

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2008



Volume XI, Issue VII

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

Calendar of Events

September 1-3 **Library Children's Room painting party.**
Volunteers needed. Call 249-0358 if you'd like to help.

September 1 - mid month sell out

8 am - 3:30 pm **Mum Sale at Royalston Community School**
on Winchendon Rd. All in the community encourage to stop by and buy hefty, healthy, hardy mums for \$8 to benefit the PTG.

September 1 **Monday**

Labor Day

Schools, post office, library closed

Ramadan begins at sunset

September 3 **Wednesday**

Monty Tech's first day of school

September 4 **Thursday**

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library meeting- all welcome**

5 pm **Community Coop orders due**

September 5 **Friday**

11 a.m. **Monty Tech early dismissal** for In-service Training

September 6 **Saturday**

8 a.m. **Our Lady Queen of Heaven flea Market**

8 a.m. **Royalston Fish & Game Club flea Market**

September 7 **Sunday** **Grandparents' Day**

September 9 **Tuesday**

noon **early dismissal in ARRSD elementary schools**

September 11 **Thursday** **Diocletian New Year 1725**

September 14 **Sunday** **Byzantine New Year 7517**

September 15 **Monday**

5:15 a.m. **Full Harvest Moon**
school hours **Book Fair at RCS.** Continues through Thurs 9/18.

September 17 **Wednesday** **U.S. Constitution Day**

7 pm **Library Trustee Meeting**

September 20 and 21

The **Garlic & Arts Festival** on Chestnut Hill Rd. in Orange. Crafts, local agriculture, music and fun. Shop for Kathy Morris' wheat-weavings and go on a chestnut walk at 11 am with a mighty view at led by Butterworth Rd naturalist Chris Long.

September 22 **Monday**

1:44 a.m. **Autumnal Equinox**

September 26 **Friday**

7 pm **prize winning author, Suzanne Strempek Shea, will discuss the writing process and her newest book, *Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith.***

September 27 **Saturday**

10 am - 4 pm **2nd Annual Fungus Fair** A fun-gi filled day with forays, talks on fungi identification and edible mushrooms, mushroom cook up and much more at Millers River Environmental Center/ 100 Main St. Athol. Noah Siegel 978-249-4260.

September 28 **Sunday**

9 am **Fall wildflower walk** with resident naturalist Chirs Long. Meet at MREC/ 100 Main St. Athol. Learn about goldenrod: get tips on how to tell species apart and discuss botanical nomenclature. For info, Chris Long 978-249-0246_

1 pm **Nature Journaling workshop** with illustrator Elizabeth Farnsworth at town hall. Pre-registration required and \$5 fee covers all supplies. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

September 29 **Monday**

4:13 a.m. **New Hunter's Moon**
Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year 5769 begins at sunset

October Calendar

October 4 **Saturday**

TBA **105th Annual South Royalston School Reunion**

7 pm **Oktoberfest:** Samplings from 8 local breweries, smeckliche German appetizers and desserts, and frohliche music from Melanie and the Blue Shots included in ticket. Benefits the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation, which funds enrichment projects outside the budget in our local public schools. Call Beth Gospodarek (249-0358), Melanie Mangum (248- 2094) or Lynne Kellner (249-9633) for tickets.

Eid al Fitr Celebration of the end of Ramadan begins at sunset



From the Town Scrapbook



What kind of tree should replace the dying maples on the Common? *No one is saying for sure what the cause is, but apparently a combination of bug, blight, climate change, road salt and old age are killing off Royalston's beautiful roadside sugar maples. With the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester County, things could get even worse for our trees. Seventy years ago, in this photo from the Town Scrapbook, these maples predecessors, vase-shaped elms lined the Common. What should come next? Send your succinct thoughts to the RCN.*

Luncheon Club and COA

The Royalston Luncheon Club meets every Weds at the town hall for lunch and chat. Contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656. 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! Beyond food and good company, on Weds 9/3 there will be a Chinese Auction, on 9/17 there is a blood pressure clinic and on 9/24 the Brown Bag Distribution.

Memorial Day Committee

A great deal of news coverage lately has been dedicated to the high prices of metals, and the theft of artistic objects that are apparently being chopped up, melted down and sold as scrap. Among the popular items to steal are markers from graves – notably the bronze military service markers. These thieves are making a few pennies a pound off of the graves of our veterans as well as stealing our Town's history. Please take notice of people and cars at any of Royalston's 13 cemeteries – take a moment to jot down plate numbers and descriptions. If anything irregular appears to be going on, contact the Royalston Police Department immediately.

Royalston Cultural Council Seeks Proposals for Artists and Programs

The Royalston Cultural Council -- the folks who bring you Open Mic, the Follies, Music Fest and more -- announce that funds are available for artists, craftspeople, naturalists, and educators! Applications are due October 15, 2008.

Our recent survey shows that people want more community-wide events such as dances, concerts, and plays -- especially comedies. Any great idea that might entice people to leave their houses, especially during the winter months, to go enjoy an event where they will meet others is welcome. We are looking for more applications offering exciting events specifically for teenagers and youth, especially if they take place in a local public area so that targeted students from all our schools as well as homeschoolers may join. We also welcome photographers, craftspeople, nature artists, and field naturalists to offer instruction for all ages. Contact Elizabeth Farnsworth (249-6771, efarnswo@mtholyoke.edu) or Lorraine Casinghino (249-5151, lorrainecasi@gmail.com) for more information.

Open Space Committee Info

The CPA – It's Not Just About Open Space

Are there worthy projects in Royalston that the town budget probably can't be stretched to accomplish? How about a riverside park in South Royalston? Replacing diseased trees along our scenic roads? Developing signage for historical sites? Rehabbing the Raymond School for town use? Repairing the cupola on the Historical Society building? Preserving the town's historic records? Handling a future problem like replacing the heating system at town hall? Developing a town swimming area? Coming up with our share of a matching grant program so we could bring state or federal dollars to town? *Any of these are possible uses of our Community Preservation Act fund, the one we overwhelmingly approved it at town meeting – if we also approve it on the November ballot.*

The CPA uses a three percent surcharge on local property taxes plus state matching funds (Royalston stands to receive a 100 percent match) to protect open space, aid in historic preservation, and promote affordable housing. Ten percent of the funds raised must be set aside for each of these purposes, but the rest can be used for any of them, or to develop outdoor recreational facilities, or can be saved up for a bigger project. The first \$100,000 of property value is exempt from the surcharge, and low-income property owners pay nothing. Based on 2007 figures, the average property owner would pay only \$28 per year, less than the cost of a cup of coffee a week. *But the town would raise about \$17,000, plus another \$17,000 from the state – doubling our fund, doubling our effectiveness. And we get to decide how to spend that fund.* A CPA committee we established at town meeting would make recommendations, but voters at town meeting must approve any spending.

Why accept the CPA? For the common good!

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West, selectman

Route 32 Update: There will be a public hearing Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Royalston Community School. This public hearing will be hosted by MassHighway to gather input for the project. Our design firm Chappell Engineering will be on hand to present the plans. This is an important meeting to show public support for the project and to communicate urgency to MassHighway. Information about the hearing can be found at its website (www.mhd.state.ma.us – click on Public Hearings).

Route 32 funding: Our funding efforts were successful on two fronts. The transportation committee listened to us and put us at the top of the list! Also, Senator Brewer and Representative Rice were able to successfully earmark money in a transportation bond bill that was signed by the Governor. The bottom line is that we have the money to start construction ASAP. What does ASAP mean? It means that if we are lucky, and all approvals go without a hitch, there might be some construction possible in the fall of 2009. There are still a couple of design reviews required by MassHighway that take 4-6 weeks each. Construction advertising must be open for 120 days after all reviews are complete. That brings us to mid summer before construction contracts are awarded. We will be coordinating with Chappell Engineering and MassHighway to compact this schedule as much as possible. Come to the public hearing and tell MassHighway, politely of course, that they need to keep this project moving.

Post Office: The Royalston Community Post Office (CPO) is open for business! The Town officially took ownership of the contract with the Postal Service on August 1. Voters approved the financial operating structure at a recent Town Meeting. The Postal Service

pays a contractor (now the Town) to operate the postal business. The operating expenses of the CPO are covered by the income from the contract. The Post Office services include stamps and postage, shipping boxes, and overnight express mail. CPO hours are Mon-Sat, 7:45 am to 11:45 am.

Water Pump: Residents in the village of South Royalston took a collective sigh of relief in late August. The water pump that supplies drinking water and fire protection in the village partially failed. An emergency response team composed of members of South Royalston Improvement Corporation (SRIC), Selectboard, Fire Department, Board of Health, and Mass. Rural Water Association met to develop action plans and contingencies. They received a Water Emergency Declaration from the Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), enabling state emergency resources if needed. Neighboring communities agreed to send tankers for fire suppression if needed. Fortunately, the damaged pump and its temporary replacement were able to keep the village supplied while waiting for a new pump. The new pump was installed and is working well. SRIC is closely monitoring the quantity and quality of the water to ensure the replacement performs as expected. The Board of Selectmen would like to commend all who were involved. This situation was handled quickly, efficiently, and effectively by the group.

Financial Workshop: This fall, the Board of Selectmen will be hosting a workshop on Town government finances given by the Mass. Department of Revenue. The workshop will give information improving and maintaining municipal financial health.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

Reminder for folks who have not purchased their new annual transfer station stickers. See Tony at the transfer station next time in. Tony has finished painting the outside of the attendants hut. It looks good. He is now working on sheet rocking the inside of the hut for the winter. Also, only one lower paper roll off at a time is being filled. Please pay attention to the yellow caution tape signifying the roll off not to fill. This is so we can maximize our weights. New signs will be in place to help in this process. Thanks.

Northwest Royalston Mailbox Caper

Sally Zettel, correspondent

This summer, a number of mailboxes were stolen in a drive-by theiving spree from the roadsides of Butterworth Rd, Rt 32, and southern NH. They were eventually found dumped in Swanzey, NH and mostly restored to their owners. It is unclear whether the purloined boxes were stolen to fence for the value of the metal or as a lark. Officer Plumber of the Royalston PD is investigating.

As a consequence, the attendance at the previously planned, first ever Neighborhood Watch meeting in the Northwest Corner of town was much larger than expected. About 40 people were at the BBQ gathering at the home of Deb and Mike Lackey; Nell Vaughn and Wade Harmon were selected as co-captians on the group. Similar neighborhood watch groups could possibly be set up by citizens and police in other parts of town in the future.



The Royalston Fire Department and Rescue Squad meets Mondays at 7 pm in the Center Fire Station. This is a photo from its August 10th rescue training at Doane's Falls. Photo: Winitzer

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

Thank you

Bob 'Grumpy' Anthony for donating many extraordinary scrollwork bookmarks for the summer reading programs and butterfly program participants as well as generously donating the proceeds from the sale of his scrollwork that was displayed in the library.

Thanks to our teen summer reading support: **Ashley Sawyer, Christine Sawyer, and Ben West.**

A heartfelt thank you to **Doreen Sawyer** for helping to make our lives easier by doing all the work and supplying all the materials for the nature journals.

Preschool Story Time and Extended Monday Hours Resume

On Monday, September 8th the library will again open at 10:00 a.m. with the preschool story time at 10:30. Everyone with children from birth to five years of age is welcome to attend this fun program. Jen Bartkus will read stories, provide healthy snacks, and sometimes have a craft project. There will be plenty of time for play and visiting (both for the children and caregivers). People are welcome to attend whenever they like. There is no pre-registration required.

Learn 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.

Popular Regional Author to Discuss Writing at the Library

On Friday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the library, Suzanne Strempek Shea will discuss the writing process and her newest book, *Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith*. She is the author of five novels: *Selling the Lite of Heaven*, *Hoopi Shoopi Donna*, *Lily of the Valley*, *Around Again*, and *Becoming Fiona*. She has also written memoirs: *Songs from a Lead-lined Room: Notes*



- High and Low - From My Journey Through Breast Cancer and Radiation; Shelf Life: Romance, Mystery, Drama and Other Page-Turning Adventures From a Year in a Bookstore. Winner of the 2000 New England Book Award, Suzanne began writing fiction in her spare time while working as a reporter for the Springfield (Massachusetts) newspapers and the Providence Journal (Rhode Island). Her freelance work has appeared in *Yankee* magazine, *The Bark* magazine, *The Boston Globe*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Organic Style* and *ESPN*. She lives in Bondsville, MA, with her husband, Tommy, a columnist for The Republican newspaper in Springfield, Mass., and their two dogs, Tiny and Bisquick. Delicious refreshments will be served. This program is sponsored and funded by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. For more information, contact the library.

Scary Stories for Adults in October

Playwright Richard Ballon and his acting troupe will present "When the Dead Talk Back: Creepy Stories" on Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the library. This program is appropriate for adults and young adults 16 and up. Ballon has had his plays performed in Amherst, Northampton, and New York City.

Fall Art Displays at the Library

During September and October Melanie Mangum, Royalston's town clerk as well as premier diva from Melanie and the Blue Shots, will display many of her photographs on the newly painted walls of the children's room. The artist for Nov and Dec is Melanie Rataniemi who paints landscapes and seascapes in acrylics.

Some of the New Books at the Library

Adult Fiction

Abbott, Hailey *Mistletoe: Four Holiday Stories*
 Abbott, Hailey *The Bridesmaid*
 Abbott, Hailey *The Secrets of Boys*
 Auster, Paul *Man in the Dark*
 Barry, Sebastian *The Secret Scripture*
 Bian, Kate *Invitation Only*
 Bowen, Rhys *A Royal Pain*
 Braver, Gary *Skin Deep*
 Brooks, Terry *Genesis of Shannara: The Gypsy Morph*
 Brown, Rita Mae *The Sand Castle*
 Brundage Elizabeth *The Doctor's Wife*
 Burke, James Lee *Swan Peak*
 Cabot, Meg *Queen of Babble Gets Hitched*
 Carey, Jacqueline *Kushiel's Mercy*
 Carter, Stephen L. *Palace Council*
 Casey, Kathryn *Singularity*
 Coelho, Paulo *Brida*
 Colfer, Eoin *Artemis Fowl: The Time Paradox*
 Cook, Robin *Foreign Body*
 Cormier, Robert *8 Plus 1*
 Cormier, Robert *Tenderness*
 Crais, Robert *Chasing Darkness*
 Deaver, Jeffery *The Broken Window*
 Ebershoff, David *The 19th Wife*
 Edwards, Kim *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*
 Evanovich, Janet *Fearless Fourteen*
 French, Tana *The Likeness*
 Gaiman, Neil *Coraline*
 Gardiner, Meg *China Lake*
 Gardiner, Meg *The Dirty Secrets Club*
 Gardner, Lisa *Say Goodbye*
 Greenlaw, Linda *Fisherman's Bend*
 Greenwood, Kerry *Heavenly Pleasures: Corinna Chapman Mystery*
 Hautman, Pete *Sweet-Blood*
 Hewson, David *The Garden of Evil*
 Hogan, Linda *People of the Whale*
 Horan, Nancy *Loving Frank*
 Howard, Linda *Death Angel*
 Hunter, Erin *Warriors: The Rise of Scourge*
 James, Eloisa *Duchess by Night*
 Jenkins, Jerry B. *Riven: A Novel*
 Johansen, Iris *Silent Thunder*
 Johnson, Maureen *Suite Scarlett*
 Kellerman, Faye *The Mercedes Coffin*
 Kindl, Patrice *Goose Chase*
 Klass, David *Whirlwind: The Caretaker Trilogy: Bk 2*
 Kleypas, Lisa *Mine Till Midnight*
 Koontz, Dean *Odd Hours*
 Lessing, Doris *Alfred & Emily*
 Lindsey, Johanna *No Choice But Seduction*
 MacHale, D.J. *Book Nine: Raven Rise*
 Mayer, Stephenie *Breaking Dawn*
 McCormick, Patricia *Sold*
 McNish, Cliff *Angel*
 Mead, Richelle *Frostbite: A Vampire Academy Novel*
 Mead, Richelle *Vampire Academy*
 Nix, Garth *The Keys to the Kingdom: Superior Saturday*
 O'Nan, Stewart *Last Night at the Lobster*

Gates, Joyce Carol *My Sister, My Love*
 Patterson, James *Sunday's at Tiffany's*
 Patterson, James *The Dangerous Days of Daniel X*
 Pearson, Mary *Scribbler of Dreams*
 Pearson, Ridley *Killer View*
 Pelecanos, George *The Turnaround*
 Piccolt, Jodi *Songs of the Humpback Whale*
 Prose, Francine *After*
 Rennison, Louise *Stop in the Name of Pants!*
 Rice, Luanne *Last Kiss*
 Roberts, Nora *Tribute*
 Salvatore, R.A. *The Orc King*
 Schwartz, John Burnham *The Commoner: A Novel*
 Sebold, Alice *Lucky*
 Shakespeare, Nicholas *Secrets of the Sea*
 Showalter, Gena *Oh My Goth*
 Siddons, Anne Rivers *Off Season*
 Silva, Daniel *Moscow Rules*
 Slaughter, Karin *Fractured*
 Smith, L.J. *The Vampire Diaries*
 Smith, L.J. *The Vampire Diaries: The Awakening and the Struggle*
 Spencer-Fleming, Julia *I Shall Not Want*
 Steel, Danielle *Rogue*
 Strout, Elizabeth *Amy and Isabelle*
 Tarr, Judith *Bring Down the Sun*
 Van Draanen, Wendelin *Confessions of a Serial Kisser*
 Vizzini, Ned *Be More Chill*
 Waters, Mary Yukari *The Laws of Evening*
 Wild, Margaret *One Night*
 Wroblewski, David *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*
 Zusak, Markus *Getting the Girl*

Adult Nonfiction

Bass, Rick *Why I Came West*
 Bendis, Brian Michael *Clone Saga: Ultimate Spiderman Vol 17*
 Carhart, Thad *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank: Discovering a Forgotten Passion in a Paris Atelier*
 Carlo, Philip *Confessions of a Mafia Boss: Gaspape*
 D'Aluisio, Faith *What the World Eats*
 Davis, Robert J. *The Healthy Skeptic: Cutting Through the HYPE about Your Health*
 Ellis, Richard *Tuna: A Love Story*
 Henderson, Elizabeth *Sharing the Harvest: A Citizen's Guide to Community Supported Agriculture*
 Juravich, Tom *The Future of Work in Massachusetts*
 Kotlikoff, Laurence J. *Spend 'til the End*
 Lopez, Barry *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*
 McClellan, Scott *What Happened: Inside the Bush White House*
 McKibben, Bill *The End of Nature*
 McVicar, Jekka *The Complete Herb Book*
 Miller, Debra *Organic Foods*
 Russell, Sharman Apt *Standing in the Light*
 Sadamoto, Yoshiyuki *Neon Genesis Evangelion Vol 1 & 2*
 Shabecoff, Philip *Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on our Children*
 Singleton, Kenneth B. *The Lyme Disease Solution*
 Tack, Karen *Hello, Cupcake*
 Taylor, Jill Bolte PH. *My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey*
 Theroux, Paul *Ghost Train to the Eastern Star: On the Tracks of the Great Railway Bazaar*
 Vanderbilt, Tom *Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What it Says About Us)*
 Weintraub, Pamela *Cure Unknown: Inside the Lyme Epidemic*
 Wineapple, Brenda *White Heat: The Friendship of Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson*

Neighborly Book Reviews



Chris Dawson liked *Cryptonomicon* by Neal Stephenson. He raves, "It the most incredible book I've ever read. Brilliant, sweeping historical fiction mixed with modern

Cindy Boucher recommends Mary Higgins Clark's latest novel, *Where Are You Now*. She says, "It's the best book I've read in years. Gets your interest from page one. Couldn't wait to finish

Cady Boucher's summer pick was *At First Sight* by Nicholas Sparks. According to Cady, it starts off slow, but the end is fantastic. Warning: tear jerker.

Recipe of the Month - Gad Zukes!

A way to use all that garden zucchini: Mock Apple Pie Squares

ed. note: Becky Divoll, who is known in town as a great baker, selfless school volunteer, dedicated library assistant, and focused mother, submitted this recipe. It is a testament to the transforming power of butter and sugar.

<i>Ingredients:</i>	filling:
crumb mixture:	8 cups sliced peeled zucchini
4 cups flour	2/3 cup lemon juice
2 cups sugar	1 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt	1 tsp cinnamon
3 sticks of cold butter	1/2 tsp nutmeg

Steps: In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles course crumbs. Press half the crumb mixture into a greased 15x10" baking pan. Bake at 375 for 10 minutes until golden brown. Set remaining crumbs aside. Meanwhile, in a large sauce pan, bring zucchini and lemon juice to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5-6 minutes until tender. Drain. Stir in sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and 1/2 of the leftover crumbs. Cook and stir for 2 - 3 minutes. (Raisins can be stirred in at this point if desired.) Spread filling evenly over crust. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Bake for 25 - 30 minutes until golden. Cool. Cut into squares. Yields about 2 dozen squares.

Ed. note: Last June, Brittany Warren of town submitted this poem with this message, "I am a recent graduate of Monty Tech and an aspiring writer. In fact, [writing] has been a life-long dream of mine... I have been trying to get my name out there and establish myself as a writer. I don't know of a better way to do so than to start in the community I have grown up in."

The Unconventional

original poetry by Brittany Warren

I see the look you give me;
So fresh, so dusted off, so polished.
With a strong attraction, you are drawn to me;
Unable to fight your compulsion.

You tie me in an illusive rope, intertwined in a growing struggle between
Principle and Prey and;
It is now when you decide to pull the ends.

I can feel the ends of this rope growing stronger and tougher against my inner skin;
As it becomes tangled in the layers of my conscience.
While rubbing against my insides, this rope begins to slice away, peel away
My decisive shell as I lose connection with myself;
Someone I knew so well.

I can only watch as the lovers who live in the stars blow kisses
And wrap their arms in a passionate embrace around the spark of the day
While igniting the embers of diminishing darkness that is twilight's smile.

I follow as you, my morally divided admirer call me;
To a place where I am no longer alone with my thoughts;
Now magnified;
A place where secluded walls echo their plans to puncture my head.

Arriving here finally
Willingly, you move in towards me
As years of longing hold your hand.
Confidence overpowers you as you take hold of me;
And with a steady hand you slice along a jagged edge of uncertainty.

My gaze meets your eyes
And your pupils stained with a colorful palette of urges;
Causing the intensity of your stare to push me into
A fiercely independent state of dreaming.

Sick of looking through me;
Your soulful stare turns the physical wheels of contact into motion.
Your heart beats loud;
I can hear the rhythm being whisked around in the air that surrounds us;
As you throw a surge of electricity that pulsates through
And pierces my soul.

Your dazed mind contorts further with an ease so soft
And your heart flutters in a rapid blur, the more your desire grows.

As I reach with undetectable fingertips into the depths of you;
Camouflage exposed, your feelings for me ring true.

Without speaking a word to me
I can understand you, so intriguing;
However, I feel intensely that your deviance confuses me greatly.

It is as if every time you lay your eyes upon me
With every new situation;
You need to ingest your dosage;
Your fix;
Your medicine.

My skin crawls with hesitation;
Like a raging river my integrity flows strongly;
All of this happens as your skin whispers to your pores;
Announcing your next move.

The pace quickens realizing
Your next move is indestructible;
As I make my decision to turn away temporarily.

Your desire, a progressing heartbeat;
Concentrated beyond recognition eats away at me.
Sucking away at the pulp, sweet like fruit.

Leaving seclusion behind as I walk out the door;
Your desire chases me;
Taking the form of sugar-hungry maggots
Whose spineless bodies long to be loved.

These love-thirsty beings of the most unusual model
Can relate to so many others;
Whether being missed or seen in reminiscence.

Eventually, I will find the right switch and flick it;
To bring forward the love and desire I turned down;
Thinking it was so wrong...



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Congratulations to **Bill and Ginny Cloutier**, who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at home in Sebring Florida with a surprise visit from their six children (as well as grand children and great grandchildren.) Formerly, the couple had lived on Pleasant Street and owned Pete and Henry's Restaurant for many years.



Rene' (Ferrara) Lake and Peter Gagliardi were married on August 16 by Father William Hobbs of St. John's Episcopal Church of Athol. The ceremony was held at their home. Phil Rabinowitz sang "Simple Gifts" for the processional and later sang "Thanksgiving Eve". At the end of the ceremony, Linq (Diane Lincoln) sang "Here Today", an original song that she wrote for the occasion, as Rene' and Peter danced off into the crowd. The wedding was followed by a barbecue and an afternoon of volleyball, croquet, and bocce with family and friends.

Wishes for speedy recoveries to **Molly Smith, Irene Neale and Theresa Burgess**. All three of these nonagenarian, long time friends on the Birch Hill side of town, are recuperating from separate falls.

Published Poets

The following RCS students were recently selected for publication by Pine Tree Press. Their work will be included in a book with exceptional student writing from throughout the country. It will be available for perusal at the RCS library. (* indicate RCS poetry club members.)

Hannah Bartkus*, Kristopher Selanis, MacKenzie Mastaler*, Kyle Larcenaire, Ziola Wilder, James Laford, Justin Blake, Hayley Baker*, Kayla Gerry, Emily Davis*, Derek Bates*, Emma Finocchio*, Tobey Chase*, Rhiannon Fletcher*, Abby Divoll*, Skylar Fortwengler*, Jessica May, and Elizabeth Holden*

Memorials

A loving farewell to **Eleanor Blasco**, who died on July 29, 2008 of cancer. Eleanor, who was 86 years old, had spent the last 3 1/2 years with her daughter Maureen in their home on Norcross Rd. She leaves behind 7 children, 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grand children. While in Royalston, Eleanor regularly attended the Athol VNA Day Center. She made many friends there and loved being a part of that special place. Eleanor's last years in Royalston were among the happiest in her life. She met so many wonderful people and had such fun going to Royalston events, where everyone made her feel welcome.

Condolences go to the Chris Riddell family of Athol-Royalston Road, on the passing of his father, **Wilfred Riddell**, 81, of West Palm Beach Florida. Mr. Riddell, a former area resident, died June 20, 2008 and leaves his wife Doris V. (Turner) Riddell of West Palm, and in addition to Chris, sons Michael of Pennsylvania; Douglas and his wife of New Salem; Shawn and his family of Florida; Mark and his wife, also of Florida, and sisters Florence McKnight of Orange and Blanche Mallet of Orange.

Alta Mae (Miller) Blake, 82, of Stewart Road died August 1, 2008. She and her husband of 60 years, Hugh G. Blake, moved to Royalston in 1981, later living in Cotuit and Athol, and from 2006 on, back in Royalston. In addition to her husband, she leaves son David Blake and his wife Diane, of Sandwich; daughters Charlotte Corstange of Templeton and Barbara Coughlin and her husband Robert, of Cambridge; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. A sister, June Tibbetts of Royalston, and a son-in-law, Willard Corstange, both died in 2007. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donation to the Athol Animal Shelter (in co/o Athol Police Department; 280 Exchange St.; Athol, MA 01331) or the Athol Memorial Hospital Oncology Unit (2033 Main St.; Athol, MA 01331). Additional information and memory sharing can be found at www.higginsconnorfuneralhome.com.

Royalston Shakespeare Co. Wows Crowd



The Friends of the Library could not be prouder of the actors, tech crew and costumers (all ages 7-16) who presented Julius Caesar this summer. In less than 2 weeks, they got it and they showed it - brilliantly.

To virtually see for yourself, check out the on-line slide show at <http://s342.photobucket.com/albums/o401/doochild6/Julius%20Caesar%2008/?albumview=slideshow>

- add to our blog <http://royalston-shakespearecompany.blogspot.com>

-or google up the youtube video.

More concretely, there are still a few Caesar t-shirts and hoodies as well as a lot of mugs for sale at the library as momento caesarium.

Caption: Senator Casca (Addie Ramsdell) let her hands speak for her in expressing her disgruntlement with Julius Caesar's (Grady MacPhee's) reign during this summer's Royalston Shakespeare workshop. Photo: Mangum

Village School News

What's Happening at Camp Caravan?

If you haven't been by Camp Caravan on Rt.68, do take a look. That big clearing on the east side of the road is the location of the new Village School building. Since June, all of the major site work has taken place, including clearing, preparations for driveways, parking, and foundation.

The Village School received a \$9000 economic seed grant from the North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation, for stimulating the local economy and increasing employment. The grant was used for clearing and milling some of the logs into lumber, resulting in beautiful pine and oak boards drying under cover at Camp Caravan. These boards will be used in the new building. A new well has been drilled. The permitting process is underway, with the aim of moving into the new building at the end of August 2009.

The design is for a five classroom building that will serve a larger school population and provide space for after school and summer programs. The design is based on green building principles, aiming to place as few demands on our natural resources as possible, and embodying the school's philosophy that nature is an educational resource to be cherished.

The school is in the midst of a capital campaign for the new building. There are surprising parallels between the old Royalston Academy and Katherine Cole's vision for a school on Royalston Common, and the vision for the Village School. For more information, call Rise Richardson at the Village School at 978 249-3505, or go to www.villageschool.to

Mount Wachusett Community College

An \$8 million Northeast Veteran Training & Rehabilitation Center is being built on MWCC grounds beginning this fall. Fitchburg's Veteran Hospice, Inc. will hold the 30 year lease on the 10-acre parcel which will contain ten duplex housing units for war veterans who have lost limbs and/or suffered from traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress or disfiguring burns in the line of duty. They and their families will have free access to academic programs and the Fitness and Wellness Center; health care students will have the opportunity of working as interns in this program. A 2010 opening is expected. "Green" technologies involved include photovoltaic panels, and geothermal heating and cooling, expected to add another more contact with sustainability for MWCC students. Additional information is available by calling 978-353-0234 or clicking www.veteranhomestead.com.

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Rich DeMar

Royalston Community School Update

Mum is the word at RCS: 2nd Annual Mum Sale

Beginning the 1st day of school, healthy hefty 8" fall colored mums will be for sale at RCS to benefit the Parent Teacher Group. These are impressive specimens which are a good deal at \$8/piece. **All the community is welcome to stop by and pick up a mum or two during school hours in early September. Proceeds will be used for field trips and other teacher requests at RCS.**

Book Fair: There will be a book fair September 15-18 and **bibliophiles in the community are encouraged to shop where all the profits are used to improve the RCS library.**

RCS started the new school year with 157 students, 6th grade in tact, a complete roster of returning classroom teachers and 2 new part-time principals. Principal Liz Ervin is splitting her schedule with Sanders Street School and Interim Principal Ken Vaidulas is in the building Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. Also, the DPWs of Athol and Royalston are cooperating to move some playground equipment from Silver Lake School to RCS in the near future. When stopping in to shop for mums and books, be sure to notice the cool new carvings by Tom Kellner on the stone tables.

Monty Tech Morning Bus a Little Later this Year

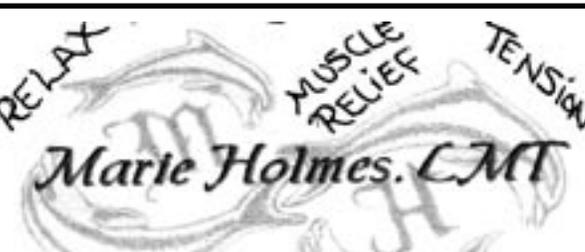
Great news! The first pick-up of the Royalston bus for Monty Tech isn't until 6:10 a.m. – almost a full hour later than some students had to be ready the past few years!



Helping Hands

Help the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Royalston support the Athol-Orange Family Inn for women and families in need. Please place donations of unused paper goods, non-perishable food items, toiletries, cleaning supplies as well as diapers and other baby products in the helping hands boxes at the Royalston Country Store and Royalston Post Office. Also, the LBS is accepting monetary donations toward the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner for the Inn. Checks towards the vacuum cleaner may be made out to the Royalston LBS (PO box 35/ Royalston, Mass. 01368). For more information, call Kristen at 978-249-5993.

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The Princess and The Pea Auditions

Monday September 29th 3:30-8:00pm FREE

Missoula Children's Theatre brings another week of magical theatrical production to The Colonial Theatre in Keene, NH, casting and rehearsing local students in their production of "The Princess and The Pea". Auditions for students in grades K -12 will be held at Heberton Hall (next to the Keene Public Library), on Monday Sept. 29th from 3:30 - 8:00pm. No prepared audition required-just come dressed ready to move. Children must be accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian. For details, contact the Education and Outreach office at 603/357-1233 x109

Royalstonians Connected to New Alcott Film

A new documentary, *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*, premiering in September at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, has several locally connected names in the credits including Liane Brandon (Still Photographer), Damon Bundschuh (Camera Production Assistant) and Boyd Estus (Director of Photography). The film includes dramatizations, interviews with scholars and devotees, and clips from film and television adaptations. The film draws upon a rich trove of archival materials, makes use of the new imagery of digital animation, and authentic historic locations. The official premiere is Wednesday, Sept. 17th at 8 pm. Additional screenings are Saturday, Sept. 20 at 12:30 pm, Sunday Sept. 21 at 10:30 am, Friday Sept. 26th at 5 pm, and Saturday Sept. 27 at 10:30 am. Plus two dates in October! The producers and directors will be at all screenings; special guest experts are also appearing. For more information see the MFA website: www.mfa.org/film or call 617-369-3306.

Royalston Community Coop

Orders for September must be entered into the on-line ordering system no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, September 4, and will be delivered at a time to be announced on Thursday, September 11. Due to a mis-order, two 50lb bags of whole wheat flour are available for purchase at cost. Anyone interested can contact Mary Barclay at 978-249-2598.

Tool Town Live

Free concerts in Athol. Fun for all ages. Refreshments will be sold to benefit the Memorial Hall Revitalization Fund and the Athol Public Library. The shows are from 7-9 pm. Rain venue: Memorial Hall, (the fine auditorium in the Athol Town Hall), 584 Main Street in Athol. Visit www.tooltownlive.com for more information.

Sept. 6, 2008 The Void Union (w/ world reknowned, Athol native trumpeter, Rich Graiko) -jazz, ska and reggae music.

Sept. 12, 2008 Chloe Papas at Athol's uptown common -soul, blues and rock music.

Sept. 20 2008 7:00P UNIT 7 at at Athol's uptown common-jazzy, funky and irresistable with 4 -piece horn section. Band comprises many of the musicians in local favorite Trailer Park.

Two Flea Markets in the South Village Sept 6

Royalston Fish and Game Club News : Time to do some cleaning? The ideal time is prior to the Royalston F&G's flea market, slated for Saturday, September 6, from 8 a.m. - ??? Spaces are \$10 each, and tables can be arranged with advance notice. Proceeds will help fund some of the children's activities sponsored by the Club, like the annual Christmas party and the wildly popular Walter E. Carlson Memorial Children's Fishing Derby in May. Contact Lisa Cosentino at 978-249-8488.

Also, Our Lady Queen of Heaven is holding a Rummage Sale the same morning at its chapel on Rt 68. The rain date is September 13..

Second Annual Fungus Fair

Interested in mushrooms? The Millers River Environmental Center is putting the fun into fungus with the Second Annual Fungus Fair to be held on Saturday, September 27th from 10am to 4pm at 100 Main St. in Athol, Ma. Respected mycologists from throughout New England will be on hand to share their knowledge. There will be morning and afternoon expeditions into the local woods to identify and collect mushrooms. Regional authorities will give talks throughout the day on topics including beginners mushroom identification, edible and poisonous fungi and all about morels. At lunch time, enjoy a wild mushroom cook-up.

The schedule is as follows:

10:00am Welcome

10:15 Morning Forays leave

10:30 Beginners Mushroom Identification, with Noah Siegel

11:30 Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of Southern New England, with Bill Yule

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

1:00pm Afternoon Forays leave

1:15 Stories of Morel Mania -where and what to watch out for when hunting for morels, with Elinoar Shavit

3:00 Table walk through, discussing the day's finds. Prizes for the Finds of the day

The event is free to participants. Beginner and experienced mushroomers welcome. Please bring lunch, a collecting basket with paper or wax-paper bags, magnifying glass, small knife, bug spray. Contact Noah Siegel at nsiegel@yahoo.com or 978-249-4260 for more information.

Tom Rush to Perform in Ashburnham

On September 11, 2008, the Ashburnham Conservation Trust will host a fundraising concert by legendary singer/songwriter Tom Rush at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium, 9 Oakmont Dr., Thursday evening, 7:30-9:30 PM. Tickets are \$25.00 for General Admission seating. Reserved Seating is available for Individual Sponsorship levels that begin at \$75.00 each, which will admit the ticket holder to a catered Pre-Show Reception with Tom Rush at the lovely Maguire House on the shores of Upper Naukeag Lake in Ashburnham. Tickets can be purchased online or by going to the Ashburnham Family Pharmacy prescription counter on Main St. in Ashburnham. More details, including directions, can be found at the Ashburnham Conservation Trust website www.ashburnham-conservationtrust.org or by calling 978-827-6427. Tom Rush is a gifted guitarist and performer, whose shows offer a musical celebration...a journey into the tradition and spectrum of what music has been, can be, and will become.

Garden Notes

by Larry Siegel

August 22, 2008

My mind wanders and so do the garden notes....

I continue planting, providing the illusion that summer is never-ending (and in spite of the fact that I awoke to 46° two mornings ago). I seeded beans and cucumbers several times in early August. This would have been an idle gesture in years past, but with the increasingly delayed fall frosts, I anticipate full crops. Dill and cilantro continue to be planted weekly to provide fresh material for farmers' market. Add to the mix three plantings of spinach, a couple of lettuce, winter radishes. I just planted a golden turnip and senpasai, an oriental green, the packages assuring me they will mature in forty-five days. I don't even eat turnips or senposai.

If ever a case be made for multiple plants of a diversity of varieties, this season provides it. The first and third plantings of peas were highly productive, the second was not. Similar results with the cucumbers. Some beet seedlings barely emerges; others fully germinated. Last year the butternut squash performed well; the butternut squash did not. This year it is the reverse. Cherry tomatoes invariably outperform the other tomatoes for me. Not this year. And on and on. There are, I suppose, explanations for all this; presumptuous though I may be, I am not sufficiently presumptuous to come up with those explanations.

I never tire of the harvest. It is as if I stepped into a bank and withdrew money from my account (forgetting for the moment that I am not obliged, to bend, squat, or crawl on my knees to extract my money). Part of it is the sense of discovery: like many of you, my cucumbers sprawl; unlike many of you, my tomatoes sprawl as well. I'm never quite sure what is under the mass of vines until I've lifted those vines. The potatoes are lifted too, but with a fork, and yields per plant vary widely, making each

Wildlife Sightings

Driving on Winchendon Road about 4:30 pm July 30th, Lynn Anair saw what looked a family of **mink** crossing the road by the beaver pond at the turquoise cape. There were 2 big ones and 3 or 4 little ones. She'd seen them singly in that area before, but never a whole family.

Phil Leger reports a huge flock of **turkeys** grazing the clover on the landfill. There are many **fox** families in the NE Fitzwilliam, Stone, and Deland Hill Road neighborhood as well.

Robe-red **cardinal flower** was blooming in abundance on Priest and Lawrence Brooks the last week of August. The stretch of Lawrence Brook from Rt 68 to Millyard Road had two beaver dams to portage but enough lilies and other wildflowers to make Monet swoon as well as **heron**, **kingfisher** and chiming church bells.

Early one morning, Kathy Morris heard horrific screaming and ran to the kitchen door where she saw the family cat running from the field with a **fisher** about three feet behind. Both disappeared into a flower garden as Kathy chased toward them with household-waking shouts and curses. The fisher ran down the hill and after five minutes of searching, a skittish but alive Mittens appeared.

forkful an adventure. I've garnered as little as one quarter pound and as much as two and a half pounds. Ironically some of the largest yields derive from volunteers; those potatoes missed last fall and surviving the frost-free winter ground to emerge everywhere this past spring. In spite of careful attention to detail, there are those that get away. Cucumbers are notorious for hiding away among the leaves. I can dig, and re-dig, and re-dig my potatoes and still there will be volunteers next year. This is especially true of the small purple fingerlings which seem to elude discovery.

Onions have been on my mind lately, probably because they and I have spent a good amount of time together over the past several weeks. Gardening books advise us to knock over the tops of the onions after a certain percentage have fallen over on their own, wait a day or two, then carry them off to begin the drying process. I, on the other hand, rely on the onion to let me know when to pull it: each day I pull a couple dozen; over the course of three weeks my 500 or so onions have been hauled up to the drying tables. (My somewhat circuitous route to and from the onions takes me by the corn, beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes, where I give them a quick look and determine what twenty-four hours have wrought. I also pass a couple of peach trees whose drops provide sustenance for the journey. The onions are not yet on their own. I flip them on a daily basis and cover with plastic whenever rain threatens (as well as every night to keep the dew off). It remains, only for the stems to thoroughly dry. When they do, I cut them off and haul the onions to the house where they will linger in a corner until re-located to the root cellar. As some onions are removed from the drying tables, newly dug ones replace them. The entire process may take a month. As will my thought for next installment of *Garden Notes*.

Edible Wild Plants of New England

Have you ever wondered which plants in the woods might be tasty as well as edible? John Root will introduce us to the nutritional and medicinal benefits of local wild plants at the 7 p.m. Thursday, September 18, 2008 joint meeting of the North Quabbin Garden Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. The plants that we regularly mow down in the summer may well have provided sustenance for early settlers of this area. Learn about them and taste a few as well at this informative power point presentation.

This program is free and open to the public and supported in part by a grant from the Athol Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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