

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2009



Volume XII, Issue VII

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

## Calendar of Events

September 3 Thursday  
3:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting**

September 4 Friday  
12:03 a.m. **Full Corn Moon**

September 5 Saturday  
6 p.m. **ATL Trap Shoot** at Royalston F&G

September 6 Sunday  
2 pm the Congregational Churches will be hosting their annual **Water Baptism Service and Church Picnic** @ Tully Lake Park in the large pavillion. All welcome.  
6 p.m. **ATL Trap Shoot** at Royalston F&G

September 7 Monday  
**Labor Day** – Post Office, PSN Library, all schools closed

September 10 Thursday  
midnight **Photos for the Royalston in Summer contest** due either in prints at the library or e-mailed as jpg attachments to chasegos@gis.net. \$50 prizes in several categories. (3x5" is a good size. Digital photos should have at least 200 dpi.)

September 11 Friday  
**Diocletian New Year 1726**  
**9/11 Day of Remembrance**

September 12 Saturday  
10 am-noon **"Discovering Asters and Goldenrods,"** meeting at the Tully Dam overlook parking area on Route 32. A walk offered by the Athol Bird & Nature Club and recommended by the Royalston Open Space Committee. Free.

6:30 pm The Royalston Fire and EMS Association **Steak BBQ** at the Royalston Town Hall. \$12 for tickets. Also an instant 120 drawing. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from any firefighter. Questions? Call Elizabeth at 978-846-6299 or John at 978-846-6253

September 13 Sunday **Grandparents' Day**

September 14 Monday **Byzantine New Year 7518**  
10:30 am **PreSchool Storyhour**, stories, crafts and snacks for children, newborn to 5 years old, starts again after its summer break at the Phinehas Newton Library on the common. Great opportunity to get out of the house for some pre-school fun!

September 17 Thursday  
7 pm **North Quabbin TimeBank** will be holding an information session and group orientation at the Phinehas S Newton Library on the common

September 18 Friday  
2:44 p.m. **New Harvest Moon**  
Sunset **Rosh Hashanah**

September 19 Saturday **Jewish New Year 5770**  
7:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Philipston Lions Club B-Fast** at Red Apple Farm's Country Barn

6 pm **Spaghetti Supper** by the Ladies' B. at Town Hall. Tickets are \$6/adults and \$3 for kids. Call Laurie at 978-249-5807 or see any member.

September 21 Monday **International Day of Peace**

September 22 Tuesday  
5:19 p.m. **Autumnal Equinox** – First day of autumn

September 26 Saturday  
**Hazardous waste collection day** at the Athol DPW garage, 338 Unity Ave. Royalston can participate but residents must pre-register by September 18 at on-line at [www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org) or by filing forms available at the transfer station, town hall, Whitney Hall, S.Royalston Country Store, and the post office.

9 am: **National Public Lands Day** at Tully Lake. To volunteer to help Park Rangers complete improvement projects around the park, please call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 978-249-9150 to sign up. For more info visit [www.tullylake.org](http://www.tullylake.org).

9 am **3rd annual Fungus Fair** at the Millers River Environmental Center, 10 Main St, Athol. \$5 ticket for talks, forays and a cook up.

September 28 Monday **Yom Kippur**

September 30 Wednesday  
7:30 p.m. Ladies' B. meeting "Apron Creativity". Royalston women are all welcome to attend. Please RSVP with the hostess at 978-249-8917.

October 3 Saturday  
TBA **105th South Royalston School Reunion Association**

October 4 Sunday **Full Harvest Moon**



## Board of Selectmen's Corner

*Andy West*

Route 32 update: Thank you to all the Rt 32 residents who donated easements on their property. Swift replies made the process move very quickly. MassHighway was impressed!



Drum Roll please...The Route 32 project is nearly ready to advertise. The advertisement design has been submitted to MassHighway. There are still a couple of minor issues that could cause us to stutter. But we still expect advertising between August 30 and September 5.

In addition, as of today, the project is set to be advertised for its entire length. This is being made possible by \$1 million of Federal stimulus money!

Ice Storm Brush: The Board has chosen contractors for tree/brush removal from the ice storm. It has taken many months to catalog, apply, negotiate, and fill out FEMA paperwork. Along the way, we watched many towns' efforts misfire or run deficits. Our Emergency Management Director, Jim Barclay, has spent countless hours leading these efforts. The majority of cleanup efforts will take place in the month of September. The Town is looking for monitors who will keep a watchful eye on contractors. This element is required by FEMA. Anyone interested must be available weekdays and may call the Selectmen's office 978-249-9641.



photo: West

Fire Chief Keith Newton presented several recognition awards at the Police & Fire Swearing-In Ceremony in June. Four firefighters, F.F. Michael Caisse, F.F. Robert Newton, Lt. Craig LeRay, and F.F. Mike March achieved the Massachusetts Fire Academy Firefighter I & II certification after attending intense training and practical tests. Several other department members also have attended the training. Also recognized were Brenda Putney and Sarah LeRay. Putney and LeRay volunteered to attend training on large animal rescue techniques. The rescue of large animals in distress can be dangerous for the animal and the rescuers. The two will act as advisors to the Fire Department on safety and rescue techniques during animal rescue incidents.

*Front (L-R): Large Animal Rescue Specialists Putney and LeRay*

*Rear (L-R): Certified Firefighters Caisse, Newton, LeRay, and March*

## Assessor's Notes

*Stephen Chase*

Tax bills which were sent out way back in June are due October 5, 2009. These are estimated bills based on one half of last years bill. Abatements cannot be applied for until the actual bill comes out. Exemptions for seniors and veterans may be filed at any time.

Any property owner who did not receive a bill must contact the assessors office immediately with any address changes, omissions or other mistakes. It is the taxpayers' responsibility to make sure tax bills are paid whether they received one or not.

Property owners enrolled in the Chap. 61 forestry program should have filed by Sept. 1. Chap. 61A agricultural exemptions are due Oct. 1. If these renewal applications are not filed in a timely manner, the assessors have no choice but pull these taxpayers from the plan.

The Board of Assessors meets every first and third Wed. evening

**REMINDER:** 2010 1st half Preliminary Real Estate Bills are due Monday, October 5! (Bills were mailed June 30, 2009).

## Royalston Cultural Council Seeks Proposals for Artists and Programs

*Elizabeth Farnsworth*

The Royalston Cultural Council -- the folks who bring you Open Mic, the Follies, Music Fest and more -- announce that funds are available for artists, craftspeople, naturalists, and educators! Applications are due October 15, 2009. Our 2009 survey shows that people want more community-wide events such as dances, movie nights/film series, concerts, and plays -- especially comedies. We also welcome photographers, craftspeople, nature artists, and field naturalists to offer instruction for all ages. Visit our website (<http://www.royalston-ma.gov/cultural/indexrcc.htm>) for lots of information about grants and links to the funding application. Contact Elizabeth Farnsworth (249-6771, [efarnsw@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:efarnsw@mtholyoke.edu)) or Lorraine Casinghino (249-5151, [lorrainecasi@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainecasi@gmail.com)) for more information and to discuss your proposal.

## Luncheon Club and Council on Aging

The weekly Royalston Luncheon Club offers one of the best meal deals around and is open to anyone who would like to share a hot meal and company each Wednesday, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Royalston Town Hall. Meals are \$2 for seniors and \$2.50 for pre-seniors. Each luncheon during September will commemorate National Preparedness Month and feature a handout or guest addressing different ways to be prepared for the upcoming seasons -- autumn and flu! Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday's meal.

## Board of Health News

*Phil Leger, chair*

There will be a **hazardous waste collection day** Saturday September 26, 2009 at the Athol DPW garage, 338 Unity Ave, Athol, MA. Royalston will be participating this year, but residents must pre-register by September 18th. It is first come, first serve at pre-registration as we have a cap on money for the collection. The easiest way to register is online at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org). There will also be some forms available at the transfer station, town hall, Whitney Hall, S.Royalston Country Store, and the post office. Once the budgeted amount is reached, it will still be possible for residents to participate with prior registration for a user fee of \$2-3 per gallon depending on material collected. Businesses may participate and will be charged for disposal cost. Call 413-772-2438 for business registration information.

## Open Space & Recreation Committee is looking for two new members

*Aaron Ellison, chair*

Have you thought about getting more involved in town activities? Do you care about protecting and managing open spaces in town? Are you interested in improving our recreational facilities? If you answered “yes” to one of these questions, consider joining the Open Space & Recreation Committee. This Committee, which is charged by the Board of Selectmen with the implementation of the town’s Open Space & Recreation Plan, is looking for two new members. We meet once a month, on the 2nd Thursday, at 7:30pm in Town Hall. If you’re interested, please contact Aaron Ellison (249-6771) or Chris Long (249-0246), or send an email to [info@roylastonopenspace.org](mailto:info@roylastonopenspace.org). More information about the Committee can be found on our web-site: <http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSC/indexopen.htm>

## Royalston Emergency Management Agency

*Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904*

Wooden stakes with green and white paint are everywhere! They mark unsafe trees and “hangers” to be removed this month. Contractors chosen in August will spend one week picking up all roadside debris. During the weekend that follows, homeowners who WISH to may relocate their personal Dec., 2008 ice storm debris on a right of way. The following week, the contractors will pick up all of the additional debris and ensure rights of way are clear of all storm debris.

When that is done, any hanging branches, trees that meet the FEMA definition of unsafe which includes some trees leaning more than 30 degrees (all due to Dec., 2008 ice storm damage) will be removed wherever they are in rights of way. That debris, parts of trees that are leaning and parts of trees that have fallen will be removed at the right of way boundary, leaving any remnants on personal property as they were found or as they fall.

All debris and cuttings will be removed to a Temporary Debris Storage and Reduction Site (TDSR) where the contractor will properly dispose of all that is collected.

## Department of Technical Difficulties



### How’s your TV Reception since the switch from analog to digital?

*Beth Gospodarek*

About a dozen residents called 978-249-0358 to report their lack of TV despite purchasing converter boxes and having appropriate antennas. Complaints ranged over the north and west quadrants of town and a dearth of service was charted on the Common, Norcross Rd, Warwick Rd, Rt 32, North and Northeast Fitzwilliam Rds, and Norcross Rd. Apparently, the South Village is unaffected.

Digital signals are apparently blocked by rows of hills between their transmitters and Royalston for some homes in town. Interestingly, the federal government web-site’s map @ [www.digitaltv.gov](http://www.digitaltv.gov) indicates that residents in zipcode 01368 using a converter box and an antenna 30’ above ground will receive very limited service indeed. All except four channels show zero reception. WGBY (PBS), WUNI (UNIVISION), WEKW (PBS), and WGGB (ABC) are indicated as possibly working here, albeit with the weakest possible signal. Personally, I’d like to give back the dough for my government subsidized converter box voucher and put it towards public health care.

### Broadband Availability Survey

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute is attempting to determine broadband availability throughout the Commonwealth. They have developed an interactive mapping tool to allow you to report your broadband availability. If you would like to report your broadband (un)availability you can take the Broadband Survey at [www.mass-broadband.org/mapping/survey.html](http://www.mass-broadband.org/mapping/survey.html) and click on the survey link. The results will be used to target areas that are without coverage, so the more people who report for an area the better able the area will be represented and show the need for improvement in services. The Regional Library Systems and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are supporting this survey to attempt to bring broadband services to all areas of the state.



# Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00pm - 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

**Lainey Wright and Janet Bettey** for audiobook donations  
**Boyd Estus, Priscilla Dard and Nicole Bergevin** for books  
**John Chencharik and Michael Richardson** for helping with books for the first book sale and **Dawn Riddell and James Riddell** for help moving books for the second book sale.  
For help getting the rocket blasters off the ground: special thanks to **Noah Siegel** for much engineering and logistics help and thanks to **Robert Fairchild and Norah Dooley** for ideas and help cutting parts, and **Stephen Chase** for technical help and the loan of tools. (I really didn't mean to break your drill press).

## Donations to the Friends

**Ed, Cindy, and Cady Boucher**  
**Pat and Jim Kelley**  
**Jess Willhite Family**  
**Benny & Susan Gronowicz**  
**David and Shirley Putney**  
**Sara and Michael Dilg**

## In Memory of Arline Vining

**Martha Brier**

## Successful Summer Programs



Thanks to the generous funding of the Royalston Academy and the Friends of the Library, over 140 people enjoyed some great programs: the Springfield Museum's Starlab portable planetarium; Jill Horton Lyons, teaching us to spin yarn from angora and sheep wool and letting everyone hold the bunnies; a whole group of people who made the rocket blasters work; and home-cranked ice cream. The preschool group made bubble wands with Jen Bartkus and had great fun getting wet and bubbly, did fun music and movement with Jenny Nano, made stepping stones with Jen Bartkus and also made and enjoyed ice cream.

**Allison Mowrey** won the two tickets to the Big E and **Cole and Julia Benoit** won tickets to Kidfest at Mount Wachusett, all donated by the Central Massachusetts Regional Library and Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

## Extended Monday Hours and Preschool Story Time Resume

Beginning Monday, September 14th the library will be open at 10:00 am with preschool story time beginning at 10:30. Jen Bartkus will read a story to the group and there will be snacks and time to play. At times there will also be a craft project to compliment the story. No pre-registration is required and children under 5 and their caregivers are welcome to attend whenever they can. It's a great way to get to know others who have young children and to have a venue for kids to have fun together. The extra hours are funded by a prior grant from the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children. Unfortunately, the funds will be depleted at the end of this fiscal year.

## Photo Contest Entries Due Sept. 10

Take advantage of that buttery September light for a few more clicks of the camera, but all photo contest entries should be submitted by midnight Thursday, September 10th.

Prints can be left at the library in an envelope with your name and contact information. (Please, do not write anything on the photo itself.) Digital photos should be e-mailed in a jpg format to [chasegos@gis.net](mailto:chasegos@gis.net). Try to have at least 200 dpi. Sorry, no photos will be returned as they will be put in a scrapbook to help mark life in Royalston on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Phinehas Newton Library, which is coming up in 2010. Some may be published in this newsletter or on the library web-site.

Remember, photos will be judged on technical quality and ability to evoke an emotion, tell a story or express something special about life in our town. There are \$50 prizes in children and adult divisions, professional and amateur. This contest is open to Royalston residents only and all photos should be taken in town. With luck, winners should be announced in the next newsletter. Call the library (249-3572) or Beth Gospodarek (249-0358) with questions.

## Kayaking from Chicago to NYC for Cancer Awareness

On Friday, October 9th at 7:30pm at the Library, Skip Ciccarella of town will share details of his 1700 mile journey kayaking from Chicago to New York in an effort to raise awareness of prostate cancer. Skip, a prostate cancer survivor, is an avid kayaker and was amazed that people were so unaware of the disease and the availability of a simple test to detect it. Determined to raise awareness while doing something he loved, he decided on the trip through the Great Lakes, the Erie Canal and into the Hudson River; he ended in New York City. Delicious refreshments will be served.

## Library Art Exhibit

During September and October, Clarence Rabideau will display his pen and ink and pastel drawings at the library. Clarence has lived in Royalston for 20 years and retired last year from his job as Head of Visual and Manual Arts at the Applewild School in Fitchburg. He has a MFA from Clark University.

## Some of the New Materials at Your Library

### Adult Fiction

Adiga, Aravind *Between the Assassinations*  
 Berg, Elizabeth *Until the Real Thing Comes Along*  
 Bowen, Ryhs *Royal Flush*  
 Burke, James Lee *Rain Gods*  
 Clark, Mary Jane *Dying for Mercy*  
 Conroy, Pat *South of Broad*  
 Crowley, John *Four Freedoms*  
 Dunant, Sarah *Sacred Hearts*  
 Evans, Mary Anna *Floodgates*  
 Herbert, Brian *The Winds of Dune*  
 Iles, Greg *The Devil's Punchbowl*  
 Koontz, Dean *Dead and Alive*  
 Larsson, Stieg *The Girl who Played with Fire*  
 Mazetti, Katrina *Benny and Shrimp*  
 Pynchon, Thomas *Inherent Vice*  
 Rice, Luanne *The Deep Blue Sea for Beginners*  
 Roberts, Nora *Black Hills*  
 Russo, Richard *That Old Cape Magic*  
 Silva, Daniel *The Defector*  
 Stein, Garth *The Art of Racing in the Rain*  
 Slaughter, Karin *Undone*  
 Turtledove, Harry *Hitler's War*  
 Vincenzi, Penny *The Best of Times*  
 Weiner, Jennifer *Best Friends Forever*  
 White, Stephen *The Siege*

### Adult Non-Fiction

Crawford, Matthew *Shop Class as Soulcraft*  
 Graham, Loren *Naming Infinity*  
 Ilona *A Short History of the Honey Bee*  
 Burk, John *Massachusetts Trail Guide*  
 Thomas, Clarence *My Grandfather's Son*

### CDs

*Across the Universe*  
 Barenaked Ladies *Snacktime!*  
 Clarkson, Kelly *All I Ever Wanted*  
 Dave Matthews Band *Big Whiskey and the Groogrux King*  
*Hannah Montana the Movie*  
 Paisley, Brad *American Saturday Night*  
*Playing for Change*  
 Putumayo *Sing Along with Putumayo*  
 Zac Brown Band *The Foundation*

**DVDs:** *Bob the Builder, Coraline, Fast & Furious, Fireproof, Hotel for Dogs, Inkheart, The Princess Bride, Transporter 3, The Visitor and Watchmen*

## Book Review

*Read anything good lately? Write a review and submit it to the RCN.*

Paul Tortorella recommends *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers. Paul says: A true account of a man (Zeitoun) and his family's experiences in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. While the book is based on interviews, it reads like a thriller. The style is plain; this book creeps up on you though. You will not put it down once you get to Part 3. Then somewhere about fifty pages before the end, it hits you that Eggers just might be a genius. This is a book that probably everyone should read.

### Adult Audiobooks

Evanovich, Janet *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*  
 Hollowell, Janis *The Annunciation of Francesca Dunn*  
 Lansdale, Joe *Savage Season*  
 Larsson, Stieg *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*  
 Lee, Janice *The Piano Teacher*  
 Lee, Harper *To Kill A Mockingbird*  
 Nh'at Hanh *The Art of Power*  
 Patterson, James *The 8th Confession*  
 Pelecanos, George P. *The Way Home*  
 Preston, Richard *The Wild Trees*  
 Selected Shorts *Whodunit*  
 Stockett, Kathryn *The Help*  
 Winspear, Jacqueline *Among the Mad*



### Young Adult Fiction

Armstrong, Kelley *The Summoning*  
 Carter, Ally *Don't Judge a Girl by her Cover*  
 Delaney, Joseph *Night of the Soul-Stealer*  
 Ostow, Micol *So Punk Rock (and other ways to disappoint your Mother)*

### Young Adult Non-Fiction

Buscemi, Karen *Split in Two*

### Children's Fiction

Adler, David *Young Cam Jansen and the 100th day of School Mystery*  
 Bell, Cece *Itty Bitty*  
 Crockett, Johnson *Harold and the Purple Crayon*  
 Kelly, Jacqueline *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*  
 Lin, Grace *Where the Mountain meets the Moon*  
 Lobel, Anita *Hello, Day!*  
 Ross, Katharine *The Baby Animals' Party*  
 Rylant, Cynthia *Henry and Mudge and Annie's Perfect Pet*  
 Thompson, Lauren *Mouse's First Summer*

### Children's Non-Fiction

DiPucchio, Kelly *Sipping Spiders through a Straw*  
 Talbot, John *It's for You*

### Children's Audiobooks

Birdsall, Jeanne *The Penderwicks on Gardam Street*  
 Coville, Bruce *Into the land of the Unicorns*  
 Gaiman, Neil *Coraline*  
 Hiaasen, Carl *Hoot*  
 Kinney, Jeff *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*  
 Riordan, Rick *The Maze of Bones*  
 Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

### Crispy Bread and Butter Pickles

*This recipe comes from Katie Robinson on NE Fitzwilliam Rd, where her brother Steven grows enough cucumbers to keep all of his extended family deep year round in pickles.*

*ingredients:*

- 4 qts. thinly sliced cucumbers
- 6 med. onions thinly sliced
- 1 green and 1 red pepper
- 3 gloves garlic
- 1/3 c. salt

Sprinkle salt on the above ingredients and place 2 trays of ice cubes on the bottom and 2 trays of cubes on top. Let stand for 3 hours.

Meanwhile mix:

- 3 c. white vinegar
- 5 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 teas. turmeric
- 1 1/2 teas. celery seed
- 2 tab. mustard seed

Take the mixture and bring to a boil, then add the cucumbers and other vegetables. Bring to a boil and seal hot. Makes 6 pints.

### Boiled Water

*This recipe is from Peg Robinson, who recommends it to those people who always say they can't even boil water.*

- 1 1/2 cups water

Pour into quart pan. Place over high heat. Watch carefully so that it does not scorch. Do not allow children to stomp through the kitchen or the water may fall. When the water comes to a rolling boil, remove from heat. Use immediately. This has several different uses, such as tea, jello, instant coffee, grits, and oatmeal. It can also be flavored by salts or spices and cooked with many vegetables.

### Royalston Community Coop

If the minimum is met for September that order will be placed after 5 p.m. on the 17th and delivered the following Thursday, September 24 at a time to be announced. Anyone with local agricultural products to sell – veggies, hay, honey, cornstalks, firewood, etc. – is welcome to market them to our e-ddress list. Provide details by e-mail at mbarclay@juno.com or call Mary at 978-249-2598.

### Royalston Fire and EMS Association Steak BBQ

The Royalston Fire and EMS Association is having a Steak BBQ on Sept 12th at 6:30 pm at the Royalston Town Hall. \$12 for tickets. There is also an instant 120 drawing after the BBQ. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from any firefighter. Questions? Call Elizabeth at 978-846-6299 or John at 978-846-6253

### Ladies' B. Spaghetti Supper

Need a little respite from school-start craziness? Just in time, a Spaghetti Supper is planned for Saturday, September 19 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall. Catch your breath over tossed salad and crusty bread, steaming hot long spaghetti smothered in either vegetarian or ground beef Italian-style tomato sauce, with choice of beverages and of course, delectable desserts from some of Royalston's best cooks. And NO dishes to wash! Family-friendly tickets are \$6/adults and \$3 for kids. Call Laurie at 978-249-5807 or see any member.

**The next LBS meeting** is Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Nancy Melbourne is hosting the event, entitled "Apron Creativity." The meeting will focus on catching up from the busy summer and preparing for a second "Taste of Royalston" basket raffle and the annual Scholarship Fundraising Braised Beef Supper in November. Royalston women are all welcome to attend. Please RSVP with the hostess at 978-249-8917.

### Help Others/ Help Yourself

The NorthQuabbin TimeBank serves the 9 towns of the North Quabbin Region. It welcomes new members every week with very creative and innovative ways of exchanging TimeBank hours. For every hour you spend doing something for someone in your community, you earn an hour of having someone do something for you! It's that simple. Sign up for the North Quabbin TimeBank at [www.NQTIMEBANK.org](http://www.NQTIMEBANK.org) or contact one of the coordinators at (978) 544-1869 or [nqtimebank.org](http://nqtimebank.org). The TimeBank will be holding an information session and group orientation on September 17th at 7pm at the Royalston Library on the common.

### Tool Town Live in Athol: free fun for all ages

7 - 9 pm Fish Park (Rain venue: Athol Town Hall)  
Refreshments and glo-sticks on sale to benefit local community building organizations.

- 9/5 The Franks roots, rock, reagea
- 9/12 Exit 18 local rockers
- 9/19 Sister Funk funk, what else?
- 9/26 Samantha Farell Blues





## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. Zap to [chasegos@gis.net](mailto:chasegos@gis.net) or drop at library.

**Shannah Lively**, daughter of Kenneth and Andrea Lively, recently graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, with a double major in psychology and religion. While enrolled, she was a four year member of the women's basketball team. In addition, she became a peer advisor in her senior year. This fall she will begin taking courses for her master's degree in social work at the University of Connecticut's School of Social Work in West Hartford, CT., where she will focus on the elderly. She will also be serving a fall internship at the Alzheimer's Resource Center of Connecticut.

**Sharon Harmon** just sold a poem to *Green Living Journal*.

**Royalston in the News:** Page 32 of the Sept/Oct. 2009 issue of *Yankee Magazine* shows a photo of a crazy quilt, called "Country Scenes" created in South Royalston around 1885. The one-page story references the New England quilt museum in Lowell, Mass. (See [www.nequiltmuseum.org](http://www.nequiltmuseum.org).)

**Military News:** Lisa Basso left on July 5th for her 2nd tour of duty in Iraq. Ms. Basso serves with the 727 Military Police Unit out of Ware, Mass.

## Local Produce Available

**Neale's Farm** at the intersection of Neale Road and Neal Place— again has a sign indicating there's plenty of fresh, Royalston-grown produce for sale. You can call ahead to see what he's got or stop in when the sign is out. Ted can be reached at 978-249-6872.



**Highwinds Farm** would like to thank everyone in Royalston that has been so supportive in our efforts to start up our farm and bring agricultural flair back into town. We really are

moving ahead and a lot is due to the encouragement of neighbors and friends. Particular thanks to Elizabeth and Deams Leonard who are currently getting their greenhouse in order for the farm to use in the spring to get a jump on the season. We would like to send everyone updates monthly through e-mail when we have new products. If you would like this information, please send your email address to [highwindsfarms@verizon.net](mailto:highwindsfarms@verizon.net)



## Obituaries

**Charles "Charlie" G. Divoll**, 76, of Royalston, died early Saturday morning August 8, 2009 after an illness. Charlie was born in Winchendon, August 24, 1932, son of the late George H. and Mary Jane (Gotha) Divoll, and has lived in Royalston for over 40 years. Charlie married his beloved wife Cynthia S. (LaBonte) Divoll August 19, 1978. Together they

shared 30 wonderful years of marriage. Prior to his retirement Charlie was a machine operator with the Town of Royalston Highway Department. He wore many hats during his life. He was a logger and a carpenter, as well as the former Dog Officer, of Royalston. Charlie formerly served on the Town of Royalston Board of Health, Cemetery Commission, and he was a Volunteer Fire Fighter. He even spent time mowing the lawns in Royalston Common, as well as taking care of the many Royalston cemeteries. Most of all Charlie was an outdoorsman, who loved to hunt, fish, and camp. He was a former Boy Scout Troop Leader as well. Besides his wife Charlie will be greatly missed by his 3 sons; Leif E. Divoll and Lance T. Divoll of Tifton, Georgia, and Charles "Chuck" G. Divoll, Jr. of Royalston, 3 daughters; Erika L. McKenzie of Dewitt, Michigan, Alita N. Divoll, of Fitchburg, and Wendy M. Kallel of Baldwinville, 2 brothers; Francis E. Divoll, Ronald Divoll, 5 sisters; Eloise Foreich, Charlotte Divoll, Patricia Baker, Mary Cote, and Sandra Grimond, 19 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was buried on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in Lawrence Brook Cemetery.

**Marion (Creighton) Chace**, 82, passed away peacefully after a short hospital stay on May 18, 2009 in Tucson, Ariz. Marion and her husband Robert Chace Sr. had moved to Arizona to be near their family just about a year before. While they regretted having to leave the home they built and lived in for over 55 years in Royalston, health concerns dictated that they move somewhere they could receive help with daily tasks.

Marion was an accomplished seamstress and cook, beloved wife and mother, talented singer, and member of First Baptist Church of Athol and Orange. Her friends will remember her compassion, warm affection, willingness to serve, her donations of time and service to her church of nearly 60 years, and her beautiful quilts. Her family will never forget her love, her quick smile, her slowness to anger, her kindness to the stray animals that her kids brought to the house, the completely unpredictable picnics, the amazing way she took care of her home, her silly sense of humor, and the way she always made family and friends feel welcome. Marion is survived by her beloved husband, Robert and sons, Phil of Tucson and Rick, and daughter-in-law Carmel, of Livermore, Calif. She is also survived by grandchildren, Robert III and Jeremy Chace and Jen Mannino of Athol, and Jacqueline, Andrea, Patrick, Daniel, and Laurel Chace of Livermore, five great-grandchildren, and siblings Louise Thayer (Gordon), William Creighton (Jean), Audrey Pineo (Steve), Janet McHugh (Tom), Marsha Marston (Ken), and Polly Creighton. Marion was preceded in death by her son, Robert Jr. and siblings Reginald Creighton, Regina Carbone, and George Creighton.



## Congregational Churches News

*Pastor Jeff Francis*

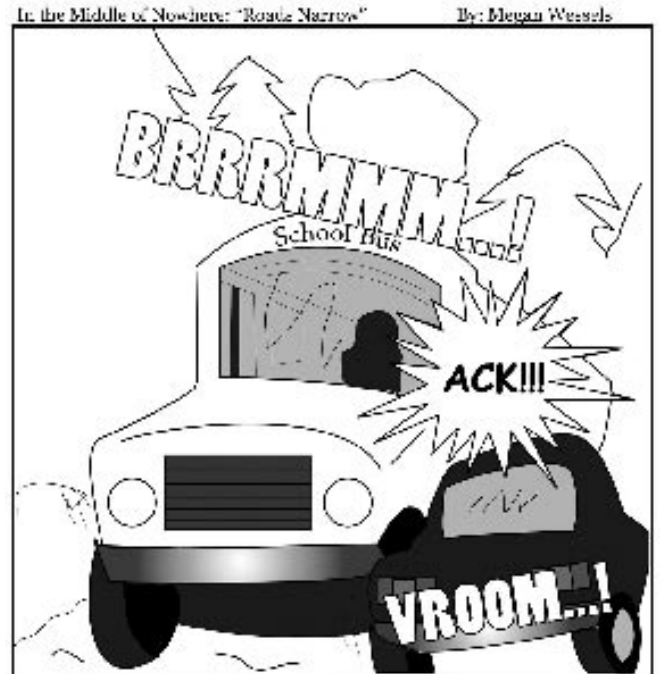
With summer come and almost gone we pray everyone's summer-break was accident-free, family-focused and Christ-centered. As the seasons of life come and go there are moments and memories to be embraced as well as new dreams and desires to pursue. It is with great anticipation and expectation in 2010 that our church will launch Royalston's first "Evacuation Shelter/Disaster Relief Center" on the campus of FCCR. More details to come in the next coming months. If anyone would like more information about this project or would like to make a financial contribution please call the church at 978.249.9155. We look forward to partnering with you as we prepare for potential future storms such as hit this past December.

With the 2009-10 school year already in full progress, the Royalston Community School will be welcoming back the FCCR ministry team of Dave and Debbie Williams along with Sue Veilleux for **Bible Club** after school from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. All RCS students are welcome to join this very engaging and encouraging ministry that is age appropriate as Bible stories are brought to life through gifted teaching and devoted leadership. There are snacks and drinks provided for the students. More info will be sent home with the students in the oncoming days.

On Sunday, September 6th @ 2:00 pm the Congregational churches will be hosting our annual **Water Baptism Service** and Church Picnic @ Tully Lake Park in the large pavillion. All are invited as FCCR and SCCR join together for a wonderful day full of water sports, games and activities for the children, great food, and of course the baptism in Tully Lake of new believers. Rain or shine

October 16th & 18th - FCCR will be hosting our **Inaugural Mission's Conference**. Friday night will kick off with a benefit Chicken BBQ dinner on the common with a guest ministry team from Lowell, MA. Pastor Anthony Triplet will be our guest speaker with his dynamic praise and worship team from the inner-city of Lowell providing all the music. All proceeds will benefit missions worldwide including orphanages, schools, and aiding those suffering from poverty, illness and famine. On Sunday, Oct. 18th, FCCR will be hosting the Zion Bible College World Missions' student body for an amazing day of emphasis on World Evangelism and World Missions. Several Zion Students will be sharing their experience. Following the service, FCCR will be hosting an international luncheon of worldwide flavors, including African to European and South American cuisine. (Location T.B.D. based on weather) All are welcome. Come out and enjoy a day of great ministry with an even greater cause.

## School is in. Drive extra carefully .



*Particularly, look out for bleary eyed, back pack laden students in the dawn twilight. Middle school and high school pickups are as early as 6 a.m. in this town. Between 7:30 and 8:15, watch out for excited and incautious elementary schoolers waiting for their busses as well.*

## Monty Tech News

Royalston's own **Tom Verolini**, evening supervisor for maintenance at Monty Tech, was honored as Employee of the Year at a recognition dinner held during the summer. Tom, who lives on River Road in South Royalston, has been with the school since 1979, and plays a vital role in keeping it looking so good and identifying problems before they become disasters. Superintendent Jim Culkeen stated, "He is truly a great representative of Monty Tech's staff."

Monty Tech offers year 'round, full day **child care** at their "Little Builders" child care center, located within Monty Tech and staffed by licensed, highly qualified early childhood education teachers. Options include full day, half day, and two, three or five day weeks, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for children ages 2 yrs, 9 months through five years. Call 978-345-9200 ext. 5129 or e-mail booth@montytech.net to schedule a tour of this fantastic facility or to discuss options and rates.

- 9/2 7 p.m. Monty Tech SchoolCom meets in conference room
- 9/4 11 a.m. Monty Tech Early Dismissal for in-service training
- 9/10 7 p.m. Monty Tech Freshman Parent Orientation
- 9/17 6:30 p.m. Monty Tech School Council meets
- 9/22 5 p.m. Monty Tech College Fair in Cafeteria
- 9/30 5:30 p.m. Monty Tech Advisory Dinner
- 10/2 Monty Tech Counselor's Day

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## Royalston Community School Updates

Welcome to Mr. Dan Somes, the new principal at RCS. (It is hard to keep track, but he is something like the 14th principal in the dozen years RCS has been open. The hope is that this one will stick.) He brings a lot of experience and energy to go with a big warm smile; he has available a lot of guidance in the form of the veteran RCS classroom teachers, some of whom have taught in Royalston for decades. In the 5th grade, one familiar face will be absent. Mrs. Judy Miles retired recently after teaching generations of Royalston kids fractions and decimals, U.S. Colonial history, and the secrets of complete sentences; she assigned students famously in-depth book reports. She was always willing to give her own time to give extra help to struggling students and she will be missed.



*Dan Somes,  
new RCS principal*

Giant-sized thanks go to Theresa Quinn who is returning as a volunteer to carefully and caringly run the RCS library for the 7th (or is it 8th?) consecutive year. There will be a Scholastic Book Fair from September 14-17 to benefit the school library. The community is welcome to stop in and browse. The annual school Open house will be that week as well. Watch kids' backpacks for more information.

Thanks also for Chet Hall delivering free wood chips to use to cushion the ground under the school playground equipment. (Sorry for your tribulations with the truck's brakes.)

All the public schools in the district will be closed the Friday and Monday of Labor Day weekend (September 4 - 7) and Monday, September 28 is a half day for elementary schools with noon dismissal at RCS.

## The Village School

*www.villageschool.to or 978-249-3505*

The Village School is ready for another great season, with many events open to the public, including the September 30 Curriculum Night where guests can meet staff and see how the curriculum develops through the grades and the October 18 Caravan Campus Work Party.

There are a **limited number of last-minute openings**; there's just one space remaining in the combined K-1 class. Payment plans and some financial assistance make it possible for many families to comfortably afford a Village School education. After-school programs and carpooling coops are convenient for many working parents. **After school programs** at the Village School are open to all children. With prior arrangements, RCS students can be dropped off by the afternoon school bus at the Village School for supervises outdoor play, arts and crafts projects and assistance with homework from 3:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The fee schedule is among the most affordable in the world of professional child care.

Contact Director Rise Richardson or after school program director Lynn Anair for additional information or for a tour of the current facility.

Upcoming dates:

- 9/8 10 – 11 a.m. Village School Preschool & K-1 Orientation
- 9/9 8:30 a.m. Village School Opening Day – noon dismissal
- 9/30 6 – 8 p.m. Village School Curriculum Night




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**Rich DeMar**

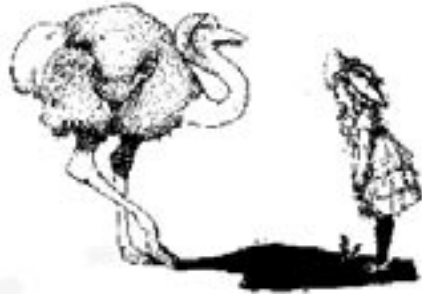
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**Dowsing**

Jon Hardie 978-575-1454  
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## Wildlife Sightings:



**Emu on the lam:** Kate Collins was raking hay in the Northwest field of the Cohen/Marchbein's place on Prospect Hill Road when she saw what first appeared to be a person walk through the bar way into the field. As it approached

and she drove the tractor closer, she realized it was a huge bird. It came pretty close, ran through the field, and then went back into the woods. She and George stopped at the Morris-Siegel's, and after inspection of a bird book of Australian birds, confirmed that the bird was an emu. Later that day, Norah Dooley and Rosie Dooley Fairchild stopped by the Morris-Siegel's and told a rather strange story: a man had flagged them down on their way back from Lake Dennison and asked if they had seen an emu. He had lost his. The next day it was spotted, again by Kate, in the Northwest field at the Morris/Siegel place on Prospect Hill Road. Have you seen it? The man asked that you contact the Winchendon police if you spot it.

Roger O'Donnell and Raeann LeBlanc were walking along the Tully Brook on August 8th when one of their dogs started to bark whereupon they saw a **bear** that decided to flee the scene.

On August 23rd, Kathy Morris was picking flowers in the garden when she saw something fly into the chicken area. A **Northern Goshawk** grabbed one of the Morris-Siegel's laying hens but fortunately ran into the electronet fence (which wasn't charged), dropped the bird, and flew off.

## Program on Invasive Alien Plants

What are invasive alien plants? Where did they come from, how are they spread and why are they such a great threat to our ecology? Noted author Peter Alden will discuss how this silent ecoterrorist plague occurred and what the consequences of our action or inaction are likely to be. This program, offered by the North Quabbin Garden Club and the Athol Bird & Nature Club, will be held Thursday, September 17 at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol.

## 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 Tully Dam on Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. The walk will explore "Asters and Goldenrods" – the signature fall wildflowers of New England – as well as whatever else captures our attention. The section of the Tully Dam lands we'll be exploring is perhaps one new to most residents, though anyone who has played disc golf here will be familiar with it. (And those who haven't will discover a new sport!) This free outing is offered 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 overlook parking area on Route 32. The rain date is Sunday, September 13. For more information, contact Chris at 978-249-0246 or christyblue@juno.com.

## Garden Notes

August 21, 2009

The passage of two months is but a blink of the eye, the incremental change in our (non-natural) surroundings undetectable. My twenty-year old pick-up does not appear more worn and torn than two months ago. Nor does my sixty-six year old body. The garden, though, the garden is another matter. I don't mean to be dramatic but the change in the garden has been, well, dramatic. When I last wrote, it was primarily anticipation of things to come; now I am immersed in those things. In late June I could count the number of things I was harvesting on one hand and have fingers left over. Now, in late August, it requires both hands.

The garden received a new look in late July, not miraculously of course, but because I pulled the peas, froze the remaining pods, fed the mountain of vines to the steers, and returned the brush to its rightful place along the side of the road. Once again, I enjoyed an unobstructed view of the garden. It was no longer necessary to stand in adjoining beds to harvest peas, and the crops therein were grateful for the space and light provided by the absence of the vines. The unoccupied beds were not unoccupied for long, filled almost immediately with brassica and cucumber transplants and bean and spinach seedings.

I do not mulch my hot weather crops until the soil is sufficiently moist and sufficiently warm. Moist was no problem; the soil was rarely un-moist. Warm was quite another matter. I wait until we've experienced a couple of nights in the mid-60s followed by a couple of days in the low 80s. This typically occurs from mid to late June. Around the third week in July I gave up on the notion that it was about to occur and mulched the cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, and corn (but not the eggplants and peppers, which had not even started flowering, or the basil, heat-deprived as it was).

Twenty-two inches of rain in June and July. That's a half-year's worth, folks. One day above 80o. Then was then and now is now. One-tenth of an inch of rain in August (though I've receive reports of passing showers in other parts of town), the ground has finally dried out, and, wouldn't you know I've been thinking lately it might be nice to experience a day of rain. Plenty of readings above 80 degrees. I loathe hot weather but it may provide a silver lining. Perhaps, now, the corn and tomatoes will ripen. I've picked a couple of handfuls of cherry tomatoes but a ripe, large tomato has not yet emerged.

Potatoes, though, are another story. Prevailing wisdom suggests that one does not dig potatoes until two weeks after the plants die. Apparently, I am not prevailingly wise. In my zeal to discover what my digging will unearth, I am out there every day, fork in hand, ready to declare the plant dead. I am particularly zealous in seasons like this, where yields, to date, have proven to be monumental.

September will bring on even more than August. Maybe even the elusive tomato. (Can you imagine a bacon-lettuce-potato sandwich?) The summer garden and the fall garden co-exist, providing multiple harvests on a daily basis as well as the challenge of putting them all to use.

Larry Siegel



### Classifieds

***In need of help – A family – mom and 3 children – in Royalston need a place to live ASAP.*** Would consider a care giving arrangement. Call 978-790-1312 or 978-249-2516.

### ***Services offered:***

Dante Divoll is available to do **odd jobs and/or leaf raking** this fall. His number is 249-3158.

**Backhoe for hire:** No job too big or small. \$65 per hour. Call Phil Leger; cell 617-584-9714.

**Justice of the Peace/Notary:** Any wedding, call Mariah Mallet 978-249-9410.

### ***For Sale:***

**Hand knit baby items** – 2 and 3 piece baby sweater sets, assorted colors. Great shower gifts. Call Shirley Anderson at 978-249-4013

**Clunker for Cash:** 2001 Chrysler Town & Country AWD van. Fully loaded. 20mpg in town, 22mpg highway. 154k miles. 2 owner. Great Royalston vehicle. Fits 4x8' sheet of plywood in back. 7-passenger. Roof rack. Blue Book \$5500. Asking \$4500 or b/t/o. Call Phil Leger cell 617-584-9714.

The Royalston Community Newsletter  
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library  
PO Box 133  
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In person: Drop off at library

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