

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2013



Volume XV, Issue X

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

Calendar of Events

February 1 Friday

7 - 10 pm **Open mic at Town Hall.** Sign up ahead, 978-575-1052 or show up early to play music. Light supper foods and other refreshments available for purchase. Free admission. Sponsored by the Cultural council.

February 2 Saturday **Groundhog Day**

February 4 Monday

6 - 7 pm Zumba classes at town hall. There are participants from ages 18 to 80 at this popular workout using latin dance moves and aerobics. Sponsored by the Friends of the library. Free, but donations appreciated. **Continues every Monday** until April. Inclement weather? Call the library if in doubt.

February 7 Thursday

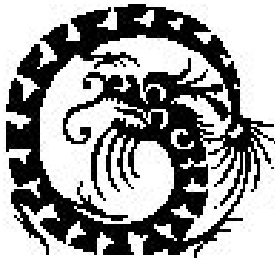
3:45 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

February 8 and 9 Friday and Saturday

7 pm **Seussical by Monty Tech**

February 9 Saturday

10 am - noon **The Village School, on the Common, is hosting an Open House** Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served. For more information, call (978) 249-3505, or go to www.villageschoolma.org



February 10 Sunday

Chinese Lunar New Year 4711 - Year of the Snake

2:20 a.m. **New Snow Moon**

February 12 Tuesday

Mardi Gras
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 13 Wednesday **Ash Wednesday**

Early Dismissal Elementary Schools - ARRSD half day

February 14 Thursday **Valentine's Day**

February 15 Friday

Close of School - **Winter Vacation** through Sunday, February 24

February 16 Saturday

7:30 - 10:30 a.m. **Monthly Phillipston Lions' Club Breakfast**

February 18 Monday **Presidents' Day Observation**

Post Office, schools, library, town offices closed

February 19 Tuesday

7 pm **Drum Away the Blues** with Craig Harris at Town Hall. Free, participatory fun for all ages, but advance tickets, available at the library (in person or reserved by phone) are required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council.

February 21 Thursday

7:30 pm **The Historic District Commission will hold a public hearing** on an application by John Knight to erect a 20' x 40' open side pavilion in the South East corner of Bullock Park at the Town Hall. The application is available at <http://www.royalston-ma.gov/HDC> (click on "Take a look at pending applications")

February 23 Saturday

6 pm **Chicken pot pie supper** (homemade pie, salad, pumpkin bread and dessert) at town hall to benefit Royalston's 250th anniversary events. \$12 adults. Call 249-0358 for tickets. Followed by **Trivia Night** at 7 pm. Get together a team of 5 participants to compete (\$25 entry fee/ team.) Cash prize and trophy for 1st place. Beer and wine for sale at both events.

6:30 **Royalston F&G's roast beef supper:** all-you-can-eat salad and bread, followed by heaping platters of thinly sliced roast beef, giant bowls of mashed potatoes and green beans, boats of gravy, as well as coffee, tea and dessert will fill the hungriest customer. Contact the club at 978-249-3004 for ticket availability.

February 25 Monday

3:26 a.m. **Full Snow Moon**
7 pm Library Trustee Meeting

March 1 Friday

7 - 10 pm **Open Mic** at Town Hall. Melanie and the Blue Shots are the house band.

RCS Poetry Club

Slow Snail

Snail creeps slowly to the food

Crunching Carrots he sits there

Thinking about cucumbers.

Sydney Ares, Andrew Robinson, Adriana Gaulzetti, Ben Veness, Jacob Rathburn, Karrisa Agnelli, Samantha West, Rebecca Nano

Selectboard Notes:

Christine Long, member

It's Up to You

What is it worth to you for the town to establish what is in effect a savings account to pay for big-ticket repairs, capital improvements to municipal buildings, and capital expenditures?

As you know, the town faces challenges every year with aging equipment and buildings, and the special-purpose stabilization fund we propose makes for good fiscal management. It makes a start on long-term planning (something voters have said they want the town to do), provides a way to avoid "budgeting by crisis," and helps the town manage debt. Is this kind of financial good sense worth 35 cents on the tax rate? For a resident owning a median-value property (\$180,000), that would cost an additional \$63 per year.

What is it worth to you to increase the hours of the town's administrative assistant and library director by a bit in order to make them eligible for health insurance? The workload of both employees more than justifies the increase in time, and fairness demands that at long last they be offered health insurance, just as the town's five full-time employees are offered. Is this kind of fairness worth 18 cents on the tax rate? For a resident owning that median-value property, it would mean an additional \$32 per year.

On January 15 and again on January 22 the Select Board voted unanimously to ask you these questions. You will answer them by your vote on **two override questions that will appear on the April 1 town election ballot.** The first will ask your approval of a \$50,000 override to establish a capital projects stabilization fund. The second will ask your approval to raise the levy limit by \$25,000 to fund employee health insurance costs. Together, they will ask you to approve raising the tax rate by 53 cents and, if you own one of those median-value properties, cost you \$95 a year on your tax bill. It's up to you.

One other note this month: We want to remind all users of town hall, and all visitors to its functions, that they need to respect the town's historic property and its pocketbook. At some recent event, the huge, impressive portrait of Sir Isaac Royal, the man for whom this town is named, was severely damaged. At another, earlier event, a restroom fixture was broken. The first event was undoubtedly vandalism, the second may have been an accident. In both cases, however, the town is put to embarrassment and expense. We ask that all users and visitors remain vigilant, defend town hall and other town facilities if they observe any misuse, and report any problems to our office.

2013 Dog Licensing:



2013 Dog Tags are available at the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk's Office is open on Mondays from 9 a.m. – 1p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please bring a copy of your dog's current rabies vaccination slip in order to license your dog. The fees for dog tags have not changed, they are still:

\$6.00 spayed/neutered dog and \$10.00 unaltered dog
 Kennel licensing prices for multiple dogs are also available.

Annual Town Election - April 1, 2013



The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday, Feb. 11, 2013 - no later than 5:00 pm. Submit papers to the Town Clerk's office in Whitney Hall/ 5 School St. Office hours are Mondays from 9 am - 1 pm and 6 pm - 8 pm.

The last day to object or withdraw from the election ballot is Wednesday, February 27, 2013 by 5 pm.

The last day to register to vote in this election will be Thursday, March 12, 2013. Voter registration hours will be held from 2 - 4 pm and 7 - 8 pm in the town clerk's office (Whitney Hall). All mail-in registrations must be postmarked no later than March 12, 2013.

The following are the positions that will appear on the Annual Town Election Ballot. This list of names reflects those currently serving in that office. Names in bold have taken out papers:

POSITION	Currently in office	Term
Selectman	John W. Morse, III	3 yrs
Town Clerk	Melanie A. Mangum	3 yrs
Constable	John Divoll	3 yrs
Assessor	Michael Lajoie	3 yrs
Cemetery Commission	Wayne Newton	3 yrs
Board of Health	Chester Hall, III	3 yrs
Library Trustee	Mary Lisa Freden	3 yrs
Board of Public Welfare	Vacant	2 yrs
Board of Public Welfare	Roland Hamel	3 yrs
Planning Board	Thomas Musco	5 yrs
Sewer Commission	Curtis Deveneau	3 yrs.
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund	vacant	1 yr
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund	Wayne Newton	1 yr
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund	Roland Hamel	1 yr
Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund	Roy Smith	1 yr
Athol-Royalston Reg. School - Royalston	Chester Hall, III	3 yrs
Athol- Royalston Reg. School - ATHOL:		
	Dale H. Lougee	
	Steven Kaczmarczyk	
	Joseph F. Maga	3 yrs

Cultural Council's First Fridays Open Mic

On Friday, February 1, 7:00 pm in the Town Hall, the Royalston Open Mic will continue 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 months: March 1, and April 5, 2013.

Fire Department: Open Burning Season Reminders

Chief Keith R. Newton

The 2013 Open Burning season has begun. This is an annual period of time designated to allow Massachusetts residents the opportunity for burning light brush, forestry debris, small tree pruning, dead raspberry stalks, and blueberry patches for pruning purposes. **The law prohibits leaves, grass, hay, stumps and trees. NO BUILDING DEBRIS!** This is done by some and I urge you to not continue. The air quality for some neighbors will be compromised when these items are burnt. The D.E.P. has made air quality part of the enforcement by local officials and is punishable by stiff fines.

I, as Fire Chief, will call each morning to get the Mass D.E.P. Air Quality Forecast to make a decision as to allowing open burning for that day. As the burning season progresses toward warmer months, it may feel appropriate to burn brush but remember the warmer and dryer the area, the much more volatile and dangerous for a fire getting out of control. When you add wind to the equation, you are in for real trouble. Please remember "Open Burning" is a privilege. Let's burn safe!!

The process for obtaining a Burning Permit is as follows:

Permits are available only by coming in person to the Fire Station # 1 on Athol Road the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month. (7:00P.M.) You shall read and sign the permit and on the day you desire to burn, you must call the non emergency line (978-249-8138) and after listening to the instructions leave your name, permit number, your street address and a call back number where you can be reached. The hours of burning are from 10:00A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Thank you for your full cooperation.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

FLU SEASON IS HERE! It's not too late to get a flu vaccine. Check with your primary care physician for availability. There are still flu clinics being held. Go to www.myllocalclinic.com to search for one. Also, many of the pharmacies, such as CVS in Athol, still have vaccines. The Royalston Board of Health also recommends the pneumococcal vaccine which helps protect you from pneumonia. Complications from the flu can lead to more serious pneumonia. This vaccine is recommended every five years and once after 69 years old. Check with your primary care provider for availability. If it's time to update your tetanus vaccine, ask for TDAP which includes the pertussis vaccine. This helps protect from pertussis which has been occurring in the US recently. For more information on vaccine safety and information go to www.mass.gov/dph or to www.cdc.gov for up to date information. Other tips to protect yourself from ongoing viruses in the community are to cover your cough, (eg cough into your elbow), wash your hands, and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth especially when in public. Above all, if you are sick, stay home and get better. Don't go to work or school and spread your illness. Have a healthy winter season. Enjoy the nice bug free winter air.

TRANSFER STATION UPGRADE: The transfer station recently had the large cement blocks by the roll off containers sealed with concrete. These blocks had been laid dry when installed and had started to erode. Thanks to Jeff Hopkins Masonry for a job well done. This job, combined with the recent asphaltting work done by the Department of Public Work at the transfer station, has made the facility safer.

250th Committee Events

Chicken Pie Supper and Trivia Night

February 23rd at town hall

Chicken pie supper – homemade pot pie with leeks and wild mushrooms on Saturday, February 23 at 6 pm town hall. Tickets are \$12 and available from Geoff Newton, Beth Gospodarek or any 250th committee member. Beer and wine for sale.

General Knowledge Trivia Night

After the supper at 7 pm....

Get together a team with 5 members to compete to wear the town's biggest smarty pants. It costs \$25/ team to enter. Winners take home \$35 and a fabulous trophy. Already, the zumba group, the library and the EMS/FD have entered. Town boards, clubs, families, random passerby are all welcome to form teams to take them on. Points awarded for funniest wrong answers. Beer and wine for sale. All profits benefit the town's 250th celebration.

Here are some sample questions:

1. What nationality is Carlos Slim, the richest person in the world according to *Forbes* 2012?
2. "Swifter, higher, stronger" is the motto for what?
3. In painting, the point on the horizon where parallel lines appear to converge is called the "what" point?
4. Name a US state that starts with an "A" but does not end with an "A"?
5. What is the title of the Rolling Stones debut album, released in 1964?
6. How many times did Isaac Royal visit Royalston?
7. "Acer" is the Latin name for which tree found in Royalston?
8. Before Hawaii and Alaska, what was the last state admitted to the Union?
9. On the TV show "How I Met Your Mother" what is the name of the pub that the characters often go to after work?
10. The Greek root 'syn', found in words like synonym and syntax, means what?



Answers: Mexican, the Olympics, the vanishing point, Arkansas, The Rolling Stones, zero, maple, Arizona, McLaren's, "with, along with, together"

In March, A **St. Paddy's Supper** is planned for Saturday 3/16 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall. Members of the Ladies' Benevolent Society will be manning the kitchen, which features a traditional corned beef (Adams' Farm lean and juicy) with boiled potatoes, onions, carrots, turnip and cabbage. Home baked breads and desserts with a variety of beverages will round out the meal. All dinner ticket holders will be eligible for the "Pot'o'Gold" drawing for \$100 in gold dollar coins; the first 120 Club drawing of 2013, by the 250th Committee, will also take place that evening.

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

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

Donations to the Friends

Jean and Donald Stanton

Tom and Leslie Freudenheim

Tom Montagno

George Bodman – for children’s programs

Alyce Mayo

Marie Claire and Pierre Humblet

Polly and Chuck Longworth

the MacPhee family

In Memory of John Poor

To the Friends:

Carl Kamp and Alyce Mayo

Paul Tortorella

To the Library:

Joan and David O’Connor

Patience Bundschuh

Raeann LeBlanc and Roger O’Donnell

In Memory of Werner Bundschuh

Norah Dooley and Robert Fairchild

Emily Santillo

James Broschart

Help Wanted: Substitute Librarian: Looking for a person who can substitute at the library on short notice during regular library hours. Candidate should be familiar with libraries, have a love of and knowledge of books, be computer literate (we have an automated circulation system and catalog), and preferably a bachelor’s degree. This is an irregular position, with sporadic limited hours. If you are interested, please stop by the library during regular hours to fill out an application and learn more about the position which pays \$9.00 per hour.

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Copies of the current book are available at the library. All are welcome to come munch cookies and chat about books.

Zumba

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. If the weather is iffy, listen to the library answering machine, 978-249-3572, for cancellations.

February Vacaton Program

Drum Away Cabin Fever with Craig Harris

Celebrate the joys of rhythm and music from around the globe on Tuesday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall with percussionist, author, and educator Craig Harris who will lead his award winning, multicultural participatory program for all ages. Fueled by a lifelong passion for music, Craig Harris has worn many hats. Writing music-related articles and reviews since 1971, his work has appeared in newspapers (*Boston Globe*, *Boston Phoenix*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Village Voice*), magazines (*Sing Out!*, *Dirty Linen*, *Global Rhythm*, *People*), and websites and he’s authored (or co-authored) several books on world music, American folk music, and modern Native American music. A drummer/percussionist since his teens, Harris has performed in concert and/or recorded with many internationally known artists. Possessing a Master’s degree in education, and Massachusetts teaching certification in music and early education, he taught music in public and charter schools for over 25 years.

This program is funded by the Royalston Cultural Council and sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. **The program is free but you must have a ticket to attend. Tickets for the program may be obtained at the library in the two weeks prior to the program or may be reserved by calling the library.** Remaining tickets will be available at the town hall before the program on a first come first served basis and reserved tickets will be held until five minutes before the start of the program.

Upcoming Programs: Watch for information

Kids’ Cross Culture Club is in the works with programs on Spain and Saudi Arabia also **Birgit Straehle, the Worcester Art Museum conservator** who restored the portraits of Phinehas S. Newton and Ruth and Joseph Estabrook, will present a program in late March on her cleaning and restoration of these paintings as well as general conservation techniques and their importance.

Magic Lanterns

Within the month, there will be a new look to the front hall of the library. Two additional pendant lights to brighten up the area are being installed. The lighting will make perusing the new books, displays, and movies easier on the eyes. In addition, thanks to volunteers Clarence Rabideau, Allison Bergquist, and Katie Robinson, who converted the DVDs to thin-paks, and to staff member Barb Richardson, who has color-coded and numbered all the movies, it is now much easier to find a specific movie.

Ice Cream Makers, Popcorn Maker, and Digital Projector -

All Available for Loan: Just a reminder that there are two, one quart ball ice cream makers and an air popper to borrow. Add to that a digital projector that can be attached to your DVD player or computer to have a movie night or slide show with ice cream and popcorn! Or curl up with a good book and a bowl of ice cream or popcorn. Anyone with a valid library card may borrow these items.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult Fiction

Barry, Brunonia	<i>The Map of True Places</i>
Brett, Simon	<i>The Corpse on the Court</i>
Butcher, Jim	<i>Cold Days</i>
Carr, Caleb	<i>The Legend of Broken</i>
Chevalier, Tracy	<i>The Last Runaway</i>
Chiaverini, Jennifer	<i>The Giving Quilt</i>
Clancy, Tom	<i>Threat Vector</i>
Connelly, Michael	<i>The Black Box</i>
Cook, Robin	<i>Nano</i>
Cornwell, Bernard	<i>1356</i>
Doetsch, Richard	<i>The Thieves of Legend</i>
Evanovich, Janet	<i>Notorious Nineteen</i>
Evanovich, Janet	<i>The Husband List</i>
Flynn, Gillian	<i>Dark Places</i>
Frazier, Ian	<i>The Cursing Mommy's Book of Days</i>
Grafton, Sue	<i>Kinsey and Me</i>
Griffin, W.E.B.	<i>Empire and Honor</i>
Harrington, Laura	<i>Alice Bliss</i>
Howard, Linda	<i>Shadow Woman</i>
Hunter, Stephen	<i>The Third Bullet</i>
Jonasson, Jonas	<i>The One Hundred Year Old Man who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared</i>
Koontz, Dean	<i>Odd Interlude</i>
Krentz, Jayne	<i>Dream Eyes</i>
Mathis, Ayana	<i>The Twelve Tribes of Hattie</i>
Morton, Kate	<i>The Secret Keeper</i>
Oates, Joyce	<i>Daddy Love</i>
Patterson, James	<i>Private London</i>
Powers, Kevin	<i>The Yellow Birds</i>
Rankin, Ian	<i>Standing in Another Man's Grave</i>
Sherwood, Pamela	<i>Waltz with a Stranger</i>
Steel, Danielle	<i>The Sins of the Mother</i>
Vine, Barbara	<i>The Child's Child</i>
Wolf, Dick	<i>The Intercept</i>
Zeidner, Lisa	<i>Love Bomb</i>

For the complete list of new materials, including juvenile literature, visit the library website: www.royalstonlibrary.org

Adult Non-Fiction

Alexander, Eben	<i>Proof of Heaven</i>
Bennett, Tony	<i>Life is a Gift (Large Print)</i>
Boo, Katherine	<i>Behind the Beautiful Forevers</i>
Bown, Deni	<i>Encyclopedia of Herbs</i>
Bowers, David	<i>Real Irish Food</i>
Collins, Billy	<i>Horoscopes for the Dead</i>
Cooks, Illustrated	<i>The Science of Good Cooking</i>
Diamond, Jared	<i>The World until Yesterday</i>
Espada, Martin	<i>The Trouble Ball</i>
Fisher, Kathleen	<i>Taylor's Guide to Shrubs</i>
Flannery, Tim	<i>Among the Islands</i>
King, Ross	<i>Leonardo and the Last Supper</i>
Lamott, Anne	<i>Help, Thanks, Wow</i>
LaPlante, Eve	<i>Marmee & Louisa</i>
Mickel, John	<i>Ferns for American Gardens</i>
Myung, U	<i>Stop Living in this Land</i>
Redness, Lauren	<i>Radioactive</i>
Sotomayor, Sonia	<i>My Beloved World</i>
Swiss, Deborah	<i>The Tin Ticket</i>
Taste of Home	<i>Best Loved Recipes</i>
Trillin, Calvin	<i>Dogfight</i>
Vasbinder, Nicole	<i>Sewing Solutions</i>
Watterson, Bill	<i>There's Treasure Everywhere</i>
Weingarten, M.	<i>Preserving Wild Foods</i>
Weldon, Fay	<i>Habits of the House</i>
Williamson, M.	<i>The Law of Divine Compensation</i>

DVDs: *Arbitrage, Ballistic, Barbie as the Princess and the Pauper, Beasts of the Southern Wild, The Bourne Legacy, Butter, A Christmas Kiss, The Dark Knight, Rises, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days, Dragons, Frankenweenie, Game Change, Homeland Season 1, Hope Springs, Ice Age- Continental Drift, Kung Fu Panda, Holiday, The Land Before Time, Lawless, Looper, Man on a Wire, Manhattan, Men in Black 3, Miracle on 34th Street, The Odd Life of Timothy Green, Paranorman, Santa Paws 2, Savages, Taken 2, Ted, To Rome with Love, Total Recall, Trouble with the Curve, West Side Story, Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, and The Words*

Art Exhibits

Illustrations by Gordon Morrison on Display

From February through March, in the first of two exhibits, a small select group of images taken from a few of the many books and periodicals illustrated by Gordon Morrison between 1976 and 2011 will be displayed at the library. These pieces were originally exhibited at the Arnold Arboretum in 2012, as part of a retrospective of four decades of natural history illustration by Gordon.



The second exhibit, scheduled for April through May, combines images done for educational displays for major nature organizations, with illustrations from the five children's books written and illustrated by Gordon. Many of these pieces were also originally part of the Arnold Arboretum retrospective.

Gordon has lived in Royalston for 31/2 years and has been an active participant in the Cultural Council and many other town events. He is the acclaimed illustrator of several books: *Newcomb's Wild Flower Guide, The Birdwatcher's Companion, Flora Novae Angliae, and three 'Peterson Field Guides' - Eastern Forests, Rocky Mountain & Southwest Forests and California & Pacific Northwest Forests*. He has written and illustrated: five children's books as well as several series in magazines: "the Curious Naturalist" in the Massachusetts' Audubon Society publication *Sanctuary* and two other series for *Horticulture Magazine*.

Audiobooks

Armstrong, Kelley	<i>Waking the Witch (MP3 CD)</i>
Brown, Sandra	<i>Tough Customer (MP3 CD)</i>
Burke, James Lee	<i>Feast Day of Fools (MP3 CD)</i>
Burke, James Lee	<i>The Glass Rainbow (MP3 CD)</i>
Chabon, Michael	<i>Telegraph Avenue</i>
Collins, Billy	<i>Billy Collins Live</i>
Crichton, Michael	<i>Micro (MP3 CD)</i>
Crichton, Michael	<i>Pirates Latitudes (MP3 CD)</i>
Cussler, Clive	<i>The Kingdom (MP3 CD)</i>
Cussler, Clive	<i>The Race (MP3 CD)</i>
Francis, Dick	<i>Dick Francis's Gamble (MP3 CD)</i>
Griffin, W.E.B.	<i>Victory and Honor (MP3 CD)</i>
Harris, Charlaine	<i>The Sookie Stackhouse Companion (MP3 CD)</i>
Jance, Judith	<i>Betrayal of Trust (MP3 CD)</i>
Keller, Julia	<i>A Killing in the Hills</i>
Kingsolver, Barbara	<i>Flight Behavior</i>
Lee, Chang-rae	<i>The Surrendered (MP3 CD)</i>
Lehane, Dennis	<i>Live by Night</i>
Lehane, Dennis	<i>Moonlight Mile (MP3 CD)</i>
Silva, Daniel	<i>The Fallen Angel</i>
Sotomayor, Sonia	<i>My Beloved World</i>

CDs

Alicia Keys	<i>Girl on Fire</i>	Van Morrison	<i>Born to Sing</i>
Glee	<i>Glee Holiday Album 3</i>	Various Artists	<i>Rock of Ages Soundtrack</i>

Thank You Royalston

On December 7, 2012, Our Family's life changed forever. The day started off as any other day, chores, work, getting some things done before snow comes, etc. We went about our day not knowing that our lives were about to change, that the worst nightmare any parent has was about to become our lives. Our beautiful daughter of 19 years and 6 days, Amanda Lee was taken from us that day as the victim of a single car accident on Route 202 in New Salem. Amanda was the youngest of our four daughters, and the twin of Amy Marie.

This devastating news was delivered that evening, by our Police Chief Curtis Deveneau, Fire Chief Keith Newton, State Police Officer Chris Willhite, a State Police Detective and two other State Police Officers. There is no worse feeling than driving up to your home and seeing all these men standing in your yard after you have not been able to get ahold of your daughter all afternoon. You know why they are there, and you wish them away. Faces that we see everyday, and associate with our small town in many capacities are there as the bearers of bad news, but also as compassionate friends and neighbors who literally would do anything they can to ease the pain and support you through your troubled times.

We sincerely thank all these men, and the other men and women out there that put their lives on the line for all of us every day, never knowing when the call will come, or what it will be. There is no way to tell you how comforting it is to have familiar faces there, the faces of people that you truly believe when they tell you how sorry they are to have to bring you this news. They were there, and we are thankful for them.

The next days are a blur of people, plans, doing our best to pay an appropriate tribute to our beautiful girl, and overwhelming grief which was so well supported by our many family and friends. The visits, phone calls, food, cards and well wishes have helped more than we could possibly say. Then, the calling hours and funeral. Over 800 people stood out in the cold, literally for hours to come in and pay their respects to our girl, and to be there for us. It was unbelievable, an amazing tribute to our amazing daughter. The representation and support from this entire town (I will never forget pulling up to Jonas Alliene Cemetery and seeing the fire fighters lined up on the hill waiting for us to arrive) 4-H members and representatives from across the state (and other states), Mass Quarter Horse members, R.C.S, Monty Tech, The Red Apple Farm, and the list goes on and on. I must say that Tom O'Connor of Higgins O'Connor Funeral Home handled this entire situation with his always present grace, poise, and dignity.

As time goes by
you have

this. We will never get over this, it is impossible. The best we can do is to muddle through and try to figure out life without our girl. We miss her so bad it hurts every second of every day, and we try to go on.

This

your neighbors are like family, and we can all be there for one another. It is what makes our town a village, and we sincerely thank each and every one of you who has been there for us in whatever capacity that may be.

With Love,

ed note: memorial contributions can be sent:

Amanda Putney Family Fund/ P.O. Box 17/ Royalston, MA 01368;

Athol Savings Bank/ P.O. Box 937/ Athol, MA 01331-9984/ Defraying expenses

Mass Quarter Horse Youth Association/ C/O Marge Tanner/ 236 Battle St./ Webster, NH 03303

Regional 4-H Horse Show/ C/O Patricia Ames/ 279 Wheeler Ave./ Orange, MA 01364

A BIG thank you from Ohio

We made it! Two adults, three kids, two dogs, two cats, a stuffed to the gills Tahoe and U-Haul, one perfectly packed tractor trailer and the kindness and support from one special town was all it took to get us here. It has been a crazy transition but the girls are settling in nicely to their new school and I am hopelessly lost in unpacking. We are getting used to new things, like being #811 on the waiting list at the Columbus Library for the new Evanovich book, no duh

I just want to express my deep appreciation and thanks to all the thoughtfulness and kindness shown to me, while living in Royalston and while we were leaving. The lovely goodbye reception at the library and all the well-wishes filled me with the joy and strength to take this leap. I consider it a gift to have worked at the Library and at the Assessors' office and a complete pleasure to have gotten to know all of you. The time spent in Royalston and the interaction with amazing people has helped make me the person I am and for that I am so grateful. You are missed everyday.

I think Carly sums it up best when I ask her how she likes it here: "its ok, Mom, but its not home, yet.

*Thank you and all my best,
Jen Bartkus*



Royalston, MA Train Falls Through Bridge, June 1870

Posted on www3.gendisasters.com December 20th, 2010 by Stu Beitler submitted to the newsletter by Patience Bundschuh and Boyd Estus. If you have local history to share, send it along to the RCN.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Boston, June 16. - A fearful accident occurred on the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad between Royalston and Athol today. A train going west broke through a bridge. MR. JOHNSON, pop corn man and two others were killed; JOHN MURPHY, seriously wounded; WM. ELLIOTT, baggage-master, seriously wounded; A. C. GARDNER, leg broken; A. W. HOLCOMB, mail agent, seriously wounded; MISS L. L. BULLOCK, of Royalston, injured in the head; WM. FOSTER, engineer, injured in the head; Master THOS. JONES, head slightly injured; P. S. YOUNG, slightly wounded; NELLIE WHITAKER, slightly wounded; ALICE MATHER, slightly wounded; MRS. SALLIE FISH, slightly wounded; JONES, fireman, seriously wounded; MRS. CHAS. BEAN, slightly wounded; ANGELINE LATTERS, slightly wounded; HATTIE KING and infant, face hurt. R. WATERMAN, while assisting at the wreck, had his leg hurt. Surgeons were on hand, and every attention was shown to the wounded. The engine and three cars were wrecked.

Boston, June 17. - Those killed outright by the accident on the Vermont & Massachusetts R.R. yesterday were:

GEN. A. JOHNSON of Fitchburg.

JAS. O'CONNELL.

The following list comprises most of those dangerously wounded:

JOHN MURPHY, of Lowell, recovery is impossible.

MRS. HATTIE KING and a small infant, both badly bruised.

WILLIAM ELLIOTT, of Fitchburg, baggage master, probably fatally.

E. O. BRITTON, of Fitchburg, mail agent, back bruised and serious internal injuries which will prove fatal.

W. A. FOSTER, of Fitchburg, engineer, severely bruised and hip cut.

H. W. JONES, fireman, will probable not recover.

A. S. BLACKWELL, cut over right eye and head jammed.

GEORGE HOWARD, fatal fracture of the skull.

LUCY BULLOCK, of Royalston, bruised in the head and face.

JENNIE BRUCE, badly bruised.

MRS. JAMES TURNER, of Royalston, probably fatally.

A. E. DOOLITTLE, leg broken.

BYRON BARTLETT, bruised in the face badly.

MRS. CHARLES DEAN SUNDERLAND, bruised in the face badly.

MRS. YOUNG, of Boston, head and chest badly bruised.

MRS. FIELDS, Taunton, leg broken.



Crazy Quilt, made in South Royalston in 1885, on display

As part of a school quilt-making/ history project organized by teachers Julie Stanley, Jenn Ames and Whitney Archambeault and funded by the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation (AREF), a well-preserved quilt is on display at Riverbend and Sanders St. Schools in Athol. The quilt is appliquéed with unusually sweet folk life scenes, including a pig on a leash, a steaming coffee pot stitched with the name "Belle Kendall", a man carrying sap buckets, a cat with the name Ad'die, chickens, fans, a flag, a stack of doughnuts, a sunflower, a caldron of soup, a grandfather clock, several cows and more. The name Mrs H.P. Day and the year is stitched in the center block. There are other names and initials as well as geometric shapes and symbols throughout.

The quilt is on loan to the schools from the Athol Historical Society. According to *Massachusetts Quilts, our Common Wealth* (Lynne Zacer Bassett editor), the quilt was said to have been donated to the Athol Grange. However, this is a bit murky as the Athol Grange was not founded until 1887, two years after the quilt was made. This book asserts that the quilt was likely made by a ladies' group at the 2nd Congregational Church. Unfortunately, the pertinent church records were destroyed in the 1904 fire that took the Woolen Mill, the original Whitney Hall, as well as the church. *Do newsletter readers have any information about this quilt or the women that made it?*

Recipe of the Month

250th Celebration Chicken Pot Pie

February screams comfort food and this recipe is down right cozy. On February 23, the 250th committee will be holding a chicken pie supper, serving homemade individual pies closely related to this recipe that serves 6. The supper is followed by a trivia night. To get tickets for the supper or sign up trivia teams, call Geoff Newton or e-mail chasegos@gis.net.

for the filling:

1 tbsp butter and 2 tbsp olive oil

1/2 pound shitake, hen of the woods or other mushrooms

2 large leeks, rinsed well and thinly sliced

2 carrots, peeled and thinkly sliced

1 1/2 pounds cooked chicken (parts are up to you) cut in 1 inch chunks salt and pepper

1 cup frozen peas 1/3 cup heavy cream

3 tbsp flour 3 tbsp parsley

2 cups chicken broth 2 tsp died tarragon



Heat butter and oil in large skillet. Add mushrooms, leeks, and carrots. Cook over med. heat until veg are softened, about 10 min. Remove to a large bowl. Add chicken and peas. Return unwashed skillet to stove. Melt the remaining butter. Add the flour and cook, stirring for 2 min. Gradually whisk in broth and cream; cook another 3 min until smooth and thickened. Combine this sauce with the chicken mixture, parsley, tarragon and season w/ salt and pepper. Transfer to pie plate. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

for the crust

1 1/2 cups flour

3 tbsp butter and 3 tbsp shortening

1 tbsp baking powder

1/2 cup milk

1/2 tsp salt

Make a dough by pastry-blending the flour, baking powder and salt with the fat until most of the pieces are no bigger than small peas. Stir in enough milk that the dough holds together. Knead 6 times. Roll out. Cover the pie and add a few vent slashes. Bake until golden and bubbly- about 25 min.

Army Corps of Engineers Update

The Trustees of Reservations are hosting a Winter Campout on February 9-10 at the Tully Lake Campground. You are guaranteed a spot for this special overnight adventure. We'll help you with the basics (you might even end up sleeping in your own survival snow cave!), and your fellow campers will supply the fun and adventure. Bring snowshoes and skis. Cost: Members: \$15/person. Nonmembers: \$20/person. Call 978-248-9455 or email wkorby@ttor.org for more details.

Birch Hill Dam has a new winter parking area on River Road in South Royalston. You now have a great starting point for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, walking or biking multi-use trails on over 4,000 acres while the park is closed to automobiles for the season.

Both Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake have Facebook sites where we post timely information such as snowmobile trail openings/closings, park events, and road closures due to flooding. You do not have to join Facebook to view this information. Visit www.birchhilldam.org or www.tullylake.org to connect with us. Of course, we are always happy to take your phone calls. Call 978-249-4467 for Birch Hill Dam and 978-249-9150 for Tully Lake.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Due to insufficient Department of Homeland Security funding, Royalston's "Reverse 9-1-1" system through the Worcester County Sheriff's Office has been discontinued. According to Royalston Emergency Management Agency (REMA) Director Jim Barclay, the system had been used very few times and the impact to Royalston should be minimal. Barclay notes that for those with internet availability, the Town's web site is now being updated frequently with important information. In the case of a serious emergency, "old school" methods like phone calling trees and door-to-door notification of vital information can be conducted, as they have in the past.

Residents who hold a Tech Level license as an amateur radio operator (HAM), and are interested in the General Level license, are being invited to participate in a program at the Gardner Emergency Operations Center (EOC), being co-sponsored by the Gardner EMA and Mohawk Amateur Radio Club. Class size is limited to ten students, who must come prepared with the 7th Ed. Of the ARRL General Class License Manual; a scientific calculator (TI-30xa is the usual, but any one ok), and a digital multi-meter. Contact Gardner EMA Director Paul Topolski at w1sex@arrl.net.

What to Do

When the Power Goes Out?

Call National Grid by using a cell or princess phone as soon as your power goes out: Outage reporting number is 1-800-465-1212; give your name and street address. It's a good idea to store this number on your cell phone, and write it down on a note next to your princess phone.) Calling National Grid as soon as possible helps them to determine the size and scope of the outage, and speeds up the return to normal service.



It's middle of winter here at R.C.S and all is going very well.

Tayah Neale, grade 6

In the classrooms, we have some fun things going on. In Kindergarten there is a new head teacher, Mrs. Willhite. The class is very excited to have a new teacher and hope for a good rest of the school year. In grade one, Ms. Drouin is starting a writing with pictures class, sponsored by A-REF where children will be able to take pictures with the cameras and spend their classes writing about that one picture. As a finale, on February 15th at 6 pm will be a writers' tea for grades 1-3. The writers' tea for grades 4-6 will be held on March 22nd at 6 pm. In grade three, they're still working on healthy snacks. And in grade six the children are going to be making catapults.

P.T.G News: The next meeting will be on January 29th. The group hopes you can make it.

Calendar

- Feb 05 *Writing with Pictures, K-2, A-REF Grant Funded Program
- Feb 06 *1/2 Day all Schools
- Feb 12 *Writing with Pictures, K-2, A-REF Grant Funded Program
- Feb 13 *1/2 Day Elementary, No Kindergarten
- Feb 15 *DARE Graduation
- Feb 15 *Writing with Pictures, Tea @ 6:00pm
- Feb 18 - 22 *February Vacation
- Feb 26 *Writing with Pictures, 3-6, A-REF Grant Funded Program

Bruces Browser Turns 8

Bruce's Browser in uptown Athol, owned by Royalston resident Diane Lincoln, is celebrating its 8th anniversary on Saturday, February 2nd, and you're invited to join in on the fun! We're open from 9AM to 7PM, and we'll have food, raffle prizes and discounts. Have a free cup of Dean's Beans locally roasted, organically grown, fair trade coffee!

WJDF will broadcast live from the store from 10AM to 1PM, and you can also listen in on the fun at 97.3FM or online at www.wjdf.com.

Several authors will join us while WJDF is here, including Ruth McCarty from Sisters in Crime, Quabbin historian J R Greene, prolific Royalston author and journalist Allen Young, Royalston's 2011 Derringer Short Story Award winner (and Browser employee!) Kathy Chencharik, poet/photographer Jean Stabell, and two-time western Massachusetts Poet's Seat Laureate Candace Curran.

Royalston Democrats to Caucus Feb. 8

The Democratic Town Committee of Royalston will meet at 7 p.m. on Feb. 8 in the town hall for an official caucus in preparation for the state convention to take place June 1 in Lowell. Caucus participants will choose a delegate and alternate to the convention, which is likely to vote on platform issues and a candidate for United States Senate to replace John Kerry, who is expected to become Secretary of State.

All registered Royalston voters enrolled in the Democratic party are eligible to attend the caucus, according to Allen Young, committee chair.

Monty Tech News

For the past several years, Monty Tech has articulated agreements with a variety of institutions with an eye towards students earning credits towards professional status or college. Among the latest agreements is an articulation with Newbury College, which offers Monty Tech Culinary Arts students up to nine credit hours for work completed during their high school years – that’s about \$8,000 worth of credit! In addition, an articulation agreement between the MA Association of Vocational Administrators and the MA Community College Network granting a minimum of three MA Community College credits to students in Auto Technology; Culinary Arts; Early Childhood Ed.; Engineering Tech; Graphic Communications; and Info Tech!

How do YOU feel about Monty Tech engaging a School Resource Officer? This officer would be in school full time, unformed with tools of his/her trade, including a side arm. S/he would work in concert with the Superintendent-Director or his designee to assist with the education, counseling and if necessary, protection of the students from either internal or external threats. While an “active shooter on the premises” is the current hot topic, an SRO is so much more than an armed guard. S/he would assist with anti-bullying education, counsel students on making wise life-choices, serve as a resource to the administration on law enforcement matters and provide a way for students to discuss concerns without being identified to anyone in school. Those interested in additional information can check out www.nasro.org or attend the school committee meeting of February 6 for a presentation on School Resource Officers. It is expected a vote will be taken by the committee following that presentation.

In that vein, Monty Tech conducted a 45-minute “Code Yellow” lockdown drill to test current security procedures on December 14 – eerily enough, one day before the Sandy Hook massacre. Westminster PD assisted. An automated call was made to all Monty Tech families and School Committee members to allay fears over second hand information. The drill went extremely well, and the on-going safety and security plan will be adjusted as needed based on the drill review. Administrators ensured the School Committee that they are, “...aggressively working on creating a culture of protection” in the school, where the Monty Tech community works together to provide all with a safe environment that doesn’t feel like a fortress.

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

Monthly Breakfasts in Phillipston

The Lion’s Club February Breakfast Special is Texas-style French toast with strawberries and whipped cream. Breakfasts to order are also available with any style eggs, sausage, home fries, toast/French toast and beverages. Specials and all other meals are \$7/adults; \$6/seniors; \$5/under 12 – add \$1 for omelets. The Phillipston-Area Lion’s Club would love some more Royalston members – contact Junior Whitney at 978-249-3566 to see what it’s all about!

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

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

At the Village School

January was SKY month, inspired by Jack Borden’s For Spacious Skies. If you passed by, you might have seen children on their backs in the snow, gazing at the sky, which was the beginning phase of writing SKY poetry. Older Reading Buddies helped their younger Preschool and kindergarten buddies write SKY poems, and they shared them together at a giant All School SKY poetry reading. Best of all, children were looking up all month, and noticing the sky, watching clouds form and disappear. It brought a wonderful depth to their normal awareness. And the whole school, staff and children, all together experienced heightened SKY awareness.

In February, we continue cross country skiing on Royalston common on Friday afternoons. Open House for the larger community is February 9th, from 10-12. Just before February vacation, the 2nd-6th graders look forward to a day of learning downhill skiing at Crotched Mtn. After February vacation, the K-6th graders go swimming at the YMCA on Friday afternoons.

Open House: The Village School is hosting an Open House on Saturday February 9th from 10 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in the school for your children, come right at 10, so you can visit all the classrooms, meet all the teachers, visit with current parents and meet alumni. Bring your children - there are activities in all the classrooms for children, so your children will have lots to do. Find out about openings for next year, how to apply, and about financial aid. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are served. *The Village School is an affordable independent school serving children from Preschool through 6th grade, located on Royalston Common, just across from the Post Office. For more information, call (978) 249-3505, or go to www.villageschoolma.org In addition to hands on, in-depth academic studies, the school focuses on kindness and attention to the individual.*

Aromatherapy Demystified

North Quabbin Garden Club/ Thursday, February 17, 2011 7 p.m. Millers River Environmental Center/100 Main Street, Athol, MA Join community herbalist Carol Joyce of White Buffalo Herbs in Warwick for an evening of hands-on fun - an introduction to the “Scentsational” world of aromatherapy. Learn the basics of aromatherapy, how to make several useful items, and take home your own aromamist. There is a materials fee of \$2 for this event which the club will match with another \$3 per person. To pre-register, please contact gardens@millersriver.net.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions. Members are currently working on a wildlife habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center and planning their annual spring sale of perennial plants and specialty items. Guests and new members are always welcome, so join us this month and learn something new about gardening. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a donation.

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

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

January 20, 2013

I am hard-pressed to provide anything in the way of garden-related notes this month. I assume you will cut me some slack, this being mid-winter after all. Perhaps the snow cover is contributing to the general malaise. It arrived early and remains still. Last year at this time the ground was open, the temperatures moderate [although, admittedly, they have not been bone-chillingly cold (even to these seventy-year old bones) this year either], and I was able to walk around the garden, grabbing a leaf of this and a leaf of that, even digging a parsnip or two.

Yes, I have ordered my seeds and that counts for something. I am a creature of habit when it comes to seed selection. Of the hundred or so varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flowers I will be growing, only ten have not been tried before (including a carrot and an onion in my un-ending attempt to achieve some sort of success with these crops). Ordering seed is something of a trade-off. Larger packets are much better value than smaller, but seed longevity varies wildly among types. Onions must be ordered annually but tomato, cucumber, squash, melon, beet/chard, brassicas, and radish seeds can remain viable for five years (and beyond). Figure two to three years for all other vegetables.

And yes, I will be attending, this weekend, an organic farming conference in Saratoga Springs, New York where I have been invited to give a presentation ("It's Been a Long Row to Hoe: Thirty-five Years of Pushing the Soil Around a North-central Massachusetts Garden"). It will provide me the opportunity to mingle with like-minded individuals and at least think of gardening.

Otherwise, inertia has set in. (Not self-imposed, mind you, a result rather, of an absence of projects to occupy my time.) Tending to the animals provides some relief from the inertia but there are not enough animals to offer much in the way of relief (two steer, nine chickens, one dog, two cats, and one opossum). Since some of that tending involves pushing around manure, uneaten hay, and bedding, I suppose I can describe it as garden-related. (In a year's time the piles will be broken down enough to incorporate into the garden.)

I am also "producing" wood ash for the garden. Every day or two (or three) I bond with my chainsaw. Since I not only have next winter's firewood cut and stacked but the winter's after that as well, this is a make-work situation, undertaken primarily to burn up some of those calories that seem to build up during this time of year. Anyway, sooner or late this wood will be burned and ashes will accumulate (approximately two hundred pounds per year). Added to the garden, it moderates the natural acidity of most Royalston soils (eliminating the need for limestone) and provides potassium, a necessary element for plant growth.

The amaryllis, a gift from neighbors Janice and Jim Draper, is in bloom. Nothing modest about the amaryllis, showy red flowers six inches across. One bloom per bulb is a given; two is a bonus. Ours has two open and two more showing color. I will take it as a sign, a sign that the forthcoming season will be especially bountiful.

Larry Siegel



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Wildlife Sightings

Prospect Hill Farm has a possum-in-residence. According to Larry Siegel, "The opossum is a southern mammal. Heretofore, I've occasionally spotted them, always in the summer



and always laying prone in the middle of a road. This winter we have frequent visitor to its shed consuming whatever food remains in the dog's dish. . Another sign of global warming? Perhaps, and that, of course, will affect garden conditions."

photo: Benjamin Morris-Siegel



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Tyler Boyd, son of Erin Mahoney of Pleasant Street, was selected by the principal of the Athol-Royalston Middle School to be the ambassador from Royalston to attend Project 351 at the State House in Boston.. This is a day-long event brings together 8th graders from every town in the state and encourages community involvement.

Photos by **Liane Brandon** will be exhibited at at Providence City Hall thorough March 15th . "Masters of the Craft: Gallery of Memory" commemorates the 80th anniversary of the founding of Local 1329 of the International Longshoremens' Association (I.L.A.) in Providence, the first labor union in New England organized predominantly by Cape Verdeans.

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

Royalston Resident
Star Route 80
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Submission deadline for March issue is: Feb. 22

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

In person: Drop off at library

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