

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2009



Volume XII, Issue V

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

## Calendar of Events

June 2 Tuesday

6:30 **Spring concert**, School House Rock, and student art show at RCS. All students participate.

June 4 Thursday

3:45 pm **Friends of the Library meeting**. All welcome.  
7 p.m. **Monty Tech Graduation**

June 5 Friday

7 - 9 pm **"Celebrate Recovery"** is offered every Friday night at the First Congregational Church. Food and fellowship offered from 6-7 pm. This program is for anyone struggling with hurts, habits, and hangups.

June 6 Saturday

### **Spectacular Saturday on Royalston Common**

*Children's events on the common all morning, including drumming, cake walk, birds of prey, rescue dog demonstrations, and more.*

7:30 - 10:30 Village School Organic Pancake Breakfast at Town Hall. Adults \$6/ children \$3.

8:30 - 11 am Silent Auction to benefit Village School capital campaign for new school on Camp Caravan site. Lots of cool items available.

9 - noon Library book sale

9- noon Friends of the Library plant sale and historical society bake sale at Post office

11:45 Winner of LBS scrapghan raffle drawn

June 7 Sunday

1:30 **Athol High School Graduation**

2:12 p.m. **Full Strawberry Moon**

June 9 Tuesday



Which Royalston elementary teacher has a birthday on this day? The age she is turning is divisible by 12 factors and ends in a zero. She has taught in town for

35 years and is the current town poet laureate. Generations of Royalston students have learned to read under her direction.

June 15 Monday

noon - 8 pm **Special Town Election** to fill recently vacated seat on the selectboard. Jack Morse is on the ballot and Chet Hall is running a write-in campaign. Precinct 1 is located at the Town Hall, 13 The Common, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

June 19 Friday

7 pm **Reconvened Annual Meeting and Special Town Meeting** at Royalston Community School.

June 20 Saturday

9-11 am **"Forest, Floor & Fringe" Walk** in Chase Memorial Forest, on Route 68 between Royalston center and South Royalston. Part of New England Forestry Foundation's Community Forest Discovery Days, co-sponsored by the Athol Bird & Nature Club, and recommended by the Royalston Open Space Committee. Free.

10 am **Celebrate Summer Solstice** at the library. Listen to a story about summer solstice, make sun catchers, and create sunshine collages. Enjoy lemonade and sunburst cake. Recommended for children ages 3-8. Free.

5 p.m. **Chicken Barbecue** at Royalston Fish & Game \$10

June 21 Sunday **Father's Day**

1:46 am **Summer Solstice** - First Day of Summer

9 a.m - 3 p.m. **Father's Day Car Show** at Monty Tech (raindate June 28)

June 22 Monday

3:35 p.m. **New Buck Moon**

June 26 Friday

early dismissal **Summer vacation** finally begins in the ARRS

June 29 Monday

**Monty Tech's last day** of the school year

### **Save the Date:**

July 11 Saturday

**Congregational Church Fair** - "Celebrate Summer 2009". Donations of attic treasures sought. Call 978-249-9155 or 978-249-2971 for more info.

July 12 Sunday

noon - 5 pm **Royalston Music Fest** in Bullock Park, featuring ska band "Guns of Navarrone" as headliners.

## Town Clerk News

*Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk*

Please note: the Town Clerk's Office will be closed June 1-5. The office will be open regular hours on Monday, June 8, and will also be open 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, for new voter registration.

### Special Town Election - June 15

A Special Town Election will be held Monday, June 15 to elect one person to the vacant seat on the Board of Selectmen. There is one candidate on the ballot - John W. Morse III, of 58 N.E. Fitzwilliam Rd.

#### Please note the hours of the election:

Polls open at 12:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Precinct 1 is located at the Town Hall, 13 The Common, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall, 5 School St., South Royalston.

#### Reconvened Annual Meeting and Special Town Meeting:

The Annual Town Meeting held on May 8 will reconvene on Friday, June 19, 7 p.m., at Royalston Community School. A Special Town Meeting will be held the same night. New voter registration for the Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office in Whitney Hall.

**2009 Street List:** To cut costs, the street list will be printed in-house and made available by request. The cost of the street list is still \$2.00. You can obtain a street list by visiting the Town Clerk during regular office hours, and a limited number of street lists will be made available at the post office.

## What Happened at the Annual Town Meeting?

*Beth Gospodarek*

On May 8, 2009, around 50 residents approved over 1.5 million dollars to keep the town running, including funding operating budgets, building maintenance and town employee stipends and salaries. There was very little discussion of most warrant articles and budget items as the current decrease in tax revenue and state aid due to the recession meant that there was no money to try to negotiate for on the town meeting floor. The selectboard and finance committee had met with department heads multiple times in advance of the meeting, and by the actual meeting, they were already rather resigned to the pre-arranged but painful budget cuts. Two items were tabled: a request from the police department to see if the town would pay three annual payments of \$7000 beginning in 2012 to lease a new Ford Expedition if grant moneys cannot be found and a request sponsored but not recommended by the selectmen to see if the town would fund \$2,300 to fund Royalston's participation in Athol's Summer Playground program.

## Unsung Heroes

*Larry Siegel*

It may be a stretch to bestow unsung hero status to the fifty or so residents who attended annual town meeting but so be it. (Actually to endure the prevailing moments of boredom is a heroic act; I confess to leaving early.) Every dollar spent by the town is authorized at town meeting. Why 750 or so voters leave that determination to the fifty present is one of life's mysteries. It ought to come as no surprise to learn that, overwhelmingly, these are the same people who tend to the affairs of the town between town meetings. Democracy in (in-)action.

## Candidate's Statements for the Open One Year Selectman's Seat - Special Election is June 15



**Jack Morse (on ballot):** My name is John "Jack" Morse and I am running for selectman to fill the remainder of Jon Hardie's term. When Jon resigned it became necessary for the operation of the town to fill the position for the remainder of his term. After serious consideration I decided to run for this position. We all know the economic situation, not only throughout the country, but also in our own lives. The town of Royalston is no different. When I moved into town several years ago, I felt that the easiest way to learn about the town was to get involved. I am a member of the open space committee, and have attended all of the finance and selectmen meetings for the last three years. With the knowledge I have acquired, I feel that I am qualified to keep Royalston a growing community and an excellent place to live and bring up a family. No matter how you vote, come out and vote. My phone number is 978 249-2523.

**Chet Hall (write-in candidate) :** My name is Chet Hall. I am a thirty year resident of Royalston. I moved to Royalston because of its open spaces and unique character as an independent old New England town. Since then, my wife and I have built our home from the timber from our land and raised a family of four children here. As the need arose, I became involved with a number of civic responsibilities. I was president of the community school Parent-Teacher Group for many years, striving to encourage community involvement by parents and community alike. This effort sometimes clashed with a financially driven administration. I am also a member of the Royalston Board of Health and continue to work to keep a user friendly transfer station and maintain a clean and healthy environment for our community. I also serve on the Athol Royalston Regional School Committee. I have been part of the effort to greatly improve the educational opportunities available to our district's children and continue to work to keep reasonably small class sizes in the Royalston Community School.

Fully understanding the financial difficulties that we are all faced with at this time, as selectman, I would commit to work to maintain all of our basic services and preserve the independent character that is unique to Royalston. I strongly believe that I can work constructively with other departments in our town, as well as with local and state government when necessary to maintain services despite the current financial atmosphere.

Most of our residents know me as a neighbor or a friend. I will be consistently available for all of you to express your ideas and concerns. My home number is 978-249-2183. I would appreciate your vote for the one year Royalston Board of Selectmen's seat.

## Royalston Police Department

### 120 Club Raffle to Support Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs

Chief Curtis Deveneau

As we are all too well aware, the economy is down, people are losing their jobs and municipal budgets have been slashed. The police department will be funded next year, which starts July 1st, at the level we were funded at five (5) years ago. It will do its best to promptly complete emergency calls for service, but occasionally calls will be forwarded to the State Police; unfortunately, it has also felt the effects of the economy and has had to expand its response territory. This may mean a longer response time to an emergency call that is forwarded to the State Police. In light of all of these circumstances, I wish to expand our Neighborhood Crime Watch program to provide more eyes on the streets during the daytime, when house breaks typically occur. This program is called volunteers in police service (VIPS) and has formalized training to provide citizens with the skills and knowledge to assist the police in crime prevention. This is a structured, police department sanctioned program that was developed by the International Police Chiefs Association of which I am an active member.

To fund this program, the Royalston Police Association is working to raise funds to provide signage, equipment and prevention patrols at little to no cost to the tax payer. It is starting its fundraising with an instant "120 Club" raffle. Tickets will be available starting the week of May 25th and the drawing will be held on June 27th at the Town Hall, on the Common. Tickets are \$20 dollars each and 23 prizes will be awarded with the largest being \$500 and the lowest \$25. Tickets are available by asking any of the police officers, neighborhood watch members or by calling Curtis Deveneau at 978-249-5807.

## Royalston Emergency Management Agency

GOT A KIT? MAKE A PLAN!

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904

Last month, I asked all Royalston households to take step one towards being prepared for the unexpected by making sure to stock enough supplies to survive three days at home without outside assistance. This month, the task is to pre-plan how you will contact and reconnect with family and friends during and after a major, unexpected event.

What if your family is not together when the unexpected happens? How will you know if everyone's okay? Where will you go if you can't go home? How will you get word out if you're confined to home and you have no phone service?

Once again, if you have internet access, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and click on the central banner. On-line emergency planning tools include a template to help each family "Make a Plan." During the month of June, I am asking your family to "Make a Plan!" If you don't have internet access, call me at 978-249-2904 and I will provide you with a hard copy of the information. It is my hope that on July 1, every household in Royalston will have created a family emergency plan that includes how you will contact each other if you're separated, how you will get back together, and a plan for some of the more common weather-related situations we might encounter in Royalston.

It takes a relatively short time to make a family emergency plan if you make it BEFORE you need it. Have your family emergency plan completed by June 30, and you'll be in good shape to take the July and August steps towards preparedness!

## Board of Health News

Phil Leger

Get your forever trash bags stickers now until July 1st for \$2. Beat the price increase to \$2.50 coming on July 1st. New windshield stickers should be in by press time. New price \$15 per annum. New hours starting July 1st: closed Friday. Open Saturday 8am-3pm. Beat the price increase. Recycle more. Recycling is free. Trash is not. New roll off sawtooth project in the works. Completion date July 1st.

*H1N1 Flu update:* Wash your hands, cover your cough, stay home if ill. Best websites are:

[www.cdc.gov/H1N1](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1)

[www.ma.gov/dph/H1N1](http://www.ma.gov/dph/H1N1)

email: [boh@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:boh@royalston-ma.gov) with questions or concerns.

*The transfer station will be open for business on July 4th 8-3. Closed Friday.*

## Royalston Road Side Cleanup 2009

Checkpoint Charlie

Thank you to all the friends and families that made the 2009 Roadside Cleanup a success. The weather was great and there were plenty of hotdogs and chili for the volunteers. Many people gave donations as well as picked up trash. Royalston roads are cleaner and greener; with spring in full bloom, we can all better enjoy the beauty of our wonderful town. About 25 families and friends worked to clean their neighborhoods and streets in town. Many truckloads of fast food litter, bottles and cans and car parts were collected, sorted, recycled and disposed of.

The following families helped the endeavour: Andrea and Ken Lively – Rt 68 and around small pond by Jacob's trail. Pam and Brenda – parts of North Fitzwilliam Rd. and the center of town. Becky Divoll – parts of Stone Rd., Deland Rd, NE Fitzwilliam Rd. Scribner family – parts of Laurel Lake Rd., NE Fitzwilliam Rd. and Dump Rd. Ryan & Lisa Hood and family – Rt 68 and Mill yard Rd. Lots of BIG stuff. Theresa Quinn and Nick Krasowski – Athol Road and center of town Chase Gospodarek family and Noah Siegel – parts of NE Fitzwilliam Rd and Rt 68 to Harrington Farm. Dave Williams – parts of Jacob's Ladder hill and blessing the hotdogs and chili. Ernie LeBlanc – Rt 68 from center to Stockwell Rd. Cindy Savoy – Brown Rd and part of NE Fitzwilliam Rd. Gordan Morrison - who just moved to town – parts of N. Fitzwilliam Rd., Rt 68. Andy West and family – Part of Rt. 68. Shaun Sherman – Woods Rd. and part of Winchendon Rd. Mary Barclay – Fry Hill Rd., publicity and taking pictures. Captain Ron, Carrie, and Sam – Stewart Rd, Doanes Hill and parts of Rt 32. Busta and Betty – Athol Road and Pain Rd – side dirt road. Maureen Blasco and Kevin Killay – parts of Winchendon Rd. to Norcross Rd. Mike and Sue Veilleux – Norcross Rd. Linda Alger and friend – School, Richmond, Rt 68, Fernald Rd, River Rd. Vickie Paine – So. Royalston, S. Main, School, Whitney, Blossom, Park. Dan Monette and Karol – Norcross Rd, and taking pictures at cookout. Mystery Man – parts unknown. Carla Rabinowitz – part of Athol Road. Team Blinky – Phil, Paul, Ray and Jack – Deland Rd., Turpike and Taft Hill Rd. George Vaccari – Part of N. Fitzwilliam Rd. and backyard. Henkle family – Parts of Athol Richmond Rd. Shelly Bates Family – Pleasant St – So Royalston.

Thanks to Board of Health for free disposal of trash and Selectman for use of Bullock park. A special thanks to Dan and Karol Monette for donations, picking up the grill and assisting with the cooking and serving. *Hope to see everyone next year the last Saturday in April for another Royalston Roadside Cleanup.*

# Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00am - 8:30pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

## Thank you

**Sylvia Cosseboom** and **Janet Bettey** for audiobooks

**Diana Newton** for books

**Marsha Charest** for CD cases

**John Poor** and **Marcia Flanagan** for movies

**Linda LeBlanc** for her delivery services

## Donations in Memory of Arline Vining

**Steve and Cindy Savoy**

**Patience Bundschuh**

**Bob Cromwell**

**Betty Woodbury**

**Peter Kraniak**

**Geoffrey Newton**

**Aaron Ellison**

## Recent Donations to the Friends

**The Verrelli family**

**Bob and Lorraine Casinghino**

**Sandy and Peter Scott**

**Cynthia and Steven Savoy**

**Donald Jarvenpaa**

**Sharon Harmon**

**Gus, Charlie, and Susan**

**David and Shirley Putney**

## Library Book Sale and Plant Sale

### Saturday, June 6 (9 am - noon)

**Book Sale** - Space is finite in the town library. To make room for the new, the library periodically engages in "out with the old" or at least, out with the rarely circulated. These discards, adult and children's books, dvds, vhs tapes, and audiobooks are priced to sell outside the library on June 6. There are some treasures in the merchandise, so come and browse.

**Friends' Plant Sale** - Drop donations outside the library any time or bring to the post office on Saturday morning.

Save space in your gardens! The fabulous Friends of the Library plant sale returns Saturday, June 6. Perennials, herbs, shrubs, ground covers, blueberry and raspberry bushes, annual flowers and veggies; sun or shade, easy or fussy, common and weird varieties will all be for sale in front of the post office from 9 am - noon. Neighbors like Barb Richardson, Maureen Blasco, Theresa Burgess, Andrea Lively, Buddy Dyer, Sharon Harmon, Mary Carnie, Sonja Vaccari and many others have been potting up surplus from their gardens. The plants are adapted to local conditions and come imbued with personal connections (not to mention good karma for supporting our public library). Prospect Hill Farm, Shepardson's Gardens, Noel's Nursery, Agway, Perennial Patch and MacMann's florist also donate professionally grown plants. Prices are reasonable and seasoned advice is included.

## Starship Adventure: Summer Reading Program at the Phinehas S. Newton Library

Thanks to a generous grant from the Royalston Academy we will be having a lot of exciting programs for this summer's 'Starship Adventure at Your Library' reading program series for older children and preschoolers. All programs for older kids begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays. We'll be kicking off the summer on July 9th with the giant inflatable planetarium, Starlab, from the Springfield Museum of Science in the upstairs of the Town Hall with two shows: at 1:30 p.m. for younger children and 2:15-3:00 p.m. for the older crowd. Then on July 16th we'll see some sheep and their fleece and watch while Jill Horton Lyons spins fleece directly from her angora bunnies into yarn. You'll be able to get up close to the animals and then learn to spin your own yarn with the fleeces. On July 23rd we'll build gyroscope rocket launchers and blast off gyros around the grounds of the library. Then on July 30th we'll have our traditional ice cream party where everyone will get to make and eat alien ice cream and play some spacey games.

In addition, preschoolers will be treated to a series of four fun-filled programs on Mondays beginning at 10:30 at the library. They'll be doing different music and craft programs each day and then make spacey ice cream on Monday, July 27th.

## Photo Contest



*Here is a post card depicting Royalston in the summer in 1909. Residents were taking public transportation to clam bakes and dances at the pavilion at Royalston Falls. What does the town and its people look like in 2009? Record the moment. Get out your camera and start clicking! Big prizes awarded in the Friends of the Library summer 2009 photo contest.*

*(photo: courtesy John McLure.)*

## Artist Display



Take a tour of the new art display featuring oil paintings by Sonja Vaccari. They are an impressive hybrid of traditional folk and modern styles using portraits, landscapes and seascapes, floral arrangements and farm animals as subjects. Sonja's works are available for purchase and will be on display during May and June.

## Kids: Come , Celebrate the Arrival of Summer

On Saturday, June 20 at 10 AM, celebrate the start of summer at the library! Listen to a story about summer solstice, make sun catchers, and create sunshine collages. Enjoy lemonade and sunburst cake. Recommended for children ages 3-8 years . Free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

## MassParks Pass Available

The Phinehas Newton library has a pass available to be checked out to use to obtain free parking at Massachusetts state parks, including many ocean beaches. In addition, Royalston residents have reciprocal borrowing privileges for museum passes at other central Mass libraries. For example, free and reduced admission passes can be borrowed from the Athol Library to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Higgins Armory, Old Deerfield, Ecotarium, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Tower Hill Botanical Garden. Winchendon library has similar offerings and Princeton is rumored to have the largest and most varied collection of museum passes in the area. Take advantage of your status as a resident of town with a certified library. Save money. Visit a museum using a pass this summer.

## Pink Pages Update

**Submit your phone # to Maureen: 978-249-5138**

The Friends of the Library are hoping to update the resident phone directory, a.k.a. the "pink pages", this summer. The starting document is an amalgam of the most recent pink pages and the 2009 street list. Residents who aren't included on either of these lists and do not mind their phone number listed in a directory distributed for free with the newsletter to all town residents should call Maureen at 249-5138 and leave a message of full name, address, and phone #. Thanks.

## Some of the New Books June 2009

### New Adult Fiction

Baldacci, David *First Family*  
 Barnard, Robert *The Killings on Jubilee Terrace*  
 Berg, Elizabeth *Home Safe*  
 Bond, Stephanie *4 Bodies and a Funeral*  
 Bond, Stephanie *5 Bodies to Die for*  
 Child, Lee *Gone Tomorrow*  
 Dallas, Sandra *Prayers for Sale*  
 Greenwood, Kerry *Devil's Food*  
 Haddam, Jane *Living Witness*  
 Hart, John *The Last Child*  
 Ignatius, David *The Increment*  
 Jackson, Lisa *Malice*  
 Johansen, Iris *Deadlock*  
 King, Laurie R. *The Language of Bees*  
 Lipman, Elinor *The Family Man*  
 Loomis, Jon *Mating Season*  
 McCall Smith, Alexander *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built*  
 McCarthy, Erin *Hard and Fast*  
 Michaels, Fern *Mr. and Miss Anonymous*  
 Modesitt, L.E. *Imager*  
 Parker, Robert B. *Brimstone*  
 Patterson, James *The 8th Confession*  
 Rice, Luanne *The Geometry of Sisters*  
 Roberts, Nora *Vision in White*  
 Sanford, John *Wicked Prey*  
 Scottoline, Lisa *Look Again*  
 Stockett, Kathryn *The Help*  
 Woods, Stuart *Loitering with Intent*  
 Zusak, Markus *The Book Thief*

### New Adult Non-fiction

Ballou, Richard *Enough of a little to know the all*  
 Barreca, Regina *It's not that I'm Bitter*  
 Elliott, Lang *The Frogs and Toads of North America*  
 Goleman, Daniel *Ecological Intelligence*  
 Harmon, Sharon Ann *Swimming with Cats*  
 Lillien, Lisa *Hungry Girl*  
 Ruhlman, Michael *Ratio*  
 Spiegelman, Willard *Seven Pleasures*  
 Stewart, Martha *Martha Stewart's Encyclopedia of Crafts*  
 Walker, Richard *Encyclopedia of the Human Body*  
 Wilkinson, Alec *The Protest Singer (Pete Seeger)*

### New Adult Audiobooks

Boyle, T.C. *The Women*  
 James, Marlon *The Book of Night Women*

### New Young Adult Fiction

Cabot, Meg *Being Nikki*  
 Hunter, Erin *Sunrise*  
 MacHale, D.J. *The Soldiers of Halla*  
 Parker, Robert B. *Chasing the Bear*  
 Reeve, Philip *Mortal Engines*  
 Riordan, Rick *The Last Olympian*  
 Thompson, Kate *Creature of the Night*

### New Young Adult Non-fiction

Hilliam David *William Shakespeare*  
 Madden, Kerry *Harper Lee*  
 Satrapi, Marjane *Persepolis*  
 Sava, Scott Christian *Hyperactive*  
 Siddell, Tom *Gunnerkrigg Court*

### CD-Roms

*Lego Chess, Lego Creator and Lego Star Wars*

### DVDs

*Bride Wars, Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Taken, and Von Richthofen and Brown*



## Stay-cations Quiz

*Many people are sticking closer to home in honor of the recession this summer. Explore your own backyard. Here are some unusual facts about Royalston and neighboring towns. Match these towns: Winchester, Warwick, Winchendon, Royalston, and Jaffrey with its stay-cation tourist attraction. (answers below). N.B. If you've got clues for other quirky local sites for a future edition of the stay-cations quiz, send them along to the RCN.*

A. In the 1970s, this town held a 25 acre 300 member commune led by a high school dropout who attracted his first followers as he built a tree house, lived there in solitary meditation, and worked for farmers for free and expected nothing in return. Rules banned drugs, cigarettes, alcohol and sexual promiscuity and members purged themselves of their imperfections through meditation and intense encounter-group confrontation tactics. The group created a band, "Spirit in Flesh" with a mission to bring about the message of spirituality using rock and roll. The band went to great lengths to promote itself and eventually played a sparsely attended gig at Carnegie Hall. The commune supported itself through logging, house building, the cultivating and canning of homegrown food, and prided itself on the ability to enjoy life without the distractions of mainstream media. Their spiritual belief system was based on aspects of Buddhism and New Age thinking mixed with an enlightened, almost Gnostic form of Christianity. Reincarnation, meditation, and the power of positive thought were considered to be major doctrines. The group was featured in the *Wall Street Journal*; *Look*, *Family Circle*, and *Mademoiselle* magazines as well as televised segments on *60 Minutes* and *the David Frost Show*.

B. "One of the most beneficent supporters that poetry has had in this country" is buried in this town. This "Joan d'Arc of Poetry" founded the Academy of American Poets in 1934, in the depths of the depression when American poetry was perceived as provincial and negligible. Bernard Shaw quipped in a letter to her, "Are there any living American poets? They have not come my way yet. Or stop! Ezra Pound. He's a poet isn't he?" After the war, the academy flourished, becoming a major sponsor of poets through its awards, grants, and educational programs.

C. This town holds a Pickle Festival each September. The downtown becomes a fairgrounds with Main Street the parade route. Kids march along with the parade, which features local pickle-themed floats, pickle costumes and marching bands. There are craft and food booths and a competition for the best jar of pickles. There are free pickles for everyone. Live music goes on all day.

D. In this town, author Willa Cather is buried in the cemetery of a church whose builders could hear the cannons of the Battle of Bunker Hill while raising the frame.

E. There is an cafe in this town that has a huge depression era style mural depicting apple picking painted on the south wall. (It was actually painted in the 40s by a returned WWII soldier and each person in the mural was a recognizable local character.) The prices are relatively inexpensive, the food choices are unusual and there are interesting vegetarian options.

*Answers to the Stay-cations Quiz: A. Warwick, B. Royalston-Marie Bullock, C. Winchester D. Jaffrey, and E. Winchendon, the Glenn Cafe.*

## Garden Notes

May 22, 2009

The last few days of heat notwithstanding, May has provided more in the way of overcast and damp than clear and dry. Some of you may have bemoaned that fact; I, on the other hand, was delighted to have been able to set out the thousand or so seedlings (onions, leeks, shallots, parsley, celery, and celeriac) free of the hordes of black flies which typically encumber the process. It would be reasonable to conclude that conditions have set the season back, but events have proven otherwise. Those bellwethers of spring, forsythia, then lilacs, bloomed around a week earlier than normal and irises were open a couple of days ago. My problematic extra-early planting of potatoes proved to be not so problematic at all; almost all have emerged. Since I'm on a roll, I may well set out some tomato plants in the next day or two (as early as I've ever done so) and even plant a bed of beans (Provider, a brown-colored seed, the colored seeds more likely to emerge in cool soils than the white ones). I have not gone so far as number four son, Joshua, who has the notion that sweet potatoes can be grown successfully in Royalston. (Has anyone out there successfully grown sweet potatoes in Royalston?) Acting on his notion, he has already set out twenty-five plants, encased of course within (aarg) black plastic which, in theory, will heat up the soil enough to ensure a crop. (It will at least make weeding easy.)

Increasingly, I am micro-managing (read: flipping the piles with a pitchfork) the compost heaps. It serves several purposes. First, the process is accelerated; I hope to obtain finished product in one year rather than two. Perhaps more importantly the thousands of weed seedlings which have emerged are buried within the pile. (Since thousands more will continue to emerge, the activity is ongoing.) Left untouched, these weeds reach astounding heights, mature, and drop their seeds, where I would, of course, distribute them throughout the garden as I distribute the finished compost. There are enough weed seeds in the garden already without me contributing even more. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, compost 'flipping' provides me with a work-out and the satisfaction that the old body can continue to pull off the trick.

It is a toss-up whether May or June is my busiest garden month, but with more and more of my May work being accomplished the prior fall, it is more likely June. Any garden task that can occur will occur in June. There are still some winter-mulched beds which must be opened up and prepared for planting. Seeding occurs throughout the month: winter squash, cucumber, and rutabaga early on; beans, carrots, beets multiple times. Transplanting occurs throughout the month as well: first, the remaining tomatoes and tender flowers; then, the more cold-sensitive basil and peppers, and ultimately, the brassicas as space opens up. As plants grow, mulch needs to be applied. Weeding continues on un-mulched ground. Potatoes will be hilled-up, awaiting the dreaded potato beetles. And, finally, there will be some harvesting (isn't that the whole point of the exercise?): asparagus on an almost daily basis and assorted salad fixings, primarily spinach and lettuce. If luck be with me, month end may even see me sitting down to a meal of sugar snap peas and potatoes 'borrowed' from the early plantings.

Larry Siegel



## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

### Royalston 2009 Graduates

Congratulations to the Athol High School graduating 2009 class and its families, including Royalston residents:

**Tyler Bosquet**, son of KrisAnn & Keith Swan  
**Justin Cascone**, son of Angelica Favreau  
**Stephanie Coulombe**, daughter of Diane & Robert Coulombe  
**Sabrina Crandall**, daughter of Jennifer Crandall  
**Nicholas Creighton-Jones**, son of Sheila Creighton-Gelinas  
**Chester Hall**, son of Sheila & Chet Hall  
**Marissa Kellner**, daughter of Lynne & Thomas Kellner  
**Caitlin McDonough**, daughter of Richard McDonough  
**Steven Robinson**, son of Denise & Bruce Robinson  
**Christine Sawyer**, daughter of Doreen & Raymond Sawyer  
**Shelby Smith**, daughter of Susan Smith  
**Kimberlee Thompson**, daughter of Beth & Mark Thompson  
**David White**, son of Bob & Faye White  
*(ed note: Monty Tech did not want to release a list of graduates before its graduation, so the list should appear in next month's RCN. Also, if we've omitted any other important graduation news, please pass it on.)*

**Alexandra Krasowski**, daughter of George Krasowski and Theresa Quinn, graduated from Cushing Academy. In the fall, she will attend College of Holy Cross in Worcester.

The parents of **Brandon Joseph Jeffery** of 172 N.E. Fitzwilliam Road are proud to announce his graduation from U. Mass. Amherst with a major in political science. Brandon graduated cum laud and frequently made the Dean's List. Brandon hopes to pursue a career in teaching or administration along with continuing to coach wrestling.

Mount Wachusett Community College awarded Associate degrees and Professional Certificates to these residents in May 2009: **Jennifer Crandall, Christopher Deveneau, April Doucette, Diane LaFond** and **Stacy Tourigny**

### Other good academic news:

**Monty Tech 2nd. Quarter Honor Roll**—Royalston  
 All As: **Marquita Day, Michael Demboske, and Amanda Putney**  
 All As and Bs: **Amy Putney, Amber Amadon and Ian Duffin**

**Boys' State Delegates** - **Pat Scribner** and **Mackenzie Bennett** were selected to participate in Boy's State, a multi-day workshop sponsored by the American Legion with participants from all over Massachusetts. Delegates role-play positions and situations in mock state and local government.

### Milestones

**engaged:** Paul Charest, son of Fred and Marsha Charest of South Royalston, became engaged to Lynn Ludington of Milford, CT on May 8th. Lynn is currently employed as a Clinical Behavior Specialist for Seven Hills Family Services, Devens & Worcester Day Habilitation Programs and works with special needs adults. Lynn received her BA in Psychology from UMASS-Dartmouth 2004 and her MA Counseling Psychology from Framingham State in 2008. Paul is currently employed as an Application Engineer/Outside Sales Representative for Silpro Corporation of Ayer, Ma. Paul received his BA in Business Finance from UMASS-Dartmouth 2004 and received his MBA from UMASS-Boston in 2008.



### Luncheon Club & Council On Aging

The Royalston Luncheon Club meets each Wednesday at the hall. Meals are just \$2/senior and \$2.50/youngers. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat at the next Wednesday's meal.

### Recipe of the Month

*Here's a recipe from Sandy Scott of South Royalston. She and her husband Peter moved here 30 years ago, wanting to raise 2 young boys in the country. Now the boys are grown and she has a grandson who also lives in Royalston. Sandy loves flower gardening and reading. The library is a favorite place of hers. She recently took a computer course at the library and reports she learned a lot.*

#### Sandy Scott's Cherry Squares

(recently handed to her by her mother.)  
 2 sticks butter    1/2 tsp almond extract  
 2 cups sugar        3 cups flour  
 1 tsp vanilla        1 tsp baking powder  
 4 eggs                1 can cherry filling

Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla and almond extracts. Then add eggs and beat well. Add flour and baking powder very slowly. Stir well between each addition. Spread 3/4 of batter in a 13x9" greased pan. Spread cherry filling. spoon the rest of batter on top and spread to edges. Bake at 350 for 50 minutes. Cut into squares.

### Economic Indicator?

Congratulations to the folks at Pete & Henry's who, despite the economic climate, enjoyed a record-breaking Mother's Day last month!

## Come one, Come All! Saturday Morning on Royalston Common

## Summer Programs for Children at the Village School on the Common

All programs are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- |            |               |                              |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| July 6-10  | ages 4-8      | Nature Arts and Play         |
| July 13-17 | ages 4-8      | Nature Arts and Play         |
| July 13-17 | ages 8 and up | Summer Art Intensive         |
| July 20-24 | ages 8 to 12  | Science and Art Experience   |
| July 20-23 | ages 4 and up | Introduction to Suzuki Piano |

The programs are open to the public. They are designed to enrich and expand knowledge of the natural world through hands on exploration in art and science, while providing opportunities for plenty of physical activity and making new friends. For more information, go to [www.villageschool.to](http://www.villageschool.to) to download the brochure and registration form. Registration forms are at the library too. Limited openings.

## Monty Tech News

The latest information indicates 14 freshmen applied for seats at Monty Tech. One student did not meet minimum qualifications; one student withdrew their application. Three have been accepted and two of those have completed the registration process. Of the remaining nine applicants, seven are on the wait list for unclaimed openings and two need to submit additional information in order to complete their applications.

Monty Tech's long-time auto body instructor and Fitchburg State College's Alumni Association member Stanislaus "Stas" Szlosek was named 2009 recipient of the prestigious Joel D. Miller Award for Teaching. The citation and monetary award were presented to Mr. Szlosek who met the criteria as a graduate/former FSC student, graduated at least ten years prior to nomination, is actively engaged in teaching, has given unselfish devotion to his profession, and exerts and influence for good among his students. Superintendent-Director Jim Culkeen made the announcement first to his students, and later at the May School Committee meeting.

## Monty Tech June Calendar

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 6/1  | 3:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Practical Nursing Student Career Fair |
| 6/2  | 7 p.m. Monty Tech Senior Awards Night                    |
| 6/3  | 7 p.m. Monty Tech SchoolCom meets                        |
| 6/4  | 7 p.m. Monty Tech Graduation                             |
| 6/9  | 5:30 p.m. General Advisory Dinner                        |
| 6/17 | 7 p.m. "July" Monty Tech School Committee Meeting        |
| 6/18 | 6:30 p.m. Monty Tech School Council Meeting              |
| 6/27 | 7:30 a.m. Monty Tech Freshman Placement Test             |

## Ladies' B.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society will conclude a Scrapghan Raffle Saturday, June 6. The 11:45 a.m. drawing coincides with the end of the Village School's Spectacular Auction and will take place at the Town Hall. All proceeds from the raffle are going towards the Society's three-year, \$6,000 Village School Capital Campaign Commitment. The Society has already turned over \$2,000 to meet the first year's pledge, and will present a 2009 installment that day.



*Sisters Laurie Deveneau and Nancy Melbourne dig for fabric scraps at a recent LBS meeting.*

## RCS End of Year Events

June 02, School House Rock @ 6:30 p.m., Spring Concert  
June 05, Kindergarten Wedding, Q+U get married @ 2:00 pm  
June 09, School Improvement Council Mtg. @ 3:15 pm  
June 10, Poetry Celebration @ 6:00 p.m.  
June 18, Kindergarten Potluck Supper Awards Night @ 6:00 pm  
June 19, Bike Safety Program @ 9:00 a.m. (Helmet Raffle, donations welcome)  
June 24, Grade Six Completion Ceremony  
June 25, Field Day  
June 26, Last Day of School, 1/2 day, Step-up Grades K-5

## Help Wanted: RCS Principal

It was recently announced that, yet again, there will be a change in principals at the community school. That makes eight principals in twelve years. The staff, students and parent community wish Mr. Vaidulas and Ms. Ervin well in their new situation at Pleasant St. School. A search for a new principal at RCS has begun and there are ten applicants so far. Stay tuned.

## First and Second Congregational Churches' News

*Pastor Jeff Francis*

Thank you to all who made our first Dinner and a Movie Night at the Second Congregational Church a success on May 15th. We were able to meet many new faces within the South Royalston Community and extend a welcome to those from outside Royalston. Come out and join us at our next Dinner and Movie Night.

With summer just around the corner, FCCR is very excited as we make plans for our annual church fair on July 11th. We are proud to announce this year's theme, "Summer Celebration 2009"! This year we have many new events and activities planned for the entire day for friends, families, and guests throughout Northern/Southern New England. As always there will be something for everyone including great music, delicious food, fun activities for the kids, an assortment of craft tables, a Chinese Auction and of course the Attic Treasures! We are asking that if anyone would like to make donations to the Attic Treasures such as furniture, tools, household items, or other valuables please contact the church at 978.249.9155 or Debbie Conrad at 978.249.2971.

On June 13th, our men of faith and destiny (Men Under Construction) will be climbing "new heights" as our men's ministry hikes up Mt. Monadnock. We will be gathering at 8:00 am for an hour of prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord at FCCR then set out for the mountain at 9:00 am Saturday morning. All men are invited to join us for a great day of physical exercise as well as beautiful scenic views from the peak of the mountain. Bring cameras! Please contact the church with any questions or call Pastor Jeff at 978.249.4311.

On June 27th, FCCR and SCCR will be raising money for orphanages in Uganda as we join other participating churches and organizations in Lowell, MA for their annual "March for Orphans." If you would like to partner with our mission's leadership team and walk three miles to raise awareness and funds for the many orphans in Uganda on this special day, please join us on any Sunday in the month of June for more information. We hope to see you there.

## Reality TV Meets Royalston:

In the Middle of Nowhere: "Survivor"

By: Megan Wessels



## Upcoming Local Music

**Royalston Music Fest** On Sunday, July 12 from 12:00 to 5:00, the 7th annual Royalston Music Fest will take place at Bullock Park, behind the post office, in Royalston, Massachusetts. (Note: the Fest is taking place a bit earlier this year!) Admission is free thanks to grants from the Massachusetts and Royalston Cultural Councils.

This year's event showcases an impressive lineup of local bands and musicians. The lead band for 2009 will be Guns of Navarone, playing ska and other music and featuring Royalston's very own saxophonist-extraordinaire, Jim Bennett. Food will be available throughout the afternoon, with the Royalston Fire Department tending the barbecue. There will be entertainment for kids. The annual t-shirt on sale this year is designed by Caleb Chase, and features an intergalactic theme! Bring your own chairs and shade; it should be a fun summer afternoon for the whole family. In the event of rain, the concert will take place in the Royalston Town Hall.



**Tool Town Live** returns to Athol this August, featuring the celtic fiddling sounds of Zoe Darrow and the Fiddleheads, the pop/soul style of nationally touring act the Seth Glier Band, the country and rock excitement of Cailte Kelley Band, and more! Also, work on the acoustic treatment in Athol's Memorial Hall has begun, and plans for winter concerts in the newly-revitalized Memorial Hall are coming together.

## Man Reports Attack by Bobcat

Rick Donati



I was turkey hunting Saturday morning 05/09/09 on Eliot Hill in Templeton/Royalston MA and was attacked by a bobcat.

Of course I was in total camo and sitting very still calling to the birds with a push type box call. I was set up in my third spot of the morning for about 10 minutes and had used a couple of other calls I had, just to give the turkeys a different "voice" hoping to call in my second bird of the year. Well, as I sat there this bobcat had obviously been sneaking up on me thinking he was in for a late morning breakfast. When he pounced on me I threw up my left shoulder instinctively which I figure saved my head and face from being all scratched up. He knocked me over as I was sitting there and in a flash he realized his turkey dinner was not a turkey. He then bounded off me, leaving me with two, 3 inch claw marks running down my left arm bleeding quite profusely.

Well I'll tell you, I was some surprised and so was the bobcat, off he went in a blur of fur. He must have been a nice male because at first when he hit me I thought it was a coyote because of the large size, but as he ran off I saw VERY clearly that it was a bobcat. I really had no idea what was happening. Think about it; I was sitting super still, in full camo waiting on a turkey to come in in front of me. When all of a sudden from my left side I catch sight of something coming straight at my head. It hits me and knocked me over sideways and I'm thinking what the heck is happening. It was like someone had thrown a 35lb ball of fur at me. At first I thought, is this a weirdo turkey attacking me, then I thought, crap this must be a coyote, then as it bounded off my head and shoulder I saw that it was a HUGE bobcat and now I am stunned, in disbelief and stand up swearing and cursing and STILL trying to comprehend what had just happened, all of this only took a few seconds.

So, I pulled out the cell phone and called my hunting partner in NH and told him what had just happened and as we are talking I look at my left shoulder and see blood coming through my sleeve and pulled it up to reveal 3 claw marks spaced about 1 and a half inches apart and 2 of them are about 3 inches long bleeding like crazy. Big paw on that bugger to have 1 1/2" space between the claws.

Well that ruined the morning hunt, off to the doctors. The gave me a shot to prevent "Cat Scratch Fever and" a tetanus/diphtheria/per-tussis shot and put me on oral antibiotics to prevent infection.

## Get Lost- Volunteers Needed

Like dogs? Like the woods? How about volunteering to "take a hike" or "get lost" for MASK-9 (MA Airscent Search and Rescue K-9s)? K-9 and handler pairs from area towns, and as far away as Berkshire Mountain Search and Rescue meet at the Royalston General Store at 8 a.m. most Saturdays to work on searching techniques and skills. One-time victims are welcome and those who wish to volunteer on a more frequent basis are all welcome to participate.

## News from the Open Space Committee:

Aaron Ellison, Chair, Open Space & Recreation Committee

The Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2009-2014 is now available for public comment. This plan will define the conservation and recreational development goals for Royalston for the next five years. The Draft Plan for comments can be downloaded from the Open Space Committee's web-site: <http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSC/indexopen.htm>. A printed copy is also available at the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

Please email your comments on the plan to: [info@royalstonopenspace.org](mailto:info@royalstonopenspace.org), write comments on the sheets provided with the Plan at the Library, or mail them to the Open Space Committee, Town Hall, P.O. Box 125, Royalston, MA 01368. Comments received by June 15, 2009 will be incorporated into the final plan.

## Royalston Fish & Game Club News

The Royalston F&G has announced summer plans. Sundays and Tuesdays are 3-D Archery; horseshoes is Tuesdays; trap shooting practices are Wednesdays; and fund raising chicken barbecues are slated for June 20 and August 29. Now in its 62nd year of operation, the Royalston Fish & Game Club boasts a beautifully maintained facility that includes a club house, function hall with kitchen, dining pavilion, barbecue pit, firing and archery ranges, horseshoe pit, well-groomed ball field with back stop, and fishing pond spread across a campus of 100 acres. For information on membership, renting the facilities or upcoming public functions, contact the Club at 978-249-3004.

## Explore Your Public Lands

Residents are invited to join naturalists Christine Beckert Long of Royalston and Lula Field of Warwick in an outing to Royalston's Chase Memorial Forest on Saturday, June 20 from 9-11 a.m. The walk will explore "Forest, Floor & Fringe" – in other words, the features that make this a special place. Chase is a working forest, owned by the New England Forestry Foundation, and the event is part of NEFF's Community Forest Discovery Days. It is also co-sponsored by the Athol Bird & Nature Club and recommended by the Royalston Open Space Committee, which encourages residents to discover the beauties of the town's public lands. Participants should meet at the parking area by the sign on Route 68 between Royalston center and South Royalston.



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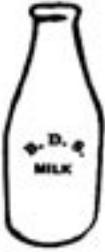


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**Classifieds:  
for sale**

**Fresh eggs** \$2.00/doz. @ the Knight's 31 Frye Hill Rd.

High Winds Farm on Laurel Lake Rd is selling **fresh eggs** for \$2.25 a dozen and thank you to all that have donated egg cartons. It also is selling a **wide variety of produce**. Come on by and we will pick whatever you need or pre-order by filling out the forms that are available at the farm, on-line at [highwindsfarm.org](http://highwindsfarm.org), or at the Royalston store. We will be dropping produce twice a week at the store or you can come by and pick it up at the farm. Call us anytime at 1-978-249-4530.

**Hand knit baby sweater sets.** \$12.00 Assorted colors and great shower gifts. Call Shirley Anderson, 978-249-4013.

**Royalston Community Coop**

The coop ordering schedules have been re-done. Orders must be in by 5 p.m. on fourth (coop cycle) Thursdays and deliveries will be made the following week on first (coop cycle) Thursdays. May 28th orders come in Thursday, June 4. If minimum orders are met for a June 25 order, they will be delivered July 2. Questions? Contact [mbarclay@juno.com](mailto:mbarclay@juno.com) or Mary at 978-249-2598.

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In person: Drop off at library

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