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# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2009



Volume XII, Issue IX

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

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## Calendar of Events

November 1 Sunday

**All Saints' Day**

2:00 a.m. **Daylight Savings Time ends** . Check batteries in all home fire, smoke, carbon monoxide and radon detectors.

November 2 Monday

**All Souls' Day**

2:14 p.m. **Full Beaver Moon**  
5 - 8 pm **Pete & Henry's United Way Spaghetti Dinner**

November 5 Thursday

**Half-Day all ARRS D Schools for Professional Development**

3:45 pm **Friends of the Library meeting.** Come plan the upcoming newsletter, programs and library support.

November 6 Friday

**5 pm Lantern Walk** gather at the at the Village School for bonfire, stories, and songs. At 6 pm, process on Royalston Common to the Town Hall. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a contra dance with caller Norah Dooley and the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Donations are suggested of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family

November 7 Saturday

**Sadie Hawkins' Day**

6:30 pm **LBS Braised Beef Supper at town hall** to raise money for scholarships to be awarded to residents of all ages pursuing higher education. Braised beef, potatoes, peas, salad and pies, all homemade. Tix from any LBS member. Take-out available. Call Laurie for tix or info 978-249-6903.

7 pm **Open Mic- Season Opener**

Free admission. To

sign up for a slot to play, arrive early or call Jim Bennett 978-575-1052. Refreshments available. Subsequent Open Mics, as usual, will be the first Friday of each month through April.

November 10 Tuesday

9 am **Community Reading Day** at RCS. Community members read from 'Green' books.

November 11 Wednesday

**Veterans' Day**



November 13 Friday

7:00 pm **Fire & EMS Turkey Raffle** at the Center Fire Station:  
1 On the Common.

November 14 Saturday

10 am - noon **Village School open house.** Ask questions; meet students and teachers; get info.

6:30 p.m. **Royalston Fish & Game Roast Beef Supper**, tossed salad, crusty bread, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coffee, tea and dessert are included. The bar is open. Tix \$10.

November 15 Sunday

2 pm **Holiday Wreath Making Workshop** with Emily Putney at Town Hall. Materials fee for the Balsam and instruction. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library (\$5/members and \$7/non-members). Pre-register 978-249-3572.

November 16 Monday

**2:14 p.m. New Cold Moon**

November 18 Wednesday

2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m at the Town Clerk's Office; **last day to register to vote** or change party affiliation for the December 8 Primary for the senate seat of the late Ted Kennedy

November 25 Wednesday

**early dismissal ARRS D schools for Thanksgiving.** School resumes on the morning of Tuesday, Dec 1.

November 26 Thursday

**Thanksgiving Day**

November 29 Sunday

2 pm **Author Amy Zuckerman will be at the library** with her new book *2030 (A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids)* . Signed copies available and free refreshments.

December 5 Saturday

**Jingle Bell Fair** The Second Congregational Church in South Royalston has moved its annual Jingle Bell Fair to Saturday, December 5. Details will be available in the December RCN, or from Luann Simula at 978-249-8746.

### Turkey Raffle and Thanksgiving Basket Fire and Emergency Medical Service Fund Raiser

The Royalston Fire & EMS Association will be holding the Annual Turkey Raffle at Station 1, On the Common on Friday, November 13th starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets for two Thanksgiving Baskets are available from any fire fighter for \$1.00 for 3 tickets and you do not need to be present to win. For more information, call Joshua Morris-Siegel at 508-733-2243.

### Tails of an Animal Control Officer

About six weeks ago, Animal Control Officer Robin Mowrey saved a young black lab from certain starvation. She was a rack of bones and looked as though she had just dropped a litter of puppies. Long story short: After several days of food and water she actually did drop a litter of eight beautiful, apparently healthy, all black fuzzball puppies! The Mowrey family – Robin, his wife Sherri and their kids Nick and Allison – have been providing the entire Daisy Dog family with lots of love and attention. The seven females are ready for spaying and the one male, ready for neutering. As soon as they've received their initial puppy shots and are cleared for adoption by the veterinarian, good homes will be needed. Mama dog and puppies all appear to be black labs, and thanks to the attention they've been given, they're healthy, playful and very well socialized. If you are interested in meeting Daisy and her brood, please make an appointment with Robin at 978-249-7694.



### Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk  
978-249-0493

Just a reminder of the Town Clerk Office hours, which are: Mondays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Special State Elections coming up: Massachusetts will be holding a Primary and Special Election to elect a Senator in Congress. The primary will be held December 8, 2009, the special election on January 19, 2010.

The last day to register to vote or change party affiliation for the December 8 Primary is November 18, 2009. Special voter registration hours will be held at the Town Clerk's Office, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. on November 18.

### Everyone Complains about the Weather, but No One does Anything about it.



### Royalston Luncheon Club

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. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday's meal.

REWARD \$150  
MISSING CAT  
Short-hair black, with  
small white patch on chest  
Lost in area of  
Willis Rd, Phillipston  
If you see him,  
please call 978-249-2557

Thanks to the team at Fieldstone Press for donating the printing of the Royalston Community Newsletter

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## Cultural Council Grants Announced

*Elizabeth Farnsworth*

*Co-Chair, Royalston Cultural Council*

The Royalston Cultural Council is pleased to announce that we are funding 18 great programs in town for the upcoming year! We heard from YOU, and have put together a great lineup of events based on YOUR wishes for more music, theater, art workshops, and natural history. We continue to fund the great Open Mic series. We'll provide funds for kids at the Village School and Royalston Community School to attend theater performances. We contribute funding to multi-community projects such as Starry, Starry Night, Arena Civic Theater, United Arc, Interface 2010, and Athol YouthReach Summer Theater. Art workshops will be offered by Greg Maichack (pastels) and Gordon Morrison (nature drawing). A Valentine's Day dance featuring local band, Obsession, will rock Town Hall. You'll get opportunities to learn about everything from edible wild plants to rainforest reptiles to Native American culture to local geology. Kids will once again participate in the Royalston Shakespeare Company, staging their own play this summer. Puppet shows and an Easter Egg extravaganza will round things out. So come join us for a wonderful year celebrating all the arts!

## Royalston Emergency Management Agency

*Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904*

The December, 2008 ice storm debris removal project is finally winding down. As of press time, roadside debris pick-up was nearly complete, much of it turned into chips and hauled away. By the time you read this, "hangers" should be out of trees, and most, if not all, ice damaged, unsafe trees should be down.

More details about the financial outcome in December, but it's important to know this project could not – would not – have been possible except for the extraordinary support of residents during the immediate post-storm phase. Your contributions of time and resources provided financing needed to get under way, and to complete as much of a clean-up as has been done.

It is also important to recognize the DPW for turning its property into a TDSR (Temporary Debris Staging and Reduction) site, fully compliant with FEMA standards – and that was no small feat! Equipment operators actually "built" topography to meet the needs, including access ways for very large vehicles and equipment, ways to see the interior of trucks bed upon entry and leaving, not to mention places for the workers to safely leave their vehicles and equipment each night. DPW boss Keith R. Newton shared precious office space as an outpost for Selectman Jack Morse, who was charged with the accounting for every penny of cost.

Several folks stepped forward and agreed to serve as debris monitors, which necessitated classroom and field training, walking every mile of roadway in the Town of Royalston (78.8 miles!) multiple times, as well as the use of their own vehicles to sport a variety of warning signs to alert oncoming traffic to the project. Monitors included Wayne R. Newton at the TDSR; debris, hangers and tree removal monitors included Norman W. Carlson, James L. Draper, Duane A. Neale, Raymond W. Simula from just over the line in Phillipston, and Joseph P. Bulger, Jr. from the Royalston end of Winchendon.

## Board of Health News

*Phil Leger, chair*

The 2008 recycling rate is in for Royalston. The rate is 53%. Our ten year average is 52.6%. Great job everyone. The state average is around 33%. Royalston has consistently been over and above the state average for ten years. Recycling not only makes sense, it saves money. The BOH would like to thank our transfer station manager Tony Argiro and attendant Steve Robinson for all their efforts. The facility is looking good going into the winter.

The BOH at its most recent meeting voted to allow a 2nd vehicle sticker in the same household to be purchased for \$5. The first vehicle in the household would still be \$15 for the annual vehicle sticker. A successful household hazardous waste collection was held in Athol on September 26, 2009. Royalston residents participated. A reminder that only clean oil and antifreeze are collected at our facility. Please, do not leave us mystery liquid when no one is looking. Latex paint can be dried up by using kitty litter and thrown in regular trash.



Royalston Police Sergeant Wayne Gelinas ensured required number of detail officers were available to see to the safety of workers on the roads. They, too, often used their personal vehicles as moving warning devices to alert oncoming traffic to the fact the roadways were blocked. Thanks also to Athol FD for the use of the regional light-up message board provided through a Department of Homeland Security Grant.

A very special thank you goes to YOU for making guest crews and FEMA reps feel welcome. There were numerous reports of residents coming out of their homes and offering beverages and food. Members of the Ladies' B. and others provided coffee and morning goodies to get the crews started. Workers and FEMA reps came from as far as Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, not to mention Boston, Palmer and other not-so-close places in Massachusetts. All have commented how much these expressions of thanks mean to them.

Last, but most definitely not least, is the thanks we owe to the members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Karen Posey of Louisiana has been here through it all as Royalston's team leader. Also here from the start, Mike Divine of Wilbraham, who still pops over from his other towns to see how things are going here.

This has been a group effort, the likes of which have not been seen by most of this generation. Royalston has earned a reputation with both MEMA and FEMA as a community that takes pride in its ability to help itself but one willing to work with others when it can benefit the entire community.

# 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

**John Jeffrey** for donation of lots of fruit and pumpkins and a wonderful display of different fall crops for the children's room

**Tom Musco** for books

**Skip Ciccarelli** for a great program detailing his 1700 mile kayaking journey from Chicago to New York City.

## Donations

**Joan and John Nash**

**Allen Young**

**In Memory of Anne and Barney Stearns and Frank Stearns**

**Patricia Stearns**

## Art Display

The entries to the Royalston Photography Contest will be on display during November and December. See if you agree with the judges' picks of the winners. During January and February Donald Shambroom of Blossom Street will exhibit his paintings.

## Upcoming Events

### Children's Author Visit

Sunday November 29 at 2 p.m. at the library  
Author Amy Zuckerman with her new book  
*2030 (A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids)*

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at a reading and book signing just in time for a great winter read. *2030* is a children's picture book published by Dutton and co-authored by James Daly of the George Lucas Educational Foundation. Want to learn about the crystal head that talks? How about some really cool skateboards, robots, holograms in social studies class, or even toothbrushes with built in toothpaste? It sounds far out but Zuckerman is insistent that it's all based on scientific research. Bring your parents and a friend and let us know what you think. A fun event to do on the holiday weekend. Free fabulous refreshments.

### Wreath Making Workshop

Join us on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 pm at the Royalston Town Hall for a holiday balsam wreath making workshop with expert wreath maker, Emily Putney (and maybe Brenda Putney). Each participant will make a wreath to take home. Participants must pre-register and pay a fee for supplies: \$5.00 for members of the Friends group and \$7.50 for non-members. Light refreshments will be served.

## Pumpkin Winner

Ruby Pepper-Eisenberg was the winner of the pumpkin at the library with a guess of 29 1/4 pounds. The actual weight of the pumpkin was 27 1/2 pounds. Thanks to John Jeffrey for donating this and all the other pumpkins.



## Community Reading Day

Thanks to the Athol Public Library, the Friends of the Athol Public Library, and an LSAT Green Grant, Community Reading Day will take place on Tuesday, November 10th at 9:00 am at the Royalston Community School. This year's theme is "Conservation" and Jen Bartkus of the Phinehas S. Newton Library will be setting up a display of books at RCS with a 'Green' theme. Community members will be visiting classrooms to read and do a craft or talk about what we can each do to conserve our environment.

## Drum roll please.... the winners of the 2009 Summer in Royalston Photo Contest:

Thanks to the dozens of residents who submitted photos. All submissions are on display in their original color formats for the next two months in the children's room at the library. Honorable mention goes to: Scott Griffin, John Divoll and Alyce Mayo. Thanks also to the judges: Melanie Mangum and Liane Brandon. All photos will be archived as part of the library's centennial celebrations, coming up in 2010-2011.



Adult amateur- Jacqui Campos, age 16 "Taking a Rest"

### Adult Fiction

Akpan, Uwem *Say You're One of Them*  
 Armstrong, Kelley *Frostbitten*  
 Barr, Nevada *13 1/2*  
 Bradford, Barbara *Breaking the Rules*  
 Connelly, Michael *Nine Dragons*  
 Cornwell, Patricia *The Scarpetta Factor*  
 Cussler, Clive *Spartan Gold*  
 Hornby, Nick *Juliet, Naked*  
 Howard, Maureen *The Rags of Time*  
 Johansen, Iris *Blood Game*  
 Mayle, Peter *The Vintage Caper*  
 Mayor, Archer *The Price of Malice*  
 Parker, Robert B. *The Professional*  
 Powers, Richard *Generosity*  
 Pratchett, Terry *Unseen Academicals*  
 Rendell, Ruth *The Monster in the Box*  
 Sanford, John *Rough Country*  
 Steel, Danielle *Southern Lights*  
 Vincenzi, Penny *Windfall*  
 Waters, Sarah *The Little Stranger*

### Children's Nonfiction

Adam, Robert *Buildings*  
 Curlee, Lynn *Parthenon*  
 DiPrimi, Pete *Tom Brady*  
 Guiberson, Brenda *Life in the Boreal Forest*  
 Heuvel, Eric *A Family Secret*  
 Holm, Jennifer *Babymouse*  
 Mann, Charles *Before Columbus*  
 Marsden, Carolyn *Silk Umbrellas*  
 San Souci, Robert *Two Bear Cubs*  
 Miller, Sara Swan *Chickens*  
 Winter, Jeanette *Nasreen's Secret School*

### New Materials at the Library

#### Adult Nonfiction

*50 Years of Rod & Custom*  
*Halloween*  
 Ackerman, Diane *Dawn Light*  
 Adler, Bill *Outwitting Squirrels*  
 Albom, Mitch *Have a Little Faith*  
 Burk, John *From the Valley to Wachusett*  
 Ehrenreich, Barbara *Bright-sided*  
 French, Patrick *The World is What it Is*  
 Gupta, Sanjay *Cheating Death*  
 Keegan, John *The American Civil War*  
 Kushner, Harold *Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World*  
 Lyons, Mary E. *Master of Mahogany*  
 Niffenegger, Audrey *Her Fearful Symmetry*  
 Pamuk, Orhan *Museum of Innocence*  
 Steffoff, Rebecca *George H.W. Bush, 41st President*  
 Schmidt, Gary *William Bradford*

#### Adult Audiobooks

Ackerman, Diane *Dawn Light: Dancing with Cranes*  
 Kushner, Harold *Conquering Fear*  
 Niffenegger, Audrey *Her Fearful Symmetry*

#### DVD

*Ghosts of Girlfriends Past*  
*Little John*  
*Monsters vs. Aliens*  
*My Life in Ruins*

### Young Adult Fiction

Barron, T.A. *Merlin's Dragon*  
 Beddor, Frank *Archenemy*  
 Block, Francesca *Pretty Dead*  
 Bray, Libba *Going Bovine*  
 Cashore, Kristin *Fire*  
 Cohn, Rachel *The Steps*  
 Griffin, Paul *Ten Mile River*  
 Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*  
 Lynch, Chris *Inexcusable*  
 Meyer, L.A. *Rapture of the Deep*  
 Rennison, Louise *Are These My Babysittas I See Before Me?*  
 Tolan, Stephanie *Surviving the Applewhites*  
 Westerfeld, Scott *Leviathan*

### Children's Fiction

Bredsdorff, Bodil *Eidi*  
 Cleary, Beverly *My Own Two Feet*  
 Coville, Bruce *A Glory of Unicorns*  
 Huget, Jennifer *Thanks a lot, Emily Post!*  
 Ibbotson, Eva *Dial-a-ghost*  
 Kinney, Jeff *Diary of a Wimpy Kid 4*  
 Murphy, Jim *The Journal of James Edmond Pease, a Civil War Union Soldier*  
 Myracle, Lauren *Luv Ya Bunches*  
 Stewart, Trenton *The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma*  
 Willems, Mo *Pigs Make Me Sneeze!*



Children's division - Anthony Divoll, age 6, "Morning Glory"



Professional division - Kathy Chencharik  
 "Off the Beaten Track"

## Royalston Community School November Calendar

1/2 day Nov. 5 all schools, Kindergarten has school  
Parent/Teacher Conf. Nov.9 @ 6-7:30pm  
and Nov. 10 @ 3:30 - 5:00pm  
Nov. 12, Community Reading Day, looking for Community Readers. Please call the school (978-249-2900 )if you would like to read to a class of students.  
Nov.17, Picture re-takes  
Nov.18, 1/2 day no Kindergarten  
Nov.20, Officer Phil Program K-4  
Nov.25, 1/2 day all schools, Kindergarten has school  
Nov.26 + 27, No school  
Nov.30, No school

## Money for Enrichment Projects in the Athol-Royalston Public Schools Available through A-REF



Funding for the hugely successful “family clay night” at the Royalston Community School was just one of a dozen mini-grants distributed to teachers and community members by the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation last year. Others included an after-school nature club, local author and artist visits to classes, family zumba sessions and poetry nights, a winter carnival and a series of nature field trip collaborations with the Athol senior center.

A new funding cycle has begun. Applications for mini-grants (for amounts up to \$1000 each) to fund enrichment projects outside school budgets in the Athol-Royalston Regional School district are due by Nov. 6, 2009 to A-REF. PO Box 149, Athol 01331. Any money undistributed this fall will be available for a 2nd round of awards. Applications for the 2nd round are due Jan. 15, 2010. Copies of the application form are available in every ARRS school office and on-line at [www.a-ref.org](http://www.a-ref.org). Support for these projects comes from membership donations and special events like the recent Oktoberfest. For information about mini-grants, becoming a member or upcoming events, please contact any board member, which in Royalston includes Melanie Mangum, Laurie Deveneau, Nancy Melbourne or Beth Gospodarek at 978-249-0358, or visit the web-site. Pictured: Hannah and Jen Bartkus

## Monty Tech News

*Mary C Barclay*

Monty Tech’s After Hours Tutoring Program has begun for any students who wish to improve their academic skills. Tutoring takes place from 3 – 4 p.m. and is led by highly qualified, content-certified teachers. Late busses are provided. No excuses! If you’re having difficulty with any subject, NOW is the time to address it.

VIPS, Vocational Interest Programs, have also begun. These three sessions, each two hours a week for six weeks, are aimed at 7th and 8th graders. VIPS participants will each experience a brief “exploratory” in six trades/professions, create something or take part in a project. The experience helps students decide if Monty Tech is the right place for them to attend high School.

*Save the Date:*

- 11/3 No Classes at Monty Tech for In-Service  
7 p.m. Monty Tech SchoolCom in conference room
- 11/5 6 p.m. Monty Tech Fall Sports Awards Night
- 11/6 Monty Tech ends first marking period
- 11/12 6 p.m. Monty Tech Fall Sports Awards Night
- 11/19 6 p.m. Parents’ Night for 10th & 12th grades  
6:30 p.m. Monty Tech School Council Meeting in MT library

## Lantern Walk Celebration Friday November 6

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

**Open House** Saturday November 14 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come meet the teachers, visit with parents, see the classrooms, talk to alumni, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered. Get a taste of what is so compelling about the school that parents drive for miles to bring their children! Bring your children to join in activities in the classrooms. Find out about openings for this year and next. See the Village School website for more information [www.villageschool.to](http://www.villageschool.to)

**Book Fair:** The Village School hosts a book fair of excellent children’s books, picked by staff and parents alike, with the help of Bruce’s Browser. Come in anytime, during school hours and purchase books. It starts on November 23 and 24, and goes the whole week of November 30 to December 5.

## Good Food for Good Local Causes:

### Spaghetti at Pete and Henry's on Nov. 2

Don't forget; spaghetti at Pete & Henry's Monday, November 2, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. for the United Way. Walk-ins are welcome – no reservations needed. Also, Pete & Henry's closes Sunday, November 29, 2009 for its holiday hiatus. Those who want to purchase gift certificates for the holidays should do so quickly! Call 978-249-9845 or 978-249-8375.



### Ladies'B. Braised Beef on Nov. 7

Mary C. Barclay, secretary

Lists are being made and checked for the annual holiday baskets. If you know someone who would like to be remembered by the ladies, please call president Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807.

November's big event is the annual **Braised Beef Dinner for Scholarships** on Saturday, November 7, with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Dinner begins with homemade breads and is followed by the Ladies' signature marinated carrots, mashed potatoes and melt-in-your-mouth braised beef. Brenda L. Putney is again the chief cook, and has her order in to Adam's Farm for the special blend of meats for this spectacular meal. All profits from tickets, \$12/ adults and \$5/children 8 and under go to scholarships and scholastic grants for Royalston residents. Graduates of public, private and home school, as well as adults returning to school have been recipients of LBS scholarships. Last May, the LBS granted nine scholarships, totaling \$1,800. This dinner is the Society's main fundraising event, and future scholarships depend on its success. Make it an evening. Open mic to follow.



### Roast Beef at the Royalston Fish and Game Club on Nov. 14

It's that time of year again – time for the F&G club's monthly roast beef suppers. November's supper is slated for Saturday, November 14 with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Dinner begins with tossed salad and crusty bread. Moist, tender roast beef in varying degrees of doneness is served up family style along with mashed potatoes, rich gravy and green beans. Coffee, tea and dessert are included. The bar, with its full range of beverages, will be open throughout. Funds from the \$10 tickets go to support the facility, which is the site of the annual Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby (open to the public) and an array of private and organizational events. Dinner Tickets are somewhat limited, so it's best to reserve in advance. Call the Club at 978-249-3004 on a Tuesday or Thursday evening to save seats for the supper.

## Two Venues for Melanie and the Blue Shots

November 7 open mic (after the LBS braised beef supper in the town hall.)

Nov. 14 at the "Bicycle Blues", First Parish, Universalist Church at the corner of Elm and Pleasant in Malden to benefit the "Bike to the Sea Northern Strand Community Trail"

## Who are the People in your Neighborhood?

### Melanie Mangum, a Star is Born

Growing up in Malden, Melanie Moore Mangum always wanted to live in a small town in the country. "I love it. So many interesting people live here," said Mangum, Royalston's town clerk. She lives in South Royalston with her husband Jeff and daughter Emily. She never dreamed she would become the headliner singer in a blues band. "It's blues, but we don't sing 'My wife and dog left me blues.' We are upbeat. We want to get you up dancing. Most of the band is from Royalston. Our manager who plays sax, Jim Bennett, has his own band, Tabasco Fiasco. Our rhythm guitarist Noah Siegel is a mushroom expert. Phil Leger on drums is Board of Health chairman for four towns. Matt Hickler, bass and vocals, is a professional biologist." Two more band members, Jim McCrae on keys and vocals, and Al D' Ambra on guitar, live in nearby central Massachusetts communities.

How did all this talent come together in one small town? Open Mic at the Town Hall is the answer. Kathy, the town librarian, sent Mangum over because one of the bands needed a singer. Manager Bennett remembers that first day. "We were doing a song Melanie had never heard. It was a tricky one, but she nailed it first time through. She is an incredibly quick study, always right on. She's funny and charismatic, too." Mangum readily admits she doesn't read music like the other band members. "If I hear it once, I can sing it."

All that musical talent comes through the Moore side of the family, all self-taught. Mangum's grandfather, Wes Moore, was a big musical influence in her life. She grew up in Malden listening to Glen Miller and Broadway show tunes at her grandparents' house. She and her grandfather sang barbershop quartet together in the car, and she remembers when he took her on the train to Boston to see "Annie" and have a hot fudge sundae at Bailey's. "I wanted to be Annie," reminisced Mangum. "I liked acting in plays and going to movies at the Granada Theatre in Malden Square. I never sang in public. When I first started with the band, I was petrified. I had my hands in my pocket when I performed. Now I found out I like being on stage." said Mangum, "And I never would have gotten involved if the librarian hadn't told me."



## Memorials

**Jane L. Newton**, 96, of 821 Daniel Shays Hwy., died Monday, Sept. 27, 2009 at Quabbin Valley Healthcare.

Jane was born in Royalston, June 22, 1913, the daughter of Leon R. and Elizabeth (Sonn) Newton. She graduated from Murdock Academy in Winchendon in 1934 and attended New England Conservatory of Music for three years. She was brought up in Royalston, later moving to Framingham where she lived for 30 years, Worcester for 27 years and Athol since 1995.

Jane worked for Fenwal Electric Company for over 30 years until her retirement in 1972. She had previously worked for Farm and Garden on Tremont Street in Boston, Woman's Industrial Union on Newbury Street and for Allen's Department Store.

Jane was a very active person throughout her life, putting on many concerts for the Worcester and Holden Woman's Club. She was a great lover of music, was a member of the Worcester Horticultural Society for 27 years, Worcester Woman's Club, and the Worcester and Chaffin's Woman's Club in Holden.

She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Royalston and since moving to Athol attended the Athol Congregational Church. Jane had many flower gardens on her property, raising over 100 hybrid lilies. She was an exhibitor at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and in the 1960's won a blue ribbon for the best crown lily. She was a member of the Athol Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, she sang in church choirs in Royalston, Framingham and Worcester for over 50 years and also was a member of the Business and Professional Woman's Club of Worcester.

She leaves her nephew, Richard A. Brown of Royalston, a niece, Nancy Pacocha of Lanesboro and several other nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two sisters, Gertrude E. Brown and Annette Ryno and two brothers, Willard and Harold Newton.

A private burial will be held in the family lot at Lawrence Brook Cemetery in Royalston. Memorial donations can be made to the Quabbin Valley Healthcare Activities Fund, 821 Daniel Shays Hwy., Athol, Mass. 01331.

## Pink Pages Correction

Jackie Fletcher reports that since her family moved to Royalston over 3 years ago, it has been getting phone calls for a woman named "Barbara" at least 1 x per week due to an error in the old Pink Pages phone list. Unfortunately, Barbara cannot be reached at 978-249-7413. Perhaps one of these days, a new Pink Pages will be produced by the Friends of the Library, but until then, please try to find another way to reach Barbara.

## Frank Stearns

Frank Stearns, son of the late Anne and Barney Stearns and husband of Patricia Stearns died of cancer on February 4, 2009. He was 67 and well known for his interest in music and his many years as an organist and choir director as well as other musical groups. He was an avid supporter of the library and made many significant donations to the library and the Friends.

**Teresa J. (Flematti) Burgess**, 94, of South Royalston, died Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, in the Heywood Hospital, Gardner.

She was born in South Royalston on May 11, 1915, the daughter of the late Antonio and the late Maria (Rinaldi) Flematti. Mrs. Burgess was a lifelong resident of South Royalston and attended Athol High School. She worked for many local manufacturers as an assembler in quality control, including the former N. D. Cass Company, the former Union Twist Drill, and the L.S. Starrett Tool Company. She later worked for Simplex in Gardner for many years until her retirement.

Mrs. Burgess was a member of the AARP, Templeton Golden Agers, Royalston Center for Aging, and was a former 4H Club Leader. She was a founding member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church in South Royalston. Her hobbies included making hooked rugs, sewing, knitting, and crocheting. She enjoyed baking apple and blueberry pies, tending to her flower gardens, and taking her white dog, Sha-Sha, for walks. She also enjoyed vacationing with her husband to several destinations over the years, including Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and Italy.

She leaves two daughters, Diane Snow of Nashua, N.H., and Terri Bates of Peabody; two sisters, Rita Fogg, and Rosetta Joly, both of Athol; one grandson, Alan Dahlqvist, of California, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Leslie I. Burgess, on Aug. 3, 2001; by two brothers, John Flematti and Nick Flematti; by three sisters, Mary Schmidt Richard, Anna Rousseau, and Bruna Bowers; and by her son-in-law, Raymond Bates, in 2008.



## Royalston Community Coop

If the minimum is met for November that order will be placed after 5 p.m. on the 12th and delivered the following Thursday, November 19 at a time to be announced. This will most likely be the last order before Christmas. Provide details by e-mail at mcburclay@juno.com or call Mary at 978-249-2598.

*ed. note: With the passing of Jane Newton, Frank Stearnes and Theresa Burgess recently, the town has lost quite a bit of institutional memory. All three maintained albums of town photos and clippings and contributed wonderful stories to the Town Scrapbook project, which the Friends of the Library compiled at the turn of the Century.*

Jane told of the hub-bub of Newton Hollow in the years she was growing up. The mill cut and hauled trees and turned spindles for the factories manufacturing chairs in Gardner. Summers, she had fond memories of inviting her mother to "tea parties" in the yard where she in her siblings served her mother carrots and other vegetables they'd harvested from the garden served up on maple leaves. When older, she picked blueberries for Mrs Raymond on the Common for 5 cents/qt and sold copies of *Bartlett's History of Royalston* door-to-door for \$2/copy. She also took painting lessons from Winnifred Burr. Jane recounted her uncle Phinehas's tales of his trip to the 1900 Chicago Exposition where he saw electric lights, a ferris wheel and an Eskimo. He claimed to have tried every type of pie available- all at one meal.

Frank wrote a tribute to his parents Anne and Barney Stearns for the Town Scrapbook, honoring their service to the Town. Barney served on the Board of Assessors for decades and was known for "putting in a good word" for Royalston customers when he worked as an officer at 1st National Bank in Athol. Anne was active in the LBS, the Grange and was the office manager of the Athol Daily News for 30 years.

Theresa and Les Burgess were a font of town knowledge. Theresa was born in the same room in the house on Blossom St, where Marissa Kellner was born 80 years later. As a young girl, the family moved to a duplex on Pleasant St, which Theresa claimed was like the United Nations: Italian, German, English and Finnish spoken. The kids all played together but the adults, while neighborly, sometimes had a hard time communicating. Theresa and her husband were involved in the conservation projects in the Birch Hill Reservation. She remembered a lovely picnic area on Priest Brook, which was destroyed by the '38 flood. She worked in the mills and took advantage of the nearby train to get to the movies in Athol or shopping in Gardner. Theresa was quick to laugh and was always game to try anything once. She was happily married for over half a century, and in Molly Smith and Irene Neale had dear friends in her own neighborhood for most of her long life.

## 2 Haiku from the RCS Poetry Club:

Frogs hop across light  
Green lily pads, logs, wet rocks  
Croak, rib-bit, rib-bit

Brown, sticky, yummy  
Warm, stretchy, delicious treat  
Sweet caramel apples

*The poets who composed these are, Cole Benoit, Juliann Trenga, Aliyah Neale, Jocelyn Trenga, Molly Divoll, Tayaih Neale, Matthew Davis, Kevin O'Connor, Ashley Hadmack, Gabriel Dawson, Anthony Divoll, and Ava Leblanc.*

## 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.

Congratulations to these seniors at Athol High School who received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, which provides free tuition to state colleges and university based on high MCAS scores: **Alyssa Bergquist, Larissa Erickson, Patrick Scribner, Hillary Whitcomg and Noah Easton.**

**Emily Mangum** received a perfect 280 score on her 6th grade English Language Arts MCAS test from last spring and **Caleb Chase** received a perfect score on his 8th grade science MCAS.

**Life Savers:** An awards ceremony was held recently to recognize the actions of a group of people, who together, saved the life of former selectman Roger LaBlanc as he suffered a heart attack. Royalston **EMT Joshua Morris-Siegel, Cadet Rebecca Krause-Hardie, fire-fighter Jim Barclay and Fire Chief Keith Newton** were honored as well as families and neighbors.

**Nancy Melbourne** recently joined the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee.

## Recipe of the Month

Melanie Mangum's easy crockpot recipe for:

### Old Married Chicken

The cook says, "Ok, so the real recipe is Rosemary Chicken, but the first time I made this, my husband asked what was in the crockpot. Either I mumbled, or he's losing his hearing, because "Old Married Chicken" was what he heard. I picked this up in a cooking magazine and altered it slightly - mainly eliminating celery because we aren't big fans. If you don't mind celery, you can add a 1/2 cup."

- 6 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (6 oz. each)
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 cans (15.5 oz each) great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup sliced fresh carrots
- 2/3 cup Italian salad dressing
- 2 teaspoons dried rosemary, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon fresh ground pepper



In a skillet, brown chicken in oil in batches on both sides. Place beans, carrots (and celery if you're using it), in a 5 qt. slow cooker; top with the chicken.

Combine the salad dressing, rosemary, salt and pepper and pour over chicken. Cover and cook on low for 3-4 hours or until chicken juices run clear. Makes 6 servings.

### Wildlife Sightings

A **bobcat** was spotted mid-October on South Royalston Road, just north of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel. It crossed the road, but stopped long enough just off the road's edge for Jim and Mary Barclay to get a good look at its classic black-tipped ears, dappled coat and bobbed tail.

Hearing a strange sound emanating from the chicken pen, Larry Siegel went over to investigate and discovered a **Northern Harrier** tangled in the mesh fencing. After some effort, Joshua Morris-Siegel evaded talons and beak and successfully extracted the bird from the fence. There is some irony here: we saved the life of a bird which had intended to kill and consume our chickens.



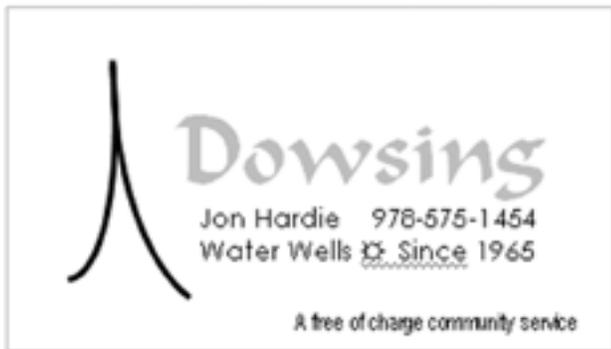
*Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7 p.m.*

### North Quabbin Garden Club - Flower and Herb Swags

There's something lyrical about a home decorated in natural plant materials for the holidays. Local herbalist Rachel Gonzalez will show how to grow and dry materials and then help us create dried flower and herb swags. There is a materials fee of \$5. for members, and \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration by November 1st is required; sign up at any fall meeting or send in your fee. Meet with us at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol, MA at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2009.



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### Garden Notes

*23 October 2009*



Frost preparation occurred on the evening of October 10. Dealing with imminent frost is generally a frenetic affair what with hauling in the most vulnerable of the crops and covering those a bit less vulnerable. Not this year, however, the affair almost leisurely in its pace. Tomatoes had already been pulled, the victims of the dreaded late blight. (The blight, which swept through New England farms and gardens this year, by-passed at least some of Royalston's gardens. Becky Krause-Hardie, gardening but a mile from here, was blight-free.) The few remaining winter squashes were picked as well as a couple handfuls of peppers and a bushel or so of basil. The cucumbers were long gone. Beans were still bearing but after a three-month diet of beans I was hardly motivated to pay much attention to them. (I do admit to covering my last planting, only days from its first beans.)

The weather turned foul after the first frost, with lows always at or just below freezing and afternoon highs struggling to get to 50 degrees. Everything green and growing remained green but had stopped growing. The snow dusting on the 18th was the proverbial icing on the cake. Since then, we've returned to more seasonable levels, which is just as well since I have a lot of raspberries to ripen, a lot of broccoli to enlarge and a lot of root crops to bulk out.

It is time for the annual reckoning. Performances ranged from magnificent to less than magnificent. Among the latter were the hot weather crops, tomatoes, corn, peppers, and cucumbers. Surprisingly, Joshua's sweet potatoes, the quintessential hot weather vegetable, performed more than adequately, yielding one and a half pounds per plant. Those vegetables happy in cool, wet conditions were happy indeed. It was my best potato yield ever, peas were productive, and spinach (both spring and fall) did very well. I continue to be confused by the alliums. Two of them, garlic and leeks, were outstanding and two of them, onions and shallots, were duds. Despite multiple plantings of beets, there were few that were worthy enough to be considered beets. Not so the other root crops, carrots, rutabaga, daikons, celeriac, all of which will provide substantial yields for the root cellar. And so it goes.

Garden work continues apace, the primary activity revolving around (pardon the pun) putting the beds to bed. Plant material is pulled and composted and the hay mulch (what's left of it) raked off. The soil is worked with my handy hoe, compost and wood ashes are incorporated, and new hay applied. I can complete a twenty-five foot long, four-foot wide bed in less than an hour but there are a lot of beds which will require a lot of hours so I hope November will provide pleasant conditions for me to complete the tasks.

*Larry Siegel*

### Hunting Seasons

Deer hunting:  
 archery October 12 to Nov 21  
 shotgun: November 30 to Dec. 12  
 primitive firearms- Dec.14 to Dec.31

Pheasant, quail ,grouse- October 17 to Nov. 28  
 No hunting on Sundays



**Classified Ads:**

Franklin County Home Care Corporation is looking for a Royalston resident that would be interested in providing a home to a local elder through the **Adult Family Care program**. The program provides support to individuals and families willing to open their homes to an elder (60+), who may need some extra support to remain in the community. The elder is a male, who is quite independent. The caregiver will receive a tax exempt stipend. If you are interested in more information, please call Janet Calcari, Program Director at 413-773-5555 x220

**Hand knitted:** Baby sweater sets, ski hats, all size mittens, boot socks, sleeveless cable sweater sets, etc. Great winter gifts! Call Shirley Anderson, 978-249-4013.

**For Rent:** Large, dry barn for winter storage. 978-249-4013.

**Child Care in Royalston:** Little Farmers' Childcare Lic#2086547. Next to RCS, 10 minutes from Winchendon. Toddler-preschool curriculum. Ages: birth- 5 years. for info, call Joni, 978-575-1083.

The Royalston Community Newsletter  
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library  
PO Box 133  
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Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)  
Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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