

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July/August 2008



Volume XI, Issue VI

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

Calendar of Events

July 1 Tuesday

7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** in Town Hall

July 2 Wednesday

10:19 p.m. **New Buck Moon**

1 p.m. **Paste Paper Workshop** (for mature participants – no children) at Village School – learn to make a non-toxic textured paint, and ways to artfully apply it to paper. Create collages and mosaics. \$20 per participant . Pre-registration necessary – 978-249-3505.

7 pm **Julius Caesar, workshop performance by the Royalston Shakespeare Co.** at Town Hall. Come see the alchemy of distilling 35 kids, 13 days, hard work, portentous weather and a great script into performance. No one leaves until we give up the ghost.

July 3 Thursday

Dog Days of summer begin

5 p.m. **Coop Orders** should be in computer

July 4 Friday **Independence Day**

7 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Royalston F&G Club dining room** open to public for breakfast and lunch during the A.T.A. Trap Shoot.

July 7 Monday

10:30am **Wild Sponge Painting for pre-schoolers** with Jen Bartkus at the Phinehas Newton Library. Free.

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Nature Arts & Play day camp** at Village School, continues through Friday. Call 249-3505 for info.

July 10 Thursday

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library meeting**

1:30 p.m. **Kids make digereedooos at the Summer Reading Program** at Phinehas Newton Library. Free

TBA **Royalston Community Coop Delivery**

4 p.m. **Pete & Henry's Reopens** following July vacation

July 11 Friday

7 – 9 p.m. **Stillhouse Jammers country/Bluegrass**, at Winchendon's bandstand

July 12 Saturday

9 am to 3 pm **Congregational Church Fair** on the Town Common: music, crafters, attic treasures, concession stand, Rainbow the Clown and a baked goods table

July 14 Monday

10:30am **“Create with Clay” for pre-schoolers** with Jen Sherrer at the Phinehas Newton Library. Free.

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Village School Day Camps:** Summer Arts Intensive and Nature Arts & Play as well as Suzuki Piano Workshop
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. All at Village School and all continue through Friday. Call 249-3505 for info.

July 15 Tuesday

7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** in Town Hall

July 17 Thursday

1:30 p.m. **Make nature journals at the Summer Reading Program** at the Phinehas Newton Library

July 18 Friday

3:59 a.m. **Full Buck Moon**

July 20 Sunday

Noon – 5 p.m. Royalston's **8th annual MusicFest** Free family fun and entertainment; food concession benefitting Royalston Fire & EMS Association.

July 21 Monday

10:30am **Music and movement for pre-schoolers** with Tina Gemborys at the Phinehas Newton Library. Free.

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Science & Art Experience camp** at Village School; continues through Friday.

July 23 Wednesday

1:30 p.m. **Wild about turtles Summer Reading Program** at Phinehas Newton Library. Free



July 27 Sunday

9 a.m. **Butterfly Breakfast and Walk** beginning at Phinehas Newton Library for breakfast, then a butterfly-finding mission around the Town.

July 28 Monday

10:30am **Ice cream cranking and eating as well as run-around games for pre-schoolers** at the Phinehas Newton Library. Free.

July 31 Thursday

1:30 p.m. **Ice Cream Cranking Party Summer Reading Program** at PSN Library-. Free.

August 1 Friday
6:13 **New Sturgeon Moon**

August 3 Sunday
7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Royalston **F&G Club dining room open** to public for breakfast and lunch during the **A.T.A. Trap Shoot**.

August 5 Tuesday
7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** in Town Hall

August 11 Monday
Predawn Hours **Perseid Meteor Shower** There should be no trouble finding the remnants of the Swift-Tuttle Comet streaking across the skies between now and the morning of Thursday, August 14. Clear weather will mean quite a light show of about 75 meteors per hour originating in the northeastern skies.

August 16 Saturday
5:16 p.m. **Full Sturgeon Moon**

August 19 Tuesday
7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** in Town Hall

August 20 Wednesday
11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club**

August 23 Saturday
5 p.m. Royalston **F&G Chicken BBQ** \$10/person at the Club

August 26 Tuesday **Women's Equality Day**

August 28 Thursday
School resumes in the ARRSD. Summer Vacation is over.



August 30 Saturday
3:58 p.m. **New Harvest Moon**
7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Royalston **F&G Club** dining room open to public for breakfast and lunch during the **A.T.A. Trap Shoot**. Also open on Sun. Aug. 31. Archery and horseshoes all summer too.

Luncheon Club & Council On Aging

The town luncheon club meets each Weds at 11:30. Good company and good enough food. Contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by the Monday prior to attend. The suggested donation for the meal is \$2/senior and \$2.50 for up-and-coming seniors. Interesting company. In addition, local grocery stores and farmers often provide baked goods and produce, all free for the taking! (It varies, but last week there was 3-layer chocolate mousse and portobello mushrooms in the give-away box.) The first Weds of the month is a Chinese Auction. (In June, most of the tix were in the can for Helen Divoll's donation of homemade blueberry muffins.) The 2nd Weds. of the month is a blood pressure clinic, the 3rd Weds. is a convivial meal and the last Weds. is a brown bag distribution.

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West

Route 32 Update: We have encouraging news from Beacon Hill. There is a billion dollar transportation bill working its way through the Capital. The bill approved by the House has \$4.5M earmarked for Route 32. Rep. Rice worked hard to make that happen. We have not crossed the finish line, though. The bill has to be moved through the Senate and signed by the Governor. Senator Brewer has promised to do all he can to preserve the earmark. There are no guarantees, but keep your fingers crossed.

Other fronts: We continue to make progress with the regional transportation committee for traditional funding. Our goal is to convey a clear understanding of the road condition to the members.

Right of Way: If you have been asked for Right of Way permission, please contact Keith Lincoln from Chappell Engineering. The Rights of Way being requested are permission for the town to access the culverts to clean them. No land is being taken. All scheduling, funding, and planning on this project WILL STOP very soon if the Rights of Way process is not complete.

Union Contract: The Selectmen have negotiated a new union contract with Town union employees. The contract is renegotiated every three years. Changes include a 2% Cost of Living increase and 1% Merit increase, cost saving options on town-paid health-care, employee-paid life insurance option, and an increase to the entry-level position pay. The Selectmen gave a detailed summary and asked for ratification at Town Meeting on June 27.

The Board of Selectmen recently appointed Keith Newton as Royalston Fire Chief. As part of the process, the Board developed an extensive job description for the position. Keith completed a thorough interview and qualification process for the job. Selectmen also took note of positive changes that Keith made while Acting Chief. Both the Board and the Chief developed clear expectations for performance for moving forward. The Board would like to congratulate Chief Newton and wish him well in his new role.

On June 28, the Police and Fire Departments held a joint swearing-in ceremony at the Town Hall for the upcoming fiscal year appointments. Town Clerk, Melanie Mangum, officiated. Senator Stephen Brewer, Representative Robert Rice, and members of the Board of Selectmen spoke to the attendees. Board members were proud to take part in this second annual unifying event.

The Board of Selectmen, Linda Alger, Andy West, and Jon Hardie wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and happy summer!

Royalston Community Coop

Coop orders are due into the new on-line form no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, July 7. Delivery is Thursday, July 10. Royalston gardeners and woodsmen with extra produce or firewood to sell are invited to promote their products through out membership's e-mail. Anyone interested can contact Mary Barclay at 978-249-2598.

The Royalston Conservation Commission Seeks Help

The ConsCom is looking to fill one vacancy. Please call George Northrop if you are interested in the position. Meetings are monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and as needed.

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

Summer Hours (through Labor Day) Mondays, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m

2008 Street List books are available at the Town Clerk's Office for \$2.00.

Upcoming Elections – Reminders

Wed., August 27, 2008 - Last day to register or change party for the September State Primary.

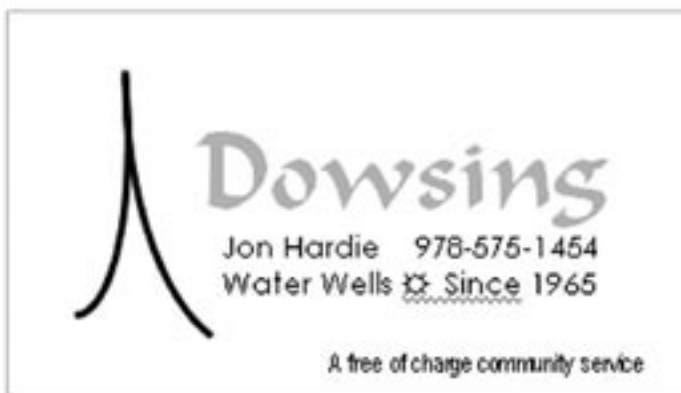
Tuesday, September 16, 2008 – State Primary. Precinct 1 is located at Town Hall, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

An important note on how the Census affects your voter registration: As part of the annual census and required by state law, voters who did not return a 2008 census form this year will be designated as an "Inactive Voter". These voters should have received a confirmation postcard in the mail asking them to verify that they still live in town. Inactive voters may still vote, but if the postcard is not returned, they must provide proof of address at the polls on Election Day.

If a voter remains inactive (he/she does not respond to census mailings) for a period of 2 Federal Elections, the voter will be removed from the voter registration rolls and must re-register in order to vote.

Board of Health News:

The new annual sticker are in and due by July 1st. This is a late announcement intended for those who have not purchased one yet. All vehicles need a valid windshield sticker to access the facility. The sticker should be placed on the driver's side windshield. They are valid July 1-June 30 of next year. See attendant to purchase one. The fee is \$10 resident, \$50 non-resident and commercial. If you use the facility, please have your valid sticker visible for the attendant to see.



A List of Current Town Office E-mail Contacts

Board of Assessors	Assessor@royalston-ma.gov
Board of Health	BOH@royalston-ma.gov
Andrew West - Selectman	Awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov
Jon Hardie - Selectman	Jhardie-bos@royalston-ma.gov
Linda Alger - Selectman	Lalger-bos@royalston-ma.gov
Accountant	Accountant@royalston-ma.gov
BOS Administrative Asst	Admin@royalston-ma.gov
Dept Public Works	DPW@royalston-ma.gov
Emergency Management	EMA@royalston-ma.gov
Chief Fire Dept	Chiefrfd@royalston-ma.gov
Hist. Dist. Commission	Hdc@royalston-ma.gov
Chief Police DeptChief	rpd@royalston-ma.gov
Selectboard (all)	Bos@royalston-ma.gov
Town Clerk	Townclerk@royalston-ma.gov
Tax Collector	Tax@royalston-ma.gov
Treasurer	Treasurer@royalston-ma.gov
Library Website	http://www.royalstonlibrary.org/
Town Website	http://www.royalston-ma.gov/
These depts also have their own websites which can be accessed directly from the town website:	
Board of Assessors, Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk,	
Tax Collector, Zoning Task Force, and Open Space Com.	

From Jon Hardie:

The Royalston Weather, Emergency & Info Email List

Over the past few years I have been e-sending out regular weekly Royalston Weather, Emergency Weather & Town Info (including ATM Warrants) to folks who need local weather forecasts and emergency weather warnings. (We have more wind, more rain, more snow, icing, and shorter growing season than Gardner, Athol or Orange.)

The list now has almost 200 residences. Recently, Royalston had a power line down that closed N Fitzwilliam Road near the Common; it affected several hundred people for 24 hours. At the request of the Royalston PD, the Royalston Weather Email List was used to contact many of the residents affected. However, many folks who have email, but are not on the list could not be reached for many hours. If you would like to be added or to update your e-mail address for the the Royalston Weather, Emergency & Info list, please send me an email. jhh@moonroad.com Please note: the Royalston Weather, Emergency and Info List is confidential & private. These email names are not sold, given to, or shared with, other organizations or businesses PERIOD. You can opt out at any time, for any reason. The list is non-political and non-partisan. However, in emergencies, it has been, and may likely again be used to send information on behalf of town offices, schools, departments or emergency management agencies, fire and police ... and I am happy to do so.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Plant Sale and Book Sales Successful

Thanks to all who donated and shopped at the plant sale, where the Friends of the Library brought in over \$1500 in four hours on a Saturday morning with lots of community support. Special thanks go to **Shepardson's Gardens, Noel's Nursery and Agway** of Athol as well as residents **Sharon Harmon, Andrea Lively, Shirley Hubbard, Carrie Hutchins, Allen Young, Buddy Dyer, Aaron Allison and Elizabeth Farnsworth, Denise Bennett, Kathy Morris, Celt Grant, John McLure, John Chencharik, Theresa Burgess, Carol Englander, Niki Maitland, Chris Lyons, Chris Long, Noah Seigel** and others. Moreover, the book sale made a tidy profit and helped weed the shelves to make room for new acquisitions.

The Friends of the Library held elections recently. Officers for the next year include: Beth Gospodarek, president; Maureen Blasco, treasurer; Barbara Willhite, treasurer; and Lorraine Cassinghino and Sharon Harmon sharing the responsibilities of clerk.

Art Exhibits at the Library

During July and August **Robert Anthony**, a Royalston resident for the last 12 years, will be displaying several of his intricate scroll works at the library. Scrollwork is created with tiny drill bits that are used to carefully drill out portions of intricate patterns to produce an amazing picture. Examples of the bits and the techniques used to create the pictures will also be displayed. All the exhibited works will be for sale with proceeds generously donated to the library.

Automated Catalog and Circulation System

The 'new' MassCat online cataloging and circulation system will be up and running soon. Training will begin in mid to late August so that we can begin circulating soon thereafter. Each person will have to get a new library card and fill out his/her 'profile' to let staff know how your preferences about notifications and services. Options include an automated e-mail sent when reserved materials are available, a history of the materials previously checked out, lists of books to read in the future, and many other features. You will be able to reserve books on-line, check which books are on order, suggest books to purchase, and write reviews. To ease the transition, the library staff won't be requiring that you bring your card with you to check out items, but it will make things faster and easier if you do. Yes, it will be another piece of plastic rather than the heavy paper card that you misplaced years ago. We're excited about the prospects of a complete catalog and the ability to let you know quickly if we own an item and whether or not it's checked out or on the shelf.

Pre-school Storytime on Vacation. Library Summer Hours in Effect



The library will be open Mondays from 1:00 p.m. until 8:30pm during July and August. All the other hours remain the same. Monday morning hours, with the library opening at 10:00 a.m. and pre-school story time at 10:30 a.m. will resume after Labor Day.

Resident Recommended Summer Reading

Frank Stearns recommends *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick. He says, "Lots happened between 1620 and the 1770s that folks know little about, perhaps even in Royalston where there is a local connection. This really well researched and written book is basically about King Philip's War. It includes loads about Mary Rowlandson and the Connecticut River Valley. There's lots of running around and bloodshed."

Marsha Flanagan is drafting her own set of wishes after reading *Twenty Wishes* by Debbie Macomber. She effuses, "It's a great, nice read."

Patti Stanko found *Animal's People* by Indra Sinha "a great story, very well written."

Sharon Harmon's interest was piqued by *Pillars of Earth* by Ken Follet. She found it a very interesting historical blend exploring relationships and building a cathedral.

From the young adult collection, Perer Maitland liked *Maximum Ride* by James Patterson because "it's full of action and mystery."

Third grader, Hannah Bartkus, is still raving about *Ingraine the Brave* by Cornelia Funke because both she and the main character share a propensity for "adventures and excitement."

Summer Events at the Library:

Summer Reading Programs

Thanks to a grant from the Royalston Academy and the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library we are offering some great programs this summer based on the statewide theme, 'Wild Reads @ Your Library.' There will be programs designed for children 6 and older and a separate set of programs for preschoolers. We'll also have a great family program as well. We are excited about several of our prizes this year. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Central Massachusetts Regional Library have given us 2 tickets to the Big E and a family four-pack of tickets to Kidsfest at Wachusett Mountain. In addition, Marsha Charest has donated four passes to the Museum of Science and we will be awarding two tickets each to the lucky winner. The Friends of the Library have also contributed lots of prizes. Anyone who attends even one program is eligible to win. There are also coupons for discounts to many venues around the area available to participants.

The Preschool Programs will be on Mondays in July at 10:30am at the library. On July 7th Jen Bartkus will have everyone doing "Wild Sponge Painting" and having lots of fun. The next week, July 10th, everyone will be getting creative with clay with Jen Scherrer and then on July 17th the library will be hopping with music and movement in a program led by Tina Gemborys. To end out the program on July 24th, children will be cranking away making ice cream for everyone to enjoy. There will be games and lots of prizes.

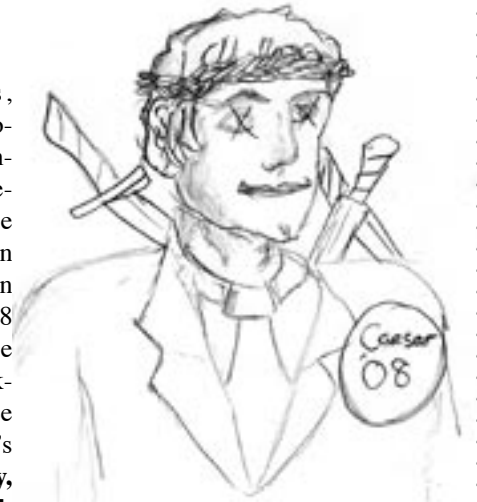
Older kids will be having some 'wild' programs too starting on Thursday, July 10th when some incredibly exotic music will be emanating from the library. Participants will make and play a didgeridoo while learning about the history of the instrument. The next week, Thursday, July 17th, Carole Moisan will have everyone making nature journals. Kids will be learning how to sketch and press and preserve wild things to include in their journals. We then have a very special program on Wednesday, not Thursday, July 23rd. Mary Doane of Project Nature, will be visiting to present a 'Wild About Turtles' program. This program combines lots of music with great information on turtles. Everyone will get to see four turtles up close, learn some reptile facts, and then sculpt a clay turtle to take home. To finish off the program, we'll be having our traditional homemade ice cream party on Thursday, July 30th. Everyone will crank away and we'll play 'Wild' games, shoot off bottle rockets, and award sensational prizes. Of course, everyone will get to eat lots of homemade ice cream too. This program tends to be messy, so dress accordingly! Wild Reads @ Your Library is sponsored by your local library, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Nature Journaling with Elizabeth Farnsworth

Resident renowned botanical illustrator, Elizabeth Farnsworth, will lead a nature journaling workshop for kids and adults, aged 10 and up, on Sunday, September 28th at 1:00p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall. Elizabeth is the illustrator of several books including the *Peterson Field Guide to the Ferns of Northeastern and Central North America*, *Atlantic Shorelines: Natural History and Ecology*, and the upcoming *Flora of New England*. A \$5 fee covers supplies and pre-registration is required.

The Royalston Shakespeare Company Presents: Julius Caesar

Thunderstorms, backstabbers, political intrigue, unintended consequences... Come see what havoc has been loosed in our Town Hall, July 2, 2008 at 7 pm. This free youth theater workshop performance features Royalston's own **Kelsey Savoy, Ryan and Meredith Carrier, Grady and Owen MacPhee, Michele Thompson, Katie Robinson, Hannah Bartkus, John and Addie Ramsdell, Asher, Caleb and Tobey Chase, Isabel O'Connor, Emily Mangum, Marnie Anair and Noah Easton** as well as talent from Athol, Winchendon, Orange, Petersham, New Jersey and California. The RSC is a Friends of the Library Production with support from the Royalston Cultural Council, the Salvation Army, Theresa Burgess, and Athol High School as well as many supporters from our community. For more information, check out our blog at <http://royalstonshakespearecompany.blogspot.com/>



Author Visit in September

Noted popular Pioneer Valley author, Susan Strempek Shea, will talk about her new book, *Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith* and her other books of fiction and non-fiction on Friday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Strempek Shea is known for her insightful books on Polish-American farming life in the Connecticut River Valley and include such engaging titles as *Hoopi*, *Shoopi*, *Donna* and *Lily of the Valley*. Her last novel, *Becoming Fiona* was a departure for her, taking place in Ireland. After a bout with breast cancer, she wrote about her experiences in *Songs from a Lead Lined Room*. Sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

Breakfast with Butterflies is Back

Join us on Sunday, July 27th at 9:00am at the library for a light breakfast and a slide show presented by Carl Kamp, president of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club. Carl will show slides of the butterflies in our region and around the world. Then at 10:00am participants will head out into the field to see what's flying. There will be several people there to help with identification. This is a great way for a families to spend some time outside learning what lives around them. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, who provide the breakfast, the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, and the Athol Bird and Nature Club. In the event of rain, call the library the morning of the program to find out if it is cancelled.

New Books at the Library

Adult Fiction

Allen, Sarah Addison *The Sugar Queen*
Appelt, Kathi *The Underneath*
Armstrong, Derek Lee *MADicine*
Birdsall, Jeanne *The Penderwics of Gardam Street*
Box, C.J. *Blood Trail*
Colasanti, Susane *Take Me There*
Cook, Thomas H. *Master of the Delta*
Diaz, Junot *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
Dubus, Andre *The Garden of Last Days*
Estleman, Loren *Frames: A Valentino Mystery*
Furst, Alan *The Spies of Warsaw*
Gilchrist, Ellen *A Dangerous Place*
Griffin, W.E.B. *Death and Honor*
Guterson, David *The Other*
Hunter, Erin *Seekers: The Quest Begins Book #1*
Kellerman, Jesse *The Genius*
Kostick, Conor *Saga*
Law, Ingrid *Savvy*
Lourey, Jess *August Moon: A Murder-by-month Mystery*
Meldrum, Christina *Madapple*
Mooney, Chris *The Missing*
Murdock, Catherine Gilbert *Princess Ben*
Patterson, James *Sail*
Prineas, Sarah *The Magic Thief Book #1*
Pronzini, Bill *Fever: A Nameless Detective Novel*
Rendell, Ruth *Not in the Flesh: A Wexford Novel*
Rushdie, Salman *The Enchantress of Florence; A Novel*
Spencer, Sally *A Dying Fall*
Thompson, Kate *The Last of the High Kings*



Adult Nonfiction

Agaston, Arthur *The South Beach Diet*
Andryszew, Tricia *Same-sex Marriage: Moral Wrong or Civil Right?*
Bertinelli, Valerie *Losing It: And Gaining My Life Back One Pound At A Time*
Burk, John *From the Valley to Wachusett: The Hidden Nature of Central Massachusetts*
Cambras, Josep *Bookbinding Techniques and Projects*
Consumer Reports *Used Car Buying Guide 2008*
Madaras, Lynda *On Your Mark, Get Set, Grow*
Moonen, Rick *Fish Without a Doubt: The Cook's Essential Companion*
Pham, Andrew X. *The Eaves of Heaven: A Life in Three Wars*
Mueller, Scott *Upgrading and Repairing PCs*
Steinberg, D.J. *The Adventures of Daniel Boom aka Loud Boy*
Van Ryn, Don & Susie *Mistaken Identity: Two Families, One Survivor, Unwavering Hope*
Waltner-Toews, David *Food, Sex, and Salmonella: Why Our Food is Making Us Sick*
White, Christine *Uniquely Felt*

Milestones

Sarah Violet Nevala was born on March 22, 2008 to Jon and Emily Nevala (Melvin) formerly from Royalston. Sarah joins her sister, Sophie Rose, age 3.

Dominic P. Gingras, Jr., 51, of 793 Silver Lake St., Athol died unexpectedly Wednesday, June 18, 2008. He was born in Winchendon on July 13, 1956, the son of Dominic P. and Virginia C. (Clark) Gingras Sr. He grew up in Royalston, and graduated from Athol High School with the Class of 1974. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War from 1974 to 1978 and in the U.S. Navy Reserve until 1980. He was a member of the local union #596 in Holyoke as a construction laborer for 21 years. He was a member of the American Legion Baldwinville Post No. 373, and the Royalston Fish and Game Club. He enjoyed fishing, ice fishing, and spending time with his family and friends. He leaves his wife of nearly 25 years, Eileen P. (Cichanowicz) Gingras; two sons, Dominic P. Gingras III, Stuart A. Gingras, both of Santa Cruz, CA; his mother, Virginia C. Gingras of Royalston; aunts Marguerite Langlois and Pat Lamb; uncles Bill Clark and Albert Gingras; his niece, Elizabeth Buccaroni of Orange; sister-in-laws: Janice Hartwell, Lisa Virgilio, Helen Miner and Mary Cichanowicz, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Dominic P. Gingras, Sr. who died in 1982, and by his brother, Anthony J. Gingras who died in 1984. Burial was in Jonas Alliene Cemetery, Royalston.

New documentary film shot by Boyd Estus to show in Boston entitled *At Home in Utopia: What happened when Radical Labor Built a House of its Own.*

In the 1920s, thousands of immigrant Jewish garment workers put a new spin on the American dream by building four big, beautiful, cooperatively owned apartment complexes in the Bronx. *At Home in Utopia* is the story of the struggle for equity and social justice across two generations in the most radical of the houses – the United Workers Cooperative Colony, aka the Coops. Director: MICHAL GOLDMAN; Director of Photography: BOYD ESTUS. *At Home in Utopia* will show at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Most of these showings feature guest speakers and audience discussion with the filmmakers. The film is an hour long. Thursday, July 3 @ 6:30 PM features speaker Jeff Crosby, President, IUE-CWA Local 201; also showing, Sunday, July 6 @ 2:15 PM. For tickets in advance, call the MFA at 617 369-3306, or go to www.mfa.org and then go to calendar/film. Questions? Contact Michal or Ellen at Filmmakers Collaborative, 781 647-1102, coops@filmmakerscollab.org. *At Home in Utopia* will be broadcast locally on Sunday July 27 at 10 PM on WGBH 44. Also, watch for the national broadcast on public television as part of the 2008-2009 season of Independent Lens.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

2008 Monty Tech Graduates

(The list which appeared in last month's newsletter turned out to be woefully incomplete. We apologize big time. Remember, we can only print what we know, so keep the RCN informed.)

Jonathon Edward Copeta	Collision Repair Technology
Daniel Joseph Demboske	Machine Technology
Candice Lee Denis	Health Occupations
Ryan Andrew Gaudet	Information Technology
Ashley Christine Gladden	Graphic Communications
Amber Ruth McCassie	Culinary Arts
Maryah Jeanne Thompson	Culinary Arts
Phillip Everet Trask	Collision Repair Technology
Amanda Lee Warren	Electrical Technology
Brittany Elizabeth Warren	Culinary Arts
Emily Ruth Putney	Graphic Communications
Megan Wessels	Graphic communications

Kyle Stoddard, son of **Susan & Mike Veilleux** of Norcross Rd. graduated high school June 20th. from the Cornerstone Christian School in Lyndonville, Vt. He will be joining the Air Force and heading to boot camp in Texas at the beginning of the new year.

Jessica Trask, daughter of **Larry and Janice Task** of Main St, recently graduated from Gordon College with a BA in Communications. Jessica also majored in French. She earned honors in both majors. Her brother, **Phillip Trask**, has been accepted into Marie Mechanics Institute in Orlando Fla., where he starts classes in Sept.

Brad Hardie Graduates NYFD Fire Academy. Brad Hardie, son of Royalston Selectman Jon Hardie and Tax Collector Rebecca-Krause-Hardie was 5th in his company out of a starting class of 350. Brad has 13 years as a NH Firefighter / Paramedic. With his experience and academy performance, Brad is looking forward to his dream job - joining a Special Ops Company with the FDNY.

They're going to Vegas! Matt and Catie Barry, Jared Bourbeau, Alex Cruz, and Mike Lafond, all of Royalston; Lindsey Mallet and her father, John Mallet, both of Athol; and Anthony Rodriguez of Fitchburg are representing Massachusetts in the American Pool-players Association National Team Championships, August 15-23 at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The team, which plays Wednesdays at the Brickyard in Baldwinville, has played just one year – two sessions – together. They placed first among the Brickyard's four teams. they were in the top four teams in the regionals at Breakaway Billiards; Clinton, MA; and were one of four winning Massachusetts teams from an initial field of 32!

Lian Cutting runs marathon:

Lian (Corser) Cutting participated in the first Susan G. Komen National Breast Cancer Marathon in Jacksonville, Florida this spring. She was running for a friend who had terminal breast cancer. With encouragement from her daughter and friend, she diligently trained for the race. Over 9000 runners took part in the marathon, which was a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. Lian, who just wanted to finish the race, amazed herself when she took tenth place in her age group.

Local Scholarships Awarded to high school seniors

So. Royalston School Reunion Committee Scholarship-Brian Hartin
AHS Meg E. Shatos Award - Mieka Melbourne

Ladies' Benevolent Society Memorial Scholarships:

H. Pauline Smith scholarship - Mieka Melbourne

Maxine Wilcox scholarship- Ellee Bronnes

Pat Poor scholarship- Dana Griffith

Dorothy Corser scholarship - Brian Hartin

Royalston Academy Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Memorial Scholarship - Mieka Melbourne

Alexis and Ashley Javier, and Michele Thompson were all inducted into the National Honor Society at A.R.M.S. recently. **Amanda Putney** was named to the Pioneer Regional School's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society

Nathan Melbourne recently graduated on the dean's list from Boston University with a B.S. in mathematics education, cum laude.

Public Acknowledgement- In Praise of Unsung Heroes: Ron Vars writes, "I would like to thank so many of the great loving reaching-out help. Recently, I was hurt at work. My knees gave out. In July, after months with no income, doctors told me I can't work again. I ended up with an upper G.I. bleed in December. **Jon Jeffreys** availed his time to drive me to the hospital and waited. While I was in the hospital, **Ron Alger** of Winchendon had put in a hot water heater and arranged for a ride from Umass home. His wife, **Marcia Alger**, brought hot meals and groceries. Once home, **Phil Leger** stopped to see how I was and noticed I had no firewood. Phil came back with a van full of wood, kindling and wooden matches. A few days later, Phil came over on his way to work. He woke me, (I'd been under medicine for my knees) and said, "Ron. Get up. It's zero degrees and there is no fire going." After that, every night, **Mark Thompson** brought me wood from pallets at his work and made sure to keep the heat running. The word was spread about my situation. **George Northrop** dropped off wood. **Bruce Robinson and his son Steve** told me they had a lot of wood and to come over. When I went to their house, Steve and his friend would not even let me load my own truck. Later, Steve brought his truck full of another load of cut and split wood and unloaded it all onto my porch without letting me help. Bruce had Steve give me his cell phone number so he could help me with every problem. **Dodie Robinson** sent cup cakes, etc. I started to feel so much love and kindness. All everyone told me was "get better health." I can tell you how it made me feel so loved and cared about. Soon, I'll have surgery. I'm not going into it as worried as I might. I'm going to get through it. I can't let anyone down, including myself. I'm coming back better so I can help all that need it."

Monty Tech News

The June 1 quota deadline has passed, and four more Royalston students were invited to fill freshmen seats at Monty Tech. Part of this is thanks to a June 4 vote of the School Committee to accept an additional 20 students. Superintendent-Director Culkeen feels the impact in the classroom will be minimal due to the number of students working out in the community. To date, 688 freshmen (13 from Royalston/68 from Athol) submitted applications for 360 seats. All 360 seats are now filled (7 Royalston/33 Athol), plus a traditional buffer of 20 extra students, to compensate for those who drop during the first semester. Letters were sent to 150 qualified applicants stating there was a chance they could fill seats of students who declined their invitations. More than 150 qualified applicants were told it is highly unlikely they would be extended an invitation. In addition 51 applications (2 Royalston/4 Athol) were not accepted because minimum requirements were not met.

Ladies' Benevolent Society



The Ladies B. is conducting a **"REauction"** during the month of July. An array of items will be featured for this Chinese-style auction, but the theme will be "green" and all items must be REused, REcycled, REfurnished, REpaired, or REnewable. Among the offerings is a well-loved, hand-stitched, Victorian Fan quilt. There is also a colorful "scrapghan" made of unused scraps of yarn. Other items are still coming in. The REauction items will appear at various locations in Royalston and surrounds during July. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to pull winning tickets and announce recipients during this year's MusicFest, slated for July 20 at Bullock Park. Laurie M. Deveneau and Mary C. Barclay are chairing the fundraiser, the proceeds of which will be used to meet the LBS's three-year, \$6,000 commitment to the Village School Capital Campaign.

Also, The LBS is collecting unused diapers and baby products, cleaning supplies, toiletries, paper goods and non-perishable food items to **help stock the rooms at the Athol-Orange Family Inn**, occupied by women and children who are homeless or in transition. Cash donations are also being accepted towards the purchase of one or two industrial quality vacuums for the Inn. Boxes for items are at the contract post office in the center at the Historical Society's building and at the Royalston General Store. Cash donations can be left with or sent to Kristen A. West, P.O. Box 35; Royalston, MA 01368. Pick-up of items can be arranged by calling Kristen at 978-249-5993 or Cadence Brinkley at 978-249-3505.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven

The Church's second annual country flea market is just around the corner. This year, we planning 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.

Congregational Churches News

Contact Information for the new Congregational Churches pastor:
Pastor Jeff

3 On The Common

P.O. Box 73

Royalston, Ma. 01368

Phone # in RI. 401-632-4040

E mail Pastorjeff revolution@yahoo.com

A huge thank you to Judy Francis (Pastor Jeff's wife) for starting a nursery downstairs for infants and toddlers in the Fellowship hall at the First Congregational Church. She is also in the process of starting a Children's Church for ages 6 to 12 and is looking for volunteers to help. If interested, please contact Pastor Jeff at above info.

Also the Youth group has been very busy handcrafting Tie Dye articles to sell at its table this year at the fair. The first car wash @ Aubuchon's was a huge success. The next one is going to be held on July 26th. 2008. The missions trip to the Highlands Nursing Home on June 7th. was a lot of fun and a true blessing to the residents and to the youth. The residents are still commenting on the fun they had singing along with the youth and the one on one time they spent visiting and reminiscing with them. All youth are welcomed and encouraged to join us. Please call Mike & Sue Veilleux 978-249-5004 for summer meeting schedule times.

Recipe of the Month

This month's recipe comes from Barbara Willhite, the Friends long-time treasurer, a retired head nurse at Athol Hospital, grandmother to triplets, and an enthusiastic member of the Red Hat Club. She and her husband Ennis have lived on Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd for generations.

Ham Strata

Prep time: 25 minutes

1 cup broccoli florets

2 cups shredded cheddar

3 beaten eggs

2 tbs. finely chopped onion

dash of pepper

5 cups 1/2" bread cubes

1 cup cooked ham-cubed

1 3/4 cup milk

1 tsp. dry mustard

Cook broccoli for 4 minutes. Drain. Layer half the bread cubes in greased 2 quart square dish. Top with cheese, ham and broccoli. Top with remaining bread. Combine eggs milk, onions, mustard and pepper. Pour egg mixture over layers in dish. Cover and refrigerate 2 - 24 hours. Uncover and bake in 325 oven for one hour or until knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Let stand about 5 minutes. Makes six servings.

Royalston Fish & Game Club News

A fairly active summer is on-going at the Royalston F&G Club, at its beautiful facility on Route 68 just over the line into Phillipston. All are invited to throw some horseshoes on Tuesday nights, and the archery course is set up and open any time during weekdays. The A.T.A. Trapshooting schedule is set for July 4, August 3, 30, 31. The Club's dining room is open to the public from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Trapshoot days. Lisa Cosentino will be behind the counter providing breakfast and lunch.



Athol Memorial Hospital Current Support Groups

Quality healthcare close to home

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

- * ACOA AlAnon For adults raised by alcoholic caretakers/parents. Meets every Saturday at 10 a.m. in the conference room.
- * AlAnon for family and friends of people with alcohol related issues. Meets EVERY MONDAY at 7 p.m.
- * ALS Support Group for people seeking help in coping with their illness. Led by Linda D'Amour-Duffy, MSW, LCSW and Sandy King, RN, BSN. Meets the LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH at 6:30 p.m.
- * Bereavement Support Group for people seeking a compassionate environment to help cope with the death of a loved one. Led by Kate Hart, LICSW. Meets from 1 - 2:30 p.m. on the THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH.
- * Cancer Support Group Meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 4:30 p.m. Facilitated by the AMH Oncology Clinic's Bonnie Frank Hume, LICSW.
- * Diabetes Education & Support Group offers practical information and caring, emotional support. Led by Marjorie Sobil, RD, LDN. Meets 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH from September to June.
- * Healthy Hearts and Lungs Club for anyone with cardiac or lung disease or at risk for developing the diseases. Learn to manage risk factors and create a healthy lifestyle.
- * SMART Recovery is a cognitive/rational approach to overcoming addictive behavior and maintaining abstinence. Learn to manage your feelings and combat the urge to use drugs and/or alcohol. MEETS every SATURDAY at 10:00 a.m. in the Education Room, first floor south wing.
- * Smoking Cessation facilitated by Tim Sweeney, Tobacco Treatment Specialist. MEETS EVERY MONDAY from 6-7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

For more information, call Community Relations at 249-1143.

Zoe Darrow Headlines Royalston Music Fest July 20



Cultural Council members sell t-shirts at the MusicFest '07

On Sunday, July 20 from 12:00 – 5:00 the 6th annual Royalston Music Fest will take place at Bullock Park, on The Common, in Royalston, Massachusetts. Admission is free thanks to grants from the Massachusetts and Royalston Cultural Councils. This year's event showcases an impressive lineup of local bands and musicians, including Linq, Obsession, Midge, Ned Zebner, Joint Compound, Melanie and the Blue Shots, Gurus of Blues and Hillary Chase.

The featured artist for 2008 will be Zoe Darrow and the Fiddleheads, considered the best Celtic band in the Pioneer Valley. Zoe is a popular fiddler from Blandford MA, whose talent is also recognized all over Europe. She performs, with irresistible energy, a blend of traditional music from Scotland, Ireland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, to which she often adds her own brand of Irish step dancing.

Food will be available throughout the afternoon, with the Royalston Fire Department tending the Barbeque and Walpole Creamery serving their delicious ice cream. There will be face painting for the children as well as Frisbee and volleyball. At 3:30 there will be a Chinese Auction of interesting items to benefit the Royalston Village School capital campaign. Bring your own chairs and shade; it should be a fun summer afternoon for the whole family. In the event of rain the concert will take place in the Royalston Town Hall.



Cash Paid
for Old Jewelry and Glass Beads.
Please Call Stephanie
at 978-249-8675 after 6 p.m.

Wildlife Sighting

Jim Barclay recently stopped for a **bear** crossing the road near the Chase Memorial Forest on Route 68. The bear stopped and raised up slightly on his hind legs for a good look at Jim (on his motorcycle and dressed head to toe in black motorcycle gear) but the bear seemed to be unconcerned and ambled the rest of the way across the street and into the woods. Jim estimates the bear at about 300 lbs, and about six feet tall standing fully upright on his hind legs.

Bird and Nature Club Summer Garden Tour

As we enter into the long, languid days of summer, many gardeners are busy preparing their gardens for guests who appreciate their hard work. On July 20, 2008, ten gardens will be open to the public in West Royalston and Warwick. Included on the tour is a schoolyard certified National Wildlife Habitat Garden. Taking place from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., this self guided tour will cost \$5 for an individual, or, \$15 per car full for those taking advantage of car pooling. It is an enjoyable way to spend a beautiful day exploring the area and learning useful tips that can be applied to one's own garden. Tickets may be purchased at Lu's Florist and Noel's Nursery in Orange, Bruce's Browser and Agway in Athol, and the Warwick Town Hall on the day of the tour. Look for lunch and a plant sale at the Warwick Town Hall as well. Organized by the Athol Bird and Nature Club with assistance from the North Quabbin Garden Club, this event is an annual promotion to benefit the Millers River Environmental Center.



Garden Notes

June 22, 2008

Larry Siegel

I might consider re-titling this column 'Weather Notes.' Rain... I could be the finest of gardeners, performing my magic in the finest of soils, successfully eliminating the weeds, dispatching the insects, and repelling the varmints, but without water the crops will grow poorly at best and not at all at worst. There were nine measurable rains in May but none registered more than three-tenths of an inch. Prevailing wisdom suggests that gardens require an inch of water per week for maximum growth.

Royalston gardens received but three-quarters of an inch of rain for the entire month. Thankfully, droughty conditions in May are not nearly as troublesome as droughty conditions in July or August. I set out transplants earlier than I wished (I would have preferred warmer conditions) but needed to take advantage of the occasional cloudy day to perform the task. The watering can provided yeoman service.

The second week in June brought our first touch of summer, four days of sweltering heat; it was but a temporary change from the very cool conditions before and after. Finally, finally, I planted those seeds which require warm soil to germinate properly. And germinate they did, the corn, beans, cucumbers, and squash emerging in but five days and, then rewarded with some timely rains. Almost three inches of rain has fallen in June just what the garden doctor ordered. For the moment, the watering can is retired.

Snapshot of today...between retreats to a desk to pen these words, I've been entertaining myself with a variety of garden chores. One of my guiding gardening principles is to multi-plant a variety of vegetables, the different planting dates spreading the risk of losses as well as assuring an extended harvest period. Thus, today, I made my third plantings of carrots and cucumbers and my fourth of beans and beets. Several more plantings will follow. I also made my weekly tour through the potato rows, searching for beetles, larva, and (mostly) eggs. With infestation at a minimum this year, I spent but forty-five minutes tending to 375' of potatoes. I gathered a handful of asparagus and a handful of strawberries, the former winding down and the latter just beginning.

Finally I pulled up the wintered-over spinach, but not before providing a lesson to Maba Cauthen on the joys of field gleaning. What she passed by was passed on to the chickens. Waste not; want not. After gussying up the 100 square feet bed with three substantial wheelbarrow loads (no wimpy wheelbarrow this) of composted manure and a couple of gallons of wood ash, I transplanted broccoli seedlings, one of the seed trials I am performing for FEDCO Seeds of Waterville, Maine (the other two being beans and potatoes). I've been performing these trials for years, the careful attention it requires being something I encourage in myself.

With the newsletter on sabbatical in August, it will be sixty days before I report back and dramatic events will occur during these sixty days. The groundwork is completed; the results come in. Plants a couple inches tall now could well be ten feet. The harvest, now a trickle, becomes a torrent. It is a time to which I look forward.

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For Sale: **Simplicity 10 hp shredder/ chipper** \$580 Basically new. -5 hours of use. Call Ted 249-6872.

For Sale: Ladder rack for vans. \$200 249-4860

For Rent: 2 bedrm apt. second floor; spacious, parlor overlooking Millers River. Heat, hot water, fridge, range, dishwasher included. Washer/dryer hook-up. Call 978-249-9798 or 978-249-8060.

Taking orders : Green Firewood, cut (16" ave.), split, delivered locally for \$170 per 170 cubic foot truckload. Limited Semi-Seasoned Firewood available at a later date. Call for details. Contact Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

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

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Newsletter Staff

Editor: Beth Gospodarek
Layout and Sponsorships: Stephen Chase
Circulation: Maureen Blasco, Becky Divoll
Treasurer: Barbara Willhite
Staff: Lorraine Casinghino, Theresa Quinn,
Mary Barclay, Larry Siegel

Submission deadline for Sept. issue is: Aug. 22

Please Contact Us

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net
Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386
Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
Phone: 978-249-0358
In person: Drop off at library

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