

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2008



Volume XI, Issue IV

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

9th anniversary issue!

ed note: The Royalston Community Newsletter is beginning its tenth year with this issue and it's time to give thanks. First, thank you to Barbara Stowell who began the whole enterprise. Next, thanks to Kathy Morris and the library staff and trustees who are unflaggingly supportive even though the newsletter adds considerable work to their load. It seems nearly miraculous that close to 600 issues of the RCN are delivered without charge to all residents ten times a year; this only occurs thanks to funding from generous donors in the form of Friends of the Library memberships and advertising from sponsors. Please thank our local minded advertisers and consider giving them your custom. In particular, friendly, flexible Fieldstone Press has given a cut-rate price on printing services for years and the RCN is very grateful. Maureen Blasco and the US mail deserve kudos for getting the newsletter to most doors (most months on time) as well. Please check the staff listed on the back page and recognize the stalwarts who freely give their time and talents month after month to the RCN. Most have been helping for years. Finally, to all of the volunteer writers and photographers who give submissions that make up the newsletter, you put the community in the Royalston Community Newsletter.

Everyone in town is encouraged to participate. Send brief notices of upcoming events, news, milestones, kudos, book reviews, wild-life sightings, or unsung heroes by the 22nd of the month prior. Pithy poems and other concise creative writing are also welcome.

Calendar of Events

November 2 Sunday

2 a.m. **Daylight Savings Time ends** (Be sure to change smoke, radon and carbon monoxide detector batteries.)

November 4 Tuesday **Presidential Election Day**

7 am - 8 pm **Royalston polls open for voting**
No Monty Tech Classes - In service training

November 6 Thursday

3:45 **Friends of the Library meeting.** All welcome.

November 7 Friday

5 pm **Meeting of the Royalston Cultural Council to review 2009 grant proposals.** Open to the public: 350 Athol Richmond Road, Royalston. For more info, contact Elizabeth Farnsworth (249-6771).

5 pm **Village School lantern walk.** Process, pot luck and contra dance. Meet at school to process to Town Hall for food and fun. Dance starts at 6:30. \$5 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family.

November 10 Monday

No School RCS. Professional Development Day

November 11 Tuesday

Schools, post office, libraries closed

Veterans' Day

November 12 Wednesday

11 a.m. - noon **Flu shot clinic for all ages** at Town Hall

7:30 p.m. **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Public Input Session**

November 13 Thursday

1:17 a.m. **Full Beaver Moon**



November 14 Friday

7 pm **Fire Department Turkey Raffle** at center, Fire Station #1

7:30 pm **Meteorite and impact crater presentation** with Carla Barringer Rabinowitz at Phinehas Newton Library. Refreshments. Free.

November 15 Saturday

10 - 12 noon. **Village School Open House.** Meet staff and students as well as find out about unique curriculum.

6:30 p.m. **Ladies' B. Annual Braised Beef Supper** at Town Hall: garden salad, home baked breads, tender beef, real mashed potatoes, carrot salad, petite peas, homemade pies, cider and coffee. \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. Profits benefit LBS scholarship fund. Three ways to get tix: see a member, e-mail Barbara Stowell at stowell@rcn.com or call Brenda Putney 978-249-7787.

7:30pm. **Royalston Open Mic Night Season Opener:** Note special date and time to follow Ladies' Benevolent Society Braised Beef Supper. Town Hall on Royalston Common. Sign up acts with Jim Bennett (978-575-1052). Other Open Mics will be first Fridays as usual at 6:30 pm: 12/5/08, 1/2/09, 2/6/09, 3/6/09.

November 21 Friday

7 pm **Family movie night: animated feature film about robots** shown at RCS to benefit 5th and 6th grade trips to Nature's Classroom. Popcorn and ice cream for sale. \$5/child; adults free.

7-9 pm **A-RMS fall harvest dance**, sponsored by the 8th grade.

November 22 Saturday

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. **Jingle Bell Fair** Second Congregational Church

November 26 Wednesday

early dismissal in ARRS schools

November 27 Thursday

Thanksgiving

11:55 a.m. **New Cold Moon**

Vote Nov. 4.

Polls open 7 a.m., close 8 p.m.

Precinct 1 is located at 13 The Common

Precinct 2 is located at 5 School St., South Royalston

(Ladies' Benevolent Society bake sales at each precinct to raise money for local scholarships)

Not only is Nov. 4 a US Presidential election between Senators Obama and McCain, but there will also be opportunities to vote on several important state-wide ballot questions. Question 1 is a proposed law to eliminate state personal income tax by 2010. Question 2 is a proposed law to replace criminal penalties for one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties. Question 3 is a proposed law to prohibit dog races in which wagering occurs effective Jan. 1, 2010. There is more information in the pamphlet *The Official Massachusetts Information for Voters*, available at the library.

Community Preservation Act on Ballot November 4

Aaron Ellison

Chair, Open Space & Recreation Committee

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 9, 2008, townspeople voted overwhelmingly (47-6) to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA is a state-wide program that matches locally-raised funds to enable towns to preserve and rehabilitate historic properties and resources; create and maintain recreational facilities; build or renovate affordable housing; and purchase and conserve open space for use by everyone in town. If a majority of Royalston residents vote for the CPA at the general election on November 4th, we will implement it beginning in fiscal year 2010, about 1 year from now.

The CPA raises local funds through a surcharge on property taxes. The average town resident will pay \$28, or less than the cost of a cup of coffee bought once a week. This individual contribution will be matched by the state, dollar for dollar, and the total we can raise each year will be at least \$30,000. That's \$30,000 we don't have now, but that we could spend on projects like renovating Whitney Hall, Town Hall, and the Raymond School; putting in new waterfront trails in South Royalston and completing the snowmobile connector that the Birch Hill Rangers have been working on for many years. For more information about the CPA, read the full-page insert in this month's newsletter or visit the Open Space Committee's web-site: <http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSC/cpa.htm>.

RCS Playground Gets New Slide

Thanks to cooperation among the ARRS administration and school committee with the Athol and Royalston town governments along with periodic nagging by the RCS parent teacher group and diligent work of the can-do guys at the DPW, the broken slide at RCS has been replaced with the "Hay Wagon/ slide" from the now closed Silver Lake School in Athol. On October 25, Keith Newton, Robin Mowrey, and David Valliere, together with RCS alumni Brian Bassett and Aaron Richardson, worked all morning safely anchoring the new equipment. Many kids were happily climbing and sliding on it by lunch recess.

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West

Route 32 Update: Thanks to everyone who came out for MassHighway's Public Hearing on October 23. Senator Brewer was present to demonstrate to MassHighway just how important this project is. Residents asked questions, showed support for the project and concern about the timetable. The money is approved for this project, but the federal and state approval requirements put the date of approval well into the summer of 2009. Representatives from MassHighway said that they would do all they could to expedite the project.

Economic Crisis: Most everyone has heard of the impending deep cuts in the State budget. The Board of Selectmen is very concerned that State aid that comes to Royalston may fall victim to the budget ax. We have asked all Town departments to postpone large purchases and be ready to make budget cuts if necessary. The Board is currently reviewing all expenditures closely.

Verizon Phone Service: The Board and concerned citizens met with representatives from Verizon to discuss the issues with phone service in Town, specifically in the South Village. It was explained that residents suffer chronic problems of one kind or another. It is so constant that many residents do not report the problems. Verizon has asked that the first step be that residents report all trouble, even after service is restored. That way, Verizon technicians can perform proper troubleshooting on the circuits. We will give Verizon a month or two and reassess.

Winter Heat: Heating prices have eased slightly for now. Even so, please keep an eye on your neighbors this winter. Heat assistance is available for those in need.

Please remember that all wood burning appliances need to be inspected by the building inspector. Chimneys should be cleaned annually. All homes are required to have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Remember to check your batteries, too. Have a safe and warm winter.



Board of Health News

Mercury bearing products such as fluorescent light bulbs and ballast from light fixtures are now banned from the solid waste stream. Some stores such as Home Depot and WalMart take some of these light bulbs back. There is a fee for collection and recycling for these products at the transfer station. It is .50 cents a foot. We are in the process of emptying our collection of light bulbs for the year. If we get a favorable rate from the vendor, we will revisit this fee. If you have a bulb for recycling, please see attendant. Also, a reminder, no paint collection until May 15th. We will be shipping all paint off premises soon.

Some might have noticed the front gate removed recently. With the upper road gate, it was decided to remove these old gates for better truck access especially during plowing season. Tree cutting will begin shortly behind the metal roll off. This will allow for construction next year of a 5th sawtooth for the upper paper roll off. Once completed, we can be rid of the stairs. We're sure no one will miss them, especially in the winter. Also in the plans for next year, moving the two trailers to the other side of the loading dock. This will also create safer access to these storage units. The BOH would again like to thank the DPW for all their work and ongoing support to the facility.

Disaster Mitigation Planning Forum

What do YOU think are the most important things or characteristics Royalston should try to preserve for the future? What do YOU feel are the most likely types of damage likely to occur in natural disasters? Those are the question being asked at the Disaster Mitigation Planning forum planned for Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone's input is welcome. A priority list will be established based on public input and objective data, and a plan made to prevent damage to these priorities in the event of a local disaster. Planning, in addition to the obvious benefits, provides some potential Homeland Security funding for a wide variety of projects appropriate to Royalston. Input from as many individuals and organizations as possible will be helpful.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904

There are wintertime measures that should be taken and basic supplies that should be in EVERY vehicle from now until spring. Ensure tires have adequate tread and are inflated to proper pressure. Never let your gas tank dip below half and top off your windshield fluid frequently. Have a good window scraper and broom for snow removal. Consider weather and road conditions when planning trips; remember that daytime travel is usually less of a risk than nighttime travel, and let some one know your intended route of travel. If you become stranded, stay with your vehicle! Wait for assistance in relative comfort with a flashlight and spare batteries, blankets or sleeping bag, plastic bottle of water, high calorie food that is non-perishable and in containers that won't rupture if frozen, and any vital medications. If you get into trouble when you're bored – throw in a puzzle book and mechanical pencil! Helpful items during the getting-out process include appropriate gear like heavy socks and boots, raincoat and mittens as well as shovel and sand, tire chains or traction mats, basic tools like pliers, wrench and screwdriver, a tow rope, brightly colored fabric for a flag and as always, a set of jumper cables and fire extinguisher. Check out more useful emergency resources posted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency at www.mass.gov.

Trees on the Common

ed. note: A couple of months ago the RCN ran a photo from the 1930s showing the Common lined with elm trees. The caption asked for recommendations as to what kind of trees should replace the dying maples on the Common right now. Here is a response from a long-time resident of NE Fitzwilliam Rd.



Dear RCN:

Replacing trees on the Common is a subject dear to my heart because almost all (few exceptions) of the younger sugar maples – and two red maples – I either planted or caused to be planted starting in 1977. Also I planted the horse chestnut in the triangle as a favor to Harold Newton. At first, I worked with Harold Newton (Tree Warden). Eventually he gave me *carte blanche* to plant whatever I saw fit and wherever, which I did over the years, with helpful citizens sometimes. The last four maples I was involved with are those south of the parsonage. I've been watching the maples die for at least 30 years and am really saddened at what I see now.

Sorry – I cannot be succinct with this subject. The threat of the Asian Longhorn Beetle gives real pause for thought. Would new planting merely provide fodder for this menace?? Here are some suggestions:

Beetle threat notwithstanding, if \$ were no object, blight (Dutch elm) resistant elms would be my first choice. (I witnessed that die-off here and elsewhere.) Furthermore, I consider native red maples very hardy. Faster growing too. Color. White ash seem pretty hardy, and also grow fast. Ash are not much for color though and leaf out later than others. Black walnuts can be majestic and seem very hardy; some might enjoy the fruit. Black walnut are not particularly colorful but fairly fast growing. (I've pulled up countless seedlings this year.). For year-round enjoyment Colorado Blue Spruces might be part of a mix.

As you can tell, I've been giving the tree situation much thought (for 35 years). Sadly, 3 of the 4 sugar maples I planted on the South Village Common are long gone – I can't be in favor of more of that species. I would certainly like to participate in any tree replacement program.

John Poor

Luncheon Club & Council on Aging

Free flu shots November 12

The annual Flu Clinic for all ages is slated for Wednesday, November 12, from 11 a.m. – noon. No appointments are needed and all ages are welcome, despite the fact the Council on Aging is sponsoring the event. Anyone in the health care or teaching professions as well as those with compromised immunity or chronic respiratory problems is urged to consider this preventive immunization. The immunizations are free, but recipients with health insurance are asked to bring their insurance cards or information. A Blood Pressure clinic is also being conducted that day; all are welcome to walk-in for a free BP check. Why not make it a morning? Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday, November 20 and reserve a seat for lunch, too. The suggested donation for the meal is \$2/senior and \$2.50 for up-and-coming seniors.

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

Tom Musco for supplies

Sharon Harmon for coordinating Suzanne Stempek Shea's visit, delicious refreshments, and elegant table decorations. For delicious refreshments for the Shea program, **Barbara Willhite**, who baked twice, **Beth Gospodarek**, and **Maureen Blasco**.

Dawn Dawson for a movie

Stormy Easton for donating his movie 'The Most Dangerous Game' that he made for English class at the Athol-Royalston Middle School

Christine Sawyer for help processing books

John Chencharik for making our locks work smoothly and for making the railing sturdy

Elizabeth Farnsworth for a fantastic, fun, productive, and relaxing workshop on Nature Journaling and for donating the great sketch books with an original drawing on them.

Recent Donations to the Friends - thanks

Sandra, Brian, and John Knight

Local Artist Exhibits at the Library

During November and December, Melanie Rajaniemi will be exhibiting her landscape and seascape paintings done in acrylics. Melanie is a relative newcomer to Royalston and lives on Frye Hill Road. She was taught to paint by her father and has been painting for about a year. During January and February Cynthia Ross-Hamilton of Bliss Hill Road will have a display of her acrylic paintings.

Do You Want a Showing?

If you are an artist, have work suitable to be displayed in the children's room of the library, and would like to exhibit your work, please contact the library to see about exhibiting your handiwork. Don't be shy, if you don't contact us, we don't know you're out there waiting to be discovered.

Holiday Shop at the Library

Save gas and support the Friends of the Library this holiday. Shop the library where you'll find an eclectic assortment of small inexpensive gifts, including sets of note-cards drawn by Royalston artists, posters of some of Royalston's natural wonders, Royalston Shakespeare Co. t-shirts as well as Julius Caesar mugs, and CD-Roms containing the town's census information over the years. New this year: DVDs of *Eleanor and Maxine*, *Royalston Teachers*, a fascinating 25 minute oral history which includes many photographs, with the two women who taught from the 1930s to the 50s at School House #1 and in the brand new Raymond School.

Scraps from the Scrapbook

At the end of the 20th century, the Friends of the Library put together a giant scrapbook of the people, institutions, and events that made up our town for that 100 years. This huge and very informative book sits on a table next to the photo-copier in the library reference room awaiting perusal. Pages can always be added, so if readers would like to write brief reminiscences of people and times past, or if there are photos, ticket stubs, newspaper clippings or other 2D artifacts from town worth sharing, please submit them to the Town Scrapbook. Originals can be scanned and returned. Call the library for more information.



ed note: This photo of long time South Royalston residents Arlene and Lewis Arthur Dunham Sr. was submitted by Tina Leonard McGrail (sister-in-law) to Sharon Harmon for our Town Scrapbook. The date hand-written on the picture is 1952, but I suspect the photo is from the town bicentennial in 1963 when there was a town movement called "Brothers of the Brush" where townsmen tried to grow beards for the town Bicentennial Ball. Does anyone know the real story? Let us know at the RCN.

The Friends of the Library proudly present and out-of-this world event:



An Evening with Meteorite Expert, Carla Barringer Rabinowitz

When: 7:30 pm on Friday, November 14,
(right before the annual Leonid Meteor Showers.)

Where: At the Phinehas S Newton Library on
Royalston Common

Why: To find out:

- * Why we might not be here if it weren't for meteorites
- * Chicxulub and the extinction of the dinosaurs
- * The story of Carla's grandfather, Daniel Moreau Barringer, the first person to prove the impact of a large body from space on the Earth.

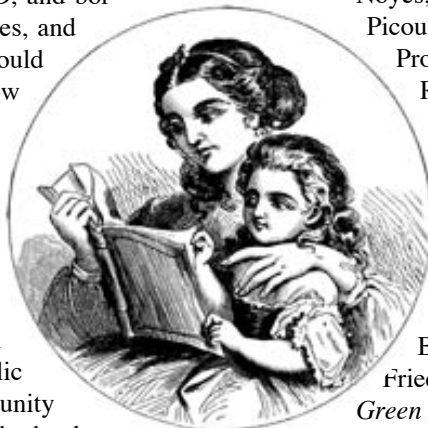
- * How often meteorites hit the Earth
 - * What's going to hit us next? What will happen when it does?
 - * Types, sizes, ages and frequency of impact craters
- There will be video, show and tell and refreshments to augment the evening. Free. Call 978-249-35782 for more information*

What's Your Library Usage Worth?

Nationwide library usage has been increasing and we have seen the same trend at our library. Many more people are doing job searches, using the wireless internet, borrowing books instead of buying them. In these times when people are thinking about tightening belts, think about using your library to save money. Instead of buying that latest best seller, borrow it from the library. You can also pick up movies too, all for free. If you'd like to calculate what it's worth to borrow books, movies, and use the library services such as computers, log onto: <http://www.masslib.org/value-new/calculator.html>. This site was developed by the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee to assist libraries, but it's amazing to find out how much can be saved by using the library. For instance, if you borrowed instead of going out and purchasing 2 books, a magazine, and a CD, and borrowed instead of renting two movies, and came to one program, the value would be \$71.95. There is a link to see how the values were determined. Check it out.

Community Reading Day

On Wednesday, November 12th at 9:00 a.m. Community Reading Day will be held in all the elementary schools in the Athol-Royalston School District. The Athol Public Library is coordinating the Community Reading Day and the funding for the books has been requested from the Rotary Club. If you would like to read in one of the grades at the Royalston Community School, please call the Phinehas S. Newton Library at 978-249-3572 to sign up. You may also call the Athol Public Library to volunteer.



Resident Recommended Reading

Read, watched or heard anything good lately? Send brief book, movie and music reviews to the RCN or write a jot a few sentences to drop at the library. Melanie Mangum suggests 'The Sharper Your Knife, The Less You Cry: Love, Laughter, and Tears at the World's Most Famous Cooking School' by Kathleen Flinn. Melanie says it's "an engaging read – foodies, wanna-be foodies, and people needing encouragement to follow their dreams will like this book."

Bucking the Sun, Ivan Doig's historical novel about the construction of the Ft. Peck Dam as a WPA project during the Depression is an exceptionally fine read according to Beth Gospodarek. Engineers will like the details of the dam construction, romantics the interwoven love stories, and historians the spot-on 30's Montana parlance and lifestyle. The politics are timely also. Is the forced evacuation of hard scrabble farm land to create the dam justified by the needed salaried jobs it creates? Is this government bail-out, with its make work jobs, too much or too little of a shift towards Socialism? The best feature is that Doig so entices readers to care about the characters' fates that they are sad that the book has to end. (That said, be forewarned. The resolution of the central mystery doesn't rest easily.)

Some of the New Books at your Library

Adult Fiction November 2008

Atkinson, Kate *When Will There be Good News*
Brown, Rita Mae *Hounded to Death*
Connelly, Michael *The Brass Verdict*
Doig, Ivan *The Eleventh Man*
Gerritsen, Tess *The Keepsake*
Glass, Julia *I See You Everywhere*
Harvey, John *Cold in Hand*
Hunter, Stephan *Night of Thunder*
Keillor, Garrison *Liberty: A Lake Wobegon Novel*
Koontz, Dean *Odd Hours*
LeCarre, John *A Most Wanted Man*
Lehane, Dennis *The Given Day*
Mayor, Archer *The Catch*
McCall-Smith, Alexander *The Comforts of a Muddy Saturday*
Meissner, Bill *Spirits in the Grass: A Novel*
Noyes, Deborah *The Ghosts of Kerfol*
Picoult, Jodi *Keeping Faith*
Prose, Francine *Goldengrove*
Rankin, Ian *Exit Music*
Rhodes, David *Driftless*
Sanford, John *Heat Lightning*
Sparks, Nicholas *The Lucky One*
Vincenzi, Penny *An Outrageous Affair*
Woods, Stuart *Hot Mahogany*

Adult NonFiction November 2008

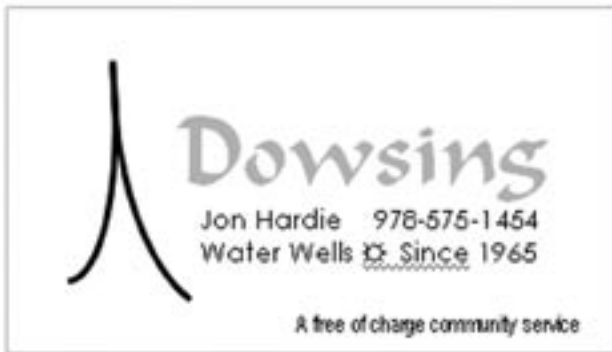
Blount Jr., Roy *Alphabet Juice*
Friedman, Thomas L. *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why we Need a Green Revolution...*
Merrell, Mindy *Cheater BBQ*
Norris, Kathleen *Acedia & me: A Marriage, Monks, and A Writer's Life*
Serven-Schreiber MD PhD, David *Anti Cancer: A New Way of Life*
Shea, Susan Strempek *Shelf Life: Romance, Mystery, Drama, and Other Page...*
Willams, Terry Tempest *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*



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PLEASE CONTACT STEPHEN CHASE
978-249-0358 OR CHASEGOS@GIS.NET
LEAVE A MESSAGE

Royalston Community Coop
November orders should have been entered on-line prior to 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 30. If the minimum order is met, delivery will be the following Thursday, November 6. Anyone interested in promoting their local agricultural products can contact Mary Barclay at 978-249-2598 or mbarclay@juno.com .

Neighborly News

Former **Pastor Ginger Asel** was injured on October 16th in a bicycle accident on Martha's Vineyard when her bike skidded on sand and she was thrown over the handle bars onto her head cracking her bike helmet. She was life-flighted to Beth Israel Hospital and is now recovering at her son and daughter-in-law's home. Cards may be sent to Ginger Asel c/o Michael and Sue Asel, 670 Turnpike Road, Greenville, NH 03048..

Congratulations to **Alexandra Krasowski** and **Haley Pickford**, who were part of the dozen artists from Cushing Academy selected to exhibit their art in at a gallery in NYC in September. The student artists sold over \$13,000 worth of their creations and Haley has been invited to show her fused-glass work in Oxford, England.

D.J. Seco was recently named an A.P. scholar with Distinction by the College Placement Board. A 2008 graduate of Athol High School, D.J. is currently a student at UMass Lowell. This award is granted to students who received an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams and a grade of 3 or higher on four or more of the exams. While at Athol High, D.J. took AP courses in psychology, calculus, chemistry and biology.

Recipe of the Month

Donna Caisse and her husband Scott moved to Royalston 22 years ago. A native of Templeton, Donna had always loved Royalston and wanted to live here someday. The Caisse's have two grown children, Michael, 25, and Lindsey, 22. Over the years, Donna has been very active in the community. She served on the school committee for a term and gave the task all her energy. She is a member of the J.N. Bartlett Fund committee and a part of the regional group, "Hands Across Quabbin," She is also beginning to participate in the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Here's a recipe that Donna's family loves:

Donna Caisse's Blondies

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 pkg or 1 lb. dark or light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups butterscotch bits

preheat oven to 350 degrees
grease a 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 jelly roll pan
On waxed paper or in a bowl, mix flour, baking soda and salt
In a sauce pan, melt butter and then cool
Once cooled, stir in sugar, vanilla and eggs. Mix well. Stir in flour mixture. Pour in pan. Bake 25 minutes. Do not over-bake.





MILESTONES

The path through life is generally easier walked with others. Putting announcements of milestone events in the RCN is one way to let the whole community participate in the joys and sorrows of our lives. The births, deaths, marriages and the ilk of one household can have an effect on us all. Send announcements to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at library.



Sharon & Wade Harmon of Butterworth Road are proud to announce the arrival of their new grand daughter **Bailey Shon Lefsyk**.

She was born August 27th, 2008 5 lbs. 2 oz. She is the daughter of **Brandy & Jason Lefsyk** of Athol.

Shortly after Jess returned from an internship in Israel, **Jess Guiney and Matt Glover** exchanged vows. The ceremony took place August 17th at the Summit House, on top of Mount Holyoke, with family and friends. After a summer of rain, the weather was perfect and the view, clear and fantastic. A wedding supper followed at the Delaney House. A toast was made, excellent food and company enjoyed, and a cake cut and shared. The happy couple lives in Washington DC.



Two days after Jess and Matt's wedding, **Chris Guiney** moved to San Diego, California. He's currently working as a junior programmer. It's been two months and he's still marveling over the warm and consistent weather.

Mollie M. (Lombard) Smith, 96, of South Royalston, died peacefully Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 21, 2008, surrounded by her loving family, after a brief illness. Mollie was born in Norwalk, CT. May 26, 1912, daughter of the late Joseph and Christine Lombard, and has lived in Royalston for 61 years. Her beloved husband, Roy A. Smith, died in 1968. She was a homemaker who dedicated her life



to taking care of her four sons. Mollie was Royalston's oldest living resident. She was a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. She enjoyed crocheting and especially loved gardening. She worked in her large garden until she was 92. Mollie enjoyed babysitting not only her own family but for many of the families in Royalston. Mollie is survived by four sons; Roy A. Smith, Jr. and his wife, Donna, of Royalston, Thomas A Smith and his wife, Sandra, of Monson, MA, Jack J. Smith and his wife, Gail, of Winchendon, and David M. Smith and his wife, Shirley, of Orange, MA; as well as nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She was buried in Lawrence Brook Cemetery, Royalston. Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to the Baldwinville Nursing Home Resident Activities Fund, 51 Hospital Rd., P.O. Box 24, Baldwinville, MA 01436.

Alice Pickford passed away on October 15th and was buried on October 18th. She was 89 and loved her stays at Mark and Karen's when they had the house on the Common. Peter Kraniak reports, "The last time I saw Alice was in the hospital about 10 days before she died; she was asking how various people in Royalston were, so she still took an interest in the town."

George J. Bushee, 61 of 239 Deland Rd., Royalston, died Thursday, October 23, 2008 in the Veterans Hospital, West Roxbury, MA. He was born in Gardner on September 30, 1947, the son of the late George H. and the late Helmi (Simula) Bushee. George graduated from Athol High School He was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the U.S. Army and was a lifetime member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Mr. Bushee was a computer engineer for the Digital Corporation in Westminster for 20 years.

George enjoyed model rockets, woodworking, dragons and Star Trek and spending time with his grandkids. He leaves his wife,

Rosemary (Rathburn) Bushee, one daughter, Lynn C. Nystrom and her husband Greg of Royalston; one son, Michael G. Bushee and his wife, Indica of Aurora, CO; one brother, Thomas Bushee of South Royalston; four grandchildren and four step grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made in his memory to the Veterans Support Foundation, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.



Fire Department Turkey Raffle

The Royalston Fire & EMS Association's turkey raffle will take place on Friday, November 14th at 7 p.m. at the Center Fire Station. This event is one of the organization's best fundraisers of the year. Join the fun and support the Fire Department. Thanksgiving Basket tickets are available from any member and you need not be present to win. Your support of this fundraiser provides for special equipment, supplies and protective gear.

2nd Annual United Way Community Supper

Monday, November 3, 2008 5:00 - 8:00 pm

PETE & HENRY'S (usually closed on Mondays)

\$12/adults and \$8/children 10 and under

All profits go to the Athol-Area United Way!

Featuring: Spaghetti with savory tomato sauce, Mary Barclay's home-made meatballs and link Italian sausage along with garden salad, garlic bread, homemade pies for dessert and any non-alcoholic beverages. Hope to see you there.

Movie Night at the Royalston Community School

On Friday, November 21st, the 5th and 6th grade classes will be showing the critically acclaimed recent animated feature film about robots saving the world

The plot begins when early in the early 22nd century, a megacorporation assumed every economic service on Earth, including running the government. Overrun by un-recycled waste, the planet eventually became so polluted that it could no longer support life. The megacorporation CEO developed a plan that would have humans spend time aboard fully-automated starships, while an army of robots would compact the waste. However, the plan largely failed; 700 years later, humanity is still living aboard the starships, except now, generations of micro-gravity has caused a loss of bone mass causing humans to become too obese to do anything without the help of robotic assistance, (proved by guess who....? the megacorporation, of course.). On Earth, all of the clean up robots have failed except for one, our hero, ...

Come to the RCS cafeteria to see what happens next. The DVD will be projected on the big screen. Chairs will be set up but feel free to get comfy by bringing pajamas, blankies and pillows. The movie night benefits school trips to Nature's Classroom. Admission is \$5/child; adults free. Popcorn and ice cream will be for sale. Call the school at 249-2900 for more information.

Royalston Open Mic Returns



At 7:30 pm. on Saturday, November 15 join house band Melanie and the Blue Shots at Town Hall for the season opener of the Royalston Open Mic Night. Sign up acts in advance with Jim Bennett (978-575-1052) or show up early to get your name on the performance list. This is a special date and time to have Open Mic follow the Ladies' Benevolent Society Braised Beef Supper. Why not make a night of it with dinner and dancing Royalston-style? Other Open Mics will be first Fridays as usual at 6:30 pm: 12/5/08, 1/2/09, 2/6/09, 3/6/09.

Village School News

Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration

The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 7th. The public is invited to participate in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school (the old Raymond School building) with a gathering in the dark for a bonfire, stories, and songs. Everyone will then join in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing candle-lit homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a contra dance with caller Norah Dooley and the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. All over Europe, children participate in lantern walks to mark the seasonal transition in nature from light and warmth to darkness and dormancy. The Village School has adopted this custom with songs, stories, and handmade lanterns that bring light in the darkness. The contra dance will be called, and children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations are suggested of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family.

Open House Saturday November 15

10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come meet the teachers, visit with parents, see the classrooms, talk to alumni, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children to join in activities in the classrooms.

Opening in Pre-school: There is one opening for this year for a pre-school student, age 3-5. This is a delightful classroom with two teachers for twelve children. Call the school for more information.

Ladies Benevolent Society

Hungry for Political Change? LBS Bake Sales at Both Polling Stations this Nov. 4.

Voters are in luck. This year the LBS Election Day Bake Sale features goodies at both precinct voting sites! A focus on heat-and-eat meals means there should be a number of dishes voters can select for a snappy, home-made supper. Of course, the usual cookies, fudge, cakes, squares and pies will be available. All proceeds support the higher education scholarships and grants to Royalston residents by the Ladies' B.

Tickets are available for the Annual Braised Beef Dinner. Start at 6:30 p.m. with garden salad and home baked breads, tender beef in a mouth-watering gravy, with real mashed potatoes, carrot salad and petite green peas. Add some homemade pies, freshly brewed coffee, and it's an incredible deal at \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. To go dinners will be available after the firsts are put out on the tables – they should be pre-ordered and picked up from about 6:45 p.m. on. This is the Society's single-largest fundraiser each year, and all profits go to scholarships and grants.



Helping Hands: Cadence Brinkley, Laurie Deveneau, Nancy Melbourne, and Kristen West of the Royalston Ladies' Benevolent Society recently presented over \$500 in food and money donations to Anne Marie Rogan (center), Counselor of the Athol Orange Family Inn. The LBS collected the donations this past summer. Many contributed to the success of this event including Royalston Country Store and the Royalston Post Office. The Family Inn will be able to purchase a needed vacuum cleaner and other supplies with the money.

Congregational Churches News

Sue Vellieux

The colors on the Common have looked exceptionally bright this fall against the new paint on the old church. Thank you, Frank Stearns for your generosity making this fresh look possible. However, looks aren't everything. Even more outstanding is what is taking place in the church and within the church members.

Come see what God is doing:

Both churches united in celebrating their annual water baptism Aug. 19th with 15 youth and adults deciding to commit to their beliefs for life. On Oct. 19th, new membership was held bringing in 15 new members in the 1st church and 4 at the 2nd church. Pastor Jeff believes very strongly in the power of prayer and fasting, so for the month of October, both churches participated in prayer sessions M-F 5:30 - 7 a.m and W - F 7 - 9 pm. In addition, the church has held a successful "Hour of Power" prayer session Sat. 8-9 a.m.

Bible Club is in full swing at RCS every Weds. from 3-4 pm. Newcomers of any denomination are welcome. Youth group has continued to experience growth in numbers and spirituality as well. It recently attended "Aquire the Fire" at the Mullins Center at UMass in Amherst. The group is blessed with four Zion Bible College interns. Michaela, RJ, Matt and Nate are particularly gifted at reaching youth.

New visons are being birthed: discipleship for new believers; mens' ministry; community outreach; local, national and overseas ministry; children's ministry and nursery. The churches have grown drastically in the last 3 months and it's expected that these new visions will bring even more growth.

'Tis the season for thanks and giving. The church is asking for donations of non-perishable goods and clothing for distribution to the homeless. Drop donations at the Parsonage.

Jingle Bell Fair

Yes, it's that time of year – the Jingle Bell Fair is coming to town Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church in South Royalston. This is a fair for a family, with something for everyone – raffles, holiday decorations, arts and crafts, Chinese auction, white elephant and one of the very best bake sales in the area, including those Finnish coffee breads that are sold as quickly as they're put out!



Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

20 October 2008

For the past three mornings the thermometer at the house has suggested frost. The ice on the ducks' watering pan has suggested frost. The frost encasing the leaves of the low-lying plants in the garden has suggested frost. Yet the tender plants persist, if barely. Once again I have escaped the freeze. I no longer cover the beans and tomatoes and peppers; all available blankets have been commissioned to drape, somewhat haphazardly, the fall raspberries. Like previous years, they are filled with fruit, most unripe, and I just as soon have them ripen. The raspberry patch has been one of the highlights of my fall garden. I harvest, every other day, in the late afternoon, unencumbered by summer's insects and summer's heat. I remind myself to look up from time to time to catch the rays of the setting sun bouncing off the color on the trees to the east. (Soon enough, too soon, the leaves will fall, awaiting my trusty rake and trusty back to guide them on their path to garden compost.)

I engage in some modest seed saving. Saving seed completes the circle, from plant to seed to plant again. My primary seed saving technique is a model of simplicity. The seeds mature on the plant and drop to the ground, where I "store" them until the following spring when they germinate. It works because I do not till (that would bury them) and because I am obsessive in eliminating the weeds which would overwhelm them. My self-seeding annual flowers continue to increase in number; ten will reliably appear each spring; as well as dill, cilantro, lettuce, and parsnips. As to more traditional seed saving techniques, I am growing out two types of beans. Instead of picking them at the green stage, they are left to mature on the plant, a much more likely event if I can keep them off the ground where they tend to rot and/or be consumed by rodents. Brush works reasonably well. A few beet and celeriac roots survived the winter in the root cellar and began to re-grow in the early spring (much like a potato sprouting). I set them in the garden where they proceeded to send up flower heads, and, ultimately, seeds which I have gathered to plant next year. The few parsley plants that survived outdoors did likewise and I have a small stash of parsley seed as well. Finally, a wild tomato plant outperformed any I planted: it was early, large, and disease-free, so I extracted some seed (which are set aside to ferment a couple of days, rinsed to remove bits of tomato adhering, and dried) in the hopes that a super tomato may be evolving.

If there is a downside to the delayed killing frost, it is that my principal fall garden activity, putting the beds (pardon the pun) to bed is delayed as well. I confess to having begun pulling the barely alive plants to keep the process moving. The second downside is that galinsoga, the weed with the little daisy like flowers, remains alive as well, maturing its seed to assure yet another season of galinsoga-filled gardens. It is the bane of mine and likely every other Royalston garden. Soon enough, probably before this is read, my garden will be tomato, bean, pepper, and galinsoga free, but roots and brassicas will abound. The season is not over.

Wildlife Sightings

Mary Barclay recently found herself face-to-face with a young skunk that was rummaging around in a tipped over trash can. She had gone out that dark evening and heard what she presumed was one of the area's free-range felines grabbing a quick bite. She was surprised when she bent over and loudly began to chastise the animal. It's hard to say who was more surprised, or who retreated more quickly. No harm - no foul (smell); trash can lids now locked at all times.

A full grown Russian boar, not known to inhabit Massachusetts, was hit by a car on Rt. 2 near Fort Devens. Chet Hall was called in by the State Police to help dispose of the "pig" carcass. His identification of the beast surprised officials but delighted Chet who now has excellent sausage and steak in his freezer.

Deer Hunting Seasons

Royalston's plentiful open space is a popular site for deer hunting. Share the woods, be sensible and wear blaze orange at this time of year. There are three major seasons; Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloader. Deer hunting with rifles in Massachusetts is prohibited. There is no hunting on Sundays.



Hunting Season dates for 2008:

Archery: October 13- November 22.

Shotgun: Dec 1- Dec 13

Muzzleloader: December 15 - December 31.

Bag Limits: 2 antlered deer per year and as many antlerless deer as the hunter has valid antlerless deer permits.

The deer population is 85,000 to 95,000 statewide. Densities range from about 10 per square mile in northwestern Massachusetts to 45 to 55 per square mile on Nantucket Island.

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For Sale: Hand Knit – All Sizes – Mittens – Hats – Men's Boot Socks – Baby Sets. Nice Christmas Gifts. 978-249-4013.

Part time Spanish teacher position opening at the Village School. Wednesday mornings. Looking for an enthusiastic outgoing individual with teaching experience. The Village School uses the Total Physical Response curriculum, which involves movement, singing and lots of interaction. Send resume to The Village School P.O. Box 122 Royalston MA 01368 or call 978 249-3505.

One preschool opening at the Village School for a student, age 3-5. Call the school for more information at 249-3505.

House Cleaning – 4 hrs for \$49.95. Royalston resident. Please call Fran 978-249-4596 or 978-895-0817.

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