
THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2010



Volume XII, Issue IV

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

Calendar of Events

May 1 Saturday

May Day

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Last day of open burning season** (must have FD issued permit)

May 2 Sunday

10 a.m. **Annual Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby**
See p. 8.

4-6 pm. **Art Opening.** Local artists Gordon Morrison and Elizabeth Farnsworth are holding a joint exhibition of their work at the Petersham Craft Center. Work can also be viewed during regular gallery hours 12-4pm Wednesday-Sunday. Show lasts through June 10.

May 5 Wednesday

Cinco de Mayo

9:00 a.m. **May Day Celebration** at the Village School Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing as well as singing of traditional songs with local musicians. The aging Millers River Morris Men will appear, unable to contain themselves, and pound the earth to drive out winter and bring fertility to the crops, the animals, and the people! The public is invited. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies.

May 6 Thursday

3:45 p.m. **Friends of the Library meet**. All welcome.

May 7 Friday

7 p.m. **Annual Town Meeting** downstairs at Town Hall

7 pm **Father-Daughter Dance** at Athol Town Hall, sponsored by A-REF, a local group which raises funds for outside-the-budget projects in the local public schools. This year A-REF funded a class-set of snowshoes and a “family art night” at RCS as well as many other projects throughout the district. Dance info available at RCS or www.a-ref.org.

May 8 Saturday

7 – 10 p.m. **Blues Night** for Royalston Academy and Royalston Cultural Council, featuring Otto Matic Slim and Mel & the Blue Shots. Refreshments. Tickets \$10.

May 9 Sunday

Mother’s Day

May 13 Thursday

9:04 a.m. **New Flower Moon**



May 15 Saturday

Armed Forces Day

President Harry S. Truman set aside this day so Americans could thank troops for their “patriotic service in support of our country.” This holiday replaced individual celebrations held by the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

May 19 Wednesday

noon **Singer Patty Carpenter** will perform following the senior luncheon at town hall. Free and open to the public. If planning to enjoy lunch beforehand, pls. call Betty Woodbury by Monday, May 17th (978-249-9656) to reserve your meal.

May 21 Friday

10:30 am and 7 pm The Village School’s Annual **Original Play** at the Royalston Town Hall called *Persephone in Peril*. Based on their year-long study of Ancient Greece, the 4th-6th grades have written an original script, which they perform in an action packed, rollicking performance, including lighting and original music. This year’s play is humorously focused on the mischief brought down on humans by the gods on Olympus. Everyone is welcome. Free, and donations are accepted to defray production costs.

May 26 Wednesday

7:00 p.m. **“The Art of Beekeeping” Ladies’ B. program** with hostess and beekeeper Deb Nunes. Note the change in time. The beekeeping portion of the meeting will be outside at 7 pm with a business meeting to follow at 8:00. See p. 6

May 27 Thursday

7:07 p.m. **Full Flower Moon**

May 31 Monday

Memorial Day

Post Office, PSN Library and schools closed

2 p.m. **Memorial Day Exercises** in the South Village

3 p.m. **Memorial Day Pot Luck Luncheon**, organized by the Ladies’ Benevolent Society and Our Lady Queen of Heaven parishioners for all townspeople – Veterans are guests – others, please bring a dish to pass. (See p. 2)

Save the Date

June 12 Saturday

7:15 a.m. **New Strawberry Moon**

Saturday Morning Spectacular: Village School pancake breakfast and auction, library plant and book sale, historical society bake sale and a puppet show *The Princess and the Pea* by puppeteer Nicol Wander and friends, sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council.

5:30 p.m. Royalston F&G Chicken Barbecue

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West, Selectman

Route 32: Trees have been marked for cutting along the route. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the tree cutting plan. The contractors have used care to clear the line of site but keep the rural character. Loggers will be working for the next couple of weeks to clear the trees. Surveyors have been laying out the plan the length of the road. The next steps will involve installing new drainage pipes to replace the old worn, collapsed piping.

Volunteer Openings: Several town residents stepped forward last month to volunteer for some of the openings on boards and commissions. A few were folks who had not served in town government before. Thank you to them for volunteering. There are still a few openings. Keeping the town boards as volunteer-based keeps the government personal and keeps tax dollars down – for just a few hours a month. If you are interested or just want to find out more details, call the Selectmen's Office 978-249-9641.

Annual Town Meeting: The Royalston Annual Town Meeting will be held Friday, May 7, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall. Royalston's budget is requested to be level-funded (except for schools) at a little over \$1.6 million. Come to the Town Meeting and have a voice in how it is spent. Check out the complete warrant online at royalston-ma.gov or posted at the Town Hall, Post Office, or the General Store.

Open Space & Recreation Committee

Aaron Ellison

The Open Space & Recreation Committee implements our newly-approved 7-year Open Space Plan (the full plan can be read at the Library or viewed on-line through the Committee's web-site: <http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSC/indexopen.htm>). In the next few years, the Committee will be studying abandoned, discontinued, or otherwise unused old roads in town; surveying and maintaining the section of the Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail that runs through town; partnering with local land trusts, and state and federal agencies to protect open space in town; and creating new opportunities for recreation in town.

The seven members of the Open Space & Recreation Committee are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. There are currently two openings on the committee, and we are looking for town residents interested to work with us. If you are interested in volunteering for this town committee (for 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2010), please contact the Board of Selectmen, email the committee (info@royalstonopenspace.org), or call Chris Long at 249-0246.



In the Middle of Nowhere: "Rocky Road"

By: Megan Wessels



Board of Health

The transfer station has been in good shape thanks to the work of TonyArgiro and Steve Robinson. Give them a thanks next time you see them.

Pay attention to the signs as to where to dump, as this changes week to week. Remember to keep non-paper items such as plastic bags and styrofoam packing chunks out of the paper roll-offs. Paper can't be made out of plastic.

We are working on possibly taking large plastic items such as toys, and large plastic pails etc. This would involve a different roll off to capture these items. Stay tuned for future details.

No plans for pricing changes. These will stay stable through the next fiscal year which starts July 1. New stickers for the new fiscal year should be available in late May. New stickers need to be purchased by July 1. These are \$15 for the year. See attendant for details.

Town Clean-up Wrap-up

Mary C Barclay

Here's a wrap-up on the annual Royalston Roadside Clean-up, which for nearly two decades has been organized by "Checkpoint Charlie" Scribner. Forty residents turned out ready for their assignments or accomplished some cleaning on their own either in advance or on the big day. Charlie expressed special thanks to the Board of Selectmen for their support, also to the Board of Health for waiving dumping fees, and to transfer station personnel who accepted extra work with a smile. Last, but not least, thanks to Dan and Cathy Monette for providing the grill and cooking for the troops.

The stats for 4/24/10 were:

40 participants 15 bags of recyclables
40 bags of trash 7 tires

5 hub caps between the Common and Doane's Falls
miscellaneous pieces of furniture

COA Hosts Patty Carpenter

After a several year absence, singer Patty Carpenter will return to the Luncheon Club On Wednesday, May 19th, starting at noon. She is a well-known talented and popular performer, playing and singing songs from the early part of the 20th century up to the present. It's always wonderful to hear all those golden oldies from the 30's, 40's, and 50's! She has appeared at the Luncheon Club numerous times in the past decade, and the Cultural Council is delighted to fund her appearance. This concert is FREE and open to the public, ALL AGES. If you wish to participate in the meal, please call Betty Woodbury by Monday, May 17th (978-249-9656). For more information about Patty's visit, please call Deb Nunes (978-249-4000).

Remember: luncheon club meets 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m every Wednesday. 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.

Memorial Day Commemoration



All are invited to attend Memorial Day exercises in South Royalston on Monday, May 31. Exercises begin at 2 p.m. in the park where a parade forms and proceeds to the Riverside Cemetery. Here all children are invited to decorate veterans' graves with wreaths; the procession continues to the Miller's River for a wreath dedication and then back to the park for closing ceremonies. All are also welcome to attend a post-parade luncheon at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel on Route 68 just north of the park at 3 p.m. Veterans and their families, dignitaries and parade marchers are guests; others are asked to provide a dish to pass. This year parishioners are pairing with the Ladies' Benevolent Society to coordinate the pot luck luncheon.

BLUES NIGHT!
Royalston Town Hall
May 8, 2010 7pm
Featuring
Ottomatic Slim
and
Mel & the Blue Shots

Tickets \$10
to benefit
Music Fest
and the
Royalston
Academy
Scholarship
Fund

Call
Lorraine
978-249-5151
to reserve
yours NOW!

Music Fest T-shirt Contest- Designs Needed

Royalston Cultural Council needs t-shirt ideas! The mid-summer Royalston Music Fest has become a community tradition, and so have the t-shirts designed for each year's event. Many of us have a full seven-year "run" of all the great Music Fest shirts, and they are fast becoming collectors' items. Royalston youth have contributed some great designs in the past, and the Cultural Council wants to tap teen talent again this year.

Do you have an idea for a t-shirt design for this summer's Music Fest? If so, make a sketch and either drop it in the Cultural Council mailbox to the left of the front door to Town Hall, or email a scan to Elizabeth Farnsworth at efarnsw@mholyoke.edu. If you'd just like to discuss design ideas, feel free to give Elizabeth a call at 249-6771.

Music Fest happens on Sunday, July 18, 2010.

The North Quabbin Region's Only Daily Newspaper Since 1935

Website: www.atholdailynews.com Email: adn@atholdailynews.com

Athol Daily News
225 EXCHANGE STREET ATHOL, MA 01331

Fax: (978) 249-9630 Tel: (978) 249-3535

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

Thank you

Diane Lincoln for donating two of her new CDs and the DVD
Playing for Change: Peace Through Music

Virginia Moore and Priscilla Dand for book donations

Beth Gospodarek for stepping in and helping at the cross culture club gatherings

Tony Cooper for audiobooks

Maureen Blasco for keeping the keeping aloft

Student Art Exhibit at the Library

May and June are Student Artwork months at the library. During May, work done by students at the Village School will be on display and during June, artwork of students from the Royalston Community School will be exhibited. Stop by and see how creative our children are.

The Bard is Back

What is the Royalston Shakespeare Company? It's not arm, nor leg, nor face, nor cheek, nor any other part belonging to a man. Neither is it a star to every wandering bark (although it does rather confirm what fools these mortals be).

No, 'tis instead a 13- day- from-book-to -stage theater workshop, running from 9 am - noon M-F June 21 - July 2, with a performance at 7 pm on July 2nd at the Town Hall. Participants have a lot of fun but also work hard in preparation for treading the boards whilst proclaiming (generally in iambic pentameter) some of the most famous lines in the English language. For those who prefer to stay behind the scenes, a tech crew is also needed. All usually leave the RSC with a better knowledge of Shakespeare's words, times and theatrics as well as a few new friends. The workshop will be directed by the local triumverate of Maureen Blasco, Norah Dooley and Beth Gospodarek. Those ages 5 - 18 interested should sign up at the library. (There are space limits to the number of actors to fit on the town hall stage, so sign up soon.)

Stay tuned to discover which of Shakespeare's works will be undertaken... think star-crossed lovers in the midst of a gang war... or possibly a tragedy involving mercilessly ungrateful children... or even a sad tale of unscrupulous loan sharks. It's all good in the hands of the Bard.

Author Visit Postponed

The visit by Harriet Reisen, Nancy Porter, Boyd Estus, and Liane Brandon to discuss the film and book *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women* has been postponed until the fall due to scheduling problems. Look for more information in the June newsletter.



Kite Flying Day 2010 saw the kites soar in the breeze (until the accompanying soaking shower hit.) Let's hope for better weather next year.

Bibliophiles with Green Thumbs: Plant Sale Donations Needed

Spring is in a hurry this year. The perennials are already perky and the seedlings on the window sill are ready to be thinned. Pot up your extras for donation to the fabulous Friends of the Library plant sale. Share your green thumb and benefit your community at the same time. The Friends of the library publish this newsletter, run lots of enrichment programs such as Shakespeare, cross culture club and vacation events as well as purchase supplies, DVDs and technology for the library.

New Materials at Your Library

Adult Fiction

Baldacci, David *Deliver us from Evil*
 Berg, Elizabeth *The Last Time I Saw You (Large Print)*
 Beverley, Jo *The Secret Duke*
 Black, Benjamin *Elegy for April*
 Bowen, Rhys *The Last Illusion*
 Box, C.J. *Nowhere to Run*
 Boyle, T.C. *Wild Child, and Other Stories*
 Butcher, Jim *Changes*
 Carey, Peter *Parrot and Olivier in America*
 Coben, Harlan *Caught*
 Cussler, Clive *The Silent Sea*
 Dallas, Sandra *Whiter than Snow*
 Dodd, Christina *In Bed with the Duke*
 Edwards, Louisa *On the Steamy Side*
 Endicott, Marina *Good to a Fault*
 Evans, Richard *The Walk*
 Genberg, Ira *Reckless Homicide*
 Giorello, Sibella *The Clouds Roll Away*
 Gowda, Shilpi *Secret Daughter*
 Grimes, Martha *The Black Cat*
 Harvey, Michael *The Third Rail*
 Johansen, Iris *Eight Days to Live*
 Kellerman, Jesse *The Executor*
 Kellerman, Jonathan *Deception*
 Kiernan, Kristy *Between Friends*
 Lamott, Anne *Imperfect Birds*
 Lehrer, James *Super*
 Marlantes, Karl *Matterhorn*
 Martel, Yann *Beatrice and Virgil*
 McCall-Smith, A. *The Double Comfort Safari Club*
 McEwan, Ian *Solar*
 Miller, Sue *The Lake Shore Limited*
 Min, Anchee *Pearl of China*
 Modesitt, L.E. *Imager's Challenge*
 Peters, Elizabeth *A River in the Sky*
 Porter, Henry *Brandenburg Gate*
 Quick, Amanda *Burning Lamp*
 Quindlen, Anna *Every Last One*
 Robards, Karen *Shameless*
 Robards, Karen *Shattered*
 Simonson, Helen *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*
 Smith, Lee *Mrs. Darcy and the Blue-eyed Stranger*
 Steinbeck, Thomas *In the Shadow of the Cypress*
 Tolkien, Simon *The Inheritance*
 Verghese, A. *Cutting for Stone*
 Wheeler, Richard *Snowbound*
 Whitson, Stephanie *Sixteen Brides*
 Woods, Stuart *Lucid Intervals*



DVD's: *The Blind Side, Did You Hear About the Morgans?, District 9, Fantastic Mr. Fox, Huggies Potting Training Success, Peace Through Music, The Princess and the Frog, Sherlock Holmes, and Twilight New Moon*

Adult Non-Fiction

An Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing in Massachusetts
 Hiebert, Helen *Paper Illuminated*
 Lappe, Anna *Diet for a Hot Planet*
 Loving, Jerome *Mark Twain*
 McKibben, Bill *Eaarth*
 Montgomery, Sy *Birdology*
 Remnick, David *The Bridge*

Adult Audiobooks

Bryson, Bill *Shakespeare*
 Cornwell, Patricia *The Scarpetta Factor*
 Grann, David *Devil and Sherlock Holmes*
 King, Stephen *Just After Sunset*
 Mantel, Hilary *Wolf Hall*
 Martel, Yann *Beatrice and Virgil*

Young Adult Fiction

Armstrong, Kelley *The Reckoning*
 Collins, Suzanne *Catching Fire*
 Hockensmith, Steve *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies:*
 Hunter, Erin *A Clan I Need*
 Marchetta, Melina *Finnikin of the Rock*
 Meyer, Stephanie *Twilight The Graphic Novel*
 Pike, Aprilynne *Wings*
 Reeve, Philip *Fever Crumb*
 Turner, Megan *A Conspiracy of Kings*
 Turner, Megan *The King of Attolia*
 Turner, Megan *The Queen of Attolia*
Young Adult Non-Fiction
 Dini, Paul *The Batman Adventures*
 Petrillo, Lisa *Political Profiles: Sarah Palin*
 Yoyo *Call of the Winged Panther*

Children's Fiction

Barrows, Annie *Ivy + Bean Doomed to Dance*
 Cushman, Karen *Alchemy and Meggy Swann*
 Diamond, Emily *Raider's Ransom*
 Kann, Victoria *Pinkalicious*
 Kann, Victoria *Purplicious*
 Lowrey, Lois *Birthday Ball*
 Munoz, Pam Ryan *Neruda*
 O'Connell, Rebecca *Danny is Done with Diapers*
 Pinfold, Levi *The Django*

Children's Non-Fiction

Alexander, Cecil *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
 Donovan, Sandra *Pingpong Perry Experiences How a Book is Made*
 Hopkins *Sharing the Seasons*
 Jenkins, Steve *How to Clean a Hippopotamus*
 Katz, Anne *Girl in the Know*
 Kreiter, Eshel *John Singer Sargent*
 Krensky, Stephen *Barack Obama*
 Luciani *The Meeting*
 Mazer, Anne *Spilling Ink*
 Nelson, S.D. *Black Elk's Vision*
 Stamaty, Mark *Alia's Mission*
 Steig, William *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*
 Vestergaard, Hope *Potty Animals*
 Winter, Jeanette *The Librarian of Basra*

Resident Recommended Reading

While bored and pacing the book section at BJ's recently, the book Shutter Island was recommended by a complete stranger to Jim Barclay. He bought, he read (all afternoon, evening, night...), he raves! "Suspenseful, unpredictable, and well written."

Royalston Fish and Game News



The Annual Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby takes place Sunday, May 2, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Royalston F&G Club pond, freshly stocked the night before with a variety of trout, thanks to the Millers River Fishermen's Association. Members' children (Under 14 years of age) are entitled to the first two fish and the cookout lunch at no cost. Guest fisherchildren (Under 14) can purchase a \$2 ticket which includes their first two fish and lunch. Additional tickets may be purchased by all participants for \$2, to catch an additional two fish.

The Annual ATA Memorial Day Trap Shoot is on Monday, May 31, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. The F&G Club's kitchen will be open to the public during those hours, with Lisa Cosentino cooking up a variety of breakfast and lunch specials.

Sure signs of summer? The Royalston F&G Chicken Barbecues are coming. The first is planned for Saturday, June 12 at 5:30. Advance tickets are strongly recommended. Contact Vice President Clayton Holmes at 978-249-4281 to get on the list for a \$10 ticket.

Winchendon Rod and Gun Club Fish Frys

Be sure to check out the Winchendon R&G's Fish Frydays, second Fridays of each month. Deep fried fish and chicken, fresh hand-cut fries and variety of sides. Whopping portions (suitable for two hungry adults) run \$15ish. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available at the bar. Serving from about 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., or when the food is gone. Call the Winchendon Club at 978-297-3955 for advance tickets, or arrive (earlier, rather than later!) to buy at the door.

Ladies' Bee

The next meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society is slated for Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m. at the home of hostess Deb Nunes. The program begins at 8 p.m., and the topic is "The Art of Beekeeping" with Deb and Joe. Beekeepers and wannaBees are all invited. Non-members are asked to RSVP with Deb at 978-249-4000.

The Society is partnering with parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel for this year's annual Memorial Day Post-Parade Luncheon, 3 p.m. in the (cool, black-fly-free!) church on Monday, May 31. It's not unusual to see 50 guests at this luncheon, which concludes several days of Memorial Day exercises for many of the area's military veterans. Those willing to pitch in with donations of paper goods, plasticware, and of course, pot luck offerings, are needed. Please contact LBS President Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807 or lmdeveneau@msn.com or society member and church parishioner Helen E. Feliciano at 978-249-2007.

New members are welcome any time and anyone interested is invited to attend any program. Contact Society Secretary Mary C. Barclay at 978-249-2598 or mbarclay@juno.com for a 2010 Program Guide.

The RCS Poetry Club investigated emotions during April. Here are the results:

Sadness

Sadness is when your dog has to be put down.
It happens when it is dark, cloudy and rainy outside.
It sounds like a baby cat meowing looking for somewhere to live.
It tastes like when you go out to eat and you didn't like it.

Sadness *Autumn Tourigny*

Fear

Fear is as cold as a stone.
It happens when you get robbed.
It sounds like a dying person.
It feels like a shot to the side.
It tastes like fresh blood.

Fear *Rhiannon Fletcher*

Love

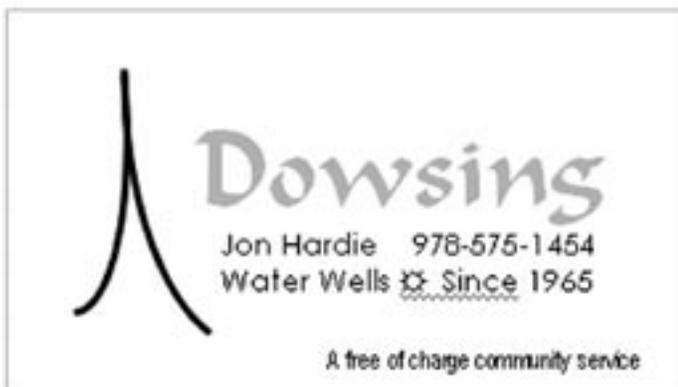
Love is as wonderful as summer,
It happens when you meet a perfect guy.
It sounds like ocean waves.
It feels like walking on clouds.
It tastes like a chocolate chip cookie.

Love *Hannah Bartkus*

Jealousy

Jealousy is as black as midnight.
Jealousy is when your best friend has a flat Plasma TV and you're not even allowed to have a TV in your room.
It sounds like a teakettle steaming.
It feels like getting hit in the head with a stone.
It tastes like a bleeding lip.

Jealousy *Isabelle O'Connor*





CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Academic Honor Rolls - 3rd quarter

Royalston Community School, grades 4 - 6:

Straight As: Olivia Kimball and Ann Reynolds

All As and Bs: Haylie Baker, Derek Bates,

Hannah Bartkus, Taryne Bousquet, Cody Bassett, Mark Brighenti, Jr., Justin Blake, Samantha Dodd, Deijah Euvrard-Brewington, Alyssa Cassarino, Cassandra Frazier, Rhiannon Fletcher, Kayla Gerry, Erin Snell, Katelyn Holden, James Laford, Rebecca Tetreault, Loryn Killay, Owen MacPhee, Kyle May, Amber Mahony, Allisyn Mowrey, Isabelle O'Connor, Melissa Persson, Kyla Rathbu, Zachary Roberts, Kristopher Selanis, Kariana Tobias, Destiny Wrigley, Dahlia Wright and Abigail Divoll

Athol-Royalston Middle School

Straight As: Amanda Bergquist,

All As and Bs: Corey Baker, Devin Bates, Beau Guimond, Emily Mangum, Cody Nolette, Katelyn Robinson, Brandon Tisdale, Felicia Tourigny, Mary White, and Michael Findlay

As and Bs but one high C: Chelsea Sanderson, Ryan Sawyer, and Nathan Tisdale

Athol High School

Straight As: MacKenzie Bennett, Alyssa Bergquist, Allyna Baker, and Michele Thompson

All As and Bs: Noah Easton, Larissa and Krista Erikson, Pat Scribner, Hillary Whitcomb, Kourtney Fraizer, Ashley Guyer, Dylan Hall, Samantha Hutchins, Joseph Ridell, Ashley Sawyer, Allison Bergquist, Colleen Boutell, Tyler Tisdale, Shelby Bronnes, Alexis and Ashley Javier, Tim Normandin and Ruth White.

Military News



Sgt. Kevin Nunes, son of Deb and Joe Nunes, returned in late February after a year's deployment in Iraq with the U. S. Army. As a Military Policeman, he was involved in the training of Iraqi police forces. Fortunately he was not involved in any combat missions. He is stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, where he has resumed his MP duties.

Milestones

Birth: Princess

Leanna Rogers arrived on April 22 2010 at 7:07 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs 6 ozs and was 20 1/2 inches long. The proud parents are Carol and Kevin Rogers. she has two big brothers, Adam and D.J.



Memorial: A celebration of life is being held in memory of **Elma E. Baker**, who lived more than 30 years on Blossom Street in South Royalston before moving to Florida in the 1980s. She passed on December 28, 2009 at the age of 90. All family and friends are invited to attend on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 11 a.m. at the Second Congregational Church of Royalston, and to a luncheon afterwards by the ladies' fellowship group. Memorial contributions may be made to the Second Congregational Church.

Recipe of the Month

Donna Caisse's Cheese Cake

Donna has lived on Norcross Road with her husband Scott, who is also a very good cook, for 24 years. She is involved with the Royalston Ladies Benevolent Society and Royalston Energy Committee. She works as a dental assistant and enjoys gardening and spending time with her family.

Donna raves about this recipe, "Quick easy delicious! Everyone loves this cheesecake. I serve it plain or with fruit. Crushed pineapple in juice is my favorite."

Ingredients

2 pkgs. cream cheese

2 eggs

1/2 cup sugar

graham cracker crust



Directions: Mix ingredients together. (Leave cream cheese out to get soft before using it.) Pour into a ready made crust. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 25 to 30 minutes. Can also be done in cupcake foils with a vanilla wafer as the crust. Top with fruit of your choice. Enjoy!

Royalston Community School Round-up

Recently, students at Royalston Community School donated \$150.00 to the Organization Relief Fund for Haiti. Mrs. Carnie's Poetry Club began the fundraiser by coloring posters that were hung on walls around the school promoting the event called "Hats For Haiti". RCS staff and students paid \$1.00 to wear a hat in school.



Kindergarten students pictured holding the check from left to right in the front row are: Adam Rogers, Amber Plummer, Connor Mahony, Hayleigh Bauch, Rayna Berg, Back row, Izic French, Ryan Darling and Caleb Clapper.

RCS also marked **dental health month**. Children that participated in the recent "Smile Mobile Dentist Program" at Royalston Community School received dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays and sealants (if needed) *Pictured is Carly Bartkus receiving her dental examination and cleaning.*



RCS Dates to remember:

The Sixth Grade will get a cut from all proceeds at the Winchendon Subway on Tuesday, May 11th from 5-7 pm. All money will go towards end of the year events for the sixth grade class.

Summer Programs for Children

Local day camps at the Village School

Go to www.villageschool.to to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 6 to July 23, for children aged 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, the Summer Art Intensive for ages 8 and up, the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up, and Introduction to Suzuki Piano, ages 4 and up. Discounts are given to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy. Brochures are at the post office and the library.

YMCA Summer Theater Program for Kids

The Athol Area YMCA announces its tenth annual YouthReach! Summer Theater Program for youth entering grades 7 through 12. The program is an intensive three-week immersion experience into the theater arts where participants develop their own original theatrical performance using extensive brainstorming and improvisation. The first two weeks of the program, July 12 through 23, will meet in the Main Hall of the YMCA, 1 to 5 pm. The last week, July 26 through July 31, we will meet at the Orange Town Hall from 3 to 7 pm. The performance will take place on Saturday, July 31 at 7:00 pm.

Program cost is \$50.00 for YMCA members and former ensemble members and \$75.00 for first-time, non-member participants. A few scholarships are available. Parents should talk to the program director, Manuel King, for help obtaining these need-based scholarships. Please call the Y at 978-249-3305 for more information. The YouthReach! Theater Program is funded by the Local Cultural Councils of Royalston, Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Warwick and Wendell, as well as the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the John F. Boynton Fund and the Athol Area YMCA.

Village School Vibes

Openings for the next school year at the Village School

There are a few openings left in preschool. Call as soon as possible to arrange a visit. There are also openings in the 2nd-6th grade. For more information, call 249-3505.

Village School Student Art Show at the Gardner Ale House. Have lunch or dinner and enjoy the works of art by students on display during May.

What's Happening at the Village School ?

With the return to school from April vacation, the classes fanned out and sampled the local floral and fauna for Biodiversity Day. One class visited Lawrence Brook, another class went to the Camp Caravan pond, and the preschoolers explored the woods around the school. The students also illustrated the written records of their discoveries. The students are planting the garden, looking towards the fall harvest and snacks for the summer programs. Potatoes, sugar snaps, and carrots are planted now. By June 1st, pumpkins and winter squashes, cucumbers, Indian corn and more will be planted.

The month starts with a traditional May Day celebration, for which all the students have learned songs and dances. On May 21st, the annual Village School original play is performed at the Town Hall, the culmination of 2 month's intensive work by the 4th-6th grade. In the week following, the 4th-6th grade class goes off to Washington D.C. for 3 days, to see the nation's capitol and visit lots of museums.

Wildlife Sightings

Cindy and Kelsey Savoy saw a **mink** cross in front of their car on Warwick Road recently on the way to school.

Lynne Teague at 124 Falls Rd had a **black bear** in her driveway on Tuesday the 21st of April at 7p.m. She reports, "When the bear saw me, it went behind my barn into my neighbor's yard. The bear stood up on its hind legs at an apple tree. I called my neighbor to have her look out her window so she could see the bear, which she did. Then the bear went on its way to the woods behind our house."

Taft Hillers, **Sandra Bruso and her kids Emily and Matt Davis** (ages 10 and 9), were coming home down River Road the first Sunday of April around 8:30 pm when a small **bear** walked across the road. "He stopped on the other side and stood up and held on to a tree and looked at us. It was exciting".

A **rather robust raccoon** has been enjoying the challenging problems posed by the **Barclays** each evening in an attempt to keep him out of their trash cans. Covering lids with clamped-closed ready-made handles and even securing the can in an upright position did not deter the feisty furball in the least. At present, the can is bungee-corded to the back porch, with another bungee cord holding the handles in the clamped position. Based on the flurry of footprints some mornings the raccoon feels it's worth the effort to wedge open an edge of the lid and extract a few choice morsels.

Betty Cook had a handsome **Chukar** in her yard last winter and again on Earth Day. The speculation is that it escaped from Hedgerow Kennels where they are raised for sport.



North Quabbin Garden Club

Fifth Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 15, 2010, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, Thursday, May 20, 2010, 7 p.m. 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

The North Quabbin Garden Club is gearing up for the Fifth Annual Spring Plant Sale scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members have started to pot perennials from their own gardens in preparation for the big day. Be sure to stop by the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol and find choice plants for your own garden.

Ginny Thurston loved her garden in Harvard, and after her death from breast cancer in 1999, it became a healing center for others experiencing this disease. This eight acre garden is managed by volunteers from the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs. Tucker Smith, who chairs this effort, will show slides of the garden and explain the center's work.

Garden Notes

April 25, 2010

The first asparagus spear appeared on April 13. Granted, the bed was weed-free, encouraging discovery. Granted I have become more attentive in recent years. And, granted, it was a week before another appeared. But. . . the emergence of asparagus is a beginning-of-May event. In the words of Buffalo Springfield, the pre-eminent folk-rock group of the mid 1960's (What you don't remember Buffalo Springfield? It was only forty-five years ago.): "Something's happening here, what it is ain't exactly clear..."

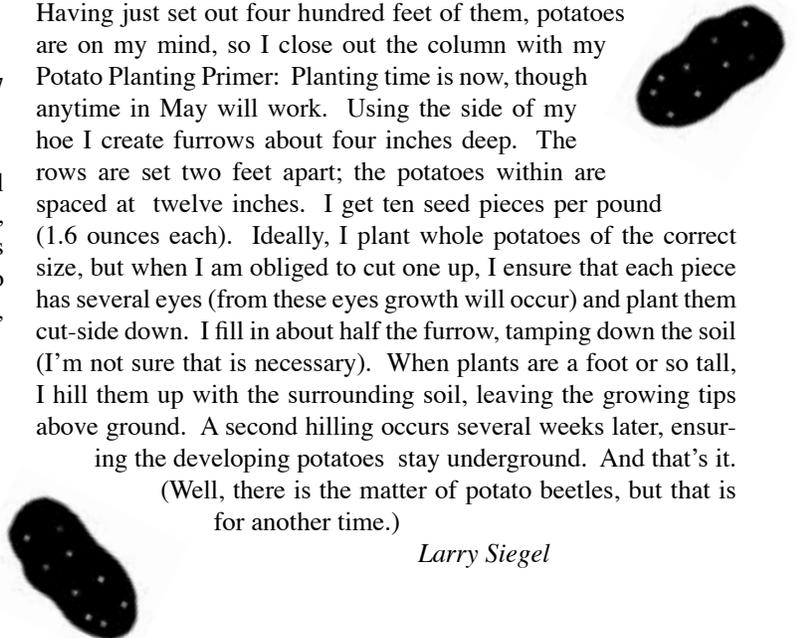
The mild winter and early spring are reflected beyond the garden. Forsythias glowed (and still glow). The bulb display has been magnificent. (Patches seem to have expanded exponentially in a year's time.) The fruit trees have begun flowering, in their time-honored sequence: first pears, then peaches, finally apples, the apples sequential as well, depending upon the variety. In the not-too-distant future all will be in bloom, as striking a floral display as exists at our farm. With vision that seems to be deteriorating from day-to-day, my eyes could use the jolt these masses of color provide.

April has been a month of hauling and piling: leaves, manure, compost, twigs, brush, trash. I have successfully transformed a mess into an orderly mess. The portable greenhouses (read: fish tanks) have been portable. They spent the winter atop some late-planted lettuce (none survived) and re-located to the chives and perennial scallions as new growth appeared. (Plants were three times as tall as those fish tank-less.) Currently, they reside in the spring lettuce bed and, in June, will be atop some heat-loving plants (melons and peppers come to mind), their last assignment until fall.

Surprisingly, May provides something of a garden breather for me. Everything is in place: beds prepared, pea brush gathered, chicken wire erected for the cherry tomatoes, fences surrounding the garden upright (at least temporarily). Other than the transplanting of onions and leeks, all spring crops are in the ground. (June will be early enough for summer planting and transplanting.)

Having just set out four hundred feet of them, potatoes are on my mind, so I close out the column with my Potato Planting Primer: Planting time is now, though anytime in May will work. Using the side of my hoe I create furrows about four inches deep. The rows are set two feet apart; the potatoes within are spaced at twelve inches. I get ten seed pieces per pound (1.6 ounces each). Ideally, I plant whole potatoes of the correct size, but when I am obliged to cut one up, I ensure that each piece has several eyes (from these eyes growth will occur) and plant them cut-side down. I fill in about half the furrow, tamping down the soil (I'm not sure that is necessary). When plants are a foot or so tall, I hill them up with the surrounding soil, leaving the growing tips above ground. A second hilling occurs several weeks later, ensuring the developing potatoes stay underground. And that's it. (Well, there is the matter of potato beetles, but that is for another time.)

Larry Siegel



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Teaching Opportunity: Part time math teacher, approx. 8 hours a week, starting September 2010. This teacher works with small grade level math groups, (3rd and 4th grade) for 1 hour each, 4 days a week. The Village School uses the Investigations math curriculum, so willingness to learn a new approach is essential. Previous teaching experience is useful. Submit resume and references to Director, The Village School, P.O. Box 122, Royalston MA 01368.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
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