

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July/August 2007



Volume X, Issue VI

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

July 1 Sunday

10:00 a.m. **Preschool Kindermusik® Summer Program** at the library begins. Free and open to all preschoolers and their caregivers. Continues Mondays at 10 a.m. through August.
8 p.m. **Pete & Henry's Closes for Vacation** will reopen July 12.

July 2 Monday

7 pm **Trustees of the Phineas S. Newton Library meeting**

July 3 Tuesday

7 pm **Much Ado About Nothing, Royalston Shakespeare Company performance** at the Town Hall. Culmination of a two week theater workshop starring local kids and produced by the Friends of the Library.

July 4 Wednesday

Independence Day

July 5 Thursday

1:30 pm **Wheat Weaving for kids** at the library. The Summer Reading Program begins today at the library and continues each Thursday afternoon in July.

July 6 Friday

Earth at Aphelion, the farthest it will be from the sun this year – 94,508,728 miles.

July 8 Sunday

1 - 5 pm **Painting classes with Sonja Vacarri** for adults and older kids at Town Hall. Use acrylics to conjure a still life. Friendly atmosphere. All skill levels welcome. Materials provided. Cost: \$8. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

July 12 Thursday

1:30 pm **Make Giant Hula Hoops at the library** at the Summer Reading Program. Snacks, contests, books and fun.

evening **Guided Outing to Rhododendron State Park,**

a designated National Natural Landmark in neighboring Fitzwilliam, NH, sponsored by the ABNC and the North Quabbin Garden Club. Meet at 5:45 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, Main Street, Athol for car-pooling or at 6:30 p.m. at the Park.

July 14 Saturday **Bastille Day**

According to resident historian John McLure, the house on the Common known as the Bastille got the name because of a boxy barn which resembled the seat of French bureaucracy during the French revolution. Now, does anyone have a photo?

8:04 a.m. **New Buck Moon**

Congregational Church Fair:

7 - 10 a.m. **Pancake Breakfast** at Town Hall

9 - 3 p.m. **Country Fair** 4 p.m. **Chicken BBQ**

July 15 Sunday

noon to 5pm **Royalston Summer MusicFest** in Bullock Park behind the post office (in case of rain: in the Town Hall). Many activities for children and Ray Hendricks performing with his band.

July 19 Thursday

1:30 pm **Drumming Fun** at the library with Walden Witham as part of the Summer Reading Program. Catch the beat, eat a snack and check out a book. Free!

July 25 - 27 Wednesday - Friday (Repeated August 8, 9, & 10) morning **Jr Rangers Program** at Tully Lake for children ages 6-11. Call (978) 249-9150 for info.

July 26 Thursday

1:30 pm **Crank Homemade Ice Cream** and play old fashioned run-around games at the library.

July 29 Sunday

8:48 p.m. **Full Buck Moon**

July 30 Monday

6 - 8 p.m. "The Book of Daniel" **1st Congregational Church Vacation Bible School;** continues evenings through August 3.

August 4 Saturday

7 pm **Learn about Guitar Hero video game** with its developer Daniel Sussman at Royalston Town Hall. Pre-register at library.

August 11 Saturday

The Perseid Meteor Shower should be visible during darkness from the predawn hours this morning through Wednesday morning. The new moon on August 12 should provide the perfect pitch black backdrop for the light show, which is expected to send on the order of 75 or so shooting stars an hour from the Swift-Tuttle Comet.

August 12 Sunday

5 p.m. **Chicken Barbecue at the Royalston Fish & Game**
7:03 p.m. **New Sturgeon Moon**

August 17 Friday

3 p.m. **LBS Annual Benevolent Family Pot Luck Supper** hosted by Beth Gospodarek at Packard Pond. Swim, boat and lounge around in the afternoon. Eat at 6. RSVP 249-0358.

August 28 Tuesday

Full Sturgeon Moon

3:52 a.m. **Total eclipse of the moon** begins. Continues through 9:23 a.m.. Weather permitting, will be visible throughout North America.

6:35 p.m. August 30 Thursday

First Day of School, ARRS

September 3 Monday

Labor Day



News from the Selectmen's Office

Andy West

Now that budget season is over, the Board of Selectmen are ready for the start of a new fiscal year on July 1. The goal setting process is proceeding. Taking the lead, the select board has adopted a modest goal for the 2008 ATM of an overall reduction in spending of \$100,000. This gives us a full year of departmental planning, goal setting and tracking of service and expenditures to hit our target. More effective planning with all departments working together with more accurate monthly reporting will keep us on track. We have also agreed on a schedule with the Finance and Capital Planning committees that will make the budgeting and Town Meeting preparation smoother. The individual department head and departmental goal setting process is proceeding well.

The Board has made appointments for the upcoming fiscal year. There are currently openings on the Historic District Commission. If you are interested, let us know at bos@royalston-ma.gov or by calling the office, 978-249-9641.

Broadband Committee News: DSL has come to Royalston! Because of better than average maintenance, DSL signals can reach the roads closest to Athol. Verizon has completed tests and has hooked up many homes on Route 32 and Athol Road. We are working with Verizon to try to convince them to invest in the equipment that will enable DSL for the whole town. DSL is a service that provides an internet signal along existing phone lines. Whitney Hall is in the process of being wired for its T1 line. When the network is up for the Town Offices, we will be attempting an experiment that will send a wireless internet signal from Whitney that can be picked up by residents nearby. There have also been encouraging reports of residents receiving internet cellphone service. This service is available from wireless cellphone providers in the area such as Verizon and Cingular. If you want to know more, you can read more about these technologies and ask questions at RoyalstonBroadband@yahoo.com.

Route 32 update: You may have noticed our engineering firm, Chappell Engineering, out on the road marking GPS coordinates and flagging boundaries and wetlands. In the next few weeks, they will be digging test pits (yes, creating more holes) to determine just what lies beneath the road. This will help them determine what treatments are necessary to allow the new road to last as long as possible. Wetlands are marked to minimize impact. In a few weeks they will have a preliminary plan for what needs to be done to the surface and edges for safety, drainage, and longevity. This plan will be markedly different from the previous one. The goal of this project is to keep the country road appearance while improving safety and minimizing tree and wetland impact. During this planning process, we will hold a public meeting to gather input about residents' needs and concerns. This will probably happen before the next newsletter. So we will use every other method to get the word out about this important meeting.

A quick reminder to be sure to call Helen Divoll to book your event at the Town Hall. Her office phone is 978-249-9641.

July meetings will be on the 10th and 17th. August meetings will be on the 7th and 21st. All meetings are at the Town Hall at 7p.m. Whitney Hall office hours are from 4-6 on the same Tuesday as a BOS meeting. The Board of Selectmen wishes everyone a safe and pleasant summer!

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

New vehicle stickers are in and due by July 1st. \$10 for residents. Reminder that all vehicles need a current vehicle sticker to access the facility. If you plan on using more than one vehicle to access the facility, get a sticker for both. This affordable \$10 annual sticker fee helps subsidize the cost of shipping and handling the recyclable materials.

The stickers should be stuck on the driver's side windshield. If you do not want to stick it on the vehicle, place on the driver's side dashboard so that the attendant will be able to see. If the attendant cannot see the sticker, plan on being asked to show it. Avoid this unnecessary encounter by displaying your sticker in plain view. Please, help the attendants by complying with this simple request. We would like to thank everyone in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



Can there be any surer sign of summer than the need to renew dump stickers?! Phil Leger of Royalston's Board of Health, reminds residents that stickers are \$10. (\$50 for out-of-towners). Stickers, required for each bag of trash dumped, are \$2 each and may be purchased in any quantity. Don't forget to browse the treasures in the recycle room. Hours are Fridays from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturdays, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Try to arrive at least ten minutes prior to closing so you're gone and gates can be locked at closing time.

Historical Society Museum Open by Appointment all Summer

Check out the bells in the Society building. One comes from a church that stood in West Royston. There is also a very unusual organ piano in the building. The museum is open by appointment. Call John McClure 249-8675 to arrange a time.

Becoming a member is very easy. Our dues are \$5 a year and we have four meetings a year, two are pot luck suppers. Support the society by joining us. Checks may be made out to ROYALSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY c/o Andy West, P.O. Box 35, Royalston, MA 01368.

What Happened at the Town Meetings?

The re-convened annual town meeting took place on Friday June 22nd. State Representative Rice was in attendance. He spoke hopefully of improved broadband service from Verizon for some areas of town with future plans to provide it to all areas; also he addressed the changes in the coming health insurance programs in the state.

The 27 registered voters in attendance quickly voted to allow the assessors to take money from the stabilization fund to reduce the tax rate and then adjourned the meeting. After waiting a few minutes the special town meeting was convened and the first five articles: to transfer from stabilization \$10,179 for an asset audit, to enter into a five year lease agreement with National Grid (at no cost), to establish rules for the use of poles for Town owned streetlights, to transfer from stabilization \$400 for the Animal Control Expense account, \$4,000 for Public Halls account, and \$24,504.52 for the balance of the Snow and Ice account, were passed unanimously. The sixth article returned \$28,568.29 to the stabilization account from unexpended accounts. Article seven to transfer \$3,000 to the Police Department wage/expense account to finish the fiscal year 2007 was tabled. Article 8 transferred \$1,000 from the stabilization account to the DPW fuel account for Police Department fuel over-expenditures for fiscal year 2007.

Most discussion of the evening centered on the funding of the Athol Summer Playground program for \$2,100. In the past, a few children from Royalston have attended, but now, Athol wants Royalston to pay into the program before allowing Royalston children to attend. The finance committee had voted not to support the article based on the precedence it set of funding relatively unpublicized articles at sparsely attended Reconvened Town Meetings (rather than at the more robust Annual Town Meeting.) After debate, voters decided 20-5 to fund the program. To sign your child up, contact Athol High School as soon as possible or pick up a registration form at the Phinehas Newton Library.

Building Department Offers Land Use / Planned Development Seminar with Noted Expert

The Royalston, Athol and Phillipston Building Departments will be sponsoring a seminar at the Athol Town Hall on September 12, 2007 at 7 pm. Attorney Mark Bobrowski from the law firm of Blatman, Bobrowski and Mead or Concord, Mass. is the guest speaker. He is the author of *The Handbook of Massachusetts Land Use and Planning Law*, a manual used by many individuals in the Commonwealth to sort out the complex regulations for land uses. Attorney Bobrowski will be discussing several issues pertaining to zoning and special decisions of recent land court cases. A question and answer period will follow. The meeting is expected to last about 2 hours. Drawing from 16 local municipalities, this informational session is hoping to draw participation from all Town boards and individuals that are interested in planning for development in our region at an appropriate rate of speed. Due to the cost of this endeavor, there will be a charge of \$10/person. Checks should be made out to the Town of Athol and sent c/o Athol Building Department/ 548 Main St./ Athol MA 01331. Please RSVP by Sept. 7.

Royalston Luncheon Club/ COA

Royalston Council on Aging President Betty Woodbury says she is anxious to recruit some new members. "Numbers of lunch patrons are way down," she says, referring to several Royalston residents who have passed away, and others who are living in long term care facilities. Lunches are just \$2 for seniors and \$2.50 for not yet seniors. Reserve a seat on any Monday for the following Wednesday's luncheon by calling Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656.

RCS Principal Grosky Announces Retirement

Principal Mitchell R. Grosky has announced his retirement, effective August 1 of this year. He is the 5th principal to leave RCS in the 10 years it has been open. After retirement, Mr. Grosky plans to enjoy photography, traveling, writing, acting, directing, gardening and reading. His wife (a teacher at Mahar) has suggested that it's a good time for him to experience the joys of cooking.

Mr. Grosky came to the Athol-Royalston District 14 years ago. He has served for three years as principal of Royalston Community School, one year as principal of Ellen Bigelow School, two years as principal of Silver Lake School (sharing his time with RCS over the past two years), and one year as assistant principal of the old Athol Middle School. In addition, he served as a teacher for a total of 9 years—4 at ARMS, 3 at Riverbend, and 1 at Pleasant Street School (in addition to 20 years in other districts). He lists these accomplishments over his tenure: encouraging and insisting on best practices, providing support for teachers and children, continuing to provide a warm and caring school climate, showing regular visibility in the classroom—despite shuttling between two schools—developing partnerships with parents, and working enthusiastically with staff to treat children as individuals.

Mr. Grosky effusively praises the RCS staff: "Thank you for two extraordinary years—full of challenges, creativity, energy, support, and friendship. I've always taken pride in everything I do—and I take pride in the things we did together. You've worked so hard for our kids and always supported me—with extra unpaid, voluntary duties, with humorous anecdotes, and with visible and invisible kindnesses."

When Mr. Grosky announced his retirement to the to the RCS and Silver Lake School students, he stressed, "these wonderful children have made the past two years the most rewarding, most extraordinary years in my life. Since my early days as principal, I have clearly seen that I have been blessed with having the nicest, kindest students in the world, and I will always be so thankful to you for that. " He asked students to continue to "give your very best effort to be the best person and the best learner you can be." and cautioned that this means studying hard, stepping in to solve problems, treating others kindly and making good choices, even when these actions are uncomfortable and difficult. Students who want to stay in touch are encouraged to call or e-mail Mr Grosky at home.

Mr. Grosky hopes to continue active involvement in the community. He wishes to thank parents and community members as well as fellow administrators for their constant support and advice. He hopes to continue to state the case for a new elementary school in Athol and a new Athol High School because "our children really deserve it." Finally, he looks forward to a future where our children's hopes, dreams, and futures are guaranteed by an educational system here in Athol and in Massachusetts which provides adequate and equitable funding for educating all children of all abilities.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12 noon

979-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Recent Donations to the Friends

Brenda and Jeff Hopkins

The Coflesky family

Thank yous

***Janet Bettey** for an audiobook

***B. H. Gronowicz** for a magazine subscription

***Ann and Joe Verrelli** who saved the rainy day book sale by loaning us, setting up, and taking down their large canopy. **Stephen Chase** who further saved our book sale by attaching huge plastic drop cloths to the tent to keep the books safe from the blowing rain. And thanks to everyone who donated and purchased books.

***Ashley and Christine Sawyer** for help processing books. The staff really appreciated your help while it was in the midst of preparing for the book sale.

***The whole community** pitched in to make the annual Friends plant sale a big financial success. **Beth Gospodarek, Maureen Blasco** and **Sharon Harmon**, who spend huge amounts of time digging and potting, collecting plants from hither and yon, and then, staffing the plant sale in the pouring rain, offering advice and expertise. In addition to the lovely donations from local nurseries: Prospect Hill Farm, Down to Earth, Shepardson's Gardens, Agway of Athol, and Noel's Nursery, residents brought over a plethora of plants from their own gardens.

Some of the New Books

Every month, the library gets new books, audio books, dvds and music cds for adults and children. The newsletter has room to list only a fraction. For the complete list, readers can see our web-site, www.royalstonlibrary.org, or stop by the library to browse.

New Adult Fiction

Bachman, Richard *Blaze*

Barnard, Robert *A Fall From Grace*

Beverly, Jo *Lady Beware*

Brashares, Ann *The Last Summer (of You & Me)*

Cabot, Meg *Queen of Babble*

Carey, Jacqueline *Kushiel's Justice*

Carr, Robyn *Shelter Mountain*

Carr, Robyn *Virgin River*

Connelly, Michael *The Overlook*

Coulter, Catherine *Double Take*

Craig, Philip R. *Vineyard Stalker*

Dillard, Annie *The Maytrees: A Novel*

Estleman, Loren D. *American Detective*

Evanovich, Janet *Lean Mean Thirteen*

Fowler, Christopher *White Corridor*

French, Tana *In the Woods*

Goudge, Eileen *Woman in Red*

Green, Jane *Second Chance*

Greenlaw, Linda *Slipknott*

Hamill, Pete *North River*

Hosseini, Khaled *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

James, Eloisa *Desperate Duchess*

Johnson, Rachel *Notting Hill*

Koontz, Dean *The Good Guy*

Leonard, Elmore *Up in Honey's Room: A Novel*

MacHale, D.J. *The Pilgrims of Rayne*

Macomber, Debbie *Back on Blossom Street*

Mankell, Henning *Before the Frost*

McCall, Alexander Smith *The Good Husband of Zebra Drive*

McCrum, Sharyn *Once around the Track*

McEwan, Ian *On Chesil Beach*

McLaughlin, Emma *Dedication: A Novel*

Mosher, Howard Frank *On Kingdom Mountain*

Oates, Joyce Carol *The Gravedigger's Daughter*

Ondaatje, Michael *Divisadero*

Parker, Robert B. *Spare Change*

Penny, Louise *A Fatal Grace*

Plumley, Lisa *Let's Misbehave*

Rosenfelt, David *Play Dead*

Smith, Martin Cruz *Stalin's Ghost*

Steel, Danielle *Bungalow 2*

Vaite, Celestine *Breadfruit: A Novel*

Von Ziegesar, Cecily *Unforgettable: An It Girl Novel*

The Ups and Downs of DSL at the Library

The library has a 30 day trial of DSL before we have to commit to the system. Several delays in a start-up date and general problems, haven't given us much of a chance to test the system. It seems to work as fast as the satellite when it's working. We can easily predict when reception of the signal from the satellite will be affected by weather, whereas we haven't been able to figure out what causes the DSL to fail to work. We will be trying to work out solution to the problems with Verizon® so that we can adequately compare the systems before we decide which one to utilize. Stop by and see how you think it works. Wireless connections work on either system so you can use your laptops (if one of the systems is functional!) 24 hours a day.



New Adult Nonfiction

Allawi, Ali A. *The Occupation of Iraq: Winning the War, Losing the Peace*

Allen, Woody *Mere Anarchy*

Al-Sheha, Abdul Rahman *Woman in the Shade of Islam*

Ashworth, Trisha *I Was a Really Good Mom Before I Had Kids*

Bernstein, Carl *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton*

Brunelle, Michael *The Fine Art of Chinese Brush Painting*

Bugliosi, Vincent *Reclaiming History: The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*

Carey, Mike *Re-Gifters*

Fields, Denise & Alan *Baby Bargains: Secrets to Saving 20% to 50% on baby furniture, gear, clothes, toys, maternity wear and much, much more!*

Gore, Al *The Assault on Reason*

Grass, Gunter *Peeling the Onion*

Great Food Fast: 250 Recipes for Easy, Delicious Meals All Year Long

Hawken, Paul *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement Came into Being and Why No One Saw it Coming*

Hunter, Erin *Warriors: The Lost Warrior*

Kerasote, Ted *Merle's Door: Lessons from a Free-thinking Dog*

Mackall, Joe *Plain Secrets: An Outsider Among the Amish*

Morrison, Grant *All-star Superman*

Peretsky, Sara *Writing in an Age of Silence*

Trelease, Jim *The Read-Aloud Handbook*

Vartan, Dot *Mad About Muffins*

Vertrees, J.D. *Timber Press Pocket Guide to Japanese Maples*

Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze? And 114 Other Questions

Summer Activities for All Ages at your Local Library (The only brick building on the Common)

Guitar Hero Program for Video-gamers

PlayStation and Xbox Fans, Did you know the guy who developed the popular game, Guitar Hero, spends time in Royalston? Daniel Sussman will present a program at the Town Hall on Saturday, August 4th at 7:00 p.m. Daniel is a Producer at Harmonix Music Systems, Inc., in Cambridge, MA. Some of his recent credits include Guitar Hero (Producer) and Guitar Hero 2 (Project Leader). Daniel started at Harmonix as a tester and has had a hand in each of the 9 console games Harmonix has developed over the last 5+ years. Daniel also plays guitar in a Boston punk band, The Acrobats. Guitar Hero has won awards around the world including best game of 2005. Daniel will discuss how he got into developing games and how to get into the gaming market. He'll also be talking about developing Guitar Hero, as well as demonstrating it, and telling about the new game he is currently developing. A raffle of two autographed Guitar Hero games will be held. Register by signing up at the library.

Kindermusik® Preschool Summer Program

Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Royalston Academy, Tina Gemborys will be leading five weekly music and movement programs for preschoolers and their caregivers on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. at the library beginning on July 9th. This entertaining program encourages participation and enjoyment for everyone. Healthy snacks served. Older children may attend with their families and use the library during this time but the activities are for preschoolers through kindergarteners. For more information, call the library, stop by, or check out the website.

“Catch the Beat at Your Library”

Fun Summer Reading Programs Offered

There's a lot happening every Thursday during July at 1:30 p.m. at the library. There will be free activities and snacks as well as a chance to check out some summer reading.

Wheat Weaving on July 5th, Join library director Kathy Morris while she explains the ancient history of weaving grains to make many different designs. Then practice the craft by making a wheat weaving to take home.

Make Hula Hoops on July 12th. Participants will be shaking their hips after they complete and decorate their own giant hula hoop with Emily Putney and the library's own Jen Bartkus. There will be games and prizes for the hula hoop contests.

Drum on July 19th. Everyone will really catch the beat with Walden Witham, music teacher in Winchendon and musician extraordinaire, as he leads a participatory drumming workshop.

Homemade Ice Cream on July 26th. Participants will be cranking away, playing games, shooting bottle rockets, and having a party to celebrate summer.

Catch the Beat at Your Library is the statewide summer reading program sponsored by the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems and Waste Management and funded by the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library. Healthy refreshments will be served at each program. Participants must pre-register for the wheat weaving and hula hoop programs at least one week in advance to ensure adequate supplies are available. For more information or to register, call the library, stop by, or check out the website.

Summer Art Class for Adults and Young Adults

Artist Sonja Vaccari, a.k.a Madame V., will lead an acrylic painting class for young adults and adults at the Town Hall on July 8th from 1:00-4:00. The workshop will give an overview of technique and help each painter develop skills while painting a still life of flowers from Sonja's beautiful gardens. All skill levels welcome. Relaxed atmosphere promised. Materials provided. (\$8 materials fee.) Please register in advance.

Art Exhibit at the Library:

During July and August, Lian Cutting will show her paintings at the library. Lian began painting a few years ago, beginning with books she borrowed from the library. Her paintings include scenes from Royalston and the South where she and her husband Bill winter. Lian is the daughter of the late Donald and Dorothy Corser and grew up in Royalston. In September, student art from recent library painting classes goes up. Other local artists interested in being displayed should contact the library.

Culture on the Cheap. Museum Discount Coupons

Available at Library. Discounts at scores of New England museums are available at Royalston's Phineas Newton Library this summer. See us before you go and save some dough! See our website for the complete list of participating museums.

Harry Potter Gala at the Athol Public Library

The last Harry Potter book will be released on July 21st. The Athol Public Library will be having a Harry Potter night beginning at 7:00 p.m. with all sorts of magical activities occurring during the evening and the book being distributed for those who pre-ordered at midnight. Library Director Kathy Morris will once again be transmugged into Pomona Sprout, the herbologist from Hogwarts. Friends of the Library president, Beth Gospodarek, will see-all-and-tell-all as Professor Trelawney reading fortunes from tea leaves. Contact the Athol Public Library at 978-249-9515 to register or pre-order books.

The Royalston Shakespeare Company proudly presents :

Much Ado About Nothing

7 pm July 3, 2007
Royalston Town Hall



...a workshop performance in the Bard's immortal words, featuring 35 local youth, including Royalston's own Grady MacPhee, Christine Sawyer, Meredith and Ryan Carrier, Katie Robinson, Emily Mangum, Tobey, Caleb and Asher Chase and Rosalie Doolie Faricchild. Many thanks to the Salvation Army for costuming, Athol High School for use of the Spotlight, Bill Cutting for buying the cast party pizza, Royalston Academy for subsidizing the work on the script, and the Town of Royalston for use of the hall, and all the patrons of the arts who have advertised in the program. Produced by the Friends of the Library.

Jr. Rangers at Tully Lake

July 25, 26, & 27 or August 8, 9, & 10

This summer children ages 6-11 can become official Jr. Rangers! At Tully Lake Park in Royalston, Park rangers will teach children about environmental issues such as recycling, wildlife, and forestry as well as water safety and the responsibilities of being a Park ranger. This three day program is FREE of charge.

Choose the week that is best for you and contact a Tully Lake Ranger to pre-register. Enrollment is limited and students will be admitted to the program on a first come first serve basis. The program will be three days, 2 hours each day. Please do not hesitate to call us and learn more about the program. (978) 249-9150

Still Openings at Village School Art and Science Camps

(Go to www.villageschool.to to find summer program info and registration form.)

Nature Arts & Play

Ages 4 to 8 9:00 - 1:00

two separate sessions: July 9 - 13 and July 16 - 20

Our popular summer program returns with mornings filled with art, nature exploration, singing, games and free play. Each week will have a unique focus, with different arts and crafts activities and projects. Children bring their lunch and we all eat together in the shade of the maple tree. Cost \$125.

Summer Art Intensive

July 16-20th- ages 8 and up. 9:00-1:00

Projects include making a recycled paper bowl, a clay candelabra, an acrylic painting, small projects with sculpey clay or decoupage and painted t-shirts as well as needle felting. On the last day, there will be an art show at 12:45 to exhibit the completed work to parents and interested friends. Cost \$150

Science and Art Experience

Ages 6 to 12 9:00 - 3:00

Mon – Thu (4 days) July 23-26 <New Dates!

Local artist and art teacher, Kerry Stone, and freshwater field biologist and science teacher, Cathy Szal, join forces to present science, nature and art as a unifying and creative experience for participants in Village School Summer Programs. Cost \$140

The Great Northern Tier Geocaching Tournament

Saturday & Sunday August 18 & 19, 2007. Wendell State Forest Expert and amateur geocachers, individuals, and families are all invited to join the hunt for “caches” hidden throughout the North Quabbin Region’s forests, parks, farms and cultural sites using a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) receiver and a list of coordinates. Once again, Wendell State Forest will be home base. From there, travel by foot, bike, and boat (and a little by car) to find over 50 new caches around the North Quabbin region. A whole new set of Night Caches is available too. Classes will be offered on GPS use and GPS units will be available for rent and for sale. Come for the competition or just come for the fun. As always, great prizes and coupons for area attractions will be available. Registration is FREE (Donation requested) and campsites are available for a \$10 weekend fee. Register early at www.northquabbinwoods.org or by calling 978-544-3332.

Royalston Families: Sign Up ASAP if interested in Athol Playground Program

Thanks to funding provided during the Special Town Meeting on June 22nd, Royalston children will be able to participate in the Summer Playground program held at the Athol High School. The program runs from June 25th to July 27th from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Any Royalston child who will be six-years-old by June 30, 2007 through middle school can attend. The playground hosts the typical camp activities of arts and crafts, sports, and swimming, as well as special outings, which may include trips to the movies, the beach, the zoo, or the Paw Sox. The cost to the family is \$25.00 for 5 weeks, and Playground tee-shirts will be available for \$5.00. Families can sign up at the Athol High School and forms are available at the Phinehas Newton Library; the registration has been extended for Royalston residents.

Ladies Benevolent Society Family Picnic Planned

It was a fairly slow day at the 12th annual Royalston Blood Donor Day on June 7th, but with blood supplies in short reserve, every unit of the liquid lifesaver was graciously received. Approximately two dozen units of blood were collected, a far cry from last year’s record-breaking 53 units, collected from 69 presenting donors. A change in date, lack of signs and one of the very first positively perfect days of summer all received some blame for the low turnout. Those unable to donate in Royalston are urged to donate elsewhere during the summer. Blood supplies are critically low.

The LBS is hosting “A Benevolent Pot-luck Picnic” at Packard Pond with hostess Beth Gospodarek on Friday, August 17. Come at 3 p.m. for fun and swimming; bring a dish to pass for the 6 p.m. pot luck supper. New members are welcome at any time of the year, and this yearly kicked-back casual get-together is a great opportunity for women of the community to meet neighbors and make new friends. Kids and extended family welcome.

Vacation Bible School

July 30th to August 3rd 6 to 8 PM.

First Congregational Church of Royalston

Theme: The Book of Daniel

The story of Daniel is action-packed and adventurous. The lessons learned are applicable today. All who attend will assume the roles of the children of Israel and interact with King Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, and the four faithful teens: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. Friday night will be the grand finale. There will be a giant obstacle course set up on the Common which will include: the golden statue, handwriting on the wall, fiery furnace, mysterious dreams, and the lion’s den!!

Registration FORM:	
Name: _____	Age: _____
Address: _____	
Home phone: _____	
In case of emergency: person to contact _____	

Phone: _____	

Send to: Rev. Dr.Ginger Asel, P. O. Box 73, Royalston, MA 01368.
For further information call Pastor Ginger Asel: 978-249-9155

Royalston Country Fair: July 14th

Rev. Ginger Asel

How much fun can one have on a mid-summer's day? There will be plenty of opportunities to answer that question at the annual Country Fair of the First Congregational Church in Royalston, on Saturday, July 14th.

To begin, flapjacks will be flipped and forked from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. with a Pancake Breakfast at the Town Hall, sponsored by the Second Congregational Church. Cost: \$5 adults/\$3 kids.

The fair on the Common begins at 9:00 a.m. and will go until 3:00 p.m. Helen Divoll will have her homemade donuts ready. John Scribner will serve up burgers and dogs along with Dave Williams' home-made root beer. David and Shirley Putney are heading up the Attic Wonders Table as well as a MEGA AUCTION. Debbie Orne has undertaken a myriad of art projects. Jan St. Jean is in charge of the raffle table. Jane Cherichetti, Carrie Hutchins, Louise Clement and Nancy Bolton will be found at the baked goods table.

Children will be excited to see what games and activities Rainboe the Clown has in store. Don't forget the hayrides and the annual tractor pull.

Crafters from throughout New England will be setting up their wares. There will be a large selection: knit and hand sewn items, jewelry, magnets, wood crafts, pottery, felt art, teddy bears, quilt art, pillows, homemade jams, fudge, plants, novelties, TY Beanie Babies, etc. While you are strolling through the Common looking over the various tables, enjoy some live music. The music schedule:

9:00-10:00 – The Jammers

10:00-11:00 – K & C Homeward Bound Band.

11:00- 12:00 - .- Flightplan

12:00- 1:00 - Noel Veilleux

1:00 – 2:00 - Kingdom Come Band

2:00-3:00 – Mary McMilleon

The Chicken Barbecue, which will be serviced at 4 p.m. For further information and tickets for the barbecue contact Kelly Newton at 978-249-9252.

2nd Congregational Church Chicken BBQ on Aug 12

Another one of Ray's Famous Chicken BBQs to benefit the Second Congregational Church is planned for Sunday, August 12 at 5 p.m.; it will be held at the Royalston Fish & Game Club. Chicken with all the fixings may be enjoyed inside, at one of the picnic tables under the pavilion or out under the Royalston skies. Tickets always sell out and quickly. Reserve your dinner ASAP by calling 978-249-8746, or purchase tickets from any member of the Second Congregational Church

Classifieds

House Cleaning in your home – 4 hr for \$60.00. Royalston resident. As for Fran: cell 978-895-0817 or home 249-8431.

John Divoll will mow lawns this summer (or perform any odd jobs). Responders will have to provide mower. Call 249-3158.

For Sale: Expand water tank. Used 6 mo. In cabin. \$25.00. Excellent condition. 249-8431.

MusicFest July 15

Noon to 5pm at Bullock Park. Fifth Anniversary Edition

Includes:

*EMS and Fire Department's famous BBQ.

*Fabulous Ray Hendricks playing with his talented young local band as well as a line-up of great musicians in many genres, including Melanie and the Blue Shots
*For the children: face painting, pony rides, giant-puppet-making workshop with Manny King.

Bring a folding chair and an umbrella. **Free admission** thanks to the Mass Cultural Council, Godin Real Estate, Athol Savings Bank.

Photo: Ray Hendricks and his drummer, Dan Thompson. Ray is part of Royalston lore because, as a young teen, he started his stage experience at one of our first open mics. Famous today, he will play at the MusicFest on July 15 before leaving for a performance in England. Pat Patterson will be on electric guitar, Chris O'Brien on bass.



Local Musicians at 1794 Meetinghouse

As part of the New Salem Old Home Day festivities on Saturday **July 21st**, Royalston musicians Rene Lake, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Phil Rabinowitz and Linq will be among the performers at the 1794 Meetinghouse that evening for a Folk Revival and Sing-Along. The show starts at 7:30PM, and audience participation will be welcome. Tickets will be available at the door (only \$10), and more information is available at www.1794meetinghouse.org.

Linq will also be hosting two shows through her Linqsongs Publishing at the 1794 Meetinghouse in July and performing at one of them. Indiegrl Showcase I on Thursday July 19th and Indiegrl Showcase II on Thursday July 26th will feature several performing Indiegrls from around New England and New York. Royalston's Jim Bennett will be running the sound system.

Garden Club Events

Outing to Rhododendron State Park on July 12: A stone's throw from Royalston, Rhododendron State Park in Fitzwilliam, NH, has the largest grove of the native *Rhododendron maximum* in New England and is a National Natural Landmark. Royalston's Christine Long will lead this joint outing of the ABNC and the North Quabbin Garden Club to see 16 acres of rhodies in bloom, wildflowers, and a colonial herb garden. Meet at 5:45 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, Main Street, Athol for car-pooling or at 6:30 p.m. at the Park. (For those who don't want to drive south to go north, the Park is off Rte. 119, west of Fitzwilliam, NH center. Watch for sign.) Note: \$3/person park fee. Bring exact amount.

North Quabbin Garden Tour: Sunday, July 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Tour 10 gardens in our area while helping the Miller River Environmental Center. Tickets: \$7 in advance at Agway, Bruce's Browser and the Center in Athol, or at Noel's Nursery and Lu's Florist in Orange; \$10 on tour day at the Alan Rich Environmental Park.

Military News: **Leala Brousseau**, a member of the U.S. Army military police, has recently completed her EMT certification and while in training has been assigned to a woman's prison in Mississippi. She will come home to Royalston for a short visit before leaving for Kuwait on August 7th. She will then be deployed to Iraq where she will be at Camp Bukka working as a tower guard and a member of the riot squad.

Lisa Basso of King Street has been deployed to Iraq with the United States Army's 181st Infantry Division D Company, First Battalion. She will be driving Humvees through the desert, serving as body guard for government officials, running check points and conducting foot patrols. The combat unit, which includes 15 women, will do searches of Iraqi women in addition to their usual duties. Those wishing to correspond with Lisa may contact her Father, Tony Basso, for her address.

Recipe of the Month: Buddy Dyer's Dragon Chili

Known for his cooking, humor and talents in the garden, Buddy says, "This recipe is a good one for potlucks or a large family gathering. I don't remember where the recipe came from, but I've been Dragon it around since the early eighties."

Step 1 - In a large pot combine and simmer:

- 1 TBSP Oregano
- 2 TBSP Paprika
- 1 TBSP Salt
- 7-9 TBSP Mild Chili Powder
- 4 TBSP or more Cumin
- 2 TBSP Inst. Beef Boullion
- 1 can of beer
- 1 cup of water

Step 2 - In an oiled skillet brown meat in batches:

- 3 lbs. ground chuck
- 2 lbs. ground pork
- 2 lbs. lean chuck cut into 1/4 inch cubes

Step 3 - When all meat is browned, add to spice mixture.

Step 4 - In same skillet, sauté:

- 2 Large Onions
- 10-12 minced garlic cloves

Step 5 - Add to spice and simmer for 2 hours, then add:

- 1 TSBP sugar
- 1 TBSP coriander
- 1-2 TBSP hot sauce
- 1 TBSP unsweetened cocoa powder or mole powder
- 1 small can of tomato sauce

Step 6 - Simmer another hour: Dissolve 2 TBSP masa harina flour or cornstarch in warm water to thicken, salt to taste

Step 7 - Simmer for another 20 min. ENJOY!



Royalston Community Coop: Next United Foods, Inc. orders are due in July 12 and delivery will take place on July 19. Minimum monthly orders are going up to \$750 – an every other month ordering schedule will be put into effect in the event minimums can't be met.

Weddings: **Nancy Ferron and Joan Katz** of Laurel Lake Road were married in a private ceremony at their home June 13. Mariah Mallet, neighbor, friend and Justice of the Peace, presided. Katz was attended by her daughter, Rose Ciccarelli, and Ferron was attended by her sister, Barbara Couillard. Ferron, a native of Athol and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has worked in various programs designed to curb domestic violence and in human services agencies protecting the rights of women and the elderly. Katz, who grew up in New Jersey and moved to Massachusetts in the 1960s, is an attorney specializing in family law.

Holly and **Patrick Perry** have announced the engagement of their daughter, **Emily J. Perry**, to **Thomas A Cummings**, son of **Carol** and **Robert Cummings** of Athol. Bride and Groom both recently graduated from Castleton State College in Vermont. She earned a B.S. in marketing and plans to pursue a career in health care marketing. Thomas Cummings graduated with a B.A. in criminal justice and plans a career in law enforcement. A September 20, 2008 wedding is planned.

Talent from Towns of 1200:

Art Show: Royalston sculptor **Gene Cauthen** is included in a group show at Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, Northfield, MA. Opening reception Saturday, June 30, 5-7 p.m. Show runs until August 12th. For information, call the gallery at 413-489-0283 or see www.greentreesgallery.com

New Book: Local author **Allen Young** of Butterworth Road has a new book slated for publication in August. The title is *Make Hay While the Sun Shines: Farms, Forests and People of the North Quabbin*. The paperback book is a collection of articles written in the 1970s and 1980s, all previously published in the Athol Daily News and the Valley Advocate, and presented in this book with brief updates and photographs. Many of the articles focus on Royalston events and personalities, including an interview with Walter "Jake" Clark about his work in the 1930s at the Hill House (now the Bundschuh residence), feature stories about the unique professional careers of Maba Cauthen and Glenn Freden, a look at old farmers Francis and Linnie Dillon and new farmers Kate Collins and George Northrop; a portrait of South Royalston, an analysis of the Royalston Historic District's early years, an account of an early Christmas tree lighting, a first-person account of a snowmobile ride to Pete and Henry's, and more. The book will be available at the library, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Friends of the Library. It will also be sold at Bruce's Browser in Athol, which is owned by Royalston resident Diane Lincoln.

Filming TV Show for PBS: *Boyd Estus, Director of Photography (left) and Damon Bundschuh, Camera Production Assistant (right) on location at Orchard House during the filming of "Louisa May Alcott" produced by Nancy Porter Productions for broadcast on Public Television.*



Photo by Liane Brandon.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Feeling Groovy: Molly Smith, Royalston's oldest resident, reports that she is doing well at the Baldwinville Nursing Home. She is enjoying the visits of friends and family and hopes to be swamped with even more company in the future. She asks that residents keep in contact.

2007 GRADUATES OF ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL

Ashley Bergquist

Daughter of Lori and Paul Bergquist and step-father Dan Darling
50 Laurel Lake Road.

Will Attend: University of New England

Major: Political Science

Scholarships awarded by: Cumberland Farms "Believe and Achieve"; Massachusetts Elks, Inc.; Mount Grace Sno-Snoopers; Ladies Benevolent Society of Royalston in memory of H. Pauline Smith; Henry P. Cole Memorial Athletic Scholarship for Children of Royalston; Brian Wallwork Memorial; South Royalston School Reunion Committee; Government Service Scholarship sponsored by Tamara Martin Class of 2008; North Central Mass Assoc. of Realtors; Royalston Community School PTG; Royalston Academy in memory of Catherine Seymoure Bullock Cole; Athol Lions Club; Athol High School Association; and the Meg E. Shatos Award sponsored by the AHS Scholarship Association

Stephanie Campos, Daughter of Sandi Campos and Armando Campos
19 Laurel Lake Road

Will Attend: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Scholarships awarded by: Athol-Orange Rotary Club; Athol High School Scholarship Association; Webb R. Avery and Ethel S. Avery Scholarship sponsored by the AHS Scholarship Association.

Brett Jeffery, Son of Clair Alix and Jon Jeffery

172 New Fitzwilliam Road

Will Attend: Westfield State College

Major: Undecided

Michelle McCassie, Daughter of Lynn Divoll and Joseph McCassie
11 Falls Road

Will Attend: Mount Wachusett Community College

Major: Criminal Justice

Scholarship: Ladies Benevolent Society of Royalston in memory of Dorothy B. Corser.

To the great pleasure of her family, **Carolyn Bennett** was graduated summa cum laude from Northeastern University this year.

Brendon Jeffrey of Northeast Fitzwilliam Road was named to the Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for the spring semester.

Caitlin J. Barclay and **James M. Barclay** recently completed the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Experienced Rider Course through the Central Massachusetts Safety Council. The dad and daughter motorcyclists then traveled to Lake George, NY for a week during the 25th annual Americade Motorcycle Rally. Another couple with a Royalston connection, **Tim** and **Darlene Kilhart** who own a summer camp on Long Pond, also participated in Americade.

Elizabeth Ramsdell, Daughter of Linda & Thomas Ramsdell

285 Warwick Road

Will Attend: Mount Wachusett Community College

Major: Psychology/Education

Tracie Romanson

Daughter of Liza Gonzales and Richard Romanson

163 Warwick Road

Employment - Undecided

Nicholas Scott, Son of Kristin & Benjamin Scott

10 S. Royalston Road

Employment - Carpentry & Roofing

Dustin Short, Son of Melissa & Keith Short

47 Deland Hill Road

Will Attend: Fitchburg State College

Major: Business

Jason Stevens, Son of Judy & Everard Hayes

22 Stewart Road

Employment - Undecided

Daniel Vaccari, Son of Sonja & George Vaccari

171 N. Fitzwilliam Road

Will Attend Bristol Community College

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Scholarship: Ladies Benevolent Society in memory of Maxine E. Wilcox and Athol High School Scholarship Association.

John White, Son of Robert & Faye White

114 Bliss Hill Road

Employment at North Central Correctional Institute

Lydia Musco has graduated from the Boston University School of Visual Arts with a Masters of Fine Arts in sculpture. She has studied stone carving, wood carving, and metal casting, among other techniques. She received the Ester B. and Albert S. Kahn Career Entry Award, the Joan Mitchell Prize, and a \$10,000 grant to help transition into her artistic career. She was featured in The Boston Globe's annual MFA student review. Musco's work was most recently included in the Boston University MFA Student Exhibition at BU's 808 Gallery. Two of her sculptures featured in this exhibition were on view at the Boston University Presidential Reception on May 20 at the request of BU President Robert Brown. Musco will participate in a one-month residency at the Edward F. Albee Foundation in Montauk, Long Island followed by a residency at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming. Musco plans to use her awards to pay for a studio, as well as material and equipment for her large-scale concrete sculptures. Lydia has also been offered a Teaching Fellowship in the BU School of Visual Arts for the Fall 2007 semester.

Wildlife Sightings

George Bodman & Arline Vining saw a **blond fox** in Arline's pasture on Beryl Hill Road. It was well fed and had a beautiful bushy tail and coat.

Lots of wild life sightings on Bliss Hill. **John Fortwengler and Granddaughter Skyler** saw a **black bear** crossing from their property. **Susan Fortwengler and granddaughter Bailey** saw a **vixen** with two little kits. And, there are **lots of turkeys** all of a sudden. The Fortwenglers say, "We've been here seven years now and have had the most sightings this year."

John Divoll saw a **bear** near his home on Deland Rd, and it's rumored a bear comes looking for leftover picnic baskets at quiet moments in Tully Campground.

On Sunday, June 10th, **Jim and Pat Kelley** had a visitor to their St. Laurant Campground home. A young (less than a year old) **moose** showed up on the front lawn and proceeded to sample most all of the front yard flora. It started with a young maple tree; then, moved on to the lupines, purple irises, and finally to the entree.... a very succulent hosta. It took a while to convince her to move on. The moose has been tagged and the Kelleys think she is getting too friendly with residents of the area and hope she'll "move on to find some of her own kind to hang with." On Saturday, June 15th, coming back from a dump run, Jim saw two long legged scruffy looking **coyotes** bouncing across Winchendon Road just below the Mowreys.

Trail Work at Royalston Academy Conservation Land: Volunteers Needed

In cooperation with the Royalston Academy, the town library, (through its Friends group) will be planning afternoons of volunteer work cleaning up the trails at the Royalston Academy Conservation Land on Northeast Fitzwilliam Road this fall. Royalston resident and forester Glenn Freden will be marking trails for the Academy and volunteers will clear and clean up the trails so that they are once again suitable for hiking and cross country skiing.

The land is open to the public and has some interesting features. It skirts a beaver meadow and Lawrence Brook and contains huge glacial erratic boulders, abandoned stone walls, a few old growth trees, as well as a vernal pool. Animal sign is common. The plan is to make the clean ups fun outings for families and civic groups.

The Royalston Academy has a long history of civic philanthropy in Royalston. It yearly provides significant funds for scholarships and arts programs in our schools and library. Many people remember the annual birthday parties on the Common thrown by the Academy's founder, especially the party which included elephant rides. The clean up could be a small way to give back. Those interested in participating are asked to contact the library.

Dog Days: In winter, one of the brightest stars in the Northern night sky is Sirius, part of the constellation Canis Major (the big dog). In fact, it is so bright that the ancient Romans thought that the earth received heat from it. In the summer, however, Sirius, the "dog star," rises and sets with the sun and the ancients believed that its heat added to the heat of the sun, creating a stretch of hot and sultry weather. They named this period of time, from 20 days before the conjunction to 20 days after, "dog days" after the dog star. This year they fall from 7/3 - 8/29.

During the steamiest of dog days, it is likely that pollution emissions will stay near the ground trapped in ozone, which is obviously not healthy for humans to breathe. Make an especial effort to defer using gasoline powered machines and any nasty household or garden chemicals then.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

July, surprisingly enough, is an in-between month in respect to my gardening activities. The crunch is over: the soil preparation, planting, and transplanting is essentially completed. It remains, only, to re-work and re-plant those few beds which become available during the month. The peas, garlic, shallots, and spinach are replaced by cabbages, oriental greens, more spinach, and whatever fast-maturing vegetable I am inspired to seed. While there is some harvesting in July, it is nothing compared to the day-in, day-out harvesting in August and September. There are peas, of course, and just in the nick of time, as the asparagus and spinach wind down. Fresh sugar snap peas are an especial treat, as eagerly anticipated as the strawberries of late June. I'll be consuming salads almost ever day, befitting the fact that by July's end it is all over, my lettuce consumption not to resume until next June.

Unless something dramatic occurs in the next couple of months, I anticipate a huge crop of fruit this year. My concerns about the pollination of the apple and peach blossoms were completely unfounded; the trees are filled with fruit. So, too, are the wild berries we typically gather: the blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries. Strawberries are plentiful. I picked my first handful on June 15. The strawberries were not ready but I was. Since then I've been picking a large number of modestly-sized fruit. It is tedious work, but there is no other tedious work to perform now. (I suspect, too, that it is the very tedious-ness of the task that attracts me to it.)

Many of you experienced the thirty-minute deluge on the afternoon of the sixteenth but it was a hit-or-miss proposition. We registered 1.4" of rain, gusty winds, and ten minutes of hail the size of deer scat. The Drapers, not one-half mile down the road, had plenty of rain but none of the hail. The Putneys, one and a quarter miles distant, didn't even get the rain. The garden, by and large, weathered the storm quite well. Many plants were knocked over but twenty-four hours later most had recovered. The onions and their relatives have well-marked leaves where the hail bounced off them. The principal casualties were the spinach and the chard, the hail passing through the leaves, giving the beds the appearance of a target at a shooting range. Otherwise, the June weather has been garden-friendly. Rainfall has been timely, though it seems we could always use more. Temperatures have been well-below normal (we have not yet registered eighty degrees this month), benefiting the cool-weather crops (but discouraging the warm-weather ones).

On matters of the back: I endured a couple of weeks with a troublesome (read painful) back. Nowadays I don't hear so good, I don't see so good, and, with a declining number of teeth, I don't chew so good. I've made adjustments in each case but there are not many adjustments to be made for a troublesome back, which is troubling indeed. A properly-functioning back is as necessary for successful gardening as good seed and I wouldn't want mine to be otherwise.

Postscript: I have this notion to visit as many Royalston vegetable gardens as possible this summer. If you garden a patch and want to share it (and who, among us gardeners, does not?), call me at 249-4260 and I will come by.

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Monty Tech News: As of June 20, 695 applications were received for 352 available seats; five Royalston freshmen applied to Monty Tech for the coming September. Three were immediately accepted into our three quota seats, one declined, making room for the fourth applicant. Royalston had 29 students in Monty Tech in 2006-2007. Monty Tech's plumbing department recently was presented with a large sum of money to purchase a special piece of equipment in memory of Eric Mitchell, a plumbing student who died last year as the result of an ATV crash. After a great deal of investigation, a state-of-the-art "pipe camera outfit" was purchased. Plumbing students will train with the equipment during their junior year, inspecting, identifying problem areas and repairing Monty Tech's aging plumbing system.

RCS Happy Apple Club Donates to Dafur, Sudan

For many years, the Happy Apple Club in the RCS 2nd grade has raised small sums of money to donate to a charity. The second grade decided to send its latest money toward providing "Berkeley Dafur Stoves" to the women of Darfur, Sudan. Developed at Berkeley University, these cookstoves need 75% less fuel than traditional stoves, can be made by local residents using locally available materials, and essentially pay for themselves in about two months. Using less fuel saves women and young girls from the perils that await them outside the camps where they must forage for wood. The 2nd grade invites others to make a tax deductible donation at www.chfinternational.org/section/donate or by mail. Send your check or credit card information to: CHF International/ Resource Development/ 8601 Georgia Ave, Suite 800/ Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

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In person: Drop off at library

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