

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July/August 2009



Volume XII, Issue VI

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

Calendar of Events

July 2 Thursday

6:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting**
Pete & Henry's closed this weekend (Just through Sunday!)

July 3 Friday

Earth at Aphelion the farthest distance from the sun during the year at 94,505,009 miles.

July 4 Saturday **Independence Day**

6 p.m. **ATL Trap Shoot at Royalston F&G**

July 6 Monday

10:30 am **Pre-school fun at the library: Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles** – Make your own wand and get wet and soapy

July 7 Tuesday

5:21 a.m. **Full Buck Moon**

July 9 Thursday

1:30 pm for younger kids or 2:15 pm for older kids **Starlab Summer Reading Program** at the Royalston Town Hall. Springfield Museum of Science brings a giant inflatable planetarium.

July 11 Saturday

8 a.m. – 'til Dark **Royalston Congregational Churches' Fair** "Celebrate Summer 2009" on the Common. 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.

July 13 Monday

10:30 am **Pre-school fun at the library: Dance and Move with Jenny Nano** – Learn cool dance moves with dance instructor Jenny.

July 16 Thursday

1:30 pm **"Out of this world fleece" Summer Reading Program** at the Phineas S Newton Library. Jill Horton Lyons spins fleece from sheep and directly from angora bunnies into yarn. Participants get up close to the animals and spin some of their own yarn.

July 20 Monday

10:30 am **Pre-school fun at the library: Stepping Stars** – Create and decorate your own foot path star.

July 21 Tuesday

10:35 p.m. **Full Sturgeon Moon**

July 23rd Thursday

1:30 pm **Rocket Launchers! Summer Reading Program** at the Phineas Newton Library

July 27 Monday

10:30 am **Pre-school fun at the library: Homemade Ice Cream**

July 29 Wednesday

7:30 p.m. **Ladies' B. crafters' bee** to benefit veterans; Town Hall – ALL welcome!

July 30th Thursday

1:30 pm **Home-made Ice Cream Party at the Summer Reading Program** at the Phineas Newton Library. Crank and eat some Martian ice cream and play spacey games.

August 2 Sunday

6 p.m. **ATL Trap Shoot at Royalston F&G**

August 5 Wednesday

7:01 p.m. – 10:17 p.m. **Penumbral eclipse of the moon**
7 p.m. **Monty Tech SchoolCom meets** in conference room
8:55 p.m. **Full Sturgeon Moon**

August 11 Tuesday

Predawn hours now through August 13 **Perseid Meteor Shower** one of the very best shooting star shows of the summer! Remnants of the Swift-Tuttle Comet will be shooting out of the northeastern skies at nearly one a minute. This is a sleep-out worthy event and a time to truly appreciate the lack of street lights – set an alarm for about 4 a.m. "Dog Days of Summer" come to a close

August 20 Thursday

6:02 a.m. **New Corn Moon**

August 21 Friday

3 p.m. **Ladies' B. Summer Pot-luck Picnic**, hostess Beth Gospodarek. Call 249-0358 for info.

August 22 Saturday

First day of Ramadan

August 26 Wednesday

First Day of School ARRS

7:30 p.m. **Ladies' B. crafters' bee** to benefit veterans; Town Hall – ALL welcome!

August 29 Friday

Royalston Fish and Game Club Chicken BBQ Call club for details; 249-3004





Town Clerk Melanie Mangum administered the oath of office to members of the Royalston Fire and Police Departments recently as Representative Bob Rice, the Selectmen, and family members looked on. Masters of Ceremony Police Chief Curtis Deveneau and Fire Chief Keith Newton celebrated the dedication of the firefighters and officers. Several awards and citations were presented. After the ceremony, a few dedicated volunteers hosted a cookout in honor of the two departments. (Photo West)

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West, chair

Selectmen Linda Alger and Andrew West welcome Jack Morse to the board. Jack was elected in the special election on June 15 for a one year term.

Town Budget: We still do not know the exact amount of State aid we will receive for the coming year. More cuts or other actions may be necessary.

Route 32 update: The design part of the project is now rapidly coming to a close. The town's 100% design was submitted to MassHighway last week, kicking off the final design review. MassHighway moved its desired advertise date to July 27! Last year, we started this process shooting for September! This emphasizes MassHighway's strong commitment to get this project moving. This has meant that the town's project team has had to condense its scheduled tasks even more to fit this goal. So far, its kept stride. Selectmen are now waiting for all easement forms to be returned from residents. If you received an easement request, please return the form so that the project can keep moving. Thank you to all those that returned them quickly! Check the town website for Route 32 updates!

Police/Fire Ceremony: On June 20th, the Royalston Police and Fire departments held the third annual joint ceremony to swear-in members of those departments. Representative Robert Rice and Board of Selectmen joined Fire Chief Keith Newton and Police Chief Curtis Deveneau at the ceremony. The members of the two departments were thanked for their commitment and service to the Town. Town Clerk Melanie Mangum presided over the oath of office.

Important New Tax Bill Information

There are two important changes happening with the tax bills for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2009. These are for the 2010 tax bills that cover the period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

1. Preliminary Tax Bills

Starting this year, we are changing to a preliminary tax bill format. This means that a preliminary bill will be mailed out in the next week and you may receive it by the time this newsletter goes to print. This change has been made to help even out the dates when tax bills are sent. It has caused a lot of confusion for the banks, and for tax payers trying to plan for their payments. It's also made it hard for the town and required substantial borrowing.

The amount of the preliminary bill will be approximately one half of the entire year's bill for 2009. The preliminary bill replaces the 'first half' bills that have been sent in the past and is an estimate of the actual amount due. This preliminary bill will be due in October.

Later in the year when the tax rate has been set, the 'second half' bill will be sent out. The amount of the second half bill will be the 'actual' amount due for the entire year less the amount of the preliminary bill. We hope this will make it easier for everyone. The second half bill will be due around next May.

Since the preliminary bill is only an estimate based on the 2009 tax bill, tax payers need to wait until the actual bill is mailed before applying for exemptions or abatements. Please contact the assessor's office directly if you have specific questions about the exemption or abatement process. The Assessor's can be reached at PO Box 126, Royalston MA 01368, or by phone at 978-249-0337 or by email at assessor@royalston-ma.gov.

2. Community Preservation Act (CPA)

Starting this year the tax bill will also include a 3% charge for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) that was approved last year. The charge does not apply to the first \$100,000 of property value, and has exemptions for low-income residents and low- and moderate-income seniors. More details about the CPA can be found at the town website www.royalston-ma.gov or by contacting members of the Open Space Committee. Exemption information for seniors can be obtained from the Assessors' Office.

Board of Health News

Reminder: new hours start July 1st. Saturday 8am-3pm. Closed Fridays. New windshield stickers due July 1st, \$15. New trash sticker price July 1st, \$2.50. New sawtooth for roll off now complete. Big thanks to DPW for all the work in constructing the new loading area. All local vendors were used for materials: Graves Concrete for the blocks and stone, McLaughlin Paving for the asphalt, AHS National Honor Society students for the brush clearing. It was a great team effort. Thanks

Athol Hospital No Longer Able to Offer Free Rides to Seniors from Royalston

Hospital Partners With Community Transit Athol Memorial Hospital now offers its free Senior Transportation Service, specifically to the towns of Athol and Orange, though an agreement with Community Transit Services. Community Transit Services is a local public transportation company already providing reliable service to these two towns. The hospital no longer provide rides for residents of the towns of Erving, New Salem, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, and Wendell due to the decommissioning of its own van. The hospital van had been in service since March of 2002 and reached the point where it needed to be replaced.

“This was a difficult decision to make.” stated Steve Penka, FACHE, Athol Memorial Hospital President and CEO. “We had to take a hard look at purchasing a new van, for a cost of over \$47,000, or finding an alternative. During calendar year 2008 the hospital provided 1,073 rides for our region’s residents, and only 44 of them were for towns other than Athol and Orange. It really is a matter of most effectively using our resources and allocating them to where they can have the greatest impact.”

Memorial Day Committee



Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this year’s Memorial Day Exercises. Hopefully everyone had the opportunity to see the exciting addition of Monty Tech’s brand new mounted color guard, one of TWO such units in the entire United States! The Marine Jr. ROTC’s mounted unit advisor is Brenda Putney, who chairs Royalston’s Memorial Day Committee and was herself, a distinguished member of AHS’ Naval Jr. ROTC program. Amanda and Amy Putney are the instigators behind the unit. They are two of the three students currently qualified to ride in parades. They are Monty Tech students three and four from the Putney household.

Royalston Police Department News

Mary C. Barclay

With some sadness, many thanks and congratulations, the Royalston PD bids farewell to Officer Daniel Wolski, a three-year member of the department. Dan has secured full-time employment in management with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. He also works as a part-time police officer in his hometown of Winchendon and in Templeton. He submitted his resignation, effective July 1, 2009, because he feels he will be unable to properly fulfill his obligation to the Town of Royalston. Chief Curtis A. Deveneau reports, “We were lucky to have a young, mature and well-educated individual interested in starting his policing career in a small town. As with Dan and others who have applied and joined us the past few years, we are seeing exceptional candidates apply. During their interview process, we explore why they have chosen the Royalston Police Department. All of the answers come back to wanting to work for a respected, professional department, and with fellow officers who are known to care about their community. Dan is a very honest, trustworthy officer who will be missed. We wish him well in his future endeavors.”

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Got a Kit? Made a Plan? Be informed!

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904

You’ve made sure you have the supplies necessary to hunker down for at least three days with no outside assistance. You and your family have worked out a contact list and a plan to reconnect through a distant relative in the event of a wide-spread emergency. For July and August, take time to be informed about some of the more likely events that might disrupt day-to-day life in Royalston.

In the natural world, electrical storms, torrential rains and winds (even those short of hurricane or tornado force) can play havoc with roads, electrical wires, and trees. Among occasional man-made problems are those involving the trains, carelessness with fire and fireworks, and improper disposal of pollutants and toxic materials. Also, in this transient society, something like influenza can spread rapidly from one country to the next.

Sorry to repeat myself, but check out www.ready.gov and click on the central banner. On-line emergency planning tools include a section that discusses a variety of potential problems. Explore all of them or a few you think are serious threats. 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. By the time the September newsletter arrives, you’ll be ready for the household self-assessment questionnaire in that newsletter. Look also for a list of educational and entertaining activities planned for National Preparedness Month that will provide you with other opportunities to think about personal and household preparedness. *The only steps to preparedness you’ll regret are the ones you DIDN’T take!*

Royalston Special Town Election Results : 6/15/09

Out of 876 voters, 147 voted in this election

	SELECTMAN	
	John Morse	Chet Hall
PCT 1	62	27
PCT 2	34	24
TOTAL	96	51

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

Royalston in Summer Photo Contest

Get out your cameras and start clicking to capture the summer:

\$50 cash prizes awarded in 3 categories:

child (ages 12 and under)

and adult (amateur and professional) divisions

and winners get to select the title of a book for the library to purchase.

All photos should be shot in Royalston and taken by a Royalston resident. Photos will be judged on technical quality and the photo's ability to evoke an emotion, tell a story or express something special about life in our town.

Digital and/or print submissions-color or black and white- all welcome. Maximum 3 entries/ person. Entries are due by September 10, 2009 at the Phinehas Newton Library on Royalston Common or by e-mail (in a jpg format) to chasegos@gis.net. Be aware that submissions received may be published in the Royalston Community Newsletter, displayed in the library or included in a scrapbook. Photos will not be returned.

Please include this information with submissions: Entry forms are also available at the library or at www.royalstonlibrary.org.

Summer in Royalston Photo Contest Entry Form:

Name: _____
Division: check one
Child: (if age 12 or under): _____ age: _____
Adult amateur (if you have never received payment for a photo) _____
Adult professional (if you have been paid for a photo) _____

Title of photo: _____
Location of photo: _____
Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S Newton Library.
Please call the library at 978-249-3578 for more information.

Thank you

Susan Maki for a great Summer Solstice program.

To the many generous residents who donated materials for the book sale and plant sale as well as those who shopped.

Local filmmaker and Director of Photography, **Boyd Estus**, along with two other filmmakers, Michal Goldman and Claire Andrade-Watkins have donated 3 dvds to the library including, "Murder at Harvard," "At Home in Utopia" and "Some Kind of Funny Porto Rican"

Donations to the Friends

Barbara Dean

Michael and Sara Dilg

George Dyer

Marcia Flanagan

Fair Alice McCormick

Charles and Anita McDowell

Virginia Moore

Deb Wells Nunes

Blast off on Starship Adventure@ the Phinehas S. Newton Library

All Programs start at 1:30pm at the Library except for the Starlab. For questions call the Library at 978-249-3572.

July 9th – Starlab – The Springfield Museum of Science will be bringing a giant inflatable planetarium so we can gaze up at the stars and learn about constellations. Two programs will be offered: one at 1:30pm for younger kids and another at 2:15pm for older kids. This program will be held in the upstairs of the Royalston Town Hall.



July 16th – Out of this world fleece – Watch as Jill Horton Lyons spins fleece from sheep and directly from her angora bunnies into yarn. You will be able to get up close to the animals and spin some of your own yarn.

July 23rd – Rocket Launchers! – Come build gyroscope rocket launchers and see how far your gyros will go.

July 30th – Martian Ice Cream Party – Crank and eat some Martian ice cream and play spacey games!

Starship Adventure, the 2009 Statewide Summer Reading Program, is funded by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, the Royalston Academy, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Summer Reading Program '08 Ice Cream Cranking



Friends, fun, food and a chance to check out books; its all free at the Phinehas Newton Library on the Common. Why not hang out at the Summer Reading Programs Thursdays at 1:30 pm in July? To see more photos from the '08 program, visit www.royalstonlibrary.com and click on the photos link.



Some of the New Materials at your Library

Adult Fiction

- Ali, Monica *In the Kitchen*
 Balogh, Mary *Seducing an Angel*
 Box, C.J. *Below Zero*
 Brookner, Anita *Strangers*
 Connelly, Michael *The Scarecrow*
 Evanovich, Janet *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*
 Gardiner, Lisa *The Neighbor*
 Gardner, Meg *The Memory Collector*
 Greenwood, Kerry *Murder on a Midsummer Night*
 Hoffman, Alice *The Story Sisters*
 Miller, Sue *The Good Mother*
 Morton, Kate *The House at Riverton*
 Pears, Iain *Stone's Fall*
 Spencer, Sally *Blackstone and the New World*
 Steel, Danielle *Matters of the Heart*
 Updike, John *My Father's Tears*
 Wiggs, Susan *The You I Never Knew*

Adult Non-Fiction

- Bass, Rick *The Wild Marsh*
 Boruch, Marianne *Grace, Fallen From*
 Martin, Gerald *Gabriel Garcia Marquez*

Adult Audiobooks

- Beaton, M.C. *Death of a Witch*
 Burke, James Lee *Swan Peak*
 Hart, John *The Last Child*

DVD's

At Home in Utopia, Defiance, Gran Torino, He's Just Not that into You, Murder at Harvard, Paul Blart: Mall Cop, Revolutionary Road, Some kind of Funny Porto Rican and Valkyrie

Young Adult Fiction

- Cabot, Meg *Nicola and the Viscount*
 Cast, P.C. *Marked*
 Cast, P.C. *Untamed*
 Cast, P.C. *Betrayed*
 Cast, P.C. *Chosen*
 Dessen, Sarah *Along for the Ride*
 Forman, Gayle *If I Stay*
 Grabenstein, Chris *The Crossroads*
 Kilworth, Garry *Attica*
 Paulsen, Gary *The River*
 Scott, Michael *The Sorceress*
 Van Draanen, Wendelin *The Gecko and Sticky*

Young Adult Non-Fiction

- Hunter, Erin *Return to the Clans*
 Paulsen, Gary *Guts*

Young Adult Audiobooks

- Scott, Michael *The Sorceress*

Children's Fiction

- Adler, David *Young Cam Jansen and the Molly Shoe Mystery*
 Berlin, Eric *The Potato Chip Puzzles*
 Cousins, Lucy *Maisy's Rainbow Dream*
 Emberley, Ed *Chicken Little*
 Henkes, Kevin *Lilly's Big Day*
 Opper, Kenneth *The King's Taster*
 Paulsen, Gary *Brian's Return*
 Polacco, Patricia *In Our Mother's House*
 Russell, Natalie *Moon Rabbit*
 Sidman, Joyce *Red Sings from Treetops*
 Siminovich, Lorena *Alex and Lulu*

Children's Non-fiction

- Chaikin, Andrew *Mission Control, this is Apollo*
 Josepson, Judith *Mother Jones*
 O'Brien, Patrick *You are the First Kid on Mars*
 Raum, Elizabeth *The Story Behind Toilets*
 Tallarico, Tony *I can Draw Cars, Trucks, Trains, and other Wheels*
 Winston, Robert *Evolution Revolution*



Resident Recommended Reading:

Hannah Bartkus, grade 4, recommends *Benniti Bettina Valentino*. It's about an art loving girl who makes up a club.

Beth Gospodarek recommends the audiobook at the library *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, for long vacation car trips. David Wroblewski's plot is an odd but affecting cross of *Hamlet*, *My Side of the Mountain*, and *The Dog Whisperer*. Like a lot of Shakespeare's plays, *Sawtelle* is about 1/3 too long, but it also imitates the Bard's striking poetic phrasing and sensitive depiction of characters' foibles and motivations. The reader, Richard Poe, is excellent in conveying emotion and believability.

Wedding News



Mariah Mallet and Philip Leger were married on June 19th in the Carlton County Courthouse in Woodstock, New Brunswick, the oldest town in the Canadian province. Witnesses to the wedding were Mariah's daughter Nicole and Nicole's husband as well as Phil's Canadian cousins Aurela and Chantal Landry and Denise Brown. A picture of Queen Elizabeth was on the wall. An after-wedding dinner was had at the Eagle's Nest in Brewer, ME.

Recipe of the Month

Fire up the grill. Noted foodie Tom Musco of North Fitzwilliam Rd submitted this summertime recipe. Tom, a carpenter and designer, runs "Royalston Oak", which specializes in post and beam construction.

He is proud of his two Royalston raised kids, Lydia and Taj, who are making it as groovy, even respected artists in the big harsh world. He recently reported to the RCN, "**Taj Jenkins Musco** has been accepted to the New York University Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Film Program. He will begin the 3 year program in September 2009. Taj has been living in New York City doing film and video editing. His short film, "All Those Little Things" will be shown at the Southside Film Festival in Bethlehem, PA from June 18 to June 20."

As for the recipe, Tom says, "I have been preparing this chicken dish for about 20 years. I would serve it with mashed potatoes, but recently I have been substituting this bean puree."

Rosemary White-Bean Purée

- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus additional for drizzling
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 (15-oz.) cans white beans such as cannellini, rinsed and drained
- 1/3 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 1/4 teaspoon chopped rosemary, divided
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- 2 tablespoons chopped pitted Kalamata olives, divided

Preparation: Drop garlic into a food processor with motor running. Add beans, broth, one tablespoon oil, and 1/4 teaspoon salt and pulse until smooth.

Heat a skillet to medium and add 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add tomato paste and 1 teaspoon rosemary and cook, stirring, 30 seconds. Add wine and boil, 30 seconds. Stir in purée and remaining tablespoon of olive oil and cook, stirring, until heated through, about 3 minutes. Stir in chopped olives and juices from the grilled chicken and season with salt and pepper. Top with remaining rosemary, olives, and a drizzle of oil.

Monty Tech Takes Six

Mary C Barclay, Monty Tech School Committee Member

Once again, Royalston is making out favorably obtaining additional seats in Monty Tech's freshman class. Six freshmen were accepted. Fourteen applications were submitted. One applicant did not meet minimum requirements, one application was incomplete, and two withdrew their applications. Three were accepted immediately to fill our quota seats. Three more have been selected in the second round, which fills other towns' unused seats. Four students are wait-listed. Depending upon their position on the intake list, they may be called to fill seats that are declined between now and October.

Monty Tech was one of seven schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts cited for their ability to teach to children at all ability levels. The independent Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy included Monty Tech's academic coordinator and special needs director in a recent conference on Effective Policies and Practices for Students with Special Needs.



Grilled Lime/Cilantro Chicken

- 4 boned and skinned chicken breasts
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Juice of three limes
- 1 cup packed chopped cilantro leaves and stems
- 3 large cloves garlic diced or put through a garlic press
- Salt and pepper

Preparation: Pound the chicken breasts to 1/4 inch thick between sheets of stretch wrap or wax paper. Mix the remaining ingredients together in a 9 x 12 inch glass casserole dish. Add the chicken breasts to the marinade and let stand at room temperature for 1 hour or in the fridge for 2-3 hours.

Preheat a broiler or outdoor grill. Remove the chicken breasts from the marinade and cook for 3-5 minutes on each side. Let sit covered for 5 minutes. Add juices to bean puree.

Serve chicken and bean puree with green salad.

(Drawing of Tom is by Sonja Vaccari and was published in the 1998 Ladies' Benevolent Society Cookbook, Mostly Scratch, which is available to be checked out at the Phinehas Newton Library.)



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Some Recent Scholarships for Royalston Students

Ladies Benevolent Society of Royalston Scholarships – *In Memory of H. Pauline Smith*- Marissa Kellner, *In Memory of Arline E. Vining* – Chester Hall IV, *In Memory of Dorothy B. Corser*- Kimberlee E. Thompson, *In Memory of Maxine E Wilcox* – Christine Sawyer, *In memory of Nancy W. Newton* – Steven Robinson, *In Memory of Patricia C. Poor* - Stephanie Coulombe, *In Memory of Anne Stearns*-Natalie Whitcomb, *In Memory of Mildred White* – Justin Cascone, *In Memory of Clara Mimms* – Blue Otto

Royalston Academy in memory of Katherine Seymour Bullock Cole Scholarship – Christine Sawyer, **Royalston Academy in memory of Judy Jenkins Musco Scholarship** – Steven Robinson

Royalston Community School P.T.G. Scholarship – Steven Robinson

Henry P. Cole Athletic Scholarship for Students of Royalston – Steven Robinson

South Royalston School Reunion Scholarship- Kimberlee Thompson

American Legion Auxiliary Award – Justin Cascone

Athol Booster's Association Scholarship- Sofia Brighenti, Chester Hall IV, Marissa Kellner, and Steven Robinson

Athol Lions Club Scholarship – Christine Sawyer

Athol Memorial Hospital Healthcare Scholarship-Christine Sawyer

Athol Women's Club Scholarship – Sofia Brighenti and Marissa Kellner

Athol-Orange Lodge of Elks Scholarship – Stephanie Coulombe and Marissa Kellner

Athol-Orange Rotary Club Scholarship - Marissa Kellner

Chuck Stone Little League of Athol Scholarship -*In Memory of James Salavan* –Chester Hall IV

Gertrude M. Hale Scholarship- Sophia Brighenti, Blue Otto, and Natalie Whitcomb

Jason Trombley & Mike Bridgewood Memorial Scholarship- Chester Hall IV

Massachusetts State Elks Scholarship, Inc. – Chester Hall IV, Marissa Kellner, and Christine Sawyer

North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association Scholarship – Chester Hall IV

Robert T. Lanou, Jr. Memorial Scholarship- Stephanie Coulombe

The Late C. Edward Rowe and VonDy Rowe Scholarship- Natalie Whitcomb

Valeria T. Smith Scholarship- Steven Robinson

Athol High School Scholarship Association –Sofia Brighenti, Stephanie Coulombe, Chester Hall IV, Marissa Kellner, Steven Robinson, Christine Sawyer, Kimberlee Thompson, *Lloyd J. Newton Award* - Chester Hall IV, *Meg E. Shatos Award* - Marissa Kellner, *Jean Sharron Cummings Cox Award* - Kimberlee Thompson

Athol High School Scholarship Association Post Graduate Awards- Ashley Bergquist, David Coflesky, Christopher James, Brendon Kellner, and Mieka Melbourne

Monty Tech 2009 Graduates and Specialities

Dylan James Bates -House Carpentry

Justine Brousseau - Engineering Technology

Maverick Guy Couture - Electrical Technology

Amber Marie Amadon - Graphic Communications

John & Abigail Adams Scholarships: Dylan Bates and Justine Brousseau

Also, Marquita Day recently passed the Massachusetts Certified Nurses Assistant's exam at Monty Tech.

Academic Honors at Royalston Community School:

4th quarter honor roll: straight As: Olivia Kimball, Rebecca Tetreault, Tobey Chase, Felicia Tourigny, and Katie Robinson. All As and Bs: Kassandra Frazier, Alyana LaJoie, Samantha Dodd, Ann Reynolds, Ryan Warner, Brianna Cauley, Abby Divoll, Deijah Euvrard-Brewington, Loryn Killay, Melissa Persson, Kariana Tobias, Dahlia Wright., Tiffany Lusco, Beau Guimond, Emily Mangum, Cody Nolette, Kadasia Lajoie

Students that achieved Honor Roll status for all four quarters are: Grade 4: Kassandra Frazier, Olivia Kimball, Alyana LaJoie, Ann Reynolds, Rebecca Tetreault.

Grade 5: Kariana Tobias, Dahlia Wright.

Grade 6: Felicia Tourigny, Tobey Chase, Tiffany Lusco, Beau Guimond, Emily Mangum, Katie Robinson, Cody Nolette, Kadasia Lajoie

Academic Honors at the Athol-Royalston Middle

School: Michele Thompson, Bobby Javier, Alexis Javier, Ashley Javier, Michael Persson, Joshua Roberts, Shelby Bronnes, Caleb Chase, McKenzie Spear, Brandon Tisdale and Mary White were Royalstonians recently feted for staying on the academic honor roll during the entire 08-09 school year at ARMS. In addition, at the 8th grade step up ceremony, Michele Thompson tied with Kayla Chapelonis for the Mary Spaight prize for highest overall grade point average in the 8th grade- 95.6 for the year. This award comes with a cash stipend. Andrew Demboske won a class English Award for his creative writing and Michael Persson won the O'Brien award for being a good student and a good human being.

... Not Only All the Children are Above Average:

Renee Javier was accepted into the nursing program at the Mount and begins her studies in the fall.

Brendon Kellner was named to the dean's list at Northeastern University in Boston for the spring semester.

Peter Kraniak reports that the "Polish boys" who stayed with him recently graduated college in May. **Lukasz Frazcek** and **Piotr Snihur** graduated cum laude from Felician College in New Jersey. They are both in Who's Who in American Colleges. Lukasz is playing professional soccer in Poland. Piotr is working at the US Embassy in Warsaw. Pawel Kapinski graduated suma cum laude from AIC in Springfield, Mass. He is also in Who's Who in American Colleges. He will return next year as graduate asst. soccer coach and asst. resident director. Sebastian Keczmerski received his Associates Degree in Tourism from Herkimer County Community College in New York and is now working at a hotel in Cambridge England.

Community Announcement: Philstock 35

Philstock 35 will be held on August 1st from 3 pm at 13 Taft Hill Road in Royalston. A potluck supper at 6pm featuring Bear's famous roasted pig will be held. All day live local and not so local music will be heard at Phil's garage. The never ending volleyball game will continue to the dawn. It is an open house. BYOB call Phil Leger for more details 617-584-9714.

Royalston Music Fest '09

Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council

Sunday, July 12 from 12:00 - 5:00

Admission Free

Location - Bullock Park

(behind the Post Office)

This year's event headlines the Guns of Navarone, a 10 piece classic ska and reggae ensemble from Boston, featuring a 5 piece horn section with a scorching rhythm section and high energy vocals that will keep you dancing the whole performance!

Other local favorites in the lineup will include, Linq, Colin Boutwell, Works in Progress, Obsession, Nexxus, and Midge. As usual, the Royalston Fire Department will be working the grille with hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, etc., with beer on tap.

Face painting will be provided for the kids, as well as volleyball. The now famous and collectible Music Fest T-Shirts will be on sale by the Arts Council. In the event of rain, the event will be held at the Town Hall.

Summer Art and Nature 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 to download the brochure and registration form. Registration forms are at the library too. Limited openings.

Community Query: How's your TV Reception?

Did anyone else in town with a properly hooked up converter box and a big honkin antenna lose all access to free TV after the switch from analog to digital signal last June 9th? Inquiring minds want to know. E-contact the Royalston Community Newsletter or leave a message for Beth at 978-249-0358 with your gripes.

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.

1794 Meetinghouse: Programs with Connections

There are lots of Royalston ties to the July music program at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem.

The Indiegrl Showcases on Friday, July 10th and Saturday July 11th are sponsored by Linqsongs Publishing, owned by Diane Lincoln of town. Her alter ego, Linq, will perform at the Friday show.

Unit 7 will be there on Thursday, July 16th. This horn-based pop group features former Royalston resident Dave Meausky on percussion.

An Old Home Day Sing-Along wraps up the annual New Salem festivities on Saturday, July 18th and features four Royalston musicians. Rene' Lake-Gagliardi, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Phil Rabinowitz, and Linq will lead the audience through an eclectic mix of popular tunes from the past.

Contemporary folk/pop musician Lindsay Mac has been taking the world by storm since the release of her first album, and she'll be at the Meetinghouse on Thursday, July 23rd. She straps her cello on like a guitar for an emotional and dynamic performance. She's being sponsored by Bruce's Browser in Athol, also owned by Diane Lincoln.

The final performance of the summer program at the Meetinghouse is Thursday, July 30 with the amazing New Orleans jazz singer Samirah Evans and her band the Handsome Devils. Patience and Werner Bundschuh of town are sponsoring this event and hope that you can arrive a little early for the Finale Reception.

All shows start at 7:30PM. Directions to the Meetinghouse and more information on the shows are available online at www.1794meetinghouse.org.



Congregational Church News

Annual Church Fair - "A Big Event in a Small Town"

Pastor Jeff Francis

The First Congregational Church of Royalston is very excited to host our annual church fair on July 11th right here on the Common. The morning will kick off at 8:00 am with a full pancake breakfast and continue through 10:00 am. The craft tables and activities start at 9:00 am. This year we have many new events and activities planned for the entire day for friends, families, and guests throughout 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! In addition, we will be extending the day until dark with a chicken BBQ and concert. Our BBQ will be catered by Teen Challenge Brockton; it includes a 1/2 chicken, salad, potato, drink and dessert for a great price of \$10.00 per ticket. You can order your tickets in advance during our morning services over the next week. The evening concert will be hosted by our worship team at FCCR. All are welcome!

We are asking 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.

Thank you to all the men who made our climb to the peak of Mt. Monadnock on June 13th a smashing success! The mountaintop view was perfect and the fellowship with all the brothers made the day complete. You can view the pictures from our hike on our new church website in mid-July @ www.fccr.com.

We are grateful for everyone that made donations to our annual "Walk for the Orphans" in Lowell, MA on June 27th. The children in Uganda and the Congo will be blessed to have so many of you in Royalston making the necessary sacrifices financially so they can continue to have a roof above their heads and food on their tables. Thank you again.

Lions at Red Apple Farm?!

Yes! The Phillipston Lions' Club holds Fundraising Breakfasts the third Saturday of each month. While their usual site is being refurbished, they'll be just over the line at the Red Apple Farm's new Country Barn. For \$6 (\$5/seniors; \$4/12 and under) enjoy a made-to-order breakfast with juice, hot beverages, varieties of toast, eggs, meat, home fries – or the monthly special. July 18 features is two scrambled eggs with a slab of ham, home fries and a biscuit; August 15 is three apple spice pancakes with savory sausage. ALL profits go into community service projects!

Luncheon Club and COA

The Royalston Luncheon Club meets each Wednesday at 11:30 pm at the town 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. The first Monday of the month features a Chinese auction, the second a free blood pressure clinic and the last "Brown Bags" from Western MA Food Bank. Every week there are baked goods and produce from Hannafords to take home.

Royalston Fish and Game Club BBQ - Aug. 29



Don't forget - August 29 chicken barbecue! Now in its 62nd year of operation, the Royalston Fish & Game Club boasts a beautifully maintained facility and nearly non-stop summertime activities. For information on membership, renting the facilities or upcoming public functions, contact the Club at 978-249-3004.

Ladies' Benevolent Society

President Laurie M. Deveneau is hosting Crafters' Bees on Wednesdays, July 29 and August 26, from 7:30–9 p.m. in the Town Hall. Lap quilt components (provided) will be assembled. The LBS plans to deliver a large batch of lap quilts and afghans to the Springfield Soldiers' Home in the fall. Those who knit or crochet are invited to work on personal projects; instructions for prayer shawls will also be available. It's an informal, inexpensive, come-as-you-are evening of socializing. Light refreshments will be served. Non-members and crafters of all ages welcome to attend.

Society members recently held a "scrapghan raffle" to benefit the Village School Capital Campaign Fund. Society member Patience Bundschuh was the delighted winner of the drawing. That same day, a \$500 donation was presented to Village School Director Rise Richardson, bringing to \$2,500 the total payments made towards the three-year, \$6,000 commitment.

The annual Summer Fun Pot Luck Picnic is slated for 3 p.m. on Friday, August 21. Members and their families are invited for a day at the beach. Details available from hostess Beth Gospodarek at 978-249-0358.

Support Local Agriculture

The Royalston General Store will have some local farmers and gardeners providing FRESH PRODUCE for customers. If you want farm-fresh veggies, freshly-picked wild berries, locally produced maple syrup and honey, call or stop for a chat with Pat and find out how you can obtain these delicious, nutritious and affordable products! If you're interested in other farm and garden products – eggs, milks, cheeses, hay – sign up on the list on the clipboard and you'll be contacted with local options.

Royalston Community Coop

If the minimum was met for June 25, that order will be in July 2. The next likely order takes place July 23, due in by 5 p.m. that day, with delivery the following Thursday, July 30. Questions? Contact mbarclay@juno.com or Mary at 978-249-2598.

Wildlife Sightings

An **deer tick** was attached the thigh of Beth Gospodarek in early June. Even fully engorged and sucking away, it was tiny; it had the same size and color as the drop of blood that can accompany a black-fly bite. Its encircling red ring grew to the size of a half dollar in 6 hours. A course of anti-biotics immediately eased the inflammation.

Eldy and Marion Taylor of Warwick Road report, “**Bears visit all the time.**”





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Garden Notes

June 24, 2009

By the time this is edited, printed, distributed, and read by you, we are likely to be wallowing in the heat of summer. But for now, for now, the remarkably cool and wet conditions of the past two months persist. Daytime highs in the sixties have occurred as often as those in the seventies. (Eighty degrees have been exceeded but twice.) The month began with the lightest of frosts; I did not cover my tender seedlings and I did not need to. Rainfall numbers are staggering: six inches in May, almost eight and a half thus far in June, more than we can reasonably expect to receive in an entire summer. And it doesn't make a whit of difference in the success of the garden if July and August prove dry. The ground is saturated, beyond saturated in some cases. My lowest-lying garden has standing water, a not unprecedented event but rare notwithstanding. The principal casualty was butternut squash, which I had previously planted into a couple of (what became) the wettest beds. The seeds are probably floating their way down to the Connecticut River by now.

The weather's effect upon the garden is what you might expect. The cool weather crops, peas, spinach, and lettuce, thrive. Potatoes are extravagantly green, seemingly at one with current conditions. Many have commenced flowering, as early as I recall this having occurred. Whether it is all a precursor to a bountiful harvest remains to be seen. It is customary for me to note in the July column the plight of the strawberries. This year is no exception. I devote an inordinate amount of time in my patch and am rewarded with modest numbers of strawberries. This year, at least, they are plentiful. But. The berries have shown no inclination to ripen. I trust a couple of eighty degree days will encourage them. They are also disconcertingly small. In an age when supermarket strawberries are beginning to appear as large as small plums, I seem to be heading in the opposite direction. Tedious the picking will be, but I have too much invested to not. I am very optimistic about other fruit. Blueberries abound and the on-again, off-again cycle of apple yields is on-again, the fruit on at least some of the trees appearing in (relatively) good shape (unsprayed though they be). The peach trees, seriously compromised though they were by the ice storm, are nonetheless filled with peaches.

Otherwise, the gardens continue apace. Peonies were flattened by the rains but the roses were not and are now in full bloom. Delphiniums are opening and hollyhocks soon will be. The latter two are so tall and so top-heavy; they require some sort of support. My 'materials at hand' approach is somewhat slipshod but sort-of works. (I encircle groups of them with baling twine tied to corner poles.) Rhubarb and asparagus are drawing to a close. July will be, as always, the month of the sugar snap pea. With the exception of my weekly plantings of beets, beans, dill, and cilantro, all the ground is filled and there is little activity (beyond weeding and mulching) until space opens up. August will make use of the space, replanting that previously occupied by the spinach, peas, and garlic. And, whereas July will represent essentially a one-crop harvest, August provides most everything. And who could desire more than most everything?

Larry Siegel

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Green firewood: cut split delivered. \$180 for 170 cubic feet. Semi-seasoned also available. Call Jim Putney 978-249-3379

Seasoned cordwood, cut and split. \$80/ half cord or \$150/cord. Delivery available. Call Chet 249-2183.

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

Pete and Henry's is closed for its annual Independence Day weekend break July 2-5 and will re-open beginning July 9 with the following hours: Thursdays 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.; Fridays 3 p.m. – 10 p.m.; Saturdays 3 p.m. – 10 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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PO Box 133
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