

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2013



Volume XVI, Issue III

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

Calendar of Events

April 1 Monday **All Fools' Day**
(Zumba is finished until workouts resume in the fall)

10 am - 8 pm **Annual Town Election, precincts 1 and 2**

3:30 - 4:30 pm Visit the **Dominican Republic** at the library's **Cross Culture Club** with Yanibel Perez and Erisbel Pena, students in the Athol public schools.

April 4 Thursday
3:45 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

April 5 Friday
7 pm **Royalston Open Mic**, last of the season. The house band will be Empty Banks with Dan Vacarri, Joel Cameron, and Dan Babineau.

April 7 Sunday **Gala opening Village School Student Art Show** at the Gardner Ale House, complimentary finger foods and drinks. Show continues until May 13.

April 13 Saturday
6:30 pm **Royalston Fish and Game Club Roast Beef Supper.** Call 978-249-3004 for tickets. BLITZ following.

April 15 Monday **Patriots' Day**
School Vacation Week

April 16 Tuesday
7:00-9:00 p.m. **Copper Plate Etching Class for Beginners** at the Town Hall. Continues for 2 more Tues evenings. Taught by Josh Doub and Lydia Musco. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and funded by the Royalston Academy. Call the library 978-249-3572 to register.

April 18 Thursday
1:30 pm **Come Fly a Kite** at the library.

Bring a kite or use one of ours. Kite cake and spring poetry too. Sponsored by the Friends.



April 19 Friday

6:30 pm **Historical Society Meeting** quarterly meeting and pot luck supper at the home of Peter Kraniak, the corner of Winchendon and Stone Road.

April 20 Saturday

6 pm **Roast Beef supper**, sponsored by the 250th Committee. See Geoff for tickets.

7 pm **Tools of the Trade – A Botanical Illustrator's Narrative** with Gordon Morrison, accompanied by Carl Kamp's Classical Guitar. Refreshments. Free at the library.

April 22 Monday **Earth Day**

4:30 pm **Library Book Discussion Group** meets to discuss *Elegance of a Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. All welcome for tea, cookies, and satisfying book chat. Copies available to be checked out at the library.

April 24 Wednesday

Early Dismissal - ARRS Professional Development Day

April 25 Thursday

3:57 p.m. **Full Pink Moon**

April 26 Friday

Arbor Day

April 27 Saturday

9 am - 12 noon **Royalston Roadside Clean-up.** Join your neighbors to pick up trash for free recycling/disposal. Wear gloves; be safe. Cook-out at Bullock Park following. Call Charlie Scribner for more info: 978-249-2649.

April 29 Monday

school day **RCS Walk-a-thon**, sponsors needed

April 30 Tuesday

8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Special State Primary – Town Hall (precinct 1); Whitney Hall (precinct 2)

May 1 Wednesday **May Day Celebration**

9 am **May pole, singing and Morris Dancers** at the Village School. Community is warmly invited. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies.

Save the Date:

May 5 Sunday **Fire Dept Pancake Breakfast**

Annual Town Election – Monday, April 1, 2013

Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, 13 The Common. Precinct 2 is located at Whitney Hall, 5 School St.

If you are not already a registered voter, a Special voter registration hours will be held at the Town Clerk's office from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

As of this writing, there are no contests for the seats on this ballot. Please note that the seat for the Athol member of the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee is a "Vote for Three", but currently only 2 candidates are on the ballot. There are also 2 override questions that will be put to voters.

Selectman – 3 years – John W. Morse, III
Town Clerk – 3 years – Melanie Mangum
Assessor – 3 years – Michael Lajoie
Constable – 3 years – (no candidates)
Cemetery Commission – 3 years – Wayne Newton
Board of Health – 3 years – Chester Hall, III
Library Trustee – 3 years – Mary L. Freden
Board of Public Welfare – 3 years – Roland Hamel
Board of Public Welfare – 2 years – Gary Winitzer
Planning Board – 5 years – Thomas Musco
Sewer Commission – 3 years – (no candidates)
Trustees of the J. N. Bartlett Fund – 4, one-year terms – Roland Hamel, Wayne Newton, Roy Smith, Jr. and Gary Winitzer
Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – Royalston – 3 years – Chester Hall, III; Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – ATHOL – 3 years – Vote for Three – 2 candidates on ballot – Dale H. Lougee and Joseph F. Maga.

Question #1: Shall the town of Royalston be allowed to assess an additional \$50,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding a capital projects stabilization fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?

Question #2: Shall the town of Royalston be allowed to assess an additional \$25,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding employee health insurance costs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?

Special State Primary – April 30, 2013 – Special State Election – June 25, 2013 As of this writing, candidate information for the Special State Primary was not available.

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Seeks New Members

by Paul Montero, Chairperson

The Open Space and Recreation Committee membership has dwindled from seven members to just three. The Committee is actively seeking new members. Here is an opportunity to serve your town. No experience is necessary. Just have a desire to preserve open spaces or be interested in promoting passive recreational activities. We hold public meetings every other month on the second Thursday evening beginning at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

Select Board Notes

Christine Long, Member

First note: If you are reading this on April 1 before 7 p.m., remember to head for the polls at town hall (Precinct 1) or Whitney Hall (Precinct 2) for the annual town election. The Select Board unanimously recommends that voters vote YES on both Question 1 and Question 2. Together, these overrides represent only a very modest increase in taxes – 53 cents on the tax rate and \$95 a year on a house worth the median \$180,000 – but together they also put the town on a path to much better planning for the future.

Second note: The Select Board also urges voters to attend the annual town meeting on Friday, May 10 at 7 p.m.

At this time of this writing, the board is at work on the budget for the coming fiscal year. We thought we were on fairly strong footing until we received an unexpectedly high assessment from Montachusett Regional Technical Vocational School, one that will mean juggling elsewhere in the budget. By contrast, at the time of this writing, the Athol-Royalston Regional School District is proposing a slightly decreased assessment to Royalston. (That number is still tentative, however.) The current draft of the budget includes very modest raises for town employees, firefighters and police officers and very modest increases in operating funds.

Third note: The fire truck that serves South Royalston – and the rest of town, as well as the broader area that Royalston responds to – is almost 33 years old and beyond repair. Fire Chief Keith Newton and the board are exploring options for replacing this truck, but voters at annual town meeting and at one of the special elections later this spring may be asked to approve debt exclusion for a lease/purchase of a new fire truck.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

Checkpoint Charlie's annual spring roadside clean up is scheduled for April 27th. Now's the time to pick a road and clean up what the winter melt has left. Please when bringing items to the transfer station, separate if possible, bottles, cans, plastics, metal items. Don't throw away if it can be recycled. Let's keep Royalston roads as litter free as possible.

Speaking of spring clean up, if you are cleaning up your property and have bulky waste such as large items that can't be recycled, be sure to check in with the attendant for the proper method and cost for disposal. If it's clothing, textiles, etc., as long as it's not wet, there are collection boxes for that. See attendant if you have questions. Also, there is collection for recycling rechargeable batteries such as nickel cadmium, button, and lead acid batteries. See attendant for proper area for these items. Regular alkaline non-rechargeable batteries can go in trash.

Royalston Roadside Cleanup



April 27, 2013
9:00 to 12:00
Bullock Park

Join your neighbors to help clean up
Royalston
Hotdogs and Chili after cleanup
Contact Charlie Scribner
978-249-2649

History Corner

Get involved with the Historical Society

Peter Kraniak

Love history? Are you one who reads books, magazines and on-line articles dealing with history? Why not join the local historical society and support its efforts to keep the history of Royalston before the people. There is a need for people who are lovers of history to become a part of this organization, which was founded in 1946 to preserve the many articles and items that are part of this community.

The group does not ask much of its members except to join us 4 times a year at meetings to offer input on how to make our town's history more open to all. Your thoughts, ideas and presence would be of great value to the Society. As the years progress, the membership is advancing in age but are committed to the past that has been so important to us. We know what has been but cannot see the future. So, help your society and join us in its goal. Our next meeting is April 19, 2013, which is an annual pot luck supper and takes place at the home of Peter Kraniak, the corner of Winchendon and Stone Road. It begins at 6:30 pm. If you are a lover of history, do come, join us and give us your support.

Common Restoration Group Seeks Information about the Monument on the Common

Does anyone have memories, photographs, information about the installation in the 1940's of the marble Veterans Memorial on the common in front of the Town Hall? The Bullock family was involved in memory of Calvin Bullock. Was the flag pole with an eagle on top anchored into the monument or did it go all the way through the monument and into the ground.? If you have any information, please contact the Common Restoration Committee's Clarence Rabideau at 978-249-7691.



This photo of the 1944 dedication of the Royalston Memorial Flagpole from the collection of Virginia Frye and courtesy of Jim and Janice Draper donated to the Town Scrapbook (Notice that the town hall has colored trim.)

Next 250th Committee Community Supper on April 20 6 pm at town hall - come, start celebrating



Fifty years ago the Town's "Bicentennial Belles" made costumes and paraded as part of the anniversary celebration. What should happen this time? Come to the next planning meeting on April 4 at 7 pm at town hall to share input.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904

While Royalston is one of the more "communication challenged" areas of Massachusetts, the reality is most residents now have multiple devices (cell phones, tablets, computers) capable of electronic communication across many "channels" (cell phone calls, written e-mails, social media messaging) These devices can often be used when more traditional methods like landlines fail. A few pointers to get you going:

Learn to send updates via text and internet from your mobile phone to your contacts and social media accounts. Cell texting can work where voice does not.

Keep extra phone batteries in a safe place along with either a solar powered or hand crank charger for power outages. A car charger (especially with the USB port for computers, etc.) should be kept in each vehicle.

Program ICE (In Case of Emergency) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone. Advise ICE contacts and be sure they know of any of your medical or special needs.

Maintain at least one hard-wired phone in your home/office if you have a land-line. They can work for a number of days in power outages; portable phones need electricity.

If you need to leave your home in an emergency, forward your land-line to your cell.

Prepare a family contact sheet with at least one out-of-town contact that may be better to reach family.

For a more complete listing of communications tips and for other ideas don preparedness, check out www.ready.gov .

Phineas 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

Clarence Rabideau for continued help with weeding the collection ; **Katie Robinson** for help with moving books and processing books; **Maureen Blasco, Beth Gospodarek, and Patti Stanko** for delicious baked goods; and **Kristin Killay** for a lot of fun Zumba this season. We can't wait to start again next year.

Donations:

Chris Long, Marjorie Chase, Kathy Pirro, and John Kallel

In Memory of John Poor and Werner Bundschuh Daniel and Elizabeth Schodeck as well as Mildred Poor

In Memory of John Poor: Sharon and William Hood

Thank you to **Birgit Straehle**



for a charming and informative presentation on painting conservation. Two interesting take-aways: the portraitist, Ethan Allen Greenwood, was Mrs. Estabrook's cousin. He was snowbound in Royalston and probably painted these canvases as a wedding present, which took one day each. He painted hundreds of portraits rapidly with a goal of making enough money to collect art. He eventually founded the New England Museum but ran into financial difficulty. Greenwood's collection was sold and became the foundation of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

Come, fly a kite

Thursday, April 18th at 1:30 at the Library. All ages welcome for the umpteenth year of spring weather, wet feet, and free fun...

Kite flying at the library. Bring a kite or use one of ours! poetry cake

Kids' Cross Culture Club: The World Comes to the Library
3:30 - 4:30 pm in March. RCS students can take the bus from the school to the library with a permission note. Presentations are hands on and snacks are served. Adults are welcome too.

Monday, April 1 Visit the Dominican Republic with Yanibel and Erisbel Perez, students who recently moved from Santo Domingo to Athol.

Copper Plate Etching Class for Beginners

If you want to invite someone over to see your etchings, first, you have to have etchings...

The library is excited to have Josh Doub offer a copper plate etching class for beginners to be held three consecutive Tuesday evenings, April 16, 23, and 30, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Josh has a BFA and MFA and trained as a painter. His primary work includes abstract oil paintings. He will be assisted by Lydia Musco, who also has degrees in art and is a sculpture artist.

The class will give an overview of various intaglio printmaking techniques. Participants will design and make a copper plate etching. The class will focus on hard ground line drawing and drypoint. Participants with some experience will also be welcome to experiment with more advanced printmaking techniques (such as aquatint, etc.) during the class.

This class is designed for students ages 14 to adult. Funding for the program for young adults is from the Royalston Academy and for adults from the Friends of the Library. Younger students may be admitted with special permission. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to learn from two very talented young artists. Josh is originally from North Carolina and Lydia was raised in Royalston. They have recently built their home and studio in Royalston. To register for the class and for more information, call the library.



Tools of the Trade – A Botanical Illustrator’s Narrative Accompanied by Classical Guitar

Noted botanical illustrator, Gordon Morrison, will discuss how he goes about drawing in the field, discussing the tools he uses, what he looks for, and how he goes about creating a drawing such as those in Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide on Saturday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Gordon has illustrated several field guides, written and illustrated numerous books, written and illustrated articles for a plethora of magazines, and, of course, drawn extensively. This program will be preceded by a chance to observe the exhibit of drawings while listening to the talented classical guitar artist, Carl Kamp. Refreshments including beer and wine will be served. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult Fiction

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Bova, Ben | <i>Farside</i> |
| Bowen, Rhys | <i>The Family Way</i> |
| Box, C.J. | <i>Breaking Point</i> |
| Brooks, Terry | <i>Bloodfire Quest</i> |
| Card, Orson Scott | <i>The Gate Thief</i> |
| Coben, Harlan | <i>Six Years</i> |
| Cotterill, Colin | <i>The Woman who wouldn’t Die</i> |
| Cussler, Clive | <i>The Striker</i> |
| Divakaruni, Chitra | <i>Oleander Girl</i> |
| Graver, Elizabeth | <i>The End of the Point</i> |
| Green, Jane | <i>Family Pictures</i> |
| Haruf, Kent | <i>Benediction</i> |
| Michaels, Fern | <i>Deadline (large print)</i> |
| Moyes, Jojo | <i>Me Before You</i> |
| Oates, Joyce Carol | <i>The Accursed</i> |
| Ozeki, Ruth | <i>A Tale for the Time Being</i> |
| Parks, Brad | <i>The Good Cop</i> |
| Patterson, James | <i>Alex Cross, Run</i> |
| Perry, Thomas | <i>The Boyfriend</i> |
| Picoult, Jodi | <i>The Storyteller</i> |
| Robb, J.D. | <i>Calculated in Death</i> |
| Soderberg, Alexander | <i>The Andalucian Friend</i> |
| Stabenow, Dana | <i>Bad Blood</i> |
| Steel, Danielle | <i>The Sins of the Mother (large print)</i> |
| Vassanji, M.G. | <i>The Magic of Saida</i> |
| Weber, David | <i>Shadow of Freedom</i> |

Adult non-fiction

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Kerasote, Ted | <i>Pukka’s Promise</i> |
| Moss, Michael | <i>Salt, Sugar, Fat</i> |
| Tapper, Jake | <i>The Outpost</i> |

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Oliver, Lauren | <i>Requiem</i> |
| Wein, Elizabeth | <i>Code Name Verity</i> |
| Yolen, Jane | <i>Bad Girls</i> |

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. On April 22nd, the group will discuss *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. All are welcome to gather, munch cookies and chat about books. Copies of the selection are available to be checked out at the library.

Art Exhibits

Gordon Morrison will continue with his second set of illustrations during April through May. They combine images done for educational displays for major nature organizations along with illustrations from the five children’s books written and illustrated by Gordon. Many of these pieces were originally part of the Arnold Arboretum retrospective. Please note that Gordon will be discussing these drawings on April 20 at the library.



Children’s Fiction

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Balliett, Blue | <i>Fold Fast</i> |
| Baldacci, David | <i>Day of Doom</i> |
| Catchpool, Michael | <i>The Cloud Spinner</i> |
| Dean, James | <i>Pete the Cat</i> |
| DeFelice, Cynthia | <i>Nelly May has her Say</i> |
| Gerber, Carole | <i>Spring Blossoms</i> |
| Henkes, Kevin | <i>Penny and her Marble</i> |
| Horning, Sandra | <i>Chicks!</i> |
| Hunter, Erin | <i>The Sun Trail</i> |
| Kann, Victoria | <i>Flower Girl</i> |
| Lofting, Hugh | <i>The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle</i> |
| MacLachlan, Patricia | <i>White Fur Flying</i> |
| Meshon, Aaron | <i>Take me out to the Yakyu</i> |
| Pierce, Lincoln | <i>Big Nate Flips Out</i> |
| Reid, Barbara | <i>Picture a Tree</i> |
| Rosenthal, Amy | <i>Exclamation Mark</i> |

Children’s nonfiction

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Bang, Molly | <i>Ocean Sunlight</i> |
| Daly, Timothy | <i>Black Bears</i> |
| Griep, Terrance | <i>Redakai</i> |
| Kinney, Sarah | <i>Secret sand Sleuths</i> |
| Marsico, Katie | <i>American Bullfrogs</i> |
| Pierce, Lincoln | <i>Big Nate</i> |
| Prelutsky, Jack | <i>Stardines swim high across the sky and other poems</i> |
| Sitterson Redakai | |
| Stone, Tanya | <i>Who Says Women can’t be Doctors?</i> |

DVDs: *Anna Karenina, Argo, Atlas Shrugged Part 2, Barbie and the Pink Shoes, Celeste and Jesse Forever, Game of Thrones Season 2, The Good Wife Season 2, Here Comes the Boom, Life of Pi, Playing for Keeps, Rise of the Guardians, The Sessions, Til the Clouds Roll by (3 movie special), Twilight Sage- Breaking Dawn pt. 2, Wreck-it Ralph*

CDs: *Bon Jovi What about Now*

AudioBooks

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Burke, James Lee | <i>Feast Day of Fools</i> |
| Burke, James Lee | <i>The Glass Rainbow</i> |
| Coben, Harlan | <i>Six Years</i> |
| O’Connor, Sandra | <i>Out of Order</i> |

Recipe of the Month

Mom's Spare Ribs

Submitted by Marjorie "Charlie" Chase
in honor of her mother (who would never call her Charlie).

- 5lbs. Country Style Spare Ribs
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. celery seed
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1cup ketchup
- 1-2 cups water
- 2 drops Tabasco Sauce
- 1 med. chopped onion
- 1 lemon, sliced to place on top of ribs

Mix ingredients to create marinade.
 Pour over ribs.
 Place lemon slices on top.
 Cook ribs at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 + hrs.
 Brush marinade over ribs from time to time as they slow cook.



Curious about Kazakhstan, Lebanon, and Pakistan? Ask the kids who heard this presentation at the library's Cross Culture Club or come to the multicultural fest at the middle school, where these exchange students, living in Orange, have promised to repeat their interesting presentations.

Local Arts Scene

Open Mic - Last Call (for now)

Phil Leger

The last open mic of the season is April 5th 7-10pm. We have had an excellent season this year. House band for the last night is Royalston's own "Empty Banks", featuring Dan Vaccari on drums. In March, we were surprised by guitar virtuoso Carl Kamp picking up the electric guitar and vamping through a "Ventures" medley backed by the "Gunslingers". The night was one of the best overall and best attended shows of the series. The Royalston Cultural Council sold out of food items and donations were well received. Get there early and stay to the end for one of the area's best spots for a fun night out.

Royalston Blues Night

Saturday May 11 at Town Hall

Royalston Blues Night, the year's most anticipated musical event, will take place this year at 7:00 on Saturday, May 11 at the Royalston Town Hall. The featured band is the spectacular Texas group Littlewolf, just making its appearance on the national scene, with Royalston's own Scotty Monette on the bass. Littlewolf describes its music as "a unique, dynamic roots/blues/rock explosion," propelled by Steve Lott's guitar and Kristi Clanton's spellbinding voice and slide-steel guitar. You can catch a preview at their website, <http://www.littlewolfmusic.com>. Melanie and the Blue Shots will be the opening act. As always, Blues Night will feature drinks, snacks, and plenty of chance to dance. Tickets are \$10, children free. Tickets are limited - you can reserve yours by calling Lorraine Casinghino at 987-249-5151.

Also, catch Melanie and the Blue Shots:
 April 3 Bull Run, Shirley 7-10

Noah Dawson Treads the Boards:

New Players Theatre & Guild Presents:
Harvey
 by Thornton Wilder
 April 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th at 7:30pm
 And April 14th & 21st at 2:00pm
 New Players Theatre Guild Center for the Performing Arts
 15 Bullstone Street, Hitchburg, MA 01420
 For tickets please visit www.nptg.org
 or call 978-345-6570

See Noah Dawson as the lead, Elwood P Dowd., Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and children. They can be ordered online, by telephone, or at the door.

Paul A. Montero, P.L.S.
Professional Land Surveyor
 101 Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd - PO Box 20
 Royalston, Massachusetts 01368
 Telephone: (978) 249-5879

Book tour to Athol: Beth Gospodarek has a short essay in an anthology of local writers who have experience in Africa. There will be a book signing at Bruce's Browser on April 9 at 7 pm.



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

Patrick Scribner is attending Johnson and Wales University Culinary School – now in 3rd year and has made Dean’s List every term

Grady MacPhee made the High Honor Roll at Cushing Academy for the fall and winter terms and will be attending Haverford College in the fall.

Alexandra Krasowski was named to the fall term Dean’s List at the College of the Holy Cross, where she is majoring in classics.



If there were an award for Best Snowmen in Town on the 1st day of spring, certainly this frigid family would take home the prize to hand in its fabulous snow fort. Thank you for brightening many commutes.



feliz cumpleaños to Albert Coyo, 17, a Spanish exchange student who has been living in Royalston since September. Celt Grant is his host and made this amazing Majorcan almond cake for the library’s Cross Culture club to enjoy.

Milestones:

Donald F. Richards, 87, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 16, 2013, at his home surrounded by his loving family.



Don was born in Athol, Massachusetts, January 18, 1926, the son of Farrell B. and H. Myrtle (Beers) Richards. He lived in Athol for many years, graduating from Athol High School in 1943 and, since 1980, has resided in Royalston.

Don proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II; he worked for the L.S. Starrett Company in sales for 46 years, retiring in 1989. During his career he and his family lived in many different parts of the United States. They spent many memorable summers together on Prince Edward Island. Don enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and was a great music lover, especially of big band music. He played the saxophone in the Minute Tapioca Band, the former Frank Carey Band and the Tri-Tones. Don also loved spending time with his children, grandchildren and relatives throughout Canada. He had a warm smile for everyone he met and his positive attitude was an inspiration.

He leaves his wife Elvia (Robertson) Richards; a son, David Farrell Richards of Athol; two daughters, Diane Stauder and her husband Richard of Royalston and Robbie Currie and her husband John of Orange; six grandchildren, Sarah, Elizabeth, Peter, Luke, Christopher and Leanna along with her husband Joshua and their son Zachary. He was predeceased by his beloved son, Kent Arthur Richards.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Athol Congregational Church, Music Fund, 1225 Chestnut Street, Athol, MA 01331.

LBS Memorial Concert



photo: Liane Brandon

Thank you to Carl Kamp, Rene Lake and Deb Nunes for providing a free classical piano and guitar concert at the ballroom in Patience Bundshuh’s home, the Maples. The spring light slanted through the windows. The music was lovely and reflected real work. The audience was pensive and appreciative. The snacks, as always, were very tasty. This year the concert was dedicated to Amanda Putney. Gerry Chiasson, John and Pat Poor as well as Don Richards were particularly remembered.

At R.C.S. It Is A Busy Month! - again

Tayiah Neale

At R.C.S, April is going to be busy. The Kindergarten is learning more reading skills and such. In D.E.A.R reading, the kindergartners get to read with their sixth grade buddies on Fridays. In Ms. Drouin's first grade class, her writers' tea is coming up on March 22nd, a Friday night. In grade six, some students made projectile extra credit projects and they have been launching them (with eye protection of course.) The AREF-funded band field trip to the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which had been canceled due to a snow storm, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, April ninth. The talent show is also coming up, so be prepared. That is what is going on at R.C.S

RCS WALK-A-THON April 29

calling all students and parents
(rain date April 30)

A walk-a-thon will be held at The Royalston Community School on Monday, April 29 to supplement a recently awarded AREF grant. The grant was written by the school secretary, Mrs. Lajoie, for the purchase of a wireless sound system to be utilized for an after-school fitness class, hopefully the first of many different forms of movement activities and programs to be offered in the future. Funds received in excess of the amount needed for the system will go toward gym & playground equipment. Students at RCS will receive a "pledge" from sponsors, for any denomination for each lap they walk, or a donation of any amount for their overall participation. Each child that has a sponsor will receive a wrist band. The top-earning class will enjoy a pizza party, and the top-earning student will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate for the Gardner Cinema. The school is very excited about this noncompetitive event, promoting health and fitness for all ages. We are in need of sponsors, volunteers, and donations of water. Please call Mrs. Lajoie at RCS if you can help. Time to get moving!!!

Scholarships for Royalston Students:

The Ladies Benevolent Society Scholarships are available to both high school seniors and adult returning students. There is a new form with a new deadline this year. It is available at the Monty Tech and Athol High School guidance offices and at the Phinehas Newton Library.

Royalston Academy Scholarships: *Deadline April 12, 2013*

Forms are available through your high school guidance counselor or Contact Kristen West c/o Royalston Academy Scholarship Committee, Box 35, Royalston, Ma. 01368. The **Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship** (up to \$1000) is available to graduating high school residents of Royalston going on to a higher education. The **Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship** is available for Royalston residents interested in pursuing educational activities including home schooling, educational travel, and educational and literacy programs.

RCS Limerick Club

There once was an owl named Pete
Who decided he did not want meat
He went to the store
And bought veggies galore
He ate Twinkies for a really cool treat

Olivia Parnanen & Mr. Grosky

There once was a cute boy named Scott
Who often got stuck in a pot
He always loved bacon
Cuzz he knew what was shakin'
That silly, cute boy named Scott

Scott Barakat

There once was a girl named Kate
Who was often very late
She scrambled about
Until she would pout
Then she was late to her date

Sadie Wright

There once was a man named Paul
Who walked into an invisible wall
His face hurt so bad
He was very, very sad
"WHAA" to his mother he did call

Kevin O'Connor

There once was a man from Kentucky
His galoshes did get very mucky
He went to the store
To go and buy more

The galoshes he got were unlucky

Scott Barakat, Sadie Wright, Molly Divoll, Olivia Parnanen, Erika Gambill, Kevin O'Connor



Monty Tech News

Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay – mbarclay@juno.com – 978-249-2598
Some exciting news – Monty Tech's Marine JROTC team "Marine Raiders" took **SECOND PLACE** in the National CyberPatriot finals held last month in Maryland, besting 805 other teams from across the USA. Participants will receive a share of \$50,000 in scholarships from CyberPatriot sponsor, Northrop Grumman Foundation. They take away experience with simulated hard-core terrorism computer attacks and contacts with potential future employers.

Some other impressive Monty Tech stats: A full quarter of the class of 2012 - 25% - were immediately employed in a trade or profession upon graduation. More than half - 64% - went on to two and four year colleges to earn degrees to become medical assistants, automotive technologists, nurses, businesspeople, etc. Three percent went on for additional vocational training in areas such as plumbing, electrical, and auto mechanics and five percent entered the military.

What's Happening at the Village School?

This month, classes are visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham. And if on a warm sunny day, you see a big circle of children on the front lawn of the school with teddy bears in their laps, then you have chanced upon the annual Teddy Bear picnic, when all the children bring teddy bears to school, sing Teddy Bear songs and go on a bear hunt!

Tuesday April 23 Biodiversity Day

Each class visits a local habitat and surveys the flora and fauna in that habitat. One class will go to Lawrence Brook, another class to the Camp Caravan pond, and other classes will visit the woods. The classes visit the same habitats each year and keep a log of the species of plants and animals that they find. They record observations with drawings. Results are displayed in the hallway.

Openings for the next school year at the Village School

There are a few openings in preschool, K-1 and 2nd grade. For more information, call 249-3505.

Save the Date:

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School

Go to www.villageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 8 to July 26, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up and, Woodworking with Kids, ages 8 and up. **Royalston families are subsidized, courtesy of Royalston Academy.**

Friday May 17 7 p.m. An Original Play, written and performed by the Village School Players at the Royalston Town Hall. This year's theme is Ancient Greece. Who knows where it will go? Anywhere from farce to fantasy. Come and find out. Free to the public.

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common

June 1st from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall

Adults \$6 Children \$3 Organic blueberry pancakes and local syrup
Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Auction and Breakfast will benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan. Friends of the Library have goodies and plants for sale at the Post Office. The program of events will include a tag sale, the Millers River Morris Men, Wild Animals in Your Backyard Program, a Cake Walk for Children and lots more.

Police Department News, Mary C. Barclay

April brings with it the emergence of motorcycles...and with fuel prices over \$3.50 a gallon, more motorcycles than ever are sharing the roads. Motorcyclists need to be especially alert at this time of year as accumulated winter sand on roads may cause some skidding - particularly dangerous at intersections where the choices may be going down or going out into the middle of an intersection. Car and truck drivers - motorcyclists are often closer than you think. Look very carefully before you pull out of an intersection in front of a motorcycle. And really look carefully - look TWICE! More than 40% of all car vs. motorcycle collisions are the result of the car driver turning left in front of a motorcyclist - such was the case when former Royalston Police Officer Dan Wolski was seriously injured in a 2007 collision. An all-too-often heard quote from the driver of a car who runs into a motorcyclist is "I never even saw it!"

The Massachusetts Motorcycle Safety Awareness, in conjunction with Governor Duvall Patrick, have proclaimed March 25 through April 30, 2013 as "Massachusetts Motorcycle Safety Awareness Period." ALL drivers are asked to use extra caution as the number of motorcyclists on the roadways ramps up over the next month. All registered and insured vehicles are entitled to share the roadway. All drivers encouraged to "Check Twice - Save a Life."

Royalston Fish and Game Club Roast Beef Supper

The next is Saturday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. This will be one of the last before the Club goes to chicken barbecues, so get your tickets EARLY! The family-style feast includes salad and bread (with REAL butter), 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. You can also end the evening with some BLITZ - just a quarter a card! Contact the club at 978-249-3004 for ticket availability.

Cat Shelter Auction in Winchendon

Tickets are now available for A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats first annual Adopt the Cause benefit auction. The event will be held Saturday May 4th, from 7-10pm at The Old Murdock Auditorium, 52 Murdock Ave, in Winchendon. Tickets are \$15/per person and can be purchased online at www.shelterforcats.org, at the Shelter during open hours (Wednesday 6-7PM & Saturday noon-3PM) or at the door on the evening of the event. A detailed list of highlighted auction items is available on their website which will be updated regularly prior to the auction date.

The Shelter is run by volunteers, several of whom are from Royalston, and is committed to the care and well-being of every cat or kitten it rescues. The Shelter's goal is to provide shelter, medical care and placement of homeless cats into responsible, loving homes. As space allows, they accept cats who might otherwise be euthanized or abandoned, from individuals with financial hardship or emergency situations. Since opening its doors in May 2012, the Shelter has provided medical care to and found loving homes for nearly 100 cats and kittens. In addition to helping the community with the homeless cat population, the Shelter strives to be a public resource for information on feline health, safety and population control. It offers advice on affordable spay/neuter options in the area as well. To learn more about A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats go to www.shelterforcats.org. The Shelter is located at 202 Central Street, Winchendon, MA.



Classifieds

Goats available: Peaches and Cream are 2 Saanen goats looking for a home. They are 8 years old and are good browsers and companion animals, in addition to providing goat candy for your garden. For more info, please contact Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

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 . We also make **Royalston Oak timber frames** for additons, barns, sheds and homes. 978-249-2871 or 987-249-9633.

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

For sale

Eggs: \$2.00 per dozen. Best time to call or stop by: after 4 p.m. 978-249-5548.

Eton Beamer Matrix Scooter: 2005, black, 49cc, 1,716 mi., 75mpg. New battery and plug. Must sell for health reasons. \$800 Call 978-249-3119

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

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

Free-Range, pasture raised pork. Raised in Royalston. . Call Chet Hall IV 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.



Garden Notes

March 22, 2013

Flashback: one year. The last piece of wood was thrown in the furnace (March 7). March temperatures routinely exceeded 50°, often exceeded 60°, and sometimes exceeded 70°. Parsnips were dug on the 11th, garlic emerged on the 15th, and serious garden work (definition: dirt under my fingernails) commenced on the 18th. I was a year younger.

Flash forward: today. Furnace continues to devour wood. Forget about 70° days or 60° days; we have yet to experience a 50° day. Parsnips have not been dug, garlic has not emerged (how would I know, I'd be obliged to haul the snow shovel out to the garden to find out), my fingernails remain clean (sort of). I am a year older.

I hesitate to make any garden predictions for April in light of the fact that none of my March predictions came to pass. The weather will not curtail indoor activity of course. Onions and leeks are up but the peppers, celery/celeriac, parsley, and early flowers have yet to appear, huddled as they are in the warming oven of the wood cook stove. Soon enough, I trust, they will emerge and begin their journey from window sill to window sill to Maureen Blasco's greenhouse to the garden, freeing up the warming oven for the planting of tomatoes, basil, and more flowers (around the seventh of April). When things finally settle, I will seed the brassicas directly into an outdoor nursery bed (to be transplanted six weeks later), forgoing the struggle of trying to grow them indoors. The planting will require a row cover. I shudder to think of what the flea beetles would do to the seedlings in the absence of one. I may even drop some lettuce seed into the ground and cover them with those ever-handly fish tanks (the poor man's greenhouse). Early lettuce would be a special treat.

Let's be optimistic here: the snow will disappear, the soil will dry, the temperatures, if not warm, will at least be moderate, and the peas and spinach will, finally, be planted. Last year the first plantings were on March 20, the second April 4, and the third April 14. I suspect the dates of last year's third planting may well be the date of this year's first. Once again, I'll be setting out the potatoes with the first pea planting, continuing my trend in recent years of starting potatoes earlier and earlier. There is some risk here: a protracted wet spell would increase the risk of the potatoes rotting, but that has not yet occurred and the advantages of an April planting (pre-black flies, stronger plants to withstand the potato beetle invasion, earlier harvests) make the risk worthwhile.

The upside to this temporary lull in garden activities is that I can devote time to mind-wandering. Say what you will about the computer and all it can deliver (and I hear about it every day), it fails utterly in providing sensual pleasures. The garden will provide them aplenty. Sun or rain, warm or cold, still or windy, you will feel them all. Aromas abound. You are using your hands, awakening your tactile senses. At the risk of waxing a bit too philosophical here, there is even pleasure in experiencing the aches and pains of honestly-earned, productive work. The choice is yours. I have chosen..

Larry Siegel



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Wildlife Sightings

This barred owl arrived in Carl Kamp's backyard around dawn and spent the day on March 16, ignoring the blue jays and crows that didn't like it. Small birds seemed somewhat oblivious even when it was perched, in the photo, outside the kitchen window looking in curiously. The large flock of over 100 common redpolls has departed only to be replaced with a large flock of over 100 red-wing blackbirds with a few common grackles and cowbirds mixed in.



photo: Carl Kamp

Signs of spring? A rabbit in winter white with only a few dappled brown patches on its fur bounded across the road near the Bartkus' home on March 21. My dog got skunked on March 6. Noisy geese tried to land on the sunrise pink swamp on March 26, but it was still frozen and they skittered away.

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In person: Drop off at library

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