin, Colm	<i>The Testament of Mary</i>
Turano, Jen	<i>A Change in Fortune</i>
Wouk, Herman	<i>The Lawgiver</i>

Non-Fiction

Carlin, Peter	<i>Bruce</i>
	<i>Consumer Reports Buying Guide 2013</i>
Cussler, Clive	<i>Poseidon's Arrow</i>
Danchev, Alex	<i>Cezanne</i>
English, Ashley	<i>A Year of Pies</i>
Garten, Ina	<i>Barefoot Contessa Foolproof</i>
	<i>Guinness World Records 2013</i>
Keller, Thomas	<i>Bouchon Bakery</i>
Lanlard, Eric	<i>Tart it Up!</i>
Meacham, Jon	<i>Thomas Jefferson</i>
Perelman, Deb	<i>The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook</i>
Rushdie, Salman	<i>Joseph Anton</i>
Russo, Richard	<i>Elsewhere</i>
Sacks, Oliver	<i>Hallucinations</i>
Strayed, Cheryl	<i>Tiny Beautiful Things</i>
Wilkinson, Philip	<i>Great Buildings</i>
Young, Neil	<i>Waging Heavy Peace</i>

Audiobooks

Beaton, M.C.	<i>A Highland Christmas</i>
Beaton, M.C.	<i>Death of a Celebrity</i>
Chittister, Joan	<i>Following the Path</i>
Donoghue, Emma	<i>Astray</i>
Mantel, Hilary	<i>Bring up the Bodies</i>
McKinty, Adrian	<i>Falling Glass</i>
Meacham, Jon	<i>Thomas Jefferson</i>

Movies: *2 Days in New York, Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter, Arthur Christmas, Brave, Call the Midwife, Dance off the Inches, Kung-Fu Panda, Holiday, Magic Mike, My One and Only, Reality of Love, Secret of the Wings, Shrek's Thrilling Tales, Take this Waltz, The Amazing Spider-man, The Campaign, The Expendables 2, The Tall Man, The Watch, To Kill a Mockingbird, Upstairs Downstairs the Complete Second Season*

Music Cds

Aerosmith	<i>Music from another Dimension</i>	Various Artists	<i>Now 44</i>
Lady Antebellum	<i>On This Winter's Night</i>	Taylor Swift	<i>Red</i>
Mumford & Sons	<i>Babel</i>	One Direction	<i>Take me Home</i>
Various Artists	<i>Now that's what I call Today's Christmas!</i>		

For a complete listing of new materials, including children's books, go to www.royalstonlibrary.org. There, you can see archived newsletters, the library calendar, links to the card catalog, data bases and much more.



Congregational Churches News

Pastor Jeffrey L. Francis

Our churches would like to wish a very merry and warm Christmas to the Royalston Community. As we prepare for the holiday season take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of God's only Son, Jesus Christ. May the love, peace and joy of Christ fill your heart and family during this Christmas Season. FCCR and SCCR would also like to invite you to their Christmas Dinner on December 2nd. We will be providing music and a meal for all who would like to enjoy some festive joy and spirit. On this special Sunday we will be hosting the women's choir from New Life Home in Manchester, NH and have a special guest speaker, New Life founder and director, share about the vision and heart of this women's recovery home. All are welcome and the dinner following is our way of saying thank you to our community and the New Life Home. We would love for you to join us at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 2nd.

Also we are excited about serving our community through giving anyone in need a gift basket during the holiday season. If you are in need of assistance please call the church office at 978-249-9155. We are here to serve you and make your life better through our resources and all that God has blessed us with during tough times. If you cannot make it out for our services on Sunday please catch our FCCR services on <http://www.fccrlive.com/> and let us know what you need through our on-line prayer network.

Finally, we would like to invite everyone to our Christmas Service on December 23 at 6:00 pm. We will be hosting this special service at the South Church location, 3 School Street, South Royalston. All are welcome. We will have our Christmas Choir singing the carols of Christ's birth as well as other special music throughout this beautiful service. Special note: this is our Christmas Eve service two days before December 25th. As always our service times are SCCR - 9:00 am and FCCR - 11:00 am every Sunday all year long. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Deer Hunting Information

from the MassWildlife web-site:

Though Massachusetts is the 3rd most densely populated state in the country, it is a state where quality deer can be found anywhere. There are 85,000 to 95,000 deer statewide. Densities range from about 10 per square mile in northwestern Massachusetts to 45 to 55 per square mile on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Islands.

Shotgun Deer Season:
Nov. 26 - Dec 8, 2012

Blackpowder Deer Season:
Dec. 10 - Dec. 31, 2012

Residents are reminded to wear blaze orange in the woods. No hunting on Sundays.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS



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

Congratulations to **Laurie and Curtis Devneau**, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on November 14.

“Route 32 Blues” by **Linq** (Royalston’s Diane Lincoln) was written about a certain infamous stretch of road at the west end of town and has been heard many times at the Royalston Open Mic Series. The song, released in 2009 on her album *Life Goes On*, was just featured on the nationally syndicated radio show Car Talk with **Click and Clack** during Episode #1244: Grandma Is Peeling Rubber, originally aired on November 3, 2012.

Congratulations to **Rachel Killay** whose YMCA league soccer team (co-ed grades 5 - 7) just won the youth soccer championship.

First quarter academic honor rolls: Royalston Community School:

Gold honors (straight As) **Dominic Cassarino, Krystal McCulley, Noah Michelson, Sadie Wright, and Haley Wrigley**
Silver (A’s & B’s)- **Molly Divoll, Anthony Oro, Tayiah Neale, Jamieson Francis, Miranda Carpenter, Matthew Vega, Jocelyn Trenga, Olivia Parnanen, Erika Gambill, Scott Barakat, Cole Benoit, Maria Bianchi, Samantha Buturla, Matthew Willhite, Isabella Cooke, Ashley Hadmack, Alexandra Lajoie, Jonathan Mahony, and Kevin O’Connor**
Bronze: **Abby Roberts and Jayce Lajoie**
Teacher’s Award: **Emma Alger**

A letter from Stan Rosenberg, newly elected State Senator representing Royalston

To the Editor:

I want voters to know how much I appreciate their efforts to return me to office. I take very seriously the responsibilities of serving you in the Massachusetts Senate and the confidence you have placed in me and I am eager to take on the challenges that lie ahead. I am especially looking forward to representing the residents of the three new towns in my district: Orange, Royalston and Warwick. I remain energized to continue working in partnership with the people of western Massachusetts to promote our progressive values on Beacon Hill.

There is much work to be done and no time to waste. Please accept my sincerest thanks for letting me stay in the game.

RCS Poetry Club

A Fall Haiku
Squirrel

Jumping tree to tree
Hiding nuts underground homes
Puffy cheeked fur ball

By Samantha West, Laura Bartkus, Sydney Ares, Adriana Gaulzetti, Karrisa Agnelli, Ben Veness, Andrew Robinson

Milestones

John L. Poor

John Lufkin Poor, 88, died peacefully at his home on Saturday evening, November 10, 2012. Born in Danvers, Massachusetts March 18, 1924, one of two children born to Arthur K. Poor and Eva Mary, aka Eva May Abbie Sweetland.

Educated in the Danvers’ Public school system he went on to attend Tufts University whereupon he enlisted in the U.S.Navy’s V-1 program and later the NROTC in 1945. During this time he received his BA degree, was granted an Officer’s Commission, and met and in 1947, married Lt. Mary “Pat” Crumley, USN, (who outranked him at the time). He retired after a distinguished career in June of 1972 to his Royalston, Massachusetts home for the balance of his life.

His fondest memories while at sea included time served in the Mediterranean with the Sixth fleet during the cold war and particularly time spent in Italy. Sea duty included escort service during the Korean conflict. Returning to the States he was assigned to the night fighter squadron at NAS Moffet Field and then on to Navy post graduate studies in Monterey, California. His three children were born at this time. Additional postings found him and his family in Guam, Turkey, Cherry Point, as well as Norfolk and Alexandria, Virginia . Upon his request to be close to his ailing Mother, he was placed in charge of the Navy Research Facility in Natick, Massachusetts for the final posting of his Naval career. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with Star, Joint Services Commendation Medal.

His passion and interests included the restoration of the newly purchased 1841 Greek Revival Farm house in the Commons of Royalston and antiquing, including a serious collection of New England Stoneware. He was an avid birdwatcher and early jazz buff. He loved his animals and nature in general.

Civic duty included service on the Town Advisory Board and the Historic District Commission. In addition, he served the Board of Directors of the Athol Memorial Hospital where he sat on the Finance and the Endowment and Trust Committees. He was an avid supporter of the Phinehas S. Newton Library endowing the Pat Poor Memorial Lecture Series and providing substantial financial support for many projects over the years.

He is predeceased by his first wife of 57 years, Mary Patricia Crumley Poor and his sister Margaret, and leaves his second wife, Mildred Bertrand Clement, his eldest child Stephanie and husband John, also of Royalston, his twin boys, Mark and Terrence, wives Annie and Birdie of Nantucket and Ventura, California, respectively, along with his only granddaughter, Sarah Poor, five step-children and numerous step-grand and great grandchildren.

A collation was held on November 24. Many townspeople brought food to share and attended to express their fondness for John and to recognize his important role in our community. Burial was at the Lawrence Brook Cemetery, Royalston, Massachusetts. Those wishing to make a donation in John’s memory are asked to do so in the name of the Phineas S. Newton Library, Box 133 Royalston, MA 01368.

Recipe of the Month by Janice Draper

Janice and Jim Draper moved to Royalston from Onset about seven years ago but their association with town goes back to Jim's childhood when he visited his aunt, Virginia Frye, who had a summer home here and who later with her husband, Royal, retired to their home on Prospect Hill Road. When Jim retired as fire chief in Onset and then Janice retired as dining room manager at a country club in Marion, they moved full time to town. Janice became post mistress five years ago and Jim has used his expertise with fire trucks and fire department operations to the town's advantage.

Sweet and Sour Chicken (serves 4)

Two whole chicken legs and two whole chicken breasts

1/2 c. flour

1/2 c salad oil or shortening

1 t. salt

1/4 t. pepper

Sauce

One can (1 lb., 4 oz) sliced pineapple

1 c. sugar

2 T. cornstarch

3/4 c. cider vinegar

1 T. soy sauce

1/4 t. ginger

1 chicken bouillon cube

1 large green pepper, cut crosswise in 1/4" circles

- 1) Wash chicken, pat dry with paper towel. Coat chicken with flour.
- 2) Heat oil in large skillet. Add chicken, a few pieces at a time, and brown on all sides. Remove as browned to shallow roasting pan, arranging pieces skin side up. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
- 3) Preheat oven to 350°.
- 4) Make sauce. Drain pineapple pouring syrup into two cup measure. Add water to make 1 1/4 c.
- 5) In a medium saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch, pineapple syrup, vinegar, soy sauce, and bouillon cube. Bring to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil two minutes. Pour over chicken.
- 6) Bake uncovered 30 minutes. Add pineapple slices and green pepper. Bake 30 minutes longer or until chicken is tender. Serve with fluffy white rice.

The recipe for these cookies comes from **Virginia Frye** who made them for Jim when he was a youngster. Now Janice makes them for him. They are one of his favorite cookies.

Soft Molasses Cookies

1 3/4 c. flour

3/4 c. shortening

1 t. baking soda

1/4 c. brown sugar, firmly packed

1/2 t. cinnamon

1/2 c. molasses

1/4 t. salt

1/2 c. buttermilk or sour milk

Sift flour, measure; add soda cinnamon, and salt and sift again. Cream shortening and sugar thoroughly and gradually stir in molasses. Add dry ingredients alternately with buttermilk, stirring until smooth. Drop by tablespoons 2-3" apart on greased baking sheet. Bake in moderate oven (350°) 10-12 minutes until lightly browned. Makes 2 1/2 dozen cookies.

Open Space and Recreation Committee News

Paul Montero, Chairperson

Spirit Falls and its source Little Pond are in the area known as Jacob's Hill also owned and managed by The Trustees of Reservations. Along the forest hike to Spirit Falls you may see Long Pond, the East Branch of the Tully River, Mount Grace, and Tully Mountain. At Spirit Falls the stream cascades 200 feet down along the ridge of Jacob's Hill. In rainy times the spray of Spirit Falls is dramatic as it plunges down the cliff side. To reach the Spirit Falls travel west along Route 68 approximately 0.5 miles to the sign on the left for Jacob's Hill.



All three of the scenic waterfalls in Royalston have informational kiosks at the trail heads with maps and other information from The Trustees of Reservations. Visit anytime in any season from sunrise to sunset. Observe the cautionary rules posted and be kind to our natural wonders. Our Phineas S. Newton Library has a book entitled *New England Natural Wonders, an Explorers Guide* by John S. Burk that contains large beautiful pictures and descriptions of New England waterfalls including Royalston Falls and the Doane's Falls. In fact, Royalston Falls is the cover photograph of Mr. Burk's book. So even if readers can not make a visit to these wonderful open spaces, our library can help make a virtual trip. Mr. Burk writes "The character of waterfalls often changes notably throughout the seasons. As the snow melts in late winter and early spring, many thunder with a high volume."

We are extremely lucky to have such unspoiled open spaces within our town. The Trustees of Reservations make an unselfish and noble effort to protect wild and beautiful lands such as our waterfalls.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee welcomes everyone to its meetings to discuss issues of open space and recreation in our town. It holds public meetings at Town Hall on the 2nd Thursday of every other month.

Royalston Community School Update

Becky Divoll

Toys wanted! The RCS PTG will hold the annual Toy Bingo on Friday, Dec. 7th. Doors open at 6:00 and games begin at 6:30. Cards will be \$1.00 each. On that night, we will also be collecting canned goods for local food pantries and monetary donations to go towards Mrs. Carnie's annual gift to Heifer International.

The student council has chosen its officers for the 2012 - 2013 school year. President: Rachel Killay, Vice-President Molly Divoll, Co-Secretaries: Miranda Carpenter & Jocelyn Trenga, Treasurer: Jesse Hixon, Master at Arms: Sadie Wright.

The student council is now collecting items to make care packages to send to deployed soldiers. They will also be holding an in school Holiday Shoppe and an after school holiday craft workshop. The proceeds will be used for Heifer International.

Nature's Classroom 5th & 6th grade students are now selling raffle tickets. Over 30 gift cards will be individually awarded! Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3/\$5.00 and are available from participating students, at the South Royalston Store, RCS and the Royalston Post Office. Please consider buying a ticket to help support our students. Winners will be drawn at the RCS Holiday Concert on Dec. 10th.

School calendar

Dec. 3 *PTG Mtg. @ 3:15pm
Dec. 3 *Bullying *Parent Questions & Answers @ 4:15pm
Dec. 5 *1/2 day all students, lunch served, noon dismissal
Dec. 7 *Toy Bingo
Dec. 10 *RCS HOLIDAY CONCERT
Dec. 12 *Progress Report*Term 2
Dec. 19 *1/2 day, No Kindergarten, lunch served, noon dismissal
Dec. 24 - January 2 Vacation

Jan. 2 *return to school
Jan. 10 *Wild About Weather w Keith Johnson @ 10:00am (sponsored by Royalston Academy)
Jan. 18 *No School *teacher professional development
Jan. 21 *No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 23 *End of Term 2
Jan. 30 *1/2 day, NO Kindergarten, lunch served, noon dismissal

Fire Department

As Chief of the Fire Department I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all that assisted and supported its annual turkey raffle this year. We had another very successful raffle, which provides funds for the purchase of much needed items for the fire department and E.M.S. The funds raised here keep the amount of the request down at Annual Town Meeting .

Chief Keith R. Newton - R.F.D.

At the Village School

December 6 Star Watch (1st try) at Richardsons' Farm in Phillipston
December 19 11 a.m. Holiday Celebration, half day, then school vacation begins

January 2 Teacher Inservice Day

January 3 School resumes for students

Wednesday January 9th 6:30 p.m. Math Night for Parents with Polly Wagner, Math Coach. It's always an exciting evening when Polly Wagner presents about how children learn math and develop lifelong math thinking. Polly has worked across Massachusetts, in both urban and rural schools as a Kindergarten-8th grade Math Coach, including 7 years as a K-8 coach for the Boston Public Schools. Polly's coaching experience includes collaborating with teachers about teaching and students' work in classroom settings; facilitating professional development seminars for groups of teachers and as a staff member of the Developing Mathematical Ideas Leadership Institutes at Mt. Holyoke College. Polly has been the Village School math coach for over 10 years.

The Village School, on the Common, is hosting an Open House on Saturday February 9th from 10 a.m. to noon. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served.



Royalston was a bustling town in the middle of the 19th century with stores, mills, two churches and doctors offices. Bartletts Store was located on the common and was later moved a short distance to South Royalston Rd where it now stands as a private residence. There was no need to leave Royalston for holiday shopping.

Paul A. Montero, P.L.S.
Professional Land Surveyor

101 Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd - PO Box 20
Royalston, Massachusetts 01368
Telephone: (978) 249-5879

Classifieds

Services Available:

Plowing & Sanding. Contact Wayne R. Newton at 978-895-7422.

Sharpening: knives and scissors. Also, custom knife making. Call Rob 978-320-9982.

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.

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 Laurie Truehart private wood carving lessons. 978-249-3291.

Winter Storage: motorcycle, automobiles, boats, etc. Unheated. Clean and dry. Call 978-249-4013.

Custom sawmill. Call 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

Ford F150 1994. \$2,000 or best offer. Call Henry. 978-249-9274.

Hand-knitted items: baby sweater sets, mittens, hats, boot socks, etc. Nice selection of colors. Call 978-249-4013.

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale, Goats for sale: for meat or pets or rent them for brush clearing. Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062

Free-Range, pasture raised pork. Raised in Royalston. \$2.00/pound; hanging weight. Processing fees not included. Whole pig or half. We arrange and ship for processing. 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- Local, raw honey from happy bees at Squier Davis Farm. \$6.00/1 lb. jar or \$12.00/2 lb. jar (new this year). Call 978-249-4000 or stop by. We are located on Route 32 just past mile marker 60.

Nature books and prints suitable for children and adults. Commissions accepted. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

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.

Royalston Maple Syrup from Divoll's sugar house. Prices \$9/pint; \$15/qt; \$28/ half gal.; \$50/gal. Call Randy at 978-602-5583.

Garden Notes

November 18, 2012



I have mentioned it before, but, especially at this time of year, I am conscious of the continuity of my garden. The compost pile started two years ago is spread on the garden. The pile started last fall is turned. By next summer it will be broken down enough for me to set extra tomato seedlings within it. This year's pile, a mixture of garden refuse, leaves, wood ashes, and a dollop of manure, is started at the spot vacated by the finished compost. I'm not being naïve here: the continuity continues only as long as I continue it. You'd think by begetting four offspring I would have been assured of someone to whom I could pass my hoe. Not at the moment, but I'm not at the hoe-passing stage yet.

I've been doing a little of this and a little of that, minimizing the burden I would otherwise feel if I spent an entire day at one task. A little of this and a little of that is comprised of garden cleanup, bed preparations, compost-building, leaf raking, wood cutting (and moving and stacking) and any number of other things which crop up on a daily basis.

November 25, 2012

Just returned from a walk through the garden. Sun filtering through a wispy cloud cover but a fearsome wind out of the north provided for less than ideal conditions for a garden walk. Notwithstanding, I needed to shake the lethargy that is beginning to sink in. There will be ample time for lethargy in the months to follow. There are still some tasks to perform, but I put them off to avoid closure to the garden season. Carrots, beets, celeriac, and leeks await harvesting. A smattering of green stuff (spinach, lettuce, tatsoi, cilantro, and parsley) is gleaned from time to time.

This month's feature vegetable: Jerusalem artichokes. I know, most people are trying to rid themselves of them. You see, they spread like mint and any piece of a tuber remaining in the ground will sprout the following spring. In fact, I received my planting stock from number four son Joshua who was trying to eradicate them from a section of his yard. (He was unsuccessful.) I planted them in an out-of-the-way spot where their aggressive nature would bother me not-at-all. I harvested in the fall, more than satisfied with the yield given the modest investment in time I provided them. Similarly, they can be harvested in the spring which I might be more inclined to do in the future since the fall crop has not stored well. Steamed until fork-tender (and no more, since they turn mushy), they taste like, like.....Jerusalem artichokes.

Next year's garden beckons even while this year's lingers. I have already determined what I will plant and where it will be planted. It is not rocket science. I do keep records and refer to amounts planted in recent years. Some adjustments are made, based on results, sales, and our general inclination to consume the crop. I lay out schematics of the garden for the last few years and fill in next year's, rotating crops and assuring that there is sufficient space to provide for my needs. The first of the seed catalogs has arrived, suggesting that all one need do is drop seeds into the ground, sit back, and await the drop-dead beautiful vegetables lavishly illustrated. In thirty-five years I don't recall results quite as stunning as those pictures in the seed catalogs. There's always next year.

Larry Siegel



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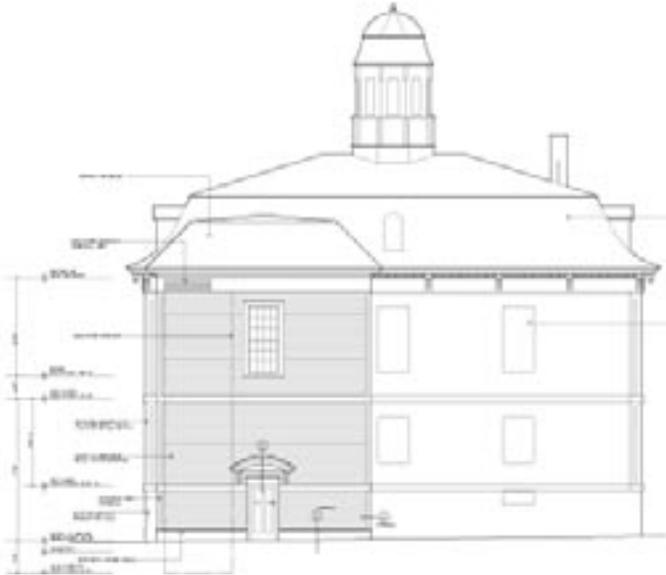
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On December 18, 2012 at 7:30 PM , the Historic District Commission will hold a public hearing at the Town Hall on an application from the Selectmen to erect an annex in the back of the Town Hall to hold an elevator and stairs. The application can be viewed at <http://www.royalston-ma.gov/hdc> (click on 'Pending Applications'). The exact configuration may change by the hearing, but the plan will be similar to this drawing:



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Submission deadline for February issue is: Jan. 22

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Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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