

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2007



Volume X, Issue VII

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

Calendar of Events:

September 3 Monday

Labor Day schools, library and post office closed
Cancelled due to holiday – 7 p.m. RFD officers' meeting

September 6 Thursday

6:30 pm **Friends of the Library meeting.** discuss library support, notecard fundraiser, newsletter and future programs.

September 7 Friday

7 pm **Special Town Meeting** at the Royalston Community School. Votes will be taken on budget articles for various Town departments and changes to the ARRSD Regional School Agreement. (Details p. 2) Warrant posted online at www.royalston-ma.gov.

September 8 Saturday

10:00 am- 5:00 pm **First Annual Fungus Fair:** A Fun-gi Filled day! Guided walks. Learned talks: Beginners' Mushrooms, Edible Mushrooms, and Dying Fibers with Fungi. Plus mushroom cooking throughout the day. Held at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. (Details, p. 10)

September 11 Tuesday

8:44 a.m. **New Harvest Moon**
noon **early dismissal at RCS**

September 12 Wednesday

Rosh Hashanah begins
7:30 pm Royalston Fish & Gun Club meets (Directors at 7 p.m.)

September 13 Thursday

Ramadan begins

September 15 Saturday

9 am - 2 pm **Country Flea Market** at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church of South Royalston. Good company, raffles and refreshments. Up to 25 spaces available for flea market vendors for a nonrefundable \$10. Call Maureen at 249-8192. (Details, p. 7.)

10 a.m. **Golf Tournament for Royalston Fire & EMS Assoc.** at Par 3 Golf Course on Route 202 in Orange. (Details, page 7.)

9 am - 3 pm **Athol Fall Festival and United Way Parade**, which includes many Royalston kids playing in YMCA soccer leagues.

10:00 am - 5:00pm **North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival** (continues Sun. 9/16) in Orange. Offers crafts, agricultural bounty, food, music, and fun. Royalston has a noticeable presence, including Kathy Morris' wheat weavings, Melanie and the Blue Shots, the Village School and others.

September 21 Friday **Yom Kippur begins**

6:30 **Village Improvement and Historical Society Potluck Supper followed by quarterly meeting** with election of officers at the home of Peter Kraniak on Winchendon Rd. New members welcome. Call 249-7625 for info.

September 23 Sunday

Autumnal Equinox

September 26 Wednesday

Full Harvest Moon

8:30 a.m. **24-Hour Dispatch Committee** meets at F.D. #1

7:30 pm **Ladies Benevolent Society meets with the program "Health Care in Haiti" with Dr. and Mrs. John Mulqueen**, hosted by Brenda Putney. All members of the community, regardless of gender, are welcome. Call Brenda for directions 249-7787.

September 30 Sunday

1:30 **Trail Clean-up in Royalston Academy Conservation Area.** Volunteers needed. Meet at sign on NE Fitzwilliam Rd. Call 978-249-3572 for info. (Details. p. 5)

Save the Date:

October 13 Saturday

4 pm **104th School Scholarship/Alumni Meeting and Social** at Royalston Fish & Game Club.

6 pm **104th School Scholarship/Alumni Dinner Dance** at Royalston Fish & Game Club.

7 - 10 pm A-REF's **Oktoberfest**, Micro-brewery beer and German wine, live music, and *schmeckhafte* German food. Donation \$25-50. Contact Beth Gospodarek, Carla Rabinowitz or Melanie Mangum for tix. Raises money for enrichment projects in the local public schools.

October 14 Sunday

Tully Lake Triathlon. Based out of the Campground; (fun family activities the day before). Includes a 5-mile paddle, a 4.5-mile trail run, and a 7.5-mile mountain bike ride. Live music following.

1 - 3 pm **Family Foliage Hike**, sponsored by A-REF in the Bearsden Conservation Area. Easy hike with a fabulous view. Collect playing cards along the route; best poker hands win a prize. Naturalists, historians and natural historians on hand.

October 19 Friday

7 pm **"Wolf Talk"** at the Royalston Town Hall. (Details, p.4)

October 20 Saturday

5 pm **Fiber to Fashion Alpaca Extravaganza.** Appetizers and wine, dinner, and a fashion show at Royalston Town Hall, sponsored by Royal Pines Alpaca Farm: 978-249-7629. Tix: \$20.



Selectmen's News

Andy West, selectman

There will be a Special Town Meeting on September 7, 2007 at 7pm at the Royalston Community School. This meeting will deal with several time-sensitive items that cannot wait for the annual meeting. Please see more detailed information below.

Chappell Engineering continues to make excellent progress on the design and environmental work for Route 32.

Great news! Verizon has informed the Board that during scheduled maintenance over the next several months, they will make changes that will allow DSL (high speed internet) to be available for customers in a 3-mile radius of the center fire station. The service should be available by early 2008.

The T1 (high speed internet) line installation is complete at Whitney Hall and all offices are hooked into the faster access. We are ready for our WiFi "hotspot" experiment in the South Village. This will hopefully bring internet capability to residents within 1000 feet of Whitney Hall. Do you live in the Village, have a wireless capable computer, and want to be part of the experiment? Send an email to bos@royalston-ma.gov and let us know.

Over the years, 2 or 3 diesel engines have idled near the South Royalston crossing for extended periods, despite repeated promises from Guilford Rail, causing air quality issues for the area. The Board, with the help of the Department of Environmental Protection, is aggressively pursuing PanAm Railways, parent of Guilford Rail, for a permanent end to this recurring issue.

Special Town Meeting

There will be a Special Town Meeting on September 7, 2007 at 7pm at the Royalston Community School. Here is a brief description and explanation of the articles. Please check out the warrant where posted or online at www.royalston-ma.gov for complete wording.

1. \$5,000 to remove a mobile home and truck body from a property. Court case to remove an unapproved mobile home. A judge has ordered the Town to make funds available.
2. \$3,000 to repair the police cruiser. Larger maintenance items to the cruiser because of its age that were not budgeted.
3. \$5,000 to fund Royalston's portion of the Athol Royalston Regional School District's Strategic Planning process. Athol and ARRSD have each funded \$5,000 already.
4. \$8,500 for Cemetery maintenance. The lowest bid for cemetery care was more than approved at annual town meeting.
5. \$750 to fund half the cost of a fire hydrant repair. The Board has asked to split the cost with SRIC.
6. Repair or replace several doors at Town Hall. Doors are difficult to open and close.
7. Additional funds for the Public Halls Maintenance account. Unbudgeted expenses.
8. Through 13. Proposed changes to the Athol Royalston Regional School District Agreement. These include designating RCS as a pre-k through 6th grade school and implementing an 8 out of 10 School Committee member vote in order to move students among ARRSD schools.

Conservation Commission has an Opening

The Conservation Commission has an opening for a new member. The commission, which meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Town Hall, is responsible for enforcing the Massachusetts State Wetland's Regulations. Please inquire at a meeting or call George Northrop at 978-249-4407.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

Do you know what happens to all the paper that is collected at the transfer station? It goes to a 100% recycled paper facility in Fitchburg owned by Newark Paper. This company is one of the largest paper recyclers in the country. At the Fitchburg plant, all the paper is made into the paperboard that is inside the covers of three ring binders. There is a machine at this plant that makes the paperboard and cuts it into the proper sized product. This is one of two machines of this type in the world. Prior to this machine being available, the process was split between two facilities: one to make the paperboard and one to cut it into size. This involved trucking to another facility and the associated costs. The goal of Newark Paper was to site a facility where the recycled paper would be sourced directly from transfer stations and other generators within a 100 mile radius of the plant. This would also cut down on transport cost. *Next month, where do the bottles, cans, and plastic go?*

The BOH apologizes for any inconvenience with the back up of bottles and cans. The trucking company was backed up, which caused a delay in collection at the transfer station. Also, any information regarding the recent dumping of several mattresses and a bureau at the front gate would be appreciated.

Royalston Police Department News

Mary C. Barclay

Police Chief Curtis A. Deveneau wishes to alert residents to a number of house breaks in our immediate vicinity. It was estimated that "...well over \$100,000 worth of cash, coins, jewelry and home electronics" had been stolen from the region. The pattern seems to be single family homes, during daytime/work hours, in locations not easily seen from regularly traveled roads. The criminal(s) scope out the neighborhood and select homes that appear unoccupied. To verify that no one is home, they will knock very loudly. If someone happens to come to the door, they have a prepared excuse, such as needing directions, or offering some service such as yard work or maintenance. If a stranger with an unlikely story is knocking on your door during the daytime, try to note their plate number and description of their vehicle as they leave. Once they have left, immediately contact 9-1-1 to report the incident. Under NO circumstances should a potential criminal be confronted. Residents should try to take notice of any vehicles or behaviors that seem suspicious. Keep paper and pen in the car and jot down the plate numbers and descriptions of vehicles that seem out of place, along with a date and time. Even after the fact, these data can mean the difference between losing valuable property forever and recovering stolen items and identifying criminals. An alert and involved public greatly enhances the efforts of the Royalston Police Department.

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

Summer hours (Mondays – 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.) are in effect until September 10, when regular hours will resume. (Mondays, 6 p.m. To 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). The office will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 3.

2007 Street Lists are available for purchase at the Clerk's Office and the Post Office. Copies are \$2.00 each.

Recently appointed? A lot of yearly appointments were made by the Selectmen at the beginning of the summer, and if you were one of those appointed, you should have received a letter in the mail asking you to come in to my office and be sworn in. The swearing-in is short and sweet and virtually painless – just remember to bring your letter of notification with you.

A Quick Note from the Royalston Forest Warden about Cooking Fires

Wayne R Newton

The fall brush season is approaching quickly. I am reminding everyone to use caution when having cooking fires. Permits are necessary.

To obtain a cooking fire permit: Call the Royalston Fire Department at 978-249-8138, leave your name, location of fire (your address), and telephone number on the Fire Department's answering machine. If you have previously obtained a burning permit from the Royalston Fire Department, leave that number as well.

Town of Royalston Requirements when having a cooking fire:

1. Be sure to obtain a permit each time you would like to have a cooking fire.
2. Be sure to have plenty of water close to the fire (your garden hose will be fine, but consider the capacity of your well, especially during the recent dry spell).
3. All fires cannot exceed 2' X 2'.
4. Never leave your fire unattended.
5. Extinguish your cooking fire completely, when through. (Call 911 for assistance in extinguishing the cooking fire, if needed.)

Department of Environment Protection Guidelines:

Starting the fire: Remove all grass from the area where you will be burning. Try to start the fire with natural "kindling" - never with gasoline or charcoal lighter fluid. If you must use an artificial helper, kerosene is probably safest.

While burning: Never add brush that is green or wet. It will reduce the efficiency of the fire and produce thick smoke. Someone must attend the fire until it's completely out. You will need a hose or other supply of water and a shovel or rake for controlling the fire.

Putting the fire out: Once burned down to the coals, drown the coals with water; spread them out; then, drown them again.

Volunteers Needed: Royalston Academy Trail Clean-Up

Sunday, September 30 at 1:30 pm.

Meet at sign on NE Fitzwilliam Rd. Bring gloves, water and clippers.

The Royalston Academy Conservation Area is public woodland available to all for walking and x-c skiing. Skirting Lawrence Brook and abutting other properties with conservation easements, it is important wildlife habitat. Sign of moose, bear, deer, beaver and otter are not uncommon. There are old lanes lined with stone walls and giant glacially deposited boulders. Unfortunately, the trails have become overgrown.

The Royalston Academy is the legacy of the Bullock Family to the children of Royalston. It funds many enrichment programs in the schools and library each year. It annually funds college scholarships. The Bullock Family paid for the reconstruction of the 1st Congregational Church steeple after the '38 hurricane and the WWII war memorial flagpole. It was instrumental in the historical restoration of many homes on the Common. It assisted our Town and its residents in other public and private way as well. Helping clear the trails is a way to open up the land to more public enjoyment and thank the Academy for the many years of generous service to our Town.

Cultural Council Grant Applications Due by 10/15/07

Marie-Claire Humblet, chair

According to the recent survey of the Royalston Cultural Council on the needs of the Royalston and the South Royalston community, people want more community events like dances, concerts, dinner theatre, and plays- especially comedy. If you wish to organize such things or have another idea you expect people will enjoy, you are invited to apply for a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant. Applications are due by October 15.

Forms to be completed can be found at the library or post office (in a box across from the entrance door) or on-line at <http://massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.html>

To get funding approved, you need to describe your idea and be specific on how the project will benefit the people of Royalston and South Royalston, the expertise of those who will make it happen, the cost and revenues, practical needs (audio-system, kitchen, permits, etc), and advertisement. In other words, it needs to be more than just an idea. Once the official application is completed, feel free to add a separate sheet with other pertinent information. For more information check:

http://massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lcc_apptips.html

The announcement of the grants approved will be made by January 15 or sooner. If, on the other hand, there is an artist you want the Cultural Council to invite, get in touch extremely soon with Marie Humblet (575-0654), Andrea Lively (249-2705) or any other member of the Council as we may still be able to get that artist to send us an application before the October 15 deadline.

Applications should be sent to the Royalston Cultural Council, P.O. Box 125, Royalston, MA 01368.



The recent Royalston Summer MusicFest, sponsored by the Cultural Council, was a colorful, tuneful, and joyful event.

photo: K. Lively

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

Thank you

Royalston Academy for funding Kindermusik® and the **Friends of the Library** for funding the Summer Reading Programs and Guitar Hero Young Adult Program.

Ben West for help in the young adult room.

Melanie Mangum, Jeff Hendrickx, Jim Kelley and Barb Richardson for book donations.

Barbara Willhite and Sharon Hood for help with the ice cream party.

Leleah Brousseau and Barb Richardson for movie donations.

Jim and Pat Kelley for many more craft supplies.

To the Summer Reading Program presenters for great programs:

Beth Gospodarek for home-made, huge, hula hoops .

and **Walden Witham** for drumming .

Daniel Sussman for a great gaming program for young adults.

Tina Gemborys for the great series of Kindermusik® programs.

Bill and Lian Cutting, the Royalston Cultural Council, Salvation Army, Athol High School, Fieldstone Press, and all the advertisers and underwriters of the '07 Royalston Shakespeare Company.

Recent Donations to the Friends

Becoming a Friend or renewing a membership supports our library and its many enrichment programs, helping it offer services beyond the budget, such as this newsletter and summer traditions like cranking homemade ice-cream and our Shakespeare Co.

Buddy Dyer

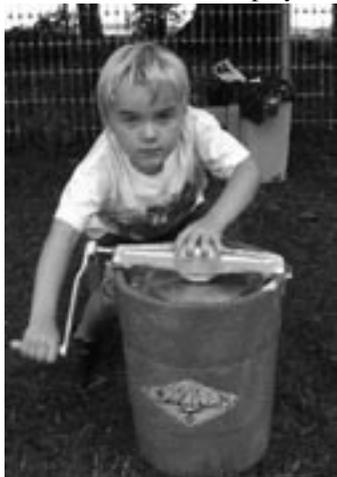
Betty Woodbury

Jessica Willhite

Debra Ward

Summer Reading Program Wrap-up

Staff and participants had a lot of fun during this summer's 'Catch the Beat @ Your Library' summer reading programs. We wove some wheat, made and played with giant hula-hoops, drummed up



Kevin OConnor cranks ice cream at the Summer Reading Program

a storm, and then cranked away making yummy ice cream. Alisha Linnus was the lucky winner of two free tickets to the Big E and Ryan Sawyer won a special reading prize. Preschoolers danced and sang their way through summer in the Kindermusik program. In the final program of the summer, young adults got to test their gaming skills against Guitar Hero, Guitar Hero II, and Rock Band producer and project leader Daniel Sussman as they learned about the gaming industry from concept to couch.

'Wolf Talk' Program

Wolves in Royalston??? Thanks to generous funding from the Royalston Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library, Amy and Mike LeBlanc of 'Wolf Talk' will present a program on wolves on Friday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall. They will discuss wolf behavior in captivity and in the wild, their eating habits, pack structure, and their place in the ecosystem. They will be bringing at least one of their wolves to the talk. They have been caring for and studying wolves since 1978 and have raised wolves from birth to adulthood. In addition there will also be furs, skulls, and more for members of the audience to see. The wolves brought to the programs have been raised by the LeBlanc's personally and they are state and federally licensed for education. For more information call the library or visit Wolf Talk's website at www.wolftalk.net.

Royalston Shakespeare Co. Production Very Successful: DVD of Performance can be Checked out or Ordered at Library for \$10.



A word sirrah... Asher Chase challenges Perry Holmes to a duel as the prince, Ryan Carrier, looks on in our '07 RSC production

The 2007 production of *Much Ado About Nothing* was indeed "a merry skirmish of wits." Set in the 1960s, with a groovy soundtrack and costume rack, the packed house went away amazed and amused by the Bard's words and the impressive performances of the 30+ child and teen actors and technicians. The directors were completely proud. These theater workshops, sponsored by the Friends of the Library and in their 4th season, are free to participants, but due to the generosity of local groups and individuals who offer services and donations, the program turned a small profit this year. Accordingly, a donation was made to the high school accreditation fund as a show of gratitude for the repeated loan of the AHS spotlight.

Preschool Story Hour and Extended Monday Hours Resume

Infants through age 4 children and their caregivers are invited to attend the preschool story hour at the library every non-holiday Monday beginning September 10th at 10:30 a.m. at the library. Jen Bartkus will read a story and provide a healthy snack. There will be plenty of time for play and conversation. No pre-registration is necessary and people are invited to attend whenever they can. The library is also open to all for use from 10:00 a.m. right through to 8:30 p.m. on those Mondays.

Students of Mme. V Will Show Art at Library

Last February and again this summer, **Sonja Vaccari** facilitated painting lessons for local painters and dabblers. For each lesson, she set up models for still-life works featuring many choices of color, textures and moods. The work of students, ages 9 - adult, who participated in the classes was impressive and will be featured at the library from mid-September through October. Look for work by Emily Mangum, Elizabeth West, Tobey and Caleb Chase, Lian Cutting, Nancy Melbourne, Kayla Lutz, Katie Robinson and others. (*Sonja's proteges: bring your favorite paintings to the library ASAP. Velco will be attached to the back to hang them.*)

The Town Scrapbook Receives Clipping about Phineas S. Newton, Library Philanthropist

Allen Young, a journalist from Butterworth Rd, was cleaning out his files and recently gave an interesting clipping to the Town Scrapbook. The article was from the Worcester Evening Gazette of April 6, 1981 and is by Patricia Winchill. It begins, "She can see him now," Gladys Shea said. "Phineas Newton with his team of horses peddling palm leaf to women all over the countyside. He hitched his horses to a big tall wagon and filled it with palm leaf for the women to make into hats. Then he would go back and gather the hats up." The article continues, Mrs. Shea, of Jaffery Road, Fitzwilliam N.H., grew up on a farm and "was about 4 or 5 years old" when the palm leaf wagon went by. "I'll be 80 next November so that was a few years back...I never knew anyone that actually made the hats...But, I did know Lizzie Reed, the old hermit who lived beside the Northeast School." Mrs. Reed had a palm leaf hat that was a wonder to behold according to Mrs. Shea. "The hat had two wings of a crow on it with black mosquito netting holding them on. In the winter, she put a big woolen bonnet over it. An old blue calico dress she wore was so old the white dots had fallen out of the cloth. She was quite a character."

The article goes on to describe details of Royalston's thriving palm leaf hat industry in the mid 1800s to the early 1900s of which Phineas Newton was a primary entrepreneur. It was palm leaf hat profits that Newton donated to the town in order to fund a building for our library.

To read the rest of the article, dig out the Town Scrapbook, a huge tome which brings together photos, writings, maps, charts, art and other 2-D artifacts from the 20th Century in our Town. It is kept in the reference room of the library. *New submissions to the scrapbook are always welcome. Original documents not required.*

DSL at the Library

The library has converted from satellite to DSL. Downloads are not as fast as the satellite system but after many false starts and failures, it has been working lately. We don't know if it works in the rain (it didn't early on) since we haven't had any lately. The only other problem we now encounter is that we can't hear people on the telephone very well when they call. So if we ask you to talk louder, it's not only that we're getting older.

Some of the New Books at the Library

New Adult Fiction

Abdel-Fattah, Randa *Does My Head Look Big in This?*
Bowen, Rhys *Her Royal Spyness*
Buchanan, Edna *Love Kills*
Burke, James Lee *The Tin Roof Blowdown: A Dave Robicheaux Novel*
Carter, Stephen L. *New England White*
Collins, Jackie *Drop Dead Beautiful*
Cook, Robin *Critical*
Deveraux, Jude *Some to Love*
Dodd, Christina *Scent of Darkness*
Flanagan, John *Ranger's Apprentice Book 3: The Icebound Land*
Graham, Heather *Blood Red*
Harrison, Lisi *Sealed With a Kiss*
Hawks, John Twelve *The Dark River*
Hewson, David *The Seventh Sacrament*
Horowitz, Anthony *Night Rise*
Johnson, Maureen *Girl at Sea*
Kerr, M.E. *Someone Like Summer*
King, Jonathon *Acts of Nature*
Lent, Jeffery *A Peculiar Grace*
Lessing, Doris *The Cleft*
Lindsey, Johanna *The Devil Who Tamed Her*
Muller, Marcia *The Ever-Running Man*
Patterson, James *The Quickie*
Pearson, Ridley *Killer Weekend*
Pronzini, Bill *Savages: A Nameless Detective Novel*
Rendell, Ruth *The Water's Lovely: A Novel*
Rennison, Louise *Love is a Many Trousered Thing*
Rice, Luanne *What Matters Most*
Roberts, Nora *High Noon*
See, Lisa *Peony in Love*
Silva, Daniel *The Secret Servant*
Skye, Christina *Code Name: Bikini*
Slaughter, Karin *Beyond Reach*
Vincenzi, Penny *Sheer Abandon*

New Adult Nonfiction

Bitner, Richard L. *Conifers for Gardens*
Brown, Tina *The Diana Chronicles*
Browning, Elizabeth *Sonnets From the Portuguese*
Davidson, Mark *Right, Wrong, and Risky: A Dictionary of Today's American English Usage*
Davis, Jim *Garfield Hogs the Spotlight*
Grogan, John *Marley: A Dog Like No Other*
Jenner, Dr. Janann V. *Birdwatching: Tips, Techniques, and Equipment for Understanding and Observing Birds*
Morris, Robert D. *The Blue Death*
Mullen, Edwin *Short Bike Rides on Cape Cod, Nantucket & the Vineyard*

Notes From The Office Of The Emergency Management Director Of Royalston

I, *Wayne R. Newton*, am publicly introducing the community of Royalston to The Office of the Emergency Management Director. Since the creation of the position in Royalston, I have worked on a volunteer/appointed basis and there is no actual physical office available or funding to support such. I currently use the Fire Department's Office for any work or meetings with MEMA or FEMA, unless they request differently. So, if you are thinking "I have never seen it", this is why.

History of Emergency Management: In 1803, American responses to disaster took a significant turn, beginning a pattern of federal involvement that continues to this day. When an extensive fire swept through Portsmouth, New Hampshire, community and state resources were overwhelmed by the response and recovery effort. Congress responded with the first legislative action making federal resources available to assist state and local governments. This congressional act of 1803 is commonly regarded as the first piece of national disaster legislation. Federal involvement was required by the threat of nuclear war in the days following World War II. For the next 50 years, these efforts resulted in a system of civil defense. Emergency management is a discipline shaped from these earlier times by response to natural disasters and civil defense programs. Today the emphasis is on the protection of the civilian population and property from the destructive forces of natural and man-made disasters through a comprehensive program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

What is Emergency Management? In its simplest terms, emergency management may be as simple as a homeowner responding to a broken water pipe and a flooded basement. Depending on the homeowner's abilities and resources, he or she may handle the emergency and restore services to normal without anyone else's help. In so doing, the homeowner has managed the emergency. Routine emergencies are daily situations faced by citizens and local emergency services personnel. For example, when firefighters respond to a call, they are managing an emergency. When the emergency medical services (EMS) unit responds to a home or arrives at the scene of a traffic accident, the EMS unit is managing an emergency.

What does the Emergency Management Director do? The emergency manager is responsible for coordinating the plans of the various components of the emergency management system—fire and police, emergency medical services, public works, volunteers, and other groups contributing to the community's management of emergencies. During a disaster, the emergency manager helps manage the application of resources that other managers control. A fire chief, a police chief, a public works director, and a medical services coordinator are emergency response managers who control resources. The emergency manager does not replace them or usurp their jobs. The emergency manager helps these other managers apply their resources wisely and in a coordinated way. Simply stated, I am to work closely with all the emergency response managers as I collectively prepare our community for emergencies. While I am to work closely on a regular basis with emergency responders in fire, police, emergency medical, and public works, I also have to remember that my role also includes being part of a national emergency management system capable of responding to emergencies with a national impact. I work closely with MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) on a recurring basis.

In more traditional terms, as the emergency manager, I am responsible for building our Community's piece of a national emergency management system to respond to local or regional emergencies and to national emergencies. In doing so, for the last eleven (11) months I have been working diligently with fifteen (15) other town's in creating the North Worcester County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (NWCREPC). Recently, the NWCREPC voted to split the group in half, and today, Royalston is part of an eight member Regional Committee, still known as NWCREPC. Also working with MEMA in creating Royalston's eCEMP (Electronic Comprehensive Emergency Plan). When this data is complete and in the system, I will be holding Comprehensive Emergency Management Team Meetings with Royalston's Resource Management (Fire, Police, DPW, BOH, BOS, etc.) and a Representative from MEMA. This will be the first of numerous meetings I will be calling as the CEMT Director. In the subsequent meetings, we will be moving forward and preparing the All Hazardous Plan for the Town of Royalston.

How? Through the concept used for handling all types of disasters and their consequences, which is called "comprehensive emergency management" (CEM). CEM was institutionalized with the creation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1979. FEMA emerged from the consolidation of five federal agencies, each dealing separately with an aspect of large-scale emergencies. Since that time many state, local, and tribal governments have accepted CEM and changed the names of their organizations to include the words "emergency management." from the historically known "Civilian Defense." More importantly, the name change reflects a switch in orientation from preparedness for single hazards or narrowly defined categories of hazards toward an all-hazards approach—attack, natural, and man-made—to potential threats to life and property. As Congress and FEMA have been quick to point out, this change reflects not a reduction in security, but an increased emphasis on making the nation's emergency management capability responsive to any and all major emergencies, including national security threats. This expansion into new hazard areas was not the only change the introduction of the concept "comprehensive emergency management" brought about. Three other closely related concepts came out of this transformation.

One of the basic principles of comprehensive emergency management is that we can do something useful about the hazard both before and after the disaster-triggering event occurs. This is why in comprehensive emergency management the four phases of emergency management work together to form an effective protection program. Starting with World War II, emergency management focused primarily on preparedness. But being prepared is only one of four phases of comprehensive emergency management. A community also has many opportunities to deal with emergencies before they strike and a responsibility to aid in recovery after a disaster. The four phases are: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

As I coordinate myself, the community, the responding agencies and our governmental body with a clear understanding of the position of Emergency Management Director and the roles and responsibilities of key players and their components; I will be sharing this information with you on a monthly basis. Be sure to look for next month's follow-up. *Information supplied by the FEMA "Emergency Management; An Orientation to the Position"*

All Schools Reunion And Scholarship Event

October 13 is Royalston's All Schools Reunion & Scholarship Event. It is officially the 104th annual South Royalston School Reunion Association meeting and scholarship fundraising social; however, the group is trying to promote the fact that ALL Royalston schools, students, workers and alumni are eligible to participate, despite the fact the original group came from the South Royalston Elementary School. A meeting, dinner and social are all happening, and the grapevine has it that Alum Duane Neale has once again been sweet-talked out of retirement as a DJ, and will head up what is hoped will be the biggest sock hop Royalston has ever seen! *Contact Roland G. Hamel at 978-249-4587, or Association President Luann Simula at 978-249-8746 for reservations or to be added to the mailing list.*

FIRE and EMS Golf Tournament

Once again the Royalston Fire & EMS Association will host a benefit Golf Tournament in cooperation with former Royalston firefighter Kenny White, owner of the Route 202 Driving Range, Par 3 Golf Course, Mini-Golf, Grille & Restaurant and Herrick's Tavern. Mr. White has again generously donated use of his Par 3 Golf Course range, which was reseeded last fall and has been completely re-groomed for this season. The tournament is Saturday, September 15 beginning at 10 a.m. (raindate: Sunday, September 16) with all proceeds going to the Association. Teams of four will provide a \$100 donation for their participation in the "Best Ball" format tournament. Top two scorers of each team will be used to determine winners. Participants will be eligible for cash prizes.



Organizer Scott A. Newton reports that there is a limit of 18 four-player teams; several teams have already signed up. There are also a limited number of sponsorships for the 18 holes and tees. Sponsorships are \$50 each and deductible as charitable donations according to 501 (c) 3 IRS guidelines. To sign up a team or offer a sponsorship, call Scott at 978-844-0276. The 2005 Fire & EMS Association Golf tournament brought in more than \$2,000. The Association expended \$77,000 last year, which was added to Town funds and used for the purchase of Royalston's Emergency Rescue Vehicle.



Royalston Fish & Game Club News

The F&G is holding one of its ever-popular chicken barbecues on Saturday, September 8, beginning at 5 p.m. Scott Smith and Jeremy Makosiey will be manning the grill. Tickets are \$10/dinner and may be reserved at the Club (978-249-3004) or by calling Tracy Smith at 978-249-3103. Proceeds will benefit the Club.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Craft Fair

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church of South Royalston is inviting the surrounding community to its first annual country flea market on September 15th, 9am - 2 pm. Here's an opportunity to sell your wares or just browse, while enjoying good company. Various refreshments and baked goods will be on sale as well. Several raffles will take place, with prizes ranging from craft items to a large food basket, valued at over \$50. Raffle tickets will be available in advance at the Royalston Post Office. Up to 25 spaces will be made available for flea market vendors, on a first come first serve basis, for a nonrefundable \$10. For space reservations, call Maureen at 978-249-8192.

Congregational Churches of Royalston News

Pastor Ginger Asel has submitted her resignation as Pastor for The First and Second Congregational Churches in Royalston. Pastor Ginger is hiking with friends and will be back serving the churches on 9/9/07. She will move to Barre in November and her last service will be after Thanksgiving. Ginger is planning to volunteer for missionary service in third world countries.

Summer Events Recap: On the week of July 29th, Pastor Ginger Asel held VBS (Vacation Bible School) - About 18 youths and children participated in the study and skit on the life of Daniel.



On Sunday 7/29 and Monday 7/30 - the Youth Group and adult leaders enjoyed a wonderful two nights of camping, kayaking and swimming at Tully Campground. This was a reward for helping with the spring cleaning and set-up at the campground. Other youths performed community service by cleaning the Congregational churches.

Upcoming Church Events for Youth:

Bible Study: Tuesday nights 7:00 - Veilleux house on Norcross Rd.
9/8/07 10AM to 2PM - Youth Group Car Wash at Orange Wal-mart
9/16/07 12:30 - Combined Church Picnic and Baptismal Service - Tully Lake Picnic Area.
9/28 and 9/29/07 - Acquire the Fire - concert / worship - Mullins Center Amherst MA.
Contacts - Charlie Scribner 249-2649 and Sue Veilleux 249-5004

Don't forget: The Royalston Luncheon Club meets each Wednesday at 11:30 am at Town Hall.

Lunches cost \$2 for seniors and \$2.50 for not-yet-seniors. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for a Wednesday meal. All welcome.

Indonesian Exchange Student Needs Home

There was a snafu in the arrangements for a male high school junior from Indonesia who is an exchange student in our area. A host family for the '07-08 school year is urgently needed. The student has a monthly stipend for expenses, but the family is expected to feed meals and provide a place to sleep and study. The contact is Cliff Fournier @ (978) 544-3691.

Royalston Community School Update

School is in session with an enrollment of around 170 students this year. This increase reflects the incorporation of some of the students displaced by the closing of Silver Lake School in Athol. Delaying his announced retirement, Mr. Grosky is staying on as principal at RCS, but his position is shared with Sanders St. School in Athol. Mr. Brian Snell, a teacher with a great reputation from his work at Silver Lake School, is teaching the RCS 6th grade now and Mrs. Stimpson is new to fourth.

Watch for these September events at RCS: a fall mum sale to raise money for the PTG, a Scholastic Book Fair during the week of Sept 17 benefitting the school library and overlapping with the RCS Fall Open House, and a kickoff Parent Teacher Group meeting. To volunteer help with these events or to get more information, call the school 249-2900.

Monty Tech News

Some **MAJOR renovations** have been undertaken during the past summer at Monty Tech. Gone is the stage in the cafeteria, and in its place, entry ways for a new teacher area, storage area and future distributive education center for a Monty Tech store! The business office has been relocated to the administrative section of the building, the health areas have been revamped and in some cases enlarged, and some additional classroom space has been gleaned to help accommodate a maximum incoming class of more than 350, and upper classes that have seen extraordinary retention.

Shortly after the opening of school, the **Mountain Room Restaurant** will be open for public business. Royalston residents are encouraged to visit – it's open most school days from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; menus and specials are available on-line – and enjoy an exceptional, affordable meal prepared and served by students.

Mount Wachusett Community College

Do you have an idea for a new business or non-profit organization you'd like to see in this area? Why not submit your idea via MWCC's Business Plan Competition! Successful submissions can earn up to \$14,000 in cash prizes and the same amount of "in-kind" services to help start or expand a local business or non-profit. The deadline is September 18, with semi-finalists, finalists and a grand prize winner announced in November. Applications at <http://erc.mwcc.edu> or call Lisa Derby Oden at 978-840-3221 ext. 163.

Obituaries

Laila S. Hamalainen Moore, 82, of 2800 Gulf Rd., Athol, died peacefully June 27, 2007, in her home. She was born in South Royalston on February 19, 1925, the daughter of August and Lydia (Walkama) Hamalainen. She attended school in South Royalston and was on the South Royalston School Reunion Committee. She retired as a cook at Cloutier's Pete and Henry's Restaurant after working there for many years, previously working at the former Ray Plastics. Laila enjoyed picking blueberries, doing the jumble puzzle in the newspaper, attending the Royalston Luncheon Club, bingo, playing canasta with relatives and going to Foxwoods. She was a Red Sox fan and enjoyed spending time at home with her family and pets. Her husband of 37 years, Robert E. Moore, Sr. died in 1986. She leaves three sons: Randall Moore of Athol with whom she lived; Robert Moore Jr. and his wife, Frances, of Athol and Rory Moore of South Royalston; a daughter, Rhonda Bishop and her husband, Glenn, of South Royalston; 10 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by three siblings, Allie, Toini, who was her best friend, Lillian and Bernhard. *Memorial donations may be sent to the 2nd Congregational Church of South Royalston or Athol Memorial Hospital.*

Condolences go to family and friends of **John T. Fitzpatrick, Sr.**, 67, of Winchendon. Mr. Fitzpatrick died June 29 following an illness. He is survived by his wife, Carrie (Ball) Fitzpatrick; two sons and three daughters: John Fitzpatrick, Jr. of Winchendon and Chris Fitzpatrick and his wife, Christina, of Royalston; Tina Fitzpatrick and Melissa Fitzpatrick both of Gardner, and Julie Fitzpatrick of Winchendon, all of whom attended Royalston schools. He leaves many loved ones in the area, and was predeceased by his wives Karen (Moore) and Eileen (Moulton). Among other interests, Mr. Fitzpatrick loved hunting and fishing and was a member of the Royalston Fish and Game Club. *Memorial donations may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; 10 Brookline Place West, Floor 6; Brookline, MA 02445, or to the American Heart Association; 20 Speen Street; Framingham, MA 01701-4688.*

Jodie Langlois (Putnam) Lopez, 38, of 86 Lake Street Athol, died unexpectedly July 5, 2007 in Athol Memorial Hospital. She was born in Athol on January 26, 1969, the daughter of Stephen Langlois and Karen White Bailey. A graduate of Mahar High School, she enjoyed softball, going to the beach, volleyball and crossword puzzles. She will always be remembered as having a smile of her face. Jodie was employed at Thomas Betts in Orange for 14 years and recently at Mr Mikes in Athol. She leaves behind her husband, Hector Lopez, and two daughters, Stephanie and Sophie Putnam; her mother and father, four sisters and seven brothers along with their spouses and children; a stepson; two step grandchildren; three grandparents, including Marguerite Langlois of Frye Hill Rd; as well as many nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and good friends. *Memorial donations may be made to the Putnam Girls' Memorial Fund c/o Alice Langlois; TD Banknorth; 2156 Main St. Athol 01331.*



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

There are some happy Newtons and Phelps in Town this month. **Jackson Anthony** was born to **John and Elizabeth Phelps** with his grandparents, **Keith and Debbie Newton**, in attendance on August 24th at 3:54pm at Gardner's Heywood Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. He has blonde hair and beautiful blue eyes. He joins a three year old sister **Alexandra**.

Congratulations to **Everard and Judy Hayes** of Stewart Rd on their new grandson, **Nicholas Scott**, weighing 5 lbs. 6 oz. and born at UMASS Memorial in Worcester on July 18, 2007. His parents are Carmen (Hayes) and Scott Belville of Sterling MA .

Molly Smith is home after a few months at the Baldwinville Nursing Home. She is feeling well.

Putney Engagement: Jessica Putney has accepted a proposal of marriage from Mathew A. Denesowicz, of Winchendon. Denesowicz is a 2006 graduate of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, and is currently serving in the United States Army, in Iraq, as a helicopter power train repairman. Miss Putney, who earned her welding certificate from Monty Tech, is currently employed at Stephanie's Pilates and More in Westminster. The Putney/Denesowicz wedding was originally slated for Matt's March leave, but that has been moved to April, so the couple is now planning for an early May wedding.

Military News

Spc. Lisa Basso of the 181st Infantry is serving in Iraq, as one of 15 women in her combat unit. In addition to the expected duties, she and her sister soldiers are responsible for searches of Iraqi women. Her dad reports that she would love to hear from home. Mail can be sent to Spc. Basso, Lisa; D.C.O. 1-181-INF; Camp Travis, Baghdad; Iraq APO, AE 09316. Those wishing to send items should contact Tony to see what things are needed and able to be accepted.



All-Expenses Paid Scholarship: The Putney Family and Village School Director Rise Richardson recently attended a Mount Wachusett Community College press breakfast, announcing that Jessica Ann Putney, a 2007 graduate of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, was one of just 12 students chosen for the highly selective Commonwealth Scholars Pilot Program. Participants receive an all-expense paid, two-year education at MWCC, including tuition, student fees and even books. In addition, students are paired with a non-profit organization for ten hours each week, and compensated \$10/hour for their work. Miss Putney, who has enrolled in the Liberal Arts program with a concentration in Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science, will partner with the Village School in Royalston. She will spend part of her time conducting physical education programs for students at the k-6 independent day school, and the remaining time working on its capital campaign to fund the construction of its new facility at the former Camp Caravan campus on Route 68.



Jess Putney and Rise Richardson, Village School director.

Norah Dooley has Weekly Radio Show on WICN: Listen to *The Folk Revival* with host Norah Dooley, Royalston homeowner and matron of local arts, Thursdays 7-11PM. The show is live every week on WICN 90.5, music public radio out of Worcester. Robert Fairchild serves as program engineer. The featured folk music is from the revivals of the 20th century into the present and more. Not in or near Worcester? You may listen on line @ wicn.org. Also the show has a blog, with information on the featured artists, video and pictures. Log onto <http://wicnfmpasturesofplenty.blogspot.com/> or contact via norah@wicn.org

Anniversary gala of the Open Mic available on DVD and VHS: Last April, AO TV sent a volunteer, Bonnie Benjamin, to tape the 5th anniversary gala of the Open Mic. It was aired this month. If you missed it or if you want a more tangible memory, it is available in DVD and VHS form. at the price of \$15 + \$0.75 tax. To order call AO TV 978-249-4470 or write to AO TV 163 S. Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 Either send a check or pick it up and have ready the exact amount.

I would like to express my gratitude to all for their condolences, during this time of loss. I appreciate your patience, smiles, chitchat, along with the children; who have brightened my sad days. The residents of Royalston have truly touched my heart.

*Thank you.
Pamela Caranfa, Postmistress*

The Barclay family wishes to thank friends and neighbors for their many expressions of sympathy and for the thoughtful donations made to the Carole and Charlie Landry Memorial Fund in memory of Mary's parents Carole Lee (Croft) Landry, who died in April, and Charles Joseph Landry, who died in August.

Wildlife Sightings:

Bruce Robinson pulled his truck over on Rt 68 south as a mother **river otter** crossed the road near the Bourbeau's at Royalston Auto Sales. Meanwhile several babies came out and repeatedly ran up and down the banking while the mother hissed from the other side of the road. After about five minutes, they heedlessly but safely crossed the street.

First Annual Fungus Fair

Saturday, September 8th 10am to 5pm at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St. Athol, Ma.

10:00am welcome

10:15 Morning Forays leave

10:30 Beginners Mushroom Identification, with Noah Siegel

11:30 Edible Mushrooms, with George Riner

12:30 Get a taste of some wild fungi at our Mushroom Cook-up

1:15pm Afternoon Forays leave

1:30 Introducing Medicinal Mushrooms into our Daily Diet, with Elinoar Shavit

2:30 Dyeing Wool and Other Natural Fibers with Fungi, with Carlene Skeffington

4:00 Table walk through, discussing the day's finds. Prizes for the Finds of the day

Bring; lunch, a collecting basket with paper or wax-paper bags, magnifying glass, small knife, and bug spray.

Recipe of the Month:

Mary Coflesky's Zucchini Soup

Mary Coflesky and her husband John moved to Royalston from Athol in 1986. They built a house on South Royalston Rd. and raised two fine boys here. Aside from parenting, Mary has also owned and operated a thriving business, Bill's Auto School of Athol, for the past 25 years. Though Mary is busy with work, she still finds time to pursue her passion: gardening. Anyone who visited her garden in the last Royalston Garden Tour can attest to her expertise. Of course, early September finds her gardens producing an abundance of flowers and vegetables, including the ubiquitous and prolific zucchini. Here is her recipe for Zucchini Soup:

Ingredients:

1 lb. bulk Italian sweet sausage

2 cups celery cut into 1/2" pieces

2 28 oz. cans plum tomatoes/
(or 3 1/2 lbs. peeled and seeded garden tomatoes)

1 cup chopped onion

3 or 4 sliced zucchini (approx 2 lbs.)

2 chopped green peppers

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp Italian seasoning

1 tsp oregano

1/2 tsp basil

1/4 tsp garlic powder

2 cups water



Brown the sausage in a large stock pot. Drain well. Add the celery, tomatoes, onions, salt, seasonings and water. Cover. Cook on low for 20 minutes. Add the zucchini and peppers. Cook for another 15 minutes or until tender. Parmesan cheese may be sprinkled on top when serving.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

I best fess up: I've been out-of-town for eleven of the past thirteen days, first northerly to Maine, then southerly to West Virginia (each to attend mushroom conferences). Between trips I feverishly attempted to catch up and get a bit ahead in the garden, all the time wondering what madness motivated me to be absent in the middle of August.

I returned after the first trip to a garden that had never looked better. I like to believe it is the culmination of thirty years of effort and attention. More likely, however, it was the garden's response to almost ideal weather conditions. Temperatures have been moderate and the rains timely, generally in the form of numerous showers (as opposed to brief downpours). Conditions have changed some: with no rain in eight days (and none forecast), the garden appears dry for the first time this season. I've spent several days now re-acquainting myself with the garden, harvesting occupying most of my time, but seeding some late lettuce and spinach as well. I have taken to watering-in these late plantings, something that would have been unnecessary a week ago. I tend to fret about things in the garden. The current fret is the small size of the late-transplanted cabbages. I've come to depend upon them increasingly the last few years, both for sauerkraut and the bulk they provide in the root cellar.

The garden is not trouble-free. (When is it ever?) A porcupine visits nightly, consuming as many peaches and apples as possible for a porcupine to consume in one night. At last sighting, he (she?) had reached the dimensions of a small pick-up truck. Something has discovered the corn, in spite of a strand of electrified wire so powered that it raised the remaining hairs on my head when I neglectfully bumped into it. The fruit is so plentiful that I can endure the porcupine. Not so the corn, where there are a limited number of ears. Sharing with neighbors and friends is one thing; sharing with the area wildlife quite another. A fence has been erected within the fence.



September is the culmination of my gardening efforts, the peak month for harvesting (both for quantity and diversity). I cannot speak with authority on global warming, but I do know we are in the midst of Royalston warming. Most everyone in town can reasonably expect to continue harvesting the hot weather crops (tomatoes, peppers, beans, cukes, squash) throughout the month, an event unthinkable a decade or so ago. Added to the mix are the fall crops, primarily cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower. Most of the potatoes and some of the onions have been dug; by early September they will all be out of the ground. Not so the other root crops, which we'll sample from time to time but generally leave undisturbed until frost limits our choice of foodstuffs for the table.

On a final note, the 2008 season is underway: as beds open up, they are composted, ashed, and blanketed with hay. Gardening is, after all, a matter of looking ahead, forgetting for the moment this year's failures and making plans for next year's successes.

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Classifieds:

Treadmill to give away. It goes ok at lower speeds but the belt seems to catch at higher speeds. Call 249-3158 and ask for Becky.

Cordwood: Split and seasoned. 978-249-3725. No calls after 5:00 p.m. please.

Fresh produce: available at the Neale Farm, intersection of Neale & New Boston Roads. What's up for grabs depends on how kind the weather has been. Read the board any time; stop by when the OPEN flag is flying, or call Ted at 978-249-6872.

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