

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2004



Volume VII, Issue IX

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PHINEHAS S. NEWTON LIBRARY, ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Put yourself on the back Royalston. This is the 5th anniversary issue of the Royalston Community Newsletter. Written, edited, collated, and funded by volunteers, this monthly newsletter is a big production for a small town. The more resident involvement, the richer the result, so help is always needed. Unsolicited news articles, classifieds, congratulations, obituaries, wildlife sightings and whatever else are most welcome. The RCN is looking for new sponsorship and circulation managers and people willing to track down town news. There is no pay, but the hours are flexible and (most of the time) the work is quite fun. Please see page 5 or call the library 249-3572 for information about your chance to get involved.

Calendar of Events

November 1 Monday
10:30 a.m. **Preschool Story Time Costume Party** at the library. Children (and their caregivers) are welcome to dress in their costumes and join the others for stories and treats. Registration is not necessary.

November 2 Tuesday **Presidential Elections.**
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Polls are open in Precinct 2 (Whitney Hall) and Precinct 1 (Town Hall). There are clear differences. It does matter. Vote. Also, LBS bake sale with homemade supper items and desserts at Town Hall from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

November 3 Wednesday
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Blood Drive at Monty Tech**

November 4 Thursday
3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Library Meeting** at the library. New blood needed. Plan wine and cheese reception, upcoming kids' x-culture club, possible satellite internet hook up and future editions of this newsletter. All welcome.

November 5 Friday
noon **Early Dismissal RCS.** Lunch served.
5:00 pm **Village School Lantern Walk,** Pot Luck Supper and Family Contra Dance at Town Hall.

November 6 Saturday
7:00 p.m. **Open Mic** returns to the Royalston Town Hall, hosted by the Royalston All Star Band. For a performance slot, musicians should pre-register by calling Josh 978-249-4260 or arrive by 6:45. Refreshments available. Free.

November 7 Sunday **Eliina Karjalainen 100th Birthday Celebration** at the Second Congregational Church of South Royalston – Fellowship Hall. There will be a church service at 9:00, coffee hour at 10:30, luncheon at 12:00, and cake at 1:00 p.m.

November 11 Thursday **Veterans' Day**

November 12 Friday
9:27 a.m. **New Beaver Moon**
November 12-14 **Couples' Retreat** at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center in Alton Bay, NH. This is a getaway weekend designed to strengthen marriages and renew love and commitment. \$250 includes motel accommodations, five meals (banquet on Saturday night), two evening snacks, and all workshop materials. Saturday afternoon is free for play. All couples are welcome; for more information, call Pastor Ginger at 978-249-9155.

November 13 Saturday **Sadie Hawkins' Day**
9:00 – 11:30 p.m. **Sock Hop at Monty Tech**

6:30 pm **LBS Braised Beef Supper,** Town Hall, by the Ladies Benevolent Society. Home-baked pies and rolls, real mashed potatoes, fresh carrot salad. Tickets \$8, (\$4 children). Tickets at 978-249-7787 or 978-249-5993.

November 14 Sunday
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Village School Open House.** Find out about school curriculum and philosophy and speak with parents and students; hands on science and art projects for kids.

November 19 Friday
7:30 p.m. **Wine and Cheese Reception and Discussion with fantasy artist Gary Lippincott** at the library. Gary will relate how he creates the extraordinarily detailed fantasy watercolors and give a brief history of his evolution as an artist and published illustrator. He was recently awarded two prestigious Chesney Awards, the fantasy and science fiction artwork version of an Oscar. Sponsored by The Friends of the Library. Info at 249-3572.

November 20 Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Jingle Bell Fair at 2nd Congregational Church in South Royalston. Baked goods, ticket auction, craft table, refreshments and more.

November 25 Thursday
Thanksgiving Day

December 3 Friday
7:00 – 10:00 p.m. **Open Mic** at the Town Hall

December 4 Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Athol Royalston Middle School Craft Fair** to benefit 8th grade trip to Washington DC.





Vote on November 2nd



Many Americans champion Democracy as the best system of government for most countries around the world. On November 2nd, there is a chance to walk this talk. Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Whitney Hall and Town Hall to decide who will be President of the United States. There are clear differences in the positions of the candidates, George W. Bush and John Kerry, on most issues including taxes, education priorities, health care, environmental safeguards, the Iraq War, terrorism response and international cooperation. There will also be opportunities to vote for State Senator and State Representatives as well as County Sheriff. For voters who wish more information before heading into the booth, Voter Guides, published by the non-partisan League of Women Voters, summarizing candidates' positions on important issues are available at the town post office.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society will offer baked goods and supper items at Precinct 1 (Town Hall) from 2-6 p.m. to benefit its scholarship fund and other good works. Royalston is one of the few towns where voters can sweeten the electoral process with a home made cookie.

Royalston has a history of political enthusiasm

In 1936, a bet was made at the South Royalston post office concerning the outcome of the presidential election. Henry Sargeant and Henry **Karjalainen**, known as "Henry the Finn", were both so sure that their candidate would prevail that they promised to trundle the supporter of the winning candidate from downtown South Royalston up the hill to the area of the present Catholic Church in a wheelbarrow. When Roosevelt won, so did Henry the Finn. On Saturday, November 8, 1936, the trains to town were crowded as over 500 people gathered to watch the spectacle, including Finns from all over Central Massachusetts. The Athol Drum Corps led and Henry Sargeant kept his word. He mucked Henry the Finn a mile and a half up the hill in front of the largest parade crowd ever gathered in South Royalston.



Henry the Finn is trundled a mile and a half up the hill in South Royalston after he lost an 1936 presidential election bet. Photos courtesy of Teresa Burgess

Barbara Richardson Steps Down and Brenda Putney Steps Up

Goodbye and thanks to Barbara Richardson, who is stepping down after 4 years as Town Treasurer and umpteen years of service as Town Clerk. She will be missed for her friendliness and thoroughness. It is arguable that she knows more than anyone else about keeping Royalston running due to her competence and longevity in these elected Town positions. Brenda Putney was recently appointed the new Town Treasurer and a new Town Clerk is expected to be announced shortly.

Assessors' Notes

Jim Richardson, Chairman, Mike Lajoie, Stephen Chase

The tri-annual revaluation of all property in town is nearly complete. The official public viewing of the new proposed values runs through Nov. 3, 2004. Lists are available at the Phinehas S. Newton Library during their regular hours, the Town Clerk's Office at Whitney Hall Tuesday 7-9 pm, the Town Administrator's Office at the Town Hall Monday-Friday 9am-noon, and at the Assessors' Office, Wednesday noon-4pm and 6:30-9pm.

Council on Aging News

The Royalston Luncheon Club meets on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Town Hall for food, company and conversation. All Royalston Seniors are welcome. The meal costs \$1.75 and reservations need to be made by calling Dorothy Newton (249-8882) the Monday prior. A Chinese Auction is held the first Wednesday of the month, and a blood pressure clinic and Brown Bag distribution are held on the 4th Wednesday.

We are planning a luncheon to the Westminster Country Club on Friday, November 19. Plan to meet at the Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. to carpool. Let Helen Williams or Betty Woodbury know if you plan to attend. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA will be on Thursday, November 11, at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Dorothy Newton on Athol Road. All are welcome to attend.

Open Space Committee Seeks Volunteers

Tom Musco

The present Open Space Committee, the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, agreed recently to set up a permanent Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) with members recommended by the PB/ConCom and appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The OSAC will have the task of implementing the recommendations of the Open Space Report which include: establishing criteria for future open space acquisitions; prioritizing properties for watershed protection; creating habitat and trail networks; conducting outreach and education programs about the value of protecting specific open space parcels; and setting up a database of desired land parcels for preservation.

Any resident of Royalston who is interested in serving on OSAC should call or email Tom Musco (249-9633) tgmusco@hotmail.com or George Northrop (249-4407) / george01368@yahoo.com.

Board of Health News

Recently, the lower section where the roll off containers are, was asphalted. Thank you to P.J. Keating and the Town DPW for a job well done. A reminder to all who use the transfer station that new stickers are required. The color this fiscal year is black. So, those of you with orange, red, green, blue, and yellow stickers, time to get your new sticker. See Charlie and he'll set you up. The fee is \$10.00 for residents and \$50.00 for non-residents and commercial haulers. We still have compost bins for sale at \$20.00 each.

Welcome to new transfer station worker, Dave McArdle. He's a West Royalston resident and says hi to all. Also, new plastic covers were installed on the trash dumpsters. This is to keep out the turkey vultures, which have been making quite a mess. They follow the transmission line highway and stop in for lunch whenever they can. Also, thank you to Daniel Vaccari for some community service work. He picked up trash in the wetlands and in the woods.

The BOH meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Whitney Hall in the south village. If anyone needs to contact the BOH, please page Phil Leger, Chair at 978-366-1553 or email him at phillie@gis.net.

Eliina Karjalainen's Hundredth Birthday

Open House

Liisa Alger

The family of Eliina Karjalainen of South Royalston is hosting an open house in honor of her 100th Birthday. The open house is on Sunday November 7, 2004 at the Second Congregational Church of South Royalston – Fellowship Hall. There will be a church service at 9:00, coffee hour at 10:30, luncheon at 12:00 and cake at 1:00 p.m.



Everyone calls Eliina 'Tati', which translates to "aunt" in the Finnish language. She was born in Viipuri Finland 11-4-04. This town is now part of Russia. It was taken in WWII. She came to America as a 16 year old in 1920. The ticket was intended for our Grandmother Esther who was 2 years older than Tati, but Gramma was a homebody and did not want to leave. Tati jumped at the opportunity. Tati traveled from Helsinki to London, but when she arrived in London, her transfer ship had sailed without her, so she spent 3 days there with 2 other girls from her town. She arrived at Ellis Island and was detained because she had "watery eyes." She describes the 2 days on Ellis Island as awful with lice everywhere. When her eyes cleared she was put on a train and was met by an uncle at the train station and driven by horse and buggy to South Royalston.

She initially worked at the textile mill in town but later became a domestic for several families in Worcester. Gramma joined Tati in America two years later and the two of them were extremely close and lived with each other or in close proximity to each other for 60 years. She always considered her home base Royalston and retired there in the 60's and has been living there ever since.

Tati never married or had children of her own but she considers my siblings and I her children. We lost our mother early and Tati and Gramma have been wonderful to us. Tati likes fine china and linen. She believes she has lived so long because she always honored her mother and father and is a good eater. Her favorite thing to do is go to Foxwoods Casino.

Royalston Police Exempted

Last summer, 249 out of 366 Massachusetts' towns were ordered by the State Public Safety Secretary, Edward Flynn, to collect data related to police stops and racial profiling after statistics analyzed in a study at Northeastern University indicated a need for more information. One hundred and thirty towns appealed for an exemption; some police departments argued that it was an extra layer of bureaucracy for cash and personnel strapped departments. Some felt the data used was taken out of context. In the end, the exemption was granted to only two towns in Massachusetts: Royalston and Stockbridge. Chief Deveneau was successful in his appeal because only a very few citations were issued during the time period of the Northeastern study. Consequently, there was not enough data to draw any meaningful conclusions. Chief Deveneau reported in the Telegram and Gazette that he already keeps records of each citation issued and tallies them for gender and race.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:00noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Wine and Cheese Reception for Local Artist

Everyone is invited to attend a discussion by artist Gary Lippincott on Friday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the library. Gary, a resident of Royalston, will relate how he creates the extraordinarily detailed fantasy watercolors and give a brief history of his evolution as an artist and published illustrator. His sketchbooks are fascinating. He was recently awarded two prestigious Chesney awards, the fantasy and science fiction artwork version of an Oscar. Beginning in November, several new paintings will be added to the display at the library. The Friends of the Library will provide delicious refreshments. For more information, call the library.

Thank You

Ferron Dooley Fairchild for her weekly volunteering and cheerful disposition.

Tina Gemborys for the children's musical instrument pack
Janet Bettley, Tom Musco, Aaron Ellison, and Sarah Rector for their donations of books, movies, and books-on-tape.

Donations received in memory of Humphrey Nash

Richard Nash

Jon and Margaret Tennesen

Donald and Rita Lund

Bradley and Mary Grim

Donations to the Friends

The following people have made contributions to the Friends of the Library since our last newsletter. Thanks to everyone who keeps this newsletter going!

Barbara Rogers

Nancy Bolton

Charlie & Mary Ellen Scribner

Elizabeth Denniston

Caught in the Web

Volunteer newsletter web-master and all around nice guy, Jeff Mangum, has been called away to Florida and Alabama to help with hurricane relief. Consequently, the November issue of the RCN will be late hitting cyber space. Check out royalstonlibrary.org for archival editions for now, and we'll post this issue ASAP.

Royalston Community Newsletter is Five Years Old

Happy 5th birthday to the RCN. Begun by Barbara Stowell "for the community and by the community" as a way to get the word out about Friends of the Library events, the Royalston Community Newsletter has grown into a conduit for all town government, service groups and individuals to share information. The first run in Nov. 1999 was 4 pages long and 475 copies. Now, the RCN averages 12 pages and 625 copies are printed and each edition is available over the internet at the library's web site. Funding originally came from grants from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, but soon local sponsorship ads were added to cover the costs. Henry Felt and Sally Zettel and Frank Stearns have been especially loyal sponsors. For the past year, the team at Fieldstone Press has generously donated printing, freeing up some Friends' money to invest in new library technology. The Congregational Churches of Town have shared their bulk mailing permit since the first issue. Producing a useful newsletter requires interesting submissions, and many, particularly Kathy Morris, Mary Barclay, and Beth Gospodarek have volunteered their writing skills faithfully over the years. Of course, a newsletter without readers is pointless and the RCN is grateful for the honest feedback and useful suggestions we receive. Our newsletter has succeeded over the past 5 years primarily due to the strong support of this community. Thank you all.

Help needed at Newsletter: As with all volunteer efforts, a few people do a lot of work on this newsletter. The same handful of Friends of the Library as five years ago continue to track down and organize submissions, write articles, layout the newsletter, find sponsors, and prepare the mailings. More help is needed to keep the newsletter lively in future issues. If you have an interest in writing town news or local history, seeking out recipes or taking over the sponsorship or circulation responsibilities, please contact the library 249-3572.

The Boston Celtics Present Massachusetts Library Night

On Sunday, November 21st Boston Celtics tickets for a game against the Seattle Sonics will be half price for the \$110 Club Seats and \$60 End Zone Seats and \$10 off the \$30 Balcony Seats. Call 617-854-8064 or email: library@celtics.com. Tickets are limited and sold on a first come, first served basis.

The New Books

Adult Fiction

Barron, T.A., *Child of the Dark Prophecy: Book 1, The Great Tree of Avalon*
Barry, Dave. *Peter and the Starcatchers*
Banks, Russell. *The Darling*
Bohjalian, Chris. *Before You Know Kindness*
Boyle, T.C. *The Inner Circle*
Coben, Harlan. *Gone for Good*
Cronin, Justin. *The Summer Guest*
Garwood, Julie. *Murder List*
Graham, Heather. *The Presence*
Hooper, Kay. *Hunting Fear*
Jin, Ha. *War Trash: A Novel*
King, Stephen. *The Dark Tower VII*
Macomber, Debbie. *44 Cranberry Point*
Mayor, Archer. *The Surrogate Thief*
Penzler, Otto. *Mighty Johns*
Roberts, Nora. *Northern Lights*
Roberts, Nora. *Dangerous*
Roth, Philip. *The Plot against America: A Novel*
Rozan, S.J. *Absent Friends*
Shreve, Anita. *Light on Snow*
Smith, Alexander McCall. *The Sunday Philosophy Club*
Updike, John. *Villages*
Woods, Stuart. *The Prince of Beverly Hills*
Zacharius, Walter. *Songbird: A Novel*

Adult Non-Fiction

Stewart, Jon. *America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction*
Nabhan, Gary Paul. *Why Some Like it Hot*
Lagasse, Emeril. *Emeril's Potluck: Comfort Food with a Kicked-up Attitude*
The Princeton Review: *11 New Practice Tests for the SAT and PSAT*
Ettus, Samantha. *The Experts' Guide to 100 Things Everyone Should Know How to Do*
King, Bart. *The Big Book of Boy Stuff*
Williams, Gene B. *Chilton's Guide to Small Appliance Repair and Maintenance (1986)*
Mobil Travel Guide: *New England*
Drohojowska-Philip, Hunter. *Full Bloom: The Art and Life of Georgia O'Keeffe*
Rhodes, Richard. *Audubon: The Making of an American*

Adult Books on Tape/CD

Grisham, John. *The Pelican Brief (AC)*
Hallowell, Janis. *The Annunciation of Francesca Dunn (CD)*
Kellerman, Jonathan & Faye. *Double Homicide (CD)*
Kellerman, Jonathan. *Therapy (CD)*
Truss, Lynne. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves (CD)*
Stewart, Jon. *America: A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction*
Clinton, Bill. *My Life*

New Large Print Books

Jakes, John (editor). *A Century of Great Western Stories.*
Redfield, Salle Merrill. *Creating a Life of Joy: A Meditative Guide*
Sheehy, Gail. *Understanding Men's Passages: Discovering the New Map of Men's Lives*
Dickinson, Matt. *The Other Side of Everest: Climbing the North Face through the Killer Storm*
Glenn, John. *John Glenn: A Memoir*
McCain, John. *Faith of My Fathers: A Family Memoir*

DVDs

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (R)
Fahrenheit 9/11 (R)
Man on Fire (R)
Mean Girls (PG-13)
Super Size Me (PG-13)
Walking Tall (PG-13)

Music CDs

Spooky Scary Sounds for Halloween
Linq. *Journey*
Respect: A Century of Women in Music
Pearl Jam. *Yield*
George Winston. *December*
Stoned Immaculate: The Music of the Doors
Gladys Knight & the Pips. *The Best of Gladys Knight & the Pips*
Various Artists. *50 Years Atlantic Records*
Ackerman, Will. *Hearing Voices*
Various Artists. *Timeless* (country compilation)
Bee Gees. *This is Where I Came In.*
The Supremes. 4 disk set.
Billboard: Top Hits 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984
Moore, Mandy 90 Degrees and Rising
Ronstadt, Linda. *A Merry Little Christmas.*

Library Nature Walk a Success



The first Friends of the Library nature walk drew nearly 30 participants. Highlights of the hike to Royalston Falls were the natural stone arch, the foaming brook, the angel of death, the hole in the ground, the Halloween candy, the friendly company, the faded ferns, and of course the falls. More photos will be posted on the library web-site www.royalstonlibrary.org. Watch for another walk in the spring.

Fun

Preschool Story Time

All welcome

Mondays 10:30 – 11:30am

For all preschoolers, 0-5, and their parents or caregivers.

Play, stories, snacks and conversation.

Funded by the Athol Royalston Community Partnership for Children

Braised Beef Supper

A Braised Beef Supper will be offered by the Ladies Benevolent Society of Royalston on Saturday, November 13 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The supper features "Brenda's Beef," home-made rolls, real mashed potatoes, peas, fresh carrot salad, and home-baked pies. Tickets are \$8.00 (\$4.00 for children 8 and under).

This is a wonderfully warm way to have an easy night out here in town with your friends and neighbors, while supporting the LBS. Proceeds from the supper go to the LBS Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships each spring to Royalston residents for higher education. Please call Brenda Putney at 978-249-7787 or Kristen West at 978-249-5993 for tickets, or contact any LBS member.

Recipes of the month

Laurie Clark Deveneau is a native of Royalston and has lived here all her life. She has a long list of service to this community, including helping to organize the Town Bicentennial, running Town Halloween parties, and den mothering the local cub and boy scouts for many years. She has two sons and a police chief to feed and they all vouch for this recipe. Her sister, Nancy Melbourne of NE Fitzwilliam Rd, claims that Laurie is the best cook in their family.



Autumn Stew

- 1 lb. butternut squash, peeled, seeded, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 2 cups of peeled mini-carrots
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 2 1/2 lb. chicken drums and thighs (skin removed)
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 envelope onion soup mix
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon thyme
- 1 tablespoon parsley
- 1/2 cup water

Put all vegetables into a slow cooker. Place chicken on top of vegetables. Take water and stir in 1/4 cup flour, soup mix, garlic and thyme. Pour over chicken and cook for 8 hours. Skim fat.

Mary C. Barclay also lives on NE Fitzwilliam Rd. She is a genius at cooking once in quantity to create a plethora of future meals. She recommends signaling the change of season with mulled cider. In this fragrant punch, the amounts are flexible, the recipe can be divided or multiplied, and the ingredients can be tweaked to individual tastes. The basic recipe came from her relatives in Nova Scotia, who kept a pot of it going on those many cool fall days spent stacking wood.

Coffee Pot Cranberry Punch

Into a 30 cup percolator:

- 1 bottle of cranberry juice (64oz)
- 1 jug apple juice or apple cider (48 oz)
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

Insert the percolator basket and add to the basket:

- 1/3 cup brown sugar, 1 tsp whole cloves, 1/2 tsp ground allspice
- 1/2 tsp salt, and 4 long cinnamon sticks.

History Meets the Future

Historical Society Looking for New Members

Patience Bundshuh

The Royalston Historical and Village Improvement Society is a non-profit organization founded by a group of citizens in 1946 to preserve and archive the history of the Town of Royalston. The Society is sometimes confused with the Royalston Historic District Commission, which is an entirely separate group that has jurisdiction over the designated Royalston Historic District.

The Historical Society found a home when the former Royalston School, at the south end of the Common, was made obsolete by the construction of the Raymond School. The Town of Royalston sold the old schoolhouse building to the Society for one dollar and the Society pledged to preserve and maintain the handsome structure. Since that time, the Society has acquired an extensive collection of artifacts that tell the story of Royalston including early settlement, thriving enterprises, wars, hurricanes, floods, epidemics, famous inhabitants and little known facts.

The Historical Society building now houses the Royalston Post Office and the Society's Museum. If you have never been to the Museum and have a curiosity about the history of our town, contact Museum Curator John McClure at 249-8675 and make an appointment to set aside an hour or two of fascinating discovery.

Do you know which Empress resided in Royalston? Do you know which father and son were Amateur National Tennis Champions? Do you know the name of the Royalston doctor who was a cousin of two Presidents? Do you know which Royalston son started the first Mutual Fund in America? Do you know which Governor of Massachusetts was born in Royalston?

In addition to preserving and maintaining its building and museum in the center village, The Society ran an annual flea market for twenty-five years on Royalston Common. Looking ahead, the Society is interested in worthwhile projects that help to preserve and protect the history of all parts of the town of Royalston. Recently, the Society spearheaded a successful fundraising effort to rebuild a landmark fence on Royalston Common and has offered funds toward the creation of a "Bridge of Flowers" on the discontinued bridge opposite Pete and Henry's in South Royalston.

The Society is an important force in the on-going story of Royalston. If you have a project in mind, an interest in history, or a love of our town, please contact President, Peter Kraniak at 249-7625 and become a member. The Society meets four times a year and is actively looking for new members and new projects.

ROYALSTON COMMUNITY CO-OP

mcb Barclay@royalston_community_news@yahoo.com or
bputney@crystal-mtn.com

Thanksgiving orders are due in to Brenda and Mary by Thursday, November 4. Delivery is planned for Thursday, November 11 (Veterans' Day.) Be sure to check your e-mail, as some splits have been listed. Your final shot for Christmas items is the December 9 delivery. Please try to plan to order any necessities this month in case something's out of stock!

OPEN MIC BEGINS NEW SEASON



Through the generosity of the Royalston Cultural Council and the Town of Royalston's Board of Selectmen, a new season of "Open Mic" is set to begin Saturday, November 6 and continue through the winter on the first Fridays of each month. The popular event has grown tremendously since its original inception in 2003, drawing a wide array of talent in all genres of music. Former professional musicians and those who wish to give performing a first try are equally welcomed.

This season's hosts are Joshua Morris-Siegel and Jim Bennett, who are organizing the evenings, and Melanie Mangum, who will serve as emcee. They will perform on bass, saxophone and vocals, respectively, as "The Royalston All-Star Band" and will welcome visiting musicians each month to complete the group.

Performers must call in advance (Josh - 978-249-4260) or arrive prior to 6:45 p.m. to schedule a slot. All acts must maintain a safe and sane sound level. Snacks and coffee are free to performers and members of the audience; soda and water are available at a nominal charge. There is no admission fee for listeners, although free-will donations to the Royalston Cultural Council are always appreciated.

Thanksgiving Church Services

Rev. Dr. Ginger Asel

Thanksgiving is the most celebrated holiday in America. More people travel on Thanksgiving than any of time of the year. It is a time of gathering and ingathering.

Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service - Sunday Evening - November 21st - will be held at the newly renovated Athol Historic Society at 7 p.m. All are invited to come and give thanks to God for the many blessings.

Ingathering - Traditionally the First and Second Congregational have an ingathering of food during the Thanksgiving Sunday Morning Worship services. Come and bring a goodly supply, which will be ingathered at both the 9 a.m. service in the Second Congregational Church in South Royalston and the 11 a.m. service in the First Congregational Church in the Center.

GALA CHORAL CONCERT FEATURING LOCAL COMPOSER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28 at 4 PM
Central Congregational Church
93 South Main Street, Orange, MA

Geoffrey Hudson, Conductor
Gretchen Saathoff, Piano

Featuring The Lake Mattawa Singers, The Lake Mattawa Chamber Ensemble, Pioneer Valley Brass and The Quabbin Valley Pro Musica, (the latter of which includes Royalston's MaryAnn Leazott, Patience Bundshuh and Phil Rabinowitz.)

After a fascinating and varied career, Carolyn Brown Senier now lives and works on the shores of Lake Mattawa. The extraordinary body of work composed by Carolyn has been gathered together under the title "The Mattawa Song Cycle." Glorious, soulful music, both secular and religious, will be performed on November 28th by The Lake Mattawa Singers, The Lake Mattawa Chamber Ensemble, Pioneer Valley Brass and The Quabbin Valley Pro Musica, a community chorus sponsored by The 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem.

The concert will feature the premiere of Carolyn's new choral work "In Praise of Names." Following the concert will be a reception sponsored by the publisher Haley's of Athol, MA in honor of the release of The Mattawa Song Cycle book and compact disc. The 464 page book includes: a biographical profile of the composer written by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri of New Salem, more than 200 pages of Brown Senier's original music for chorus and piano and more than 150 photographs from the composer's collection. The composer and author will autograph copies of the book and CD at the reception.

Concert tickets are available online at www.mattawasongcycle.com or by phone at 800 - 215-8805. General Admission \$12. Students and Seniors \$10.



Welcome Yule: Music, Dance, Songs and Stories of the Yuletide Season

For many years, the turning of the midwinter season has been sung, danced and acted by adults and children from all over the Pioneer Valley. Norcross Road's Norah Dooley will be singing, directing and telling stories. Her daughter, Ferron, is in the chorus. This show is a great way to start the winter holiday season with your whole family. It will be held at Frontier Regional Auditorium in South Deerfield, MA in mid-December. Dates and times TBA. Follow the cast through the arc of changing seasons.



Congratulations and Good News

Got something to crow about? Drop the news by the library or e-mail chasegos@gis.net .

Linq, Diane Lincoln, made it into the competitive singer-songwriter contest sponsored by radio station WRSI (the River). She'll be playing at

Bishop's Lounge in Northampton on Tuesday night, Nov. 2nd. The grand prize this year is a trip to Boulder Colorado to be on the syndicated indie-music radio program E-Town. She's wicked excited. You go gal!

Royalston's **Boyd Estus, Liane Brandon** and **Damon Bundschuh** all worked on the recent NOVA broadcast, "The Most Dangerous Woman in America" (Typhoid Mary), which aired Tuesday, October 12th on PBS. Boyd Estus was Director of Photography for the production, which means planning and executing the live action filming: coverage, lighting, camera angles, camera operation, etc., Liane Brandon served as the Unit Still Photographer. She did still photos of all major scenes and characters during the course of production, as well as taking 'behind-the-scenes' pictures, showing the cast and crew at work. Her photographs were used by WGBH for the promotion and advertising of the show - in print, on their website, etc. One was on the cover of the Boston GLOBE weekly TV magazine. Damon Bundschuh worked on the film as Production Assistant.

Joshua Morris-Siegel had two of his photographs from his summer work crew in Washington state published in promotional material for the Student Conservation Association Donor Newsletter, which is sent out to over 200,000 potential donors.

Spencer Fortwengler, son of John and Susan Fortwengler, graduated from Keene State College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology. He received an Associate of Science Degree in chemical dependency and a minor in biology. A 2000 Athol High School graduate, he is employed at Community Health Link in Leominster.

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Deborah Linnus of Tully Rd has begun this business after losing over 65 lbs and going from a size 22 to a size 8. For information, call DEBORAH LINNUS H978-249-6361 C 508-331-0181

Classifieds: *A free 2-3 line space to advertise services available and sought, items for sale, etc. No businesses please.*

For sale: Brenda Putney is taking Christmas orders for Stained Glass items. Order soon to get items in time. Call Brenda Putney 249-7787.

MEMORIALS

Belated condolences to Cheryl Smith of Winchendon Road, whose father **George E. Marshall**, 80, of Phillipston, passed away Saturday, August 21. Marshall was well known in the area, donating many years of service to the National Ski Patrol, Boy Scouting, Phillipston PTA, Phillipston Congregational Church, library and council on aging. He was named "Citizen of the Year" for Phillipston in 1999. The family requested memorial contributions in lieu of flowers, to the American Cancer Society; New England Division Office; 20 Speen Street; Framingham, MA 01701, to the Spina Bifida Association c/o Mary Ellen Shorey; 96 Pine Hill Rd.; Ashland, MA 01721, or the Phillipston Congregational Church Handicap Access Fund; Phillipston, MA 01331.

Condolences also to the Mark A. Suchocki family of Falls Road. Mark's father, **Vitold C. Suchocki**, 82, of Gardner, died Thursday, October 14. A Gardner High grad, Mr. Suchocki was a decorated, WWII veteran and lifelong member of the Polish American Citizen's Club. The family suggested memorial donations could be made to any charity of the donor's choice.

Poetry Club

Mary Carnie

The RCS Poetry Club is up and running. We have a very enthusiastic group of 20 children from grades 1 - 6. There's always room for one more though. If you are interested it is not too late to join. The club meets each Tuesday from 3 to 4 p.m. Please call RCS (249-2900) for particulars.

Sandy

A strong believer
Lover of nature
A terrific teacher
A child lover
Loved giraffes
A loving person
No one a stranger

Now, she's a free spirit
She's a giraffe running through the fields
Something happened to her that she didn't deserve
She was as gentle as a giraffe, as strong as a lion
Never cared if she was sick
Now you can't see her
Only feel her
By Michele Thompson, grade 4
Dedicated to the friends, family and students of Mrs Waters

Halloween

Halloween is a time for trick and tricks.
To chose your outfit, you need picks.
On Halloween, you are the ghost and they are the goblin;
You need to be as frightening as you can be,
So get ready;
Come on down and say trick or treat.
By Jessica Porrier, grade 4

MONTY TECH NEWS 1-800-853-6689 ~

www.montytech.net

Mary C. Barclay, 249-2598 ~

royalston_community_news@yahoo.com

Beginning of the year figures seem to have settled out with Monty Tech's total enrollment at 1,230 – full is 1,200! The school's outstanding reputation and creative recruiting techniques drew two or three candidates for each freshman opening. More aggressive programs are in place to fill empty seats in upper classes. Better follow-up of applicants through the summer, student-driven efforts to integrate new students into the school environment, and careful placement of students following first semester exploratories have greatly reduced the number of students who return to their sending schools.

Royalston now has 28 students at Monty Tech, split between males (15) and females (13). Eleven of the 12 qualified students are in the class of 2008, with 8 females and 3 males. The class of 2007 has 6 males, 2 females; 2006 has 5 males, 1 female; this year's graduating class has 1 male and 2 females.

Royalston Community School News Update

Mrs. French, Principal

We have been busy supporting our Massachusetts sports teams, the Red Sox and Patriots, with spirit days. Students in many of the grades have written letters to soldiers overseas. We are hoping that these letters will brighten their days. In November, there will be a school wide "Mock Election." We hope to encourage our students to become future voters. It will be interesting to see how our results compare to the rest of the nation.

Our School Council meeting will be held on Tues. Nov. 9th at 5:00 PM. The Parent Teacher Group meeting will be Nov. 9th at 6:30 PM.

Parent Teacher Conferences are being held on November 17th & 18th. We will also be sponsoring a book preview by Usborne books on these days. Stop by and check out these great non-fiction books. They make super Christmas gifts. Officer Phil's safety program will be presented to the students on November 29th.

Thank you to Subway of Winchendon for providing our lunch for the student of the month luncheon held monthly. Also big thanks to Mr. Chet Hall for painting the four square courts and installing the new basketball hoop, which was donated by the RCS class of '04. The children are excited to have more choices during recess.

MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Graduates of MWCC's **Certified Nurses Aide Training** program can walk into immediate employment after completing this November 30 – January 14 course. Increased earning power and a new career would be a great way to start the new year. Applications (Deadline: November 15) are available from Quabbin Valley Health Care Center or MWCC's Orange Campus located at the West River Health Center, 450 West River Street. Additional details are available from Alice LeBlanc at 978-630-9220 or am_leblanc@mwcc.mass.edu.

Gift-Making Workshop

The Village School is offering gift-making workshops with local artist Kerry Stone. These workshops are open to all area children. They will be creating their own gifts to give for the holidays including sachets, special gift cards and hand-crafted clay items.

The workshops will be held on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 pm as follows: The workshop for ages 5-7 will meet on November 8, 15, and 22. The workshop for ages 8-12 will be on November 29, December 6 and 13. Children at RCN can arrange to take the bus directly to the Village School on these days. Please call the school at 249-3505 for information on cost and to register. These workshops usually fill quickly, so if you are interested, it would be best to call soon.

Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration

The Village School will be holding their annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 5th. The public is invited to participate in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school with a gathering in the dark for a bonfire, stories, and songs. Everyone will then join in a procession down Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing candle-lit lanterns. A community pot luck supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a contra dance with caller Norah Dooley and the No Name Band, beginning around 6:30 p.m.

All over Europe, children participate in lantern walks to mark the seasonal transition in nature from light and warmth to darkness and dormancy. The Village School has adopted this custom with songs, stories, and handmade lanterns that bring light in the darkness. The contra dance will be called, and children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations are requested of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family.

Open House at the Village School

The Village School is holding an Open House on Sunday, November 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Village School serves children from preschool through grade 6 from towns all over the North Quabbin area. Interested parents and their children are invited to come visit the school, see the classrooms, meet with the teachers, and talk to current students and their parents.

Arts and crafts projects and hands-on science activities for children will be offered in each classroom (Preschool, Kindergarten, Grades 1-6). There will be brief curriculum presentations by the classroom teachers and each of the specialists (the science, math, art and music teachers). Children will be able to participate musical activities and there will be group singing for everyone. With a bit of luck, there will be storytelling in the newly erected teepee.

The Village School is an independent school offering a supportive learning environment for children from preschool through grade 6. The school has a unique curriculum based on direct contact with the natural world, kindness, and attention to the individual. The school is located on the Common in Royalston, by the Post Office (in the old Raymond School building). For more information call School Director Rise Richardson at (978) 249-3505, or visit the school's web site at www.villageschool.to.

November Hunting Seasons 2004

Be aware that there could be people with weapons in local woods at these times; wear orange and use common sense. Dates inclusive. No hunting on Sundays.

Pheasant, Quail and Grouse	Oct 16-Nov 27
Deer (archery)	Oct 11-Nov 20
Deer (shotgun)	Nov 29-Dec 11

ROYALSTON FISH & GAME CLUB NEWS

The Royalston Fish & Game Club now has a computer and an e-ddress. Questions and comment may be sent to royalstonfishandgame@juno.com and the new computer will be easy to see, thanks to new lighting that's been installed throughout the Club. Watch for information on the Club's annual holiday party for children.

In Your Own Backyard



Beth Gospodarek

From tiny acorns grow mighty oaks, which is a good thing for many creatures in our backyards during the lean seasons of fall and winter. Oaks are one of the largest group of native trees in the United States.

There are probably over 200 species. The two most common in Royalston are Red Oak, the ones with the pointy lobed leaves and White Oak, the one with the rounded lobes.

Oaks provide sustenance to nearly all herbivorous birds and mammals in New England. Acorns are eaten by grouse, turkey, mourning doves, wood ducks, whitetail deer, black bear, red and gray fox, raccoon, opossum, chipmunks, and of course, squirrels. Squirrels are famous for collecting acorns in the fall and burying them as a cache for hungry times later in the winter. Researchers have shown that squirrels really don't remember where they've buried the nuts, and in fact, many of the acorns buried in fall by the squirrels are essentially being planted. They will germinate and emerge in the spring. The resulting young trees and low twigs provide food for browsers like deer and hare. Porcupine favor the green growing layer beneath the tender bark. Oaks hang onto their leaves longer than any other local deciduous tree excepting their cousin, the Beech but by late November, most of the rust colored oak leaves have fallen to the forest floor where the leaf litter provides winter habitat for salamanders, snakes, and small scurrying rodents. Dead oaks are home to all kinds of boring and engraving insects, which feed insectavorous birds like chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and titmice all winter. Gypsy moths are particularly attracted to oaks. Their egg cases, which are fuzzy yellowing mounds two inches long, can be found (and removed) beginning in November through the winter.

For humans who forage, the nuts of White Oaks are much less bitter than those of Red Oaks. However, both are nourishing and several northern Native American tribes relied upon both acorns as a staple. Local oaks are important lumber species used for flooring, furniture, and post and beam house framing. In the past, white oak was essential to barrel making and shipbuilding. The tannic acid in the leaves and bark was used to tan leather.



Wildlife Sightings

Cindy Boucher saw a **Black Bear** near the power lines on South Royalston Rd in early October, the same spot she saw a bear back in June.

Ginny Moore and Irene Lawrence have both been visited by **skunk** recently, but they take comfort that their skunk problems are nothing like those of the Charests, where whole families have been known to set up residence.

In your wanderings in the northeast part of Royalston, if you spot something you think might be a moose, but on closer inspection, doesn't quite fit the description, you've probably come across Jesse, a robust **donkey** who suffers from a serious case of wanderlust. Jesse belongs on Frye Hill at the home of Marjorie Chase, but has been seen scavenging apples (a favored treat) on Northeast Fitzwilliam Road, as far north as the former Leon Newton property, where the Lawrence Brook crosses under the road at the foot of Bodman Hill.

Birch Hill Rangers Snowmobile Club

New members are welcome at the Birch Hill Rangers Snowmobile Club, which meets on the 2nd. Wed. of the month at the Royalston Fish & Game Club at 7:30 pm. Any questions contact Roy Smith at 249-9687 or Ben King at 249-0987.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Veterans' Day is commemorated each November 11 and is one of those days people should proudly display their American and POW/MIA flags at full staff. It's also an excellent time to assess the condition of flags to decide if they need to be replaced. The Uniform Code allows for individuals to retire flags in the privacy of their own homes. Worn, faded and damaged flags should be burned to ashes in a fire built specifically for the purpose of flag retirement. A fire place, wood stove or outdoor fire is acceptable as long as it is for the purpose of respectfully retiring a flag that is no longer serviceable. Those using an out-of-doors fire should contact the fire department's non-emergency number (978-249-8138) and leave a message stating the date and time that fire will be started and approximate time it will be extinguished.

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SUPPORT GROUPS (October 2004 Edition)

The following support groups are free and meet at the hospital in the first floor conference room unless otherwise indicated.

AlAnon for family and friends of people with alcohol related issues. **Meets every Monday at 7 p.m.**

ALS Support Group for people seeking help in coping with their illness. Led by Linda D'Amour-Duffy, MSW, LCSW and Sandy King, RN, BSN. **Meets the LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH from 7 - 8:30 p.m.**

Athol Tobacco Quitters Successful quitters offer motivation and support. **Group meets on MONDAYS from 6 to 7 p.m.**

Narcotics Anonymous Meets from 7 – 8:30 p.m. EVERY WEDNESDAY. Open meeting.

SMART Recovery is a cognitive/rational approach to overcoming addictive behavior and maintaining abstinence. Learn to manage your feelings and combat the urge to use drugs and/or alcohol. **Meets every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.**

HIV/AIDS Social and Support Group for anyone with AIDS or HIV-positive. **For date, time and place please call (978) 249-3511 Ext. 283.**

Bereavement Support Group for people seeking a compassionate environment to help cope with the death of a loved one. Led by Kate Hart, LICSW. **Meets from 1 - 2:30 p.m. on the THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

*****Cancer Support Group** on hold until further notice.

Diabetes Education & Support Group offers practical information and caring, emotional support. Led by Marjorie Sobil, RD, LDN. Meets 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Healthy Hearts and Lungs Club for anyone with cardiac or lung disease or at risk for developing the diseases. Learn to manage risk factors and create a healthy lifestyle. **Meets from 2-3 p.m. on THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

Please call Community Relations at (978) 249-3511 Ext. 143 for more information.

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E-mail: chasegos@gis.net

Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston, MA 01368

Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)

Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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