

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2008



Volume XI, Issue IV

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

Calendar of Events

May 1 Thursday **May Day**
9 am **May Pole Dancing and Morris Dancers** at the Village School. Community welcome.

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library meeting**; plan summer programs, plant sale and the newsletter.

May 2 Friday
6:30 pm **Spring Concert and Art Showcase** at RCS. Bags of yummy chocolate on sale to benefit PTG.

May 4 Sunday
8 a.m. **Winchendon Rod & Gun Adult Fishing Derby**

May 5 Monday
8:18 a.m. **New Flower Moon**
7 pm **Library Trustee Meeting**

May 6 Tuesday
7 p.m. **Selectmen Meet** at Town Hall

May 9 Friday
school hours **Pick up Mother's Day hanging basket** orders at RCS this afternoon or at the Post Office on Saturday morning. Call 249-2900 for info.

7 p.m. **Annual Town Meeting** at the Royalston Community School

7 pm **Father-Daughter Dance** at Athol Town Hall. Proceeds benefit the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation which funds enrichment programs in the local public schools. Tix \$15 a couple. Available at RCS and Generations Salon.

May 10 Saturday
7 p.m. **Royalston Follies** at the town hall. Tickets \$5 available from Lorraine Casinghino 249-5151

May 11 Sunday
Mother's Day

May 12 Monday
5 p.m. **Royalston Community Coop** orders due in

May 16 Friday
7 pm **Way down in the Mines**, a Village School Theatrical Production at Town Hall. Community welcome.

May 17 Saturday
3 pm **Songwriter/guitarist Jay Mankita concert** on Royalston Common featuring quirky songs and a short talk on alternative energy.

6 p.m. **Chicken Barbecue and Rotisserie Grill Drawing**, both to benefit the Royalston Fire & EMS Association

7 pm **Shilo, popular Christian band will hold a concert** at the First Congregational Church.

May 18 Sunday
10 a.m. **Walter E. Carlson Memorial Kids' (to 14) Fishing Derby** at the Royalston F&G
1:30 p.m. **Adult (15+) Fishing Derby** at the Royalston F&G

2 pm **Reunion for Camp Caravan staff and campers** Old campers and staff can tour the buildings, hear the history, see photos, and visit with old friends. Please RSVP by May 5 to 978 249-3505

May 19 Monday **Full Flower Moon**

May 20 Tuesday
7 p.m. **Selectmen's Meeting** at Town Hall

May 21 Wednesday
1 pm **Homeowner Workshop** to help in future planning for elders

7 pm **"Project 7th Grade"**, a program for parents of 5th - 9th graders at the Royalston Community School addressing depression, eating disorders and suicide, as well as drug abuse. Sponsored by Royalston Police Department.

May 22 Thursday
TBA **Royalston Community Coop delivery** arriving

May 26 Monday
2 p.m. **Memorial Day Exercises** South Village Park
3 p.m. **Memorial Day Post Parade Luncheon**

May 31 Saturday
6 p.m. **Retirement Dinner Dance for Fire Chief Wayne R. Newton (Ret.)** at the Athol Orange Elks Hall.

June 7 Saturday
Saturday on the Common: 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. Village School **Organic Pancake Breakfast** in Town Hall ; 7:30 - 11 a.m. 13th **Spectacular Silent Auction** upstairs in Town Hall; 8:45 - 11:45 a.m. **Historical Society Bake Sale** in their museum foyer at the Post Office; 9 a.m. - noon **PSN Library Plant Sale** outside post office; and 9 a.m. - noon **PSN Books & Media Sale** at the PSN Library



Luncheon Club/Council on Aging

All are invited to a free **Homeowner Workshop** following the senior citizens luncheon on Wednesday, May 21 at 1 p.m. in the Royalston Town Hall. The program is through the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). Topics such as reverse mortgages, financing major home repairs, predatory loan practices and how elder home owners can prepare for their future will be discussed. For additional information or to plan an individual consultation, contact Dave Anderson at 978-630-6692.

Also, the Royalston Luncheon Club meets every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at town Hall. Contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by the Monday prior to make a reservation. The suggested donation for the meal is \$2/senior and \$2.50 for up-and-coming seniors. Local grocery stores and farmers often provide addition baked goods and produce, all free for the taking. The schedule this month includes:

- May 7 Luncheon, chat & Chinese auction
- May 14 Luncheon, chat and blood pressure clinic
- May 21 Luncheon and chat
- May 28 Luncheon Club and Brown Bag Distribution



Board of Health News

We have a new transfer station attendant, Andrew Hopkins, from Chestnut Hill Ave in Athol, and a new BOH member, Eugene Kolimaga, from Deland Hill Rd. Welcome aboard.

There will be some changes in the next couple of months at the transfer station. The first one is a road from the upper level to the two lower levels. This will allow the large roll off trucks to have better access to the roll-off containers. It will also allow for easier snow removal operations. The next change is the removal of the gate by the comingle container for the same reason. The yellow clothing boxes and the two shipping containers were resituated to allow for more room and better snow removal access. Further plans for an additional sawtooth beyond the metal container to allow for the upper paper container to be placed at a safer level are in the works.

Also, in the planning stages is moving the tire and battery trailers to the other side of the co-mingle container. We are also in discussion with the recycling company to install a compactor at the co-mingle container. When complete, the facility will have more room and better, more efficient access. The BOH would like to thank the Royalston DPW for its assistance in these new changes and the Athol DPW for the many yards of fill that it took to build the new road. Residents, let us know what you think.

What were the Results in the Anual Town Elections- April 7, 2008?

Out of 874 registered voters, 177 voted in this election:

SELECTMAN - 3 YEARS
WEST WINITZER BLANK
TOTAL 138 34 5

ASSESSOR - 3 YEARS
RICHARDSON BLANK Others
TOTAL 139 35 3

BOARD OF HEALTH 3 YEARS
LEGER BLANK
TOTAL 147 30

BOARD OF HEALTH - 1 YEAR
KOLIMAGA BLANK
TOTAL 139 38

BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE
BLANK B. PUTNEY ROY SMITH Others
TOTAL 164 2 (tied) 2 9
Note: There was no winner for this seat. A majority of this board and the Board of Selectmen will appoint.

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER
BLANK R. HAMEL others
TOTAL 161 5 11

TREE WARDEN
BLANK KELLNER K. NEWTON others
TOTAL 111 33 18 15

PLANNING BOARD - 5 YEAR
MUSCO BLANK
TOTAL 134 43

PLANNING BOARD - 2 YEAR
MACPHEE BLANK others
TOTAL 132 44 1

SEWER COMMISSIONER
PAINE BLANK others
TOTAL 126 49 2

LIBRARY TRUSTEE
LONGSWORTH BLANK others
TOTAL 139 37 1

ATHOL-ROYALSTON SCHL COM - ROYALSTON
NEWTON BLANK others
TOTAL 102 62 13

ATHOL-ROYALSTON SCHL COM - ATHOL 3 YR
VOTE FOR TWO
MCNIFF LAPOINTE WHITFIELD BLANK others
TOTAL 87 79 65 122 1

ATHOL-ROYALSTON SCHL COM - ATHOL 1 YEAR
CALDWELL TRUEHART BLANK
TOTAL 83 44 50

TRUSTEES OF J.N. BARTLETT FUND VOTE FOR FOUR
BARCLAY CAISSE HAMEL BLANK W.Newton B.Putney others
TOTAL 143 137 135 275 3 tied 3 12
Note: there was no winner for the fourth seat on this board. A majority of this Board and Selectmen will appoint

Tax Bills are Out

The 2008 Real Estate Tax bills are finally out! They are due June 9th and you can pay online at Royalston-ma.gov.

What is likely to happen at Town Meeting?

May 9, 7 pm at Royalston Community School

There will be opportunities for discussion on each of 43 articles presented on a handout and introduced by the moderator, and then, registered voters will be asked to show hands if they support the article. (Most generate no discussion but a few generate rather too much.) In this way, with a small percentage of eligible voters being the “deciders”, your tax dollars go to work.

This year, those present at town meeting will have an opportunity to approve, disprove, disapprove or table: \$1,665,231 in town operating expenses and salaries; the Community Preservation Act, a surcharge on real property for the purpose of preserving open space, restoration of historic resources, and creation of land for recreational use and/or community housing; about \$25,000 for Royalston’s portion of outside-the-school-budget requests for new fencing, roof repairs and bleachers at Athol High School and technology improvements throughout the district; \$2100 for Royalston kids to participate in Athol’s Summer Playground rec program; DPW requests of about \$267,600 to pave Stone Rd, make payments on dump trucks and a grader, purchase a used sander, chipper and detaching bucket as well as requests for permission to negotiate easements for a MassHighway to construct a new bridge over Lawrence Brook on NE Fitzwilliam Rd and apply for state STRAP grants to repair roads; money for air conditioning, fire door and interior painting in Whitney Hall as well as improved alarm systems at the police and fire station, transfer station, town hall and Whitney Hall; a \$50,000 request from the fire department for apparatus replacement; \$23,000 for radio equipment needed for conversion to Shelburn Control Dispatch Services; the South Village sewer system needs \$6300 in capital expenditures; and the police could benefit from sums of money for a replacement in-car video system and combined training with the fire department.

Wait....Don’t torch that pile!

Another Brush Burning Season is Finished

The end of April was unusually dry and the ground covered in flammable fallen leaves from last season. The state of Massachusetts issued a request to towns to not issue burning permits beginning the week of April 21st. Wet or dry, burn permit season always ends May 1, so if you haven’t torched your brush pile yet, wait until next January. Call the Fire Department with questions.

Firefighter training sessions in May include:

- May 12 7 p.m. Royalston Fire Department meets
- May 19 7 p.m. Royalston F.D. EMS class on Vehicle Operation and Scene Safety
- May 24 Royalston F.D. EMS Vehicle Operation drill at 8 a.m.
- May 26 RFD meeting canceled to observe Memorial Day

Police Department News

Chief Curtis A. Deveneau

Breaks into Homes on the Rise

During the past several months, area communities have seen an increase in breaks into homes and businesses. The motivation for these crimes is primarily due to drug abuse. The need for these individuals to feed their addictions will drive them to resort to any types of crimes. With the extreme rise in precious metals such as gold and silver, we are seeing an increase in the theft of jewelry during breaks into homes. The jewelry is then taken and pawned for cash. Pawnshops do not question as to where the jewelry came from; they only require an ID of the seller. We have tracked and recovered stolen items as far away as Worcester during past investigations. These crimes typically occur during the day Monday thru Friday when homes are empty. You can protect yourselves by making your homes look occupied during the daytime. When leaving your homes, take note of any vehicles parked along the roadways that appear to be out of the ordinary. Write down license plate numbers, color and type of vehicle. You can call the info into the station at 249-5838 or if you feel it is real suspicious call dispatch at 249-4211 or 911. The same applies if you should observe suspicious individuals walking back and forth on the streets in front of homes that appear to be unoccupied.

The police department is planning to start area neighborhood crime watch programs. We will be having our first meeting in June to give an overview of the program. The date will be set and listed in the June Newsletter. This program will allow for the expedient exchange of information between the neighborhood residents, the neighborhood watches and the police. With limited budgeting, you may not see the police patrolling at night as the police patrols are scheduled primarily during the daytime to provide a deterrent to individuals looking for unoccupied homes. If a criminal feels he has been seen, he typically will move on to the next community to avoid being identified in the area that a break has occurred. Remember, you are the eyes of the community and together we can deter and solve crimes. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the station.

RPD Offers Prevention Program for Parents

As part of their on-going efforts to prevent drug abuse and illicit drug use in children, the Royalston Police Department will be offering an evening program designed specifically for parents of fifth through ninth graders, although all parents wishing to attend are welcomed. Officer Sherry A. Miner has completed the required training and will conduct “Project 7th Grade” on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. in the Royalston Community School. The program is a part of Not MY Kid, Inc., an organization dedicated to addressing youth behavioral health issues such as depression, eating disorders and suicide, as well as drug abuse. The private, pro-active, in-home prevention program focuses on communication within the family, ways to deter drug use or abuse, and providing children with what they need to withstand negative peer pressure. “Project 7th Grade” is not associated in any way with the in-school D.A.R.E. program conducted by Officer Miner for fifth graders and is not going to replace or supplant the in-school D.A.R.E. program.

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

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Recent Donations to the Friends:

We sincerely appreciate your support.

Rev. Philip and Pheobe Jacobs	Diane Lincoln
Richard and Rose Lawrence	Gene and Marita Cauthen
John and Elizabeth Phelps	Marcia Flanagan
Barbara and Enis Willhite	Helen Williams
John and Kathy Chencharik	Darlene Sweet
Marc and Emma O'Connor	Tom Musco
Carla and Phil Rabinowitz	William Chapman
Benny and Susan Gronowicz	Allen Young
Pierre and Marie-Claire Humblet	Wendy Warner
Virginia and Dominic Gingras	Deb and Joe Nunes
the Darling Berquist Family	Scott and Nancy Monette
Walter and Joyce Hubbard	Marie and Meryl Willhite
Shirley Hubbards and Arthur Yebloon	Marlys and James Kelley
Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski	Andy and Pat Adreliunas
Jessica and Chris Willhite and family	Sharon and Wade Harmon
Dawn and Chris Dawson	

Thank you

Lynne Kellner, Liz Phelps, and Michael Brousseau for movie donations

Nell Vaughn for a book

Marsha Charest for donating passes to the Museum of Science

Allison and Alyssa Berquist for help processing books

Robert Anthony for the fretwork bookmarks to give away during National Library Week

Cindy Savoy for kite cake

Online Library Catalog Moving Forward

Thanks to the dedicated work of the staff of the library, a majority of our items in the library were catalogued before the April 18th deadline for entering materials in preparation for the transfer to the new Koha online cataloging system. Beginning in July, we'll be initiating the new system. People will need to obtain a new library card and yes, it will be more plastic for your pocket. We are in the process of developing policy for the new system and may decide to honor the old system where you won't need your card to check out materials. The new system will allow you to reserve books, receive emails letting you know when materials have arrived, and renew items online. For those not wanting to deal with a computer, we will notify you the traditional way and search the catalog for you as well. This new system will also allow library users to customize their own personal card record by allowing them to maintain a history of the items read, to keep a list of books for future reading, and to reserve books. Hopefully, the system will work smoothly.

The Return of the Royalston Shakespeare Company

Once more into the breach. What's past is prologue, and for the 5th straight year the RSC will cudgel its brains and strive mightily to see what happens when thirty plus kids combine with a great script to bring the Bard to the boards of town hall in only two weeks. (What fools these mortals be!) Combined with community support and a lot of whirlwind energy, this theater workshop has made the Royalston summers even more glorious.

In the RSC, kids, ages 8 and up, learn the plots, times and language of Shakespeare as well as the camaraderie and work of participating in a workshop theater production. Not merely players with entrances and exits, they run lights, work on sets, create props, choose music and modify costumes as well as act. As in past years, the tried-and-true triumvirate of directors, Norah Dooley, Maureen Blasco, and Beth Gospodarek, will be assisted by several teens who have been participating in the RSC since their ages were in the single digits.

Rehearsals will run Mon - Fri from 9 am to 12:30 beginning June 23, with a few extra brush up rehearsals in the afternoons as necessary. The performance is slated for July 3rd at 7 pm. Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library and the Cultural Council, there is no cost to participate. (Families can help out by providing a snack, buying a t-shirt and making a donation at the door, not to mention schlepping kids to rehearsal and running lines.) It is required to attend each rehearsal and the performance in order to participate. Space in the program is limited. Register by calling the library at 978-249-3572.

Go to Pot: the Library Plant Sale is Coming June

Thinning Perennials? Have too many seedlings? Is that shrub spreading too vigorously? Share a piece of your garden with your neighbors. Pot up your extras to donate to the library plant sale next month. This famous sale has a mixture of perennials, annuals, flowers, herbs, fruits and veggies, houseplants and shrubs from local nurseries and gardens.

Art Exhibits at the Library

Melanie Mangum will display many of her photographs during the months of May and June at the library. Also during May Lynn Anair will have a display of some of her knitted handiwork. During July and August, Robert Anthony will display his intricate fretwork.

Museum of Science Tickets to be Given Away

Thanks to the generosity of Marsha Charest, the library has four passes to the Boston Museum of Science to give away. Two passes will be given away during April and May. The way to win the passes is a secret but you must check out a book during the month to be eligible to win.

Very Basic Computer Classes at the Library

Beckie Krause Hardie will lead free classes for beginning computer users at the library. These classes are designed for the complete novice who wants to learn how to turn on a computer, what a "mouse" is and how to use it, and how to do basic internet searches, send email, and do basic word processing (typing). Classes will be limited to five individuals and will be scheduled to accommodate the needs of most of the students. If you are interested in signing up for one of the classes, please call the library for more information.



Summer Reading Program

The theme for this year's statewide Summer Reading Program is "Wild Reads @ Your Library." This summer we will be having a program on turtles, Japanese Brush Painting, a nature hike for families, and our homemade ice cream party. For preschoolers, there will be five weekly programs of Kindermusik® led by Tina Gemborys. In addition, Karl Kamp will lead a butterfly walk.

Butterflies and Breakfast

Carl Kamp, President of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, musician extraordinaire, and Royalston resident, will lead a butterfly walk for families on Sunday, July 27th. Before the walk, Karl will give a slide show of the butterflies we might encounter plus some from Nicaragua that we won't see. A light breakfast will be served at the library beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the walk will begin at 10:00 a.m. This walk is cosponsored by the Mass Butterfly Club, the Athol Bird and Nature Club, and the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

Kite Flying Day Poem 2008

At the recent library kite flying day, nearly everyone who participated, ages 1 - 60, succeeded, at least briefly, in getting a kite aloft. Each also contributed a word in response to the question, "What do you think of when you think of spring?" These words were then arranged into the following poem by the older girls attending.

Spring

Spring is the sweet season.

The beginning of sunshine and new bloom.

Melted snow and moody showers make dirt into oozing, squishy mud.

We welcome a blustery, cool wind to dry our sweat as
those pale green and orangish buds
can't get block the hot sun.

Smelly daffodils, thorny white roses,

Buzzing black flies, sparkles on water; rhubarb pie and

Babies, babies, babies

Some of the New Books at the Library

Adult Fiction

Barr, Nevada *Winter Study*
 Bertagna, Julie *Exodus*
 Dole, Mayra Lazara *Down to the Bone*
 Flanagan, John *Ranger's Apprentice Book Four: The Battle for Skandia*
 Harris, Joanne *The Girl With No Shadow*
 Harrison, Lisi *Massie*
 Hart, Carolyn *Death Walked In*
 Hoffman, Alice *The Third Angel*
 Kellerman, Jonathan *Compulsion*
 Kleypas, Lisa *Blue-Eyed Devil*
 Lahiri, Jhumpa *Unaccustomed Earth*
 LT Baldacci, David *Stone Cold*
 LT Bradford, Barbara *The Heir*
 Mankell, Henning *The Eye of the Leopard*
 McCall Smith, Alexander *The Miracle at Speedy Motors*
 Patterson, James *The Final Warning: A Maximum Ride Novel*
 Robards, Karen *Guilty*
 Sage, Angie *Queste*
 Salvatore, R.A. *The Ancient*
 Shannon, John *The Devils of Bakersfield*
 Stirling, S.M. *In the Courts of the Crimson Kings*
 Stone, Phoebe *Deep Down Popular*
 Wambaugh, Joseph *Hollywood Crows*
 Weiner, Jennifer *Certain Girls*
 White, Randy *Black Widow*
 Winterson, Jeanette *The Stone Gods*
 Wolitzer, Meg *The Ten Year Nap*
 Wynne-Jones, Tim *Rex Zero: King of Nothing*

Adult Nonfiction

Allende, Isabel *The Sum of Our Days*
 Angelou, Maya *Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration*
 Bauby, Jean-Dominique *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*
 Borer, Michael Ian *Faithful to Fenway: Believing in Boston, Baseball, and America's Most Beloved Park*
 Flinn, Kathleen *The Sharper Your Knife, The Less You Cry: Love, Laughter, and Tears at the World's Most Famous Cooking School*
 Fodor's *Cape Cod, Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard 2008*
 Goldstein, Bruce *Puppy Chow is Better Than Prozac: The True Story of a Man and a Dog Who Saved His Life*
 Iyer, Pico *The Open Road: The Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama*
 Kessel, Brent *It's Not About the Money: Unlock Your Money Type to Achieve Spiritual and Financial Abundance*
 Nagel, Susan *Marie Therese, Child of Terror: The Fate of Marie Antoinette's Daughter*
 Oates, Joyce Carol *Wild Nights!*
 Shea, Suzanne Strempek *Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith*

Resident Recommended Reading

New resident of the common, Stormy Easton, pronounces *Toilets, Toasters and Telephones: the How and Why of Everyday Objects* by Susan Goldman Rubin, "a readable and informative book."

Mathew Willhite, age 5, recommends *Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold because he can read it by himself.

**Coming Up at the Village School
May Day Celebration Thursday May 1**

On Thursday, May 1, at 9:00 a.m., the Village School will host an old fashioned May Day celebration. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing. There will be singing of traditional songs, and rounds, and local musicians. Rumor has it that the aging Millers River Morris Men will appear, unable to contain themselves, and leap and pound the earth to drive out winter, awaken the earth, and bring fertility to the crops, the fields, the animals and the people! Young and old will join in the uplifting "Shepherds' Hay" to complete the event. The public is invited. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies. The Village School is located in the old brick Raymond School building on Royalston common.

Reunion for Camp Caravan staff and campers

Sunday May 18, 2-4 pm at Camp Caravan
Hosted by the current owners, The Millers River Educational Co-operative, Inc., also known as The Village School. Old campers and staff can tour the old buildings, see current renovations, hear the history, see old photos, and visit with old friends. Spread the word! Please RSVP by May 5 to 978 249-3505 or email rise@villageschool.to

**Way Down in the Mines: an original play
by the Village School Players**

Friday May 16 at 10 a.m. and at 7 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall. The Village School students perform a play they wrote themselves, based on the life and times of the Industrial Revolution. There are good guys, bad guys and dilemmas for the heroes to resolve, all with good humor. Everyone is welcome. Donations are welcome to defray production costs.

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common

June 7 from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults \$6 Children \$3 Organic pancakes and local syrup
Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Auction items include 4 Red Sox tickets, original art by local artists, canoe, machine washable local sheepskin, 1/2 of a Royalston lamb, and gift certificates for Plotkin's Furniture, Toadstool Bookshop, Gardner Ale House, Noel's Nursery, Brook's Automotive, massage and more. Auction and Breakfast benefit the Village School Building project at Camp Caravan. Goodies and plants are for sale at the Post Office, and there are great deals on used books at the library. The program of events will include a tag sale, the Millers River Morris Men, Live Birds of Prey, a Cake Walk for Children and lots more.

Village School Earns Grant

The Village School has earned a prestigious grant from the Esther B. Kahn Charitable Trust. The \$5,000 grant will be used towards assistance to students who might not ordinarily be able to afford tuition for the independent day school. Esther B. Kahn grants support and fund "innovative approaches to education..."

RCS Mothers Day Flower Sale

The parent teacher group will once again be selling lush full hanging flower baskets locally grown at Five Acre Farm in Northfield with delivery just in time for Mother's Day. The prices are good; the plants are high quality, and the school uses the profits to pay for extras like field trips. Pick up will be Friday 12/9 at RCS during school hours or at the Post Office Sat. 5/10. For information, call Becky at 978-249-3158 or the school 249-2900.

To order, fill in form below and return to the school along with a funds or a check made out to RCS PTG:

Prices for ivy geraniums, fuschias and super petunias:
10" hanger: \$18.00 12" hanger: \$21.00
flats of impatients or other annuals : \$12.00

I would like the following plants:

qty	type	circle size	color preference*
_____	fushia	10"/12"	
_____	ivy geraniym	10"/12"	
_____	super petunia	10"/12"	
_____	flats of impatients	(no size)	

Total price:

name _____ address _____ phone # _____

*We'll try to match color preferences, but no guarantees. All the plants in all their variety of colors and shapes are lovely.

Big Dates at Athol High

Events at Athol High School worth noting on your May calendar:

- May 8, 2008: **Spring Concert**
- May 21, 2008 and May 22, 2008: **MCAS Math testing for sophomores with a delayed opening time for other students.**
- May 22, 2008: **Student Council Banquet**
- May 30, 2008: **Class Day**
- May 30, 2008: **Senior Prom**

Monty Tech News

Great news: 100% of this year's seniors have met all MCAS requirements! Not-so-great news: Royalston has 12 students for the three guaranteed freshman seats at Monty Tech for the 2008-2009 school year. By now, all applicants should have received a letter from Monty Tech stating they are one of the three definitely in, they are on a waiting list and have a high chance of being taken in, or it is unlikely they will be admitted this year. The target enrollment for this fall is 350 students. So far, more than 630 freshmen applications have been received.

To see what's so great about Monty Tech, check out one of the "Totally Monty Tech" DVDs available at the Phinehas S. Newton Library. Created and produced by students and staff at the school, each episode features a few of the school's 22 careers or professions. Although not yet available, "Totally Monty Tech" should be available in streaming video on-line through a link at the school's website, www.montytech.net soon.

Royalston Fire And Ems News

The Royalston Fire & EMS Association raises funds from non-tax sources to pay for a wide array of necessities and niceties for the Royalston Fire Department. Everything from training to vehicles has been funded with these non-tax dollars. For the first time ever, the Association has committed to providing something specifically to benefit the members - full uniforms, to be unveiled at the retirement party for recently-retired Fire Chief Wayne R. Newton. They are expensive, and as Wayne would have said, "They don't fight fires!" That being said, they should last a long time, and will allow Department members to look like the professionals they have become under the leadership of the former Chief.



To celebrate the commitment, dedication and progress seen during more than three decades of hard work put in by former Fire Chief Wayne R. Newton, all are invited to a party in his honor on Saturday, May 31, at the Athol-Orange Elks Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a braised beef dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$20/person or \$35 a couple, and must be purchased prior to May 21st. Tickets and information available from Geoffrey L. Newton at 249-3726.

*The Fire and EMS is also sponsoring a **Chicken Barbeque and Grill Raffle** on Saturday, May 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall. It includes half a chicken, salad, baked potato, and other fixings. Tickets, available from any Fire Fighter or by calling Joshua Morris-Siegel at 508-733-2243, are \$10.00. A 36" Sunrise Rotisserie Grill and cabinet set up valued at \$3,000 is being raffled. (Tix \$5) All proceeds will be going to the Fire and EMS Association work uniform fund.*



Royalston Fish & Game Club News

The annual Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby takes place Sunday, May 18, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at their club, located on Route 68 on the Royalston/Phillipston line. Members' kids through age 14 fish and eat lunch for free; non-members up through age 14 pay a nominal fee for a full three hours of fishing, food and fun. Members' kids may keep two fish for free. Additional fish may be kept for \$1 a fish. Prizes awarded in many categories. At 1:30 p.m., those 15 and older may enter the adult fishing derby for a nominal fee. Prizes awarded. Lucky anglers can keep their catch. Contact the Club at 978-249-3004 for more details.

Congregational Churches News

Shilo is back! This popular band will hold a concert at the First Congregational Church, May 17th at 7 pm. This event is free, but donations appreciated. All are welcome, and we are looking forward to a blessed night. Last year, when this band came to play at our church, the band's love for the Lord is apparent in its passion for music.

New News: "Hour of Power" (Prayer meetings) held Saturday mornings from 8-9am @ the 1st. Congregational Church, starting May 17th. All are welcome to come and share in a powerful time of prayer. Also, the 1st Congregational Church is still looking for missing tables & chairs. Please contact Charlie Scribner (978)-249-2649.

Youthgroup News: the church youthgroup has been busy lately! We participated in the River Rat Race Parade in Athol, which was a great time. For April break, we will be volunteering at Tully Lake campground cleaning trails and campsites. This day of hard work is in exchange for a summer weekend camp-out for the youth. We are also preparing for three free (donations are accepted) carwashes at Walmart in Orange. They are scheduled for May 24th, June 14th, and July 26th 10 am through 2 pm. These carwashes are a major fund raiser for our Youthgroup. The youth are also preparing for the annual church fair on July 12th. They will have a booth set up there with crafts, food, shirts, etc. for sale. On May 4th, they will be participating in the 40th Annual Walk for Hunger on the Boston Common. This event raises funds for 42 million meals for the hungry in Massachusetts. They can walk 1 mile or 20 miles if they choose to. If you wish to sponsor them, contact Charlie Scribner (978)-249-2649. For this year's brochure, our own Royalston Youthgroup is on the front cover! For June 1st, the youth are performing a concert held at the Highlands Nursing Home in Fitchburg followed by conversation and games with the residents. This Youthgroup welcomes everyone from the ages of 12 (or 6th grade) through senior year in college. Our numbers have grown from 5 - 22 in the last year and a half's time. Come experience the fun, fellowship, and learning about Jesus! Meetings are held Sunday nights weekly from 6- 8pm at the First Congregational Church.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Flea Market

The church's second annual country flea market is just around the corner. This year, we plan to enhance the event with a local face painting and clown act. We are also considering enlisting one of our local musicians to add another dimension to the festivities. In addition, we have locked in an event date of September 6th, the Saturday after Labor Day weekend, and a rain date of the following Saturday, September 13th. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and the Royalston community, we did very well last year, in spite of the inclement weather "raining on the parade" of our vendors. This year, we will make 25 spaces available, and begin taking reservations on a first come, first serve basis, beginning June 1st. Questions? Call Maureen at 978-249-8192.

Cultural Council Events



Caption: Photo by Lian Brandon. LBS, defending champs, in action at the 2005 Follies. Acts still accepted for the Follies until May 5. \$5-tickets from Lorraine Casinhino 249-5151.

New website and calendar publicizes North Quabbin artists, musicians, and cultural events

www.northquabbinwoods.org is a great website to find some local events and artists and many other things as well. Scott Maslansky, who works for an organization called North Quabbin Woods, got a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to spur economic development through the arts; the area targeted includes all 9 towns North of Quabbin. The expanded website will allow local artists to be listed for free with basic information like the artist's name, business, town, phone, and e-mail address. For a small fee, description of the products, a biography, photos, and links can be posted. Each web page will be professionally designed. A free calendar will advertise any cultural event organized in the entire North Quabbin area, from concerts to craft fairs, fine arts exhibitions to festivals. It will help advertise all our events and prevent unfortunate scheduling conflicts.

If you are or know of a Royalston artist who might want to be included in either of these lists, please send an e-mail to mariehumblet@post.harvard.edu or leave a message at 617-868-4076 or 978-575-0654 before May 15.

The Veggie Voyager Returns: Royalston Hosts Veggie Oil-Powered Music

Songwriter/guitarist Jay Mankita will present a concert on the Royalston Common at 3 PM on Saturday, May 17th. The show will feature Mankita's quirky and original songs and guitar work, and afterwards, a short talk and demonstration on alternative energy, featuring Jay's vegetable oil-powered van, the 'Veggie Voyager'. A New England based activist for social and environmental justice, Mankita has been receiving kudos and attention from all corners of the folk and Americana music world, including from folk legend Pete Seeger, who says of Jay: "Come hear this guy...I think he's one of the half dozen best songwriters today!" This program is supported by a grant from the Royalston Arts Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Memorial Day Committee

All are encouraged to observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, beginning at 2 p.m. at The Park in the South Village. Ceremonies will be conducted at the flag pole, Riverside Cemetery and at the bridge over the Miller's River. A potluck, post-parade luncheon will conclude the day's events. Anyone who discovers a missing marker, especially on the Riverside or Hillside cemeteries, should contact Brenda Putney as soon as possible so she can provide a replacement. Contact her at 978-249-7787.

Recipe of the month: What do teddy bears eat?

This month's recipe comes from Kathy Offut of South Royalston. She and her husband, Teddy Laakkonen (a.k.a. Teddy Bear, the local milkman) moved from Ashburnham to South Royalston in 2001. They love life here on the river. Kathy is a midwife at Leominster Hospital, caring for teens, pregnant women and providing well woman gynecologic care for women after their childbearing years. These quick and easy beans are a long time favorite at their house.

Southwest Baked Beans

Ingredients:

3 large cans cooked beans (can use any type, or all the same, the large Goya cans work well). I use 1 can red kidney, 1 can black, 1 can pinto or white. Can also use mixed dry beans, soaked, and cooked).

1 can (28 oz) whole plum tomatoes, chopped and drained, retain some liquid so finished ingredients have some moisture

1 cup of coarsely chopped onion

2 +/- cloves chopped garlic cloves

1/4 c molasses

1/4 c cider vinegar

honey to taste

2 tsp dried oregano

1 tbsp ground cumin

1 1/2 tsp ground ginger

2 tsp dry mustard powder

1 +/- tsp chili powder

salt to taste

Preheat oven 350 degrees

Rinse, drain beans in colander. Place in large covered casserole dish, or mix in large bowl. Put into baking dish. Add remaining ingredients, folding gently so beans don't break up, add small amount of tomato liquid if it seems dry. Bake, covered for ~45 minutes or until hot, bake uncovered an additional 30 minutes until bubbly. Great with some shredded cheese or sour cream/scallions to top. Yummy. Serves 8-10, keeps well

212 calories/serving; 2 g fat

Royalston Community Coop

May orders are due in by 5 p.m. on the 12th. Delivery is on Thursday, May 22. A guest catalogue is available for Royalston residents considering membership in the coop. A one-time \$20 buy-in fee helps defray costs of invoicing, and garners a monthly subscription to the catalogue/price list which features thousands of items including organically produced foods, non-toxic household cleaning agents and ecologically sound paper products. Anyone interested can contact Mary Barclay at 978-249-2598 or mbarclay@juno.com.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Jessica A. Putney and Matthew A. Denesowicz were married on April 12, 2008 at the First Congregational Church of Royalston.

Larry Cobb of South Royalston officiated. A reception for 100 guests was held at the Ellinwood Country Club in Athol. Matthew is returning to duty in Ballad, Iraq. Jessica will be joining him on a later date in Ansbach, Germany when his tour in Iraq ends.



RCS Poetry Club:

Humans
Outside of your body is what people judge you by
Inside of you is what really counts
On the inside is the real you
By listening to this I hope it helps you treat others fairly.
by Emma Finocchio

Congratulations and best wishes to **Ray Anair**, who was recently promoted to Sergeant in the Winchendon Police Department. Sergeant Anair was raised in Winchendon, earned degrees in business and criminal justice from Mount Wachusett Community College, and has served on the Winchendon Police Department since 1996. The bicycling and running enthusiast lives in Royalston with his wife, Lynn, who works at the Village School, and their daughter Marnie, a fourth grader at the Village School.

Beth Gospodarek Honored with Unsung Heroine Award

When the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's Unsung Heroine Award was seeking nominations for this year, it seemed obvious that Royalston resident, Beth Gospodarek, epitomized the characteristics in the candidate they were seeking. Beth was nominated and won as Royalston's Unsung Heroine. Many in town know how much work Beth does for her community. She is the editor, columnist, and general get it done person for this very newsletter; she serves as president of not only the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library but also the Royalston Community School Parent Teacher Group and the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation. She is a member of the Athol-Royalston School District Strategic Planning Committee as well as a Ladies' Benevolent Society Scholarship Committee member. She is also on the faculty of Mt. Wachusett Community College where she teaches English as a Second Language. At the library, she leads at least one program a year with the Summer Reading Program, digs up a big chunk of her garden for the plant sale, runs the annual Kite Flying Program during April school vacation and facilitated the creation of the Town Scrapbook, a collection of town history from the 20th C. She coordinates and, for the fifth year, will direct with Norah Dooley and Maureen Blasco, the Royalston Shakespeare Company's intensive two-week theater production of an adaptation of a Shakespearian play for children and teens. Actively involved in her children and family's activities, she has coordinated after-school programs at the Royalston Community School, including the biennial Talent Show and the chess club. She instigated (and played on the Friends' team) the Softball Tournament between the Friends and the Fire Department for three years. She was also one of the people out there planting bulbs around town to beautify the town and picking up trash during the town roadside cleanup.

On May 14th, 2008 the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) will host its Fifth Annual Unsung Heroine Celebration at the Massachusetts State House. Beth will be one of the women honored. Among the 287 Unsung Heroines are women who quietly, without fanfare or recognition, make their communities and the Commonwealth better places. The Unsung Heroines don't make the news, but they truly make a difference! Beth Gospodarek is a truly remarkable person who cares about her community and the people in it; who makes a difference and makes Royalston a better place to live. Thank you Beth!

ed note: I'm grateful for the acknowledgment. Thank you. There are many "unsung heroes/heroines" in this town, of course. If you'd like to write a few sentences to recognize someone who makes our community a better place to live, we'll try to make space in this newsletter for this recognition.

Wildlife Sightings

John McLure was pleased to see a mockingbird at his suet feeder on NE Fitzwilliam Rd in mid-April. It reminded him of his former home in Virginia. Across the street, John Poor identified a tri-color blackbird in his yard.

Steve Savoy saw a bobcat April 18 around 8:30 a.m. on Athol Rd. between the Bartkus house and the cemetery.

Mike, Cheryl and Jake Lajoie were visited by a bear. He came for breakfast Sunday April 13th and spent much of the day. He trashed one feeder and of course, they have pulled the surviving feeders in for awhile.



Garden Notes

April 22, 2008

Larry Siegel

While it seems like ancient history, it was but three weeks ago when there was at least a half foot of snow cover. I had surprised even myself by spending some time in the garden on March 27. Admittedly, I was obliged to remove snow from the beds, but the soil beneath was thawed and workable. So I "worked" them, the work requiring little more than a jostling of the soil with my trusty hoe. Spring training. Maybe half the parsley was alive and almost all the spinach. Among the alliums, the garlic, chives, and scallions had started new growth; the shallots and garlic chives had not. Work came to an abrupt halt the following day when 8" of snow altered field conditions. Sandwiched between that snow and the one of April 4, I performed one of my rites of spring: getting down to some on-my-knees gardening. A bit pre-mature this, my pants thoroughly wet within minutes, but I cleaned up around the emerging plants, it never being too early to discourage the appearance of weeds.

As April unfolded, some activities occurred on schedule (peas and spinach planted on the 10th, second pea planting on the 20th) but some were unprecedented. I've already set out a couple of pounds of potatoes and in the next day or two will begin to transplant the onions. I have never performed either task before early May but the soil (warm and dry) and the plants (potatoes sprouting, onion seedlings robust) were more than ready. Dry it is; certainly less than one inch of rain has fallen this month. Typically, I mire through muddy conditions to transplant onions; this year, I will be obliged to water them in.

More and more I have been micro-managing the compost heaps, going so far as to turn them. They will, of course, become compost without this attention, but it is likely the process will be accelerated a bit. More importantly, it keeps me moving and active. I have an aversion to idle hands. There are dozens of piles (each situated close at hand to its final resting place in the garden) and one mega-pile (comprised of some of Royalston's finest leaves and transported by Warren Preville). I am in the process of incorporating some healthy doses of manure into the leaf piles; it will help move things along as well as improve the ultimate product.

As previous readers of my notes may recall, May is an all-out time for me. There are but five beds planted at the moment; by month's end an additional twenty-five or so will be seeded or transplanted. Every day I meander through the asparagus patch in search of that first shoot (notwithstanding the fact that it has never emerged before the beginning of May), but well before June's onset, I will have consumed large amounts of asparagus.

With May approaching, it is time for my annual solicitation drive. Unlike most, which search for funds, I seek fellow-gardeners. For those non-gardeners among you, start a patch, modest though it be. For you novices, expand a bit and experiment with growing some new vegetables and flowers. For you experienced folks, fine-tune the undertaking; grow your winter grub as well as summer. For all, make the garden a destination, a place you want to be, an alternative to the muck that envelopes the rest of our lives. Recall, Eden was a garden. Back to our roots.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted: Early morning (7-8 a.m.) help with handicapped child on Laurel Lake Rd. \$20/hr; 1 hr/day. Call 978-249-3146.

Order Green Firewood now, in time for it to season for next winter. Cut (16" avg.), split and delivered locally at \$160 per 170 cubic foot truckload. Leave a message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-3379.

Needed: 4 wheel drive woods truck to haul in my firewood. Doors, windows, tailgate, etc. handy but not required. Truck needs to start and move. I don't much care if it stops. I am prepared to spend small sums of money. Call Larry 249-4260.

For sale on ebay: "a terrific specimen of AQUAMARINE, colored an appealing SKY BLUE. The crystal comes from the RENOLDS MINE, BERYL HILL, ROYALSTON, MA. I acquired this fabulous specimen from my friend Warren Johanssen, a retired UMass geology professor. He inherited the specimen from his father, F.V. Johanssen, who collected it in 1930 with a youthful Warren, who was then about 9 years old! Johanssen worked the mine for gem aquamarine, drilling by hand and blasting with black powder. Specimens of aquamarine from this mine are highly prized by all mineral collectors, but especially those who have tried to collect there. The mine is on private property, and even though we got permission to dig there, we found no more than a few scraps of aqua for our efforts. Aquamarine is the blue, or perhaps more correctly, blue-green or aqua variety of the mineral beryl. Other gemstone color varieties that belong to beryl include emerald,morganite, and heliodor. Other colors of beryl are simply referred to by their color, such as red beryl. Aquamarine is colored by trace amounts of iron that find their way into the crystal structure. Most gem aquamarines have been heat treated to produce the popular blue-green colors from less desirable yellow or pale stones."

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Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
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