

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2010



Volume XII, Issue IX

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

Calendar of Events

November 1 Monday

All Saints' Day

November 2 Tuesday

State Election Day

7 am - 8 pm **Polls open.** Precinct 1 located at Town Hall on the Common, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall in South Royalston.

7 p.m. **Board of Selectmen meets** at Town Hall

November 4 Thursday

3:45 p.m. **Friends of the Library meeting** to discuss library support, the newsletter, and upcoming programs at the library

November 5 Friday

5 p.m. **Village School Lantern Walk and Pot Luck**

November 6 Saturday

Sadie Hawkins' Day

1:52 a.m. **New Beaver Moon**

6:30 p.m. **Braised Beef Dinner** annual scholarship fundraising dinner organized by the Ladies' Benevolent Society. "Taste of Royalston" basket drawing following dinner. (see pg. 5)

7 p.m. **Open Mic - Season Debut** at the Town Hall. Sign up for a time slot with Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arrive by 6:30 p.m. Free admission and desserts on sale, thanks to the Royalston Cultural Council.

November 7 Sunday

2 a.m. **Daylight Savings Time ends** - Time to change batteries in flashlights and smoke, carbon monoxide and radon detectors.

November 8 Monday

7 pm **Broadband Meeting** at Town Hall

5 - 8 pm **Athol Soccer Club is sponsoring a "Family Fun Night"** at Friendly's in Gardner. Contact Amanda Roberts for info.

November 10 Wednesday

10 a.m. - noon **Annual Seasonal Flu Clinic** in the Town Hall

November 11 Thursday

Veterans' Day

(post office, library, schools all closed)

November 12 Friday

Indian Summer

7 p.m. sharp **Annual Fire & EMS Turkey Raffle** center fire station on the Common. Also, raffle tickets for 2 Thanksgiving baskets are available from any firefighter.

8 p.m. **Timmy Gatautis Benefit** - Ray Hendricks Revival at Athol-Orange Elks Club. Call Maria Gatautis for advance tickets. 978-660-5259.

November 13 Saturday

10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Village School Open House

Come get your questions answered by staff, parents and alumni. Join in activities in the classrooms. Refreshments. See the Village School website for more information www.villageschool.to

November 14 Sunday

2 pm **Holiday Card Making** with Janet Bettey. Create a dozen cards with decorated paper and rubber stamps. \$5 for members/ \$8.00 for non-members of the Friends of the Library. Stop at the library or call 978-249-3572 to register.

November 18 Thursday

Pre-Dawn Hours Leonid Meteor Shower will offer a shooting star every six minutes or so, originating in the southern skies. The off-shoots are remnants of the Tempel-Tuttle Comet.

November 19 Friday

7 pm **Allen Young hosts an evening featuring two films about the 70s local commune experience** : "Free Spirits: The Birth, Life, & Loss of a New-Age Dream" about Warwick's communes and a short film about Royalston's Butterworth Farm.

November 20 Saturday

9 a.m. - noon **Drive-By Pie Sale** by the LBS. Pick up a pie whilst on the Saturday errands. Pie stand will be set up across from the post office. Just show up or pre-order at 249-5138.

6 p.m. **Royalston F&G Roast Beef Supper** in the clubhouse. Tossed salad, bread and butter, and tender roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert. Tickets are \$12/person and are limited. BLITZ will follow. Reservations are available only in advance by calling 978-249-3004.

November 21 Sunday

12:27 p.m. **Full Beaver Moon**

8 p.m. **United Way Raffle Drawing** at Pete & Henry's

November 22 Monday

midnight **Deadline for December/ January double issue of this newsletter.**



November 25 Thursday

Thanksgiving

December 5 Sunday

2 pm **Balsam wreath making workshop** with Brenda Putney. \$5 for members/ \$8.00 for non-members of Friends of the Library. Stop at the library or call 978-249-3572 to register.



The Royalston Community School recently held its annual kindergarten butterfly brunch, which includes butterfly snacks and a butterfly-fact game show.

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Broadband Update: Good news from the Broadband front. MBI has had requests from Senator Brewer and Representative Rice to include Royalston. You have also done an excellent job filling out surveys and showing our need. MBI has heard loud and clear from our residents that we need to be included. Royalston now has a community representative sitting on the project and planning the first phase which links Town buildings with fiber optic cables. Does this mean that Royalston is officially included? Not yet. MBI will take the survey data and community information and present it to their federal grantor to ask for any changes (like including Royalston) to be approved. **The next Broadband meeting will be Monday, November 8 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.**

Budget Planning: It's budget time again! Time for all departments to start calculating and estimating what it will take to run the Town next year. Please watch for the Selectmen's request to submit budgets.

Sewer Treatment Grant Update: We were informed in October that all the federal grant money for fiscal 2010 was allocated to other projects and that money for fiscal 2011 has not been released for use yet. Our request is still alive and we continue to pursue the next group of funding.

Board of Health News

Planning ahead, the transfer station will be open 8 am -3pm Christmas and New Years Eve day and closed on the holiday. Some folks are asking for some Friday hours going forward. Not much can be done this budget year, but maybe for next. What about the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month 1-4pm? Give the BOH members or the attendants at the transfer station some feedback...And we still can't make paper out of plastic.

Police Department News: School Zone Changes

There's been a change of signage for the Royalston Community School zone on Winchendon Road – the speed limit is 20 mph from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The yellow lights that were supposed to flash during school hours (and rarely did) are taped and no longer have anything to do with the school zone speed. Officers are frequenting the reduced speed zone during school hours to highlight the more predictable message.

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Royalston Cemetery Commission

Cemetery Commissioners are seeking old photos of the Riverside and Hillside Cemeteries in South Royalston. Of particular interest are views of the original wooden fencing and gates, both close-up and from afar. The images will be used as the Commission works towards restoring both cemeteries to their former beauty. Photographs will be scanned and returned or can be sent as digital images. Contact Roland G. Hamel at 978-249-4587.

Luncheon Club News: Flu Clinic

The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free of charge and is primarily for Royalston residents, but "non-residents won't be turned away," according to Board of Health Agent Phil Leger. Walk-ins are welcome. Those with health insurance are asked to bring their cards; no copays will be charged for the injection. This year's flu shot contains the dreaded H1N1 from last season, plus two other varieties that are believed to be a major concern for this season – H3N2 and an influenza B. The Centers for Disease Control strongly urges the vaccination for everyone, but especially certain high risk groups. High risk groups include those 50 years and older, all ages of people with chronic respiratory ailments, pregnant women, and people who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from the flu. Additional details on flu vaccinations and recommendation are available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site, www.cdc.gov.

The flu clinic is held in conjunction with the weekly Luncheon Club – with \$2 meals for seniors and \$2.50 for seniors-to-be. If you'd like a hot lunch and sympathy with your flu shot, give Betty Woodbury a call by Monday, Nov. 8 at 978-249-9656, and she'll save you a seat.

Probation Board Seeks Members

Carla Rabinowitz

The Athol Restorative Probation Board is looking for new volunteer members. The Board meets with (usually) young offenders from 4:30 to 6:30 or 7:00, the third Wednesday of each month, at the CCD building in Athol. The goals of Restorative Probation are to encourage a deeper understanding of the harm that has been done, both to the victim and the community; to understand why the harmful act was committed; to find some way of making amends for the harm; and to help the offender make changes in his or her life so that it does not happen again. The job requirements are empathy, compassion, tough-mindedness, and the willingness to ask questions instead of giving lectures. Some members are more compassionate, some are more tough; a good Board contains a balance of both. Anyone interested in learning more about Restorative Probation is welcome to call Carla Rabinowitz, 978-249-4422, or talk directly to program director Lucinda Brown at 413-772-8711.

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

Donations to the Friends

Gordon Morrison

Thank you

Allison Bergquist for her weekly help processing books, weeding, and helping out wherever needed.

John Jeffries for the cheerful pumpkins on the library steps.

Upcoming Events

Tai Chi classes led by Becky Krause-Hardie are being held at town hall at 6 pm on Tuesdays. All welcome. This is a free service of the Friends of the Library.

Art Exhibit at the Library

Ruth Suyenaga of New Boston Road will be displaying her paintings during November and December. Ruth and her husband Mark Shoul have lived in Royalston for 32 years. Ruth is a self-taught artist and a certified art educator teaching in Royalston and Gardner since 1983.

Three Holiday Workshops: Cards, Wreaths and Wheat

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring three programs on Sundays at 2:00 pm at the Royalston Town Hall. The series begins on November 14, with Holiday Card Making with Janet Bettey. She will get participants into the holiday spirit by helping them create a dozen beautiful, themed holiday cards with decorated paper and rubber stamps. On December 5, Brenda Putney will saturate the town hall with the wonderful aroma of balsam in a holiday wreath making workshop. Then on December 12, Kathy Morris will teach participants to make a wheat ornament. The cost for each workshop is \$5.00 for members of the Friends and \$8.00 for non-members.

Peace-out at the Library

Two Films about Communal Living in the North Quabbin Region

On Friday, November 19 at 7:00 pm at the library, Allen Young will screen the film "Free Spirits: The Birth, Life, & Loss of a New-Age Dream" about the commune known as Brotherhood of the Spirit and the Renaissance Community located in Warwick and surrounding towns and led by Michael Metelica as well as a short film by Allen about Butterworth Farm. This will be followed by discussion of the films and communal living experiences in Royalston during the same era. The Friends of the Library will provide free, delicious refreshments for the program. For more information contact the library or visit our website.

Hey - Where is the New Books Listing?

Squishing the newsletter to 8 pages this month, the new books were jettisoned. However, they can be found at the library posted near the desk and on the web-site: www.royalstonlibrary.org.

Library Anniversary Tote Bags Available Soon

Tote bags, graced with Sonja Vaccari's drawing of the library, will soon be on sale to benefit the Friends of the Library. The recent slogan contest produced several fine choices, which may be incorporated on the bags as well. The top three choices came from Mary Barclay, Susan Divirgilio, and Celt Grant, who will each receive a tote bag for her and his entry. Bags will be available by the beginning of December.

Former Royalston Resident Publishes Book

Kathy Morris

Called a "well-plotted novel full of mayhem, death, and betrayal as well as family life, friendship and work in a small Massachusetts town in the 1950s" by Susan Milton, staff writer for CapeCod Online, Art Stewart has placed his new novel, *The Highwayman* in a town much like Royalston and many of the stories relate incidents that occurred while he was growing up in Royalston and Gardner.

Art Stewart was born in 1926 on Stewart Road at his grandmother's homestead. He spent his first 14 years living in the farmhouse there, and then moved with his family to Gardner to live with his mother's sister when his father passed away. In a recent visit to his brother and sister-in-law, I spoke to him about his life in Royalston. Many of the stories he related to me are contained in another of his books, *Reflections of Time*. Art is at work on his third book, *Return of the Highwayman* and says he writes about what he knows: building (he was in the construction business and the building inspector in Eastham), nature, love, and life experiences. He did mention that the murder was his invention and not something he experienced. Copies of both of Art's books are available to borrow from the library.





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Village School News

Lantern Walk Celebration Friday November 5

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 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 family contra dance with caller Tim Van Egmond 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 13 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 next year. Refreshments are served.

See the Village School website for more information www.villageschool.to

Math Night November 17 6-8 p.m.

Come to a presentation by Polly Wagner, math coach for the Village School and other schools, about how children learn math, and how to help children with homework. This will be totally hands on and lots of fun.

Monty Tech News

Monty Tech is delighted to have among their teachers, John Busiere, Jr. of Winchendon (formerly of King Street in South Royalston), who has accepted the position of Electrical Teacher. He is a graduate of Monty Tech, and holds a Master Electrician's license.

The final figures are in, and Royalston was fortunate enough to see a total of seven students admitted to Monty Tech's freshman class, bringing our total at the school to 21. By District agreement, only three seats are reserved for Royalston freshmen; the four extra students were able to place high enough on the wait list that they filled seats unused by other communities.

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North Quabbin Garden Club

Permaculture: Ecological Gardening for Food, Habitat, and Health

Permaculture is a whole-systems perspective on gardening and garden design that aims to create a more sustainable society. A faculty member at the Conway School of Landscape Design, Jono Neiger will explore such strategies as the integration of perennial polycultures, low-maintenance food systems, self-renewing fertility, animals, alternative energy and waste systems. This event will be held at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St, Athol, on Thursday, November 18, 2010 7 p.m.

LBS is Busy

Braised Beef Supper

Limited tickets remain for the annual LBS Scholarship Fund Braised Beef Supper Saturday, November 6, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Royalston Town Hall. Dinner includes local beef braised in savory gravy, real mashed potatoes, petite peas, marinated carrot salad, home baked dinner rolls and choice of generous slices of home-baked pies. All profits from this dinner go back to residents in the form of academic grants and scholarships – for public, private and home-schooled students as well as adults returning to college. (For application forms please contact Cindy Hughes at AHS.)



The drawing for “A Taste of Royalston” basket will take place at 7 p.m. that evening. It holds an ever-growing collection of local gift certificates, homemade items, home canned goods, works of art by Elizabeth Farnsworth and Gordon Morrison and hand-crafted items that have some connection to Royalston. The lucky winner will also receive a “Season’s Eatings” ticket, good for two adult meals at all LBS meals offered in 2011. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5; proceeds from the basket go towards the Village School Capital Campaign fund drive. Don’t miss the Open Mic debut upstairs in the Town Hall after the supper and drawing.

Drive-by Pie

The Society is going to hold a “Drive-By Pie Sale” Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon across from the post office, just in time for Thanksgiving. The ladies will have apple and pumpkin pies for \$10, mince and blueberry for \$12 and pecan at \$14. To pre-order a pie, freshly baked or unbaked and ready to put in the oven, call Maureen at 249-5138 and leave your name, order and a call back number. All proceeds benefit the LBS scholarship fund. Contact President Laurie M. Deveneau at lmdeveneau@msn.com or 978-249-5807 for information.

Gatautis Benefits Continue

The Ray Hendricks Revival will appear Friday, November 12, 2010, 8 p.m. at the Athol Orange Elks Hall to continue raising funds for Timmy Gatautis, a 23 year old life-long Athol resident who suffered a paralyzing neck injury the past June. His cousin, Maria Gatautis, formerly of Royalston, has charge of the event and names of people offering advance tickets. She can be reached at 978-660-5259.

Another upcoming benefit includes a drawing for two Boston Red Sox v. NY Yankees tickets for opening weekend at Fenway Park on April 19, 2011. The loge seats are in section 32, left field. The drawing takes place December 18, 2010. Tickets are \$5 each and can be arranged by contacting Maria at 978-660-5259.

Thanks to all who participated in the first annual Strides for Timmy 4-mile walk/run in Royalston in October. The event brought in more than \$6,000.



U-Way Fundraiser at Pete & Henry’s

Sadly, the United Way fundraising four-town “community night out” spaghetti suppers are not being held this year. John and Terry Cloutier, however, are supporting the U-Way by offering chances on two \$50 gift certificates to Pete & Henry’s Restaurant. Chances are \$1 each or six for \$5, with all proceeds going to the Athol Area United Way. Tickets are available at Pete & Henry’s during their regular hours (Thu., 4-9 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 3 – 10 p.m.; Sun., 1 – 8 p.m.) The winning donors will be drawn Sunday, November 21, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Royalston Fish and Gun Club News



The first F&G Roast Beef Supper of the 2010-2011 season takes place Saturday, November 20, at 6 p.m. in the Royalston F&G clubhouse. Tickets are \$12/person and are limited. BLITZ will follow. Reservations are available only in advance by calling the club at 249-3004.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Jessica (Guiney) Glover was recently presented the **Young Alumni Recognition Award** from Fitchburg State College. Jess was raised on Morse Rd. and now lives in Washington D.C. A political science major at Fitchburg State, she graduated with honors in 2007 and went on to earn a Master's in Middle Eastern Studies at George Washington University. During her studies, she was a U.S. Department of state Critical Languages Scholar to Morocco and spent a summer in Tangier studying Arabic. She was named the National Security Program Boren Fellow in 2009-10 and awarded a premier Defense Department award to continue her Arabic studies and independent research in Cairo. Since earning her degree, she has worked at several organizations in the capital, including the Center for Defense Information, the Terrorism Research Center, the Institute for Middle Eastern Studies and Churches for Middle East Peace. Jess married her college sweetheart, Matt Glover, in 2006.



Liane Brandon's Films Restored.

Will be Shown at the Museum of Modern Art in NYC

Two groundbreaking independent films of the Women's Movement by Liane Brandon have been restored and will be screened November 7th at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Liane's films that will be presented are *Anything You Want to Be* (1971) and *Betty Tells Her Story* (1972). They have been selected for preservation and screening through the Women's Film Preservation Fund which was founded by the Museum of Modern Art and New York Women in Film and Television in order "to safeguard the cultural legacy of women in the film industry" and to "restore and preserve the films for future generations". At the time Brandon started making films in the late 1960s, there were few women making independent films and even fewer who were dealing specifically with women's political issues. Her works, which are distributed widely, established that women had an important role to play in the predominantly male independent film movement. Both titles have become milestones in the women's movement, have been screened extensively in festivals around the world, and continue to be used in school and university film and social studies curricula.



Brandon, a part-time Royalston resident, is also a photographer, and professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Milestones: Wedding Bells

The Cormier's were busy being wedding planners this summer. Both brides are the daughters of Paul and Patricia Cormier of Deland Rd. The Cormier's have resided in Royalston since 1987.

Crystal Cormier, Child Life Specialist at Concord Hospital in Concord, New Hampshire, who grew up in Royalston, was married to Matthew Shotwell from Millis, Mass. The ceremony took place at the PACC in Gardner on August 8th. The couple resides in Gardner, Mass.

Jennifer Cormier, preschool teacher at Kinder Care in Acton, who grew up in Royalston, was married to Ulysses Fowler from Fitchburg. The ceremony took place at the Westminster Country Club on September 25th, which was also her parents 28th wedding anniversary. The couple resides in Fitchburg, Massachusetts.



Best wishes to former South Royalston resident **Paul Charest** and his new bride, Lynn (Ludington) Charest, formerly of Milford, Connecticut. The couple met in 2001 during their freshmen year at U-Mass Dartmouth and married June 19, 2010, in a garden ceremony in Naugatuck, Conn. Among the guests were Paul's parents, Fred and Marsha Charest of South Royalston and several wedding attendants from the area including former Athol residents Adam Gelin, Kelly Zablonksi, and the brother of the groom, James Charest of South Royalston. A reception for 130 was held at The Crystal Room in Naugatuck, with the newlyweds entering to Dropkick Murphy's "Shipping Up to Boston." Following a 12-night Hawaiian honeymoon, the couple has returned home and is back to work. Paul is a sales manager for Ayer-based Silpro, LLC, and the new Mrs. Charest is a clinical behavioral specialist in the Family Services Day Habilitation program at Seven Hills Foundation of Worcester. Notes to the Mr. & Mrs. Paul Charest can be sent to their home address, 28 Surrey Lane, Holden, MA 01520.



Birch Hill Rangers Snowmobile Club

Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the October meeting. They are President - Roy Smith; Vice President - Ross LeBlanc; Secretary - Bob Cox and Treasurer - Donna Smith. SAM delegates for this year are Roy Smith and Skip Cwartkowski. The club set the membership dues for this year at \$15 per individual and \$30 per family (same household). SAM stickers are still \$30 each and will again be available at the Royalston Country Store. The club will have a trail clearing session on Sunday, October 24th with concentration on the trails to and from the club and behind the store. The plan is to have another major trail clearing Thanksgiving weekend from Friday, November 26th thru Sunday, November 28th. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact any member. Information will be left at the country store. The members would like to remind fellow snowmobilers that trails around the area are not only used by snowmobilers; but also by hikers, snowshoers, hunters, dog sleds and cross country skiers. Be careful and alert while on the trails. The club's next meeting is at the Royalston Fish & Game Club on Thursday, November 11th at 7:30 p.m.

Recipe of the Month

Nancy Griffin moved to Royalston 3 years ago and enjoys its small town feel, sense of community and the endless beauty the area has to offer. She is a member of the Athol Bird and Nature Club and the North Quabbin Viewfinders, serves on the Friends of the Athol Public Library Board of Directors and is a regular participant in a monthly book discussion group. Before retiring, she worked as a registered nurse in a variety of settings and had a private psychotherapy practice for many years. She lives with her partner, her son and their 4 elderly canine companions, one of which is her trained service dog. Her recipe for this month is rich in vitamins, minerals and fiber and is both easy and delicious!! Serve with a green salad and some good bread.

Lentils, Rice and Chili Pepper Casserole

2/3 cup basmati or brown rice, soaked in cold water for 1 hour then drained
 1 cup lentils, picked over and rinsed
 4 ounces grated Monterey Jack cheese, divided - reserve 2 oz. for topping at end (use soy cheese to make this dish vegan)
 1 medium onion, finely chopped
 1 4-ounce can chopped green chilies, drained (add some chopped jalapeno for extra zip)
 1 cup canned chopped tomatoes, drained
 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
 Ground black pepper, to taste
 3 cups vegetable broth (Better than Bouillon is excellent)
 1/2 cup dry white wine (do not omit)

Combine first 12 ingredients in an ungreased 1 1/2-quart casserole. Mix well. Stir in broth and wine. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 1 1/4 hours, stirring twice during baking. Sprinkle with reserved 2 ounces of cheese and bake another 10-15 minutes until cheese melts and bubbles.

Garden Notes

October 21, 2010

I'd best fess up: I've recently returned after a nine-day absence. This is sort of akin to a tax preparer going off on a two-week cruise in early April. The garden survived just fine, in no small part due to Kathy's due diligence. At least I wasn't such a dunce as to miss the foliage season. Notwithstanding my cataract-challenged eyesight, the leaves sparkled. Leaves linger long up here on the hill, and color persists to this day. Of course, the leaves will drop, which means they will be raked, hauled, stacked, and composted, and ultimately added to the garden where they will enrich the soil and the food we eat from it. And so it goes.

Late October is generally the time I engage in some garden crowing and this year is no exception. We've had several readings in the low 30's but no killing frost. Even a few basil plants are green and basil is the tenderest of tender plants. Peppers were covered; I may yet harvest a pepper in November. Those frosts slide down Prospect Hill where they settle in at Putney Hollow. David informed me killing frost occurred on October 13 and there have been numerous sub-30° readings since then.

I also crow about the condition of the garden, which looks lush, almost late spring-like. There are a dozen different vegetables I am not only currently picking, but will be picking for weeks to come. Salad ingredients, root crops, eight different brassicas, herbs, they will all survive that first killing frost. Since parsnips were dug last March, I am about to embark upon my ninth month of fresh eating from the garden.

There have been some unusual seed happenings. The spring-flowering calendula dropped seeds which germinated and grew and matured, so I look out at a bed of calendula flowers, from the lightest of yellow to the deepest of orange and exclaim over my good fortune. For the last couple of years peas from spring planting that dropped to the ground have germinated as well. The pea beds are re-planted but I work around the young vines. This year they've matured a crop of peas. Unprecedented.

For the past week or so, I've been heading to the garden about an hour before sunset, ostensibly to accomplish some minor undertaking (like pulling a few weeds, or grooming a few plants, or picking a few vegetables) but in reality to be in position to catch the show to follow. The garden is already in the shade, but the sun is bouncing off the sugar maples to the east and I observe the sunset by facing in that direction. Throw in a moon approaching fullness and some clouds along the eastern horizon and it is paradise on Prospect Hill. Ah, the life of a gentleman farmer. (Though admittedly, I've negotiated the road to farmer more smoothly than the road to gentleman.

Larry Siegel

Wildlife Sightings

Officer Matt Praplaski, while on patrol, reported coming across a very large black bear, on the Athol Road.

Josh Siegel observed a moose near Camp Caravan in the 3rd week of October.

Classifieds:

Birch Hill Computers - Sales, Repairs and Parts. 978-790-7876.
Birchhillcomputers.com

Firewood - \$180/170 cubic feet for green, cut, split and delivered locally. Call for prices on limited supply of semi-seasoned and fully seasoned. Also available: Sawdust for bedding or mulch. Leave message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

Wanted: 5-7 acres of land to buy for agricultural use (to plant an orchard, build a greenhouse, etc) in close proximity to Royalston. Mostly cleared land preferred, with a stream or pond on premises a definite plus. Call 617-281-5611 or 781-721-1207.

Hand knit baby sweater sets, mittens, hats, boot socks. All colors and sizes. Shirley Anderson. 9778-249-4013

Housekeeping, weeding, or other odd jobs upon request. \$14.00/hr. Call Kathleen (Lawrence) Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Grass-fed beef, all cuts, for sale. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.

House for rent. Two bedrooms near Royalston common. \$900.00 per month plus utilities. 978-249-0358.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
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Royalston MA 01368

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