

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2011



Volume XIV, Issue V

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



June 2 Thursday

3:45 pm **Friends of the Library meeting:** with the library centennial, the plant sale, the newsletter and Shakespeare, as well as the usual day to day services providing books, resources and entertainment, this is probably the busiest month for the library in 100 years. Stop by and get involved. It's fun.

June 11 Saturday

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common

7 – 11 a.m. Village School Pancake Breakfast
8 – 11 a.m. Spectacular Silent Auction to benefit the Village School
9 – 11:30 a.m. Royalston Police Booth
9 a.m. – noon Plant Sale to benefit the PSN Library, at the P.O.
9 a.m. - noon Book Sale to benefit PSN library at Library
9 a.m. – noon Ladies' Benevolent Society Afghan Raffle to benefit Royalston's 250th Celebration
9:30 a.m. Michael Young Native American flute and dance
10 a.m. Millers River Morris Men dancers
11 a.m. All Kids Win, Old-Fashioned Cake Walk

June 18 Saturday Phinehas S. Newton Library's 100th Anniversary Celebration (See p. 5 for complete details.)

12:40 pm line up at Bullock Park for Library 100th
Cash prizes for bikes, costumes and overall "best in show."
1 pm Speeches, poems and songs from the library steps
2 - 4 pm Living history, games, refreshments at the library
2 - 4 pm Historical Society Museum open
3 pm Field guide talk/ walk
4 - 6 Chicken BBQ, tix available at the library or from any firefighter
7:30 - 10 pm Literary Ball. Pick up free tickets at the library.

June 19 Sunday Father's Day

32nd Annual Father's Day Antique & Classic Auto Meet exhibit and see cool cars at Monty Tech. Contact Emery, at 978- 537-1907.

June 20 Monday

7 pm **First rehearsal for the Royalston Shakespeare Company's 2011 workshop production of *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*.** (See p. 4 for a complete schedule of rehearsal times.) Actors, tech crew and costumers needed. Open to ages 7 - 20. No auditions; everyone willing to work is cast. Free and fabulous fun. Performance on Friday July 1 at 7 pm. Call the library 249-3572 to register.

June 21 Tuesday

1:16 p.m. **Summer Solstice**

June 23 Thursday

1/2 day schedule Last school day for students in the ARRS D

June 24 Friday

7 pm **The reconvened Annual Town Meeting** at the Community School. **A Special Town Meeting** will be held on the same night to make any necessary transfers and/or adjustments to the town budget.

June 25 Saturday

9 am - noon **Family Fun Mini-Golf** Fundraiser at 202 min-golf (207 Daniel Shays Highway, Orange Ma 01364) from 9:00am – Noon all admission collected will benefit the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation, (\$6.00 Adults ~ Under 12 years \$4.00, senior citizens 55+ \$5.00, foursome of golfers \$20.00 and replays are half price).

5 p.m. **Fish & Game Chicken Barbecue** at the Royalston Club
6 pm **Roast Beef Supper** at Town Hall to benefit the town 250th anniversary celebration. Call Geoff or any board member for tickets. (\$12 adults/ \$6 child)

June 27 Monday

5 p.m. – 9 p.m. **Town Clerk's new summer hours** through Labor Day, no morning hours – at Whitney Hall

Save the Date

July 9 Saturday

Congregational Church Fair

July 22 Friday

a program on on arthritis and Lyme disease in dogs with Sue Ellen Mowcomber, DVM and Royalston resident . Refreshments. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

August 20 Saturday

Chili cook-off and giant town wide yard sale to benefit the Royalston 250th anniversary celebration. Call 978-249-4422 for information.

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Linda Alger, chair

The Selectman's office is always busy this time of year preparing for the Annual Town Meeting. The Board would like to thank all the department heads and the financial advisory board for their time and effort in budget presentations. With the tough economic times everyone has been frugal in their spending which has assisted the Board in balancing the budget.

The reconvened ATM will be held on June 24th at 7pm at the Community School. A Special Town Meeting will be held on the same night to make any necessary transfers and/or adjustments.

We are still waiting for word on the grant proposal for the Waste Water treatment facility.

The Broadband Committee continues its work on wireless broadband; a crucial hurdle was approval of the Wired West article at the ATM the first of two required. If you would like more information please feel free to contact the administrative assistant, who will put you in touch with the committee.

Coming events: Memorial Day exercises May 30 on the Common, the annual swearing in ceremony of public safety officials at the end of June and the library's 100th anniversary celebration on June 18. Have a Happy and Safe Summer

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

New windshield stickers are in and due on all vehicles by July 1st. Residents stickers cost \$15 and \$5 for additional stickers if needed due to multiple vehicles. See attendant to purchase new stickers. The stickers have a new look to them. They were printed by Hatfield Printing in Hatfield, MA, which has quality solar powered printing and good pricing.

The BOH reminds residents that feeding pets and animals outside can lead to unwanted wildlife seeking this available source of food. This can lead to wildlife living in garages, sheds, and cellars. Some of this wildlife can carry rabies. The top four categories of animals testing positive for rabies in MA are: raccoons, skunks, bats, and then cats. When wildlife moves in close proximity to humans, it tends to lose its natural fear. This can have bad consequences for the animals and the humans. The BOH encourages people to feed their pets inside and to bring them in at night if possible. Don't leave garbage outside to attract wildlife. Cover your compost piles after use with leaves, grass, or other covering material. Don't give wildlife an unnatural meal. They will become used to it and not seek their natural foods; that can lead to wildlife becoming a pest instead of a neighbor. Bad things happen to animals when they become a threat to humans. Be a good neighbor to them.



And, in case anyone has forgotten, the transfer station still can't make paper out of plastic. If it's in your hand, put it in the right can.

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

Mondays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

(note new summer hours: beginning June 13, the Clerk's office will be open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays only.)

The Annual Town Meeting will reconvene at 7 p.m. on June 24, followed by a Special Town Meeting. A special voter registration session will be held on Tuesday, June 14, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Residents who are currently not registered to vote must register by this date in order to vote at the Special Town Meeting.

What Happened at the May 6th Town Meeting?

Voters approved an operating budget of \$1,658,499. All items were approved amicably. Monty Tech was voted \$67,452 and the ARRSD was voted its requested \$441,794 (albeit Superintendent Polito warned that his level of funding would necessitate layoffs.) The controversial articles to create an enterprise fund for the waste water treatment plant were tabled and will be voted on at the continuance of the annual town meeting on June 24; however, \$40,15 operating expenses for the plant were approved. Next, the town voted to become part of "Wired West", a consortium of western Mass. Towns working to bring broadband to the far corners of the state. Also approved were the town's portion of a new police department SUV purchase, about \$13,000 of new firefighting equipment and \$18,000 so the DPW can purchase lawn care equipment to maintain the parks and commons. Winchendon Rd will be targeted for improvement with a \$600,000 STRAP grant, which is reimbursed by the state. The Community Preservation Committee's articles to restore fencing at Hillside Cemetery and clean paintings at the library were also passed.

A Huge Thank You from the Fire Department

Fire Chief Keith R. Newton

The Fire Department has put into service two new Rescue vehicles with money raised from donations and fund drives. The Rescue Boat and U.T.V. will help reach victims in areas that had previously been out of reach to Rescue personnel without calling for mutual aid, (which required using valuable minutes in traveling from other towns in the district.) This specialized equipment has a large responsibility roll and along with that comes training in methods and safety classes to prepare all the emergency staff in the proper use and procedures. On May 12, 2011 the fire department culminated classwork and examinations in Boater Safety. I extend congratulations to the Fire, Police and Medical staff for a job well done.

Memorial Day Committee

Flag Day is June 14, a good time to inspect your American flag. Cotton and most nylon fabric American flags that are dirty or dusty can be washed in home machines on the gentle cycle, and either hung to dry (by the pole side edge in order to retain its shape) or tumble dried with low heat. Flags that are permanently stained, faded or irreparably damaged should be replaced. Retired American flags, according to the United States Flag Code, "...should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." This may be done at any time, with appropriate burning permits if done outside, or retired flags can be given to a number of veterans' organizations that schedule regular flag retirement ceremonies.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904 ema@royalston-ma.gov

Volunteers needed; three upcoming trainings:

The next area-wide Community Emergency Response Team class will be held soon. Royalston EMA will provide participants with all materials, and those who complete will earn a back-pack with basic equipment, tools and supplies. Join the growing "community" of area residents well-prepared to care for themselves in an emergency situation... so well prepared that during an unexpected event, they can volunteer some of their time to help others.

A regional First Responder Refresher course is also coming up in Templeton on Wednesday & Thursday, June 29 & 30 from 18:00 – 22:00 hours. EMD Rich Curtis has extended an invite to any Royalston First Responder in need of a refresher.

Both of these trainings are offered under the direction of Templeton's Emergency Management Director Rich Curtis. To participate in either, contact rcurtis@templetonfire.org or call Royalston EMD Barclay at 978-249-2904.

Separately, the Royalston PD and EMA are pairing to offer a brief training session on Traffic Control and Directing Traffic. Current CERTS and First Responders welcome, as are those enrolling in the upcoming Templeton CERT class. Contact EMD Barclay at ema@royalston-ma.gov or 978-249-2904 for specifics.

CPC - Community Preservation Committee

Marsha Charest, chairperson

The committee will hold a public meeting on Monday, June 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. The committee will be reviewing the eligibility form, application form and schedule of dates for submissions for the annual town meeting. Any requests for funds are accepted at any time during the year. The committee has deadlines in order to review any requests and prepare the articles for the warrant at the town meeting. Two articles were submitted this year that met the requirements set forth by the Community Preservation Act and both were approved at the last town meeting. The two articles were the renovation of two Estabrook portraits and restoring the fence at the Hillside Cemetery.

Royalston Police Department News

Community Resource Officer Sherry A. Miner will be on the Royalston Common Saturday, June 11 with whatever giveaways she has (brochures, gun locks, limited numbers of car seats and bike helmets) and accompanied by one or more of the shepherds she has trained as Search and Rescue K-9s. Throughout the morning other officers are likely to drop by; it's a great opportunity to meet and get to know the members

of your police department before you need them. They will gladly discuss home security, gun safety, tell you about Royalston's Neighborhood Watch program and answer your questions.



Open Space and Recreation Committee

Paul Montero, Chairperson

Royalston roadways are impressive for their beautiful wild and rural landscape. Despite the bumps, they provide a scenic interlude. The only aspect not appealing is the signs and other things attached to our trees. "No Trespassing" signs and even satellite dishes are posted on trees that are in the public roadway.

All roadways in Royalston that are public roadways are also easements for folks to travel here and there and only for that purpose. An easement is in fact permission for a certain purpose while retaining ownership of the underlying land. That is to say, the government does not own the roadways; they are part of the public domain. However, there are laws that protect roadways.

All trees within a public roadway or on the boundaries of public roadways are public shade trees protected by the Massachusetts General Law (MGL) from damage due to cutting, marking or signs. The Town of Royalston elects or appoints a Tree Warden whose responsibility is caring for these public trees. Laws regarding signs and other things attached to trees are part of the responsibility granted to the Tree Warden.

Here is a quotation of the General Law Chapter 87, Section 9 regarding signs or marks on shade trees: "Whoever affixes to a tree in a public way or place a notice, sign, advertisement or other thing, whether in writing or otherwise, or cuts, paints or marks such tree, except for the purpose of protecting it or the public and under a written permit from the officer having the charge of such trees in a city or from the tree warden in a town, or from the department in the case of a state highway, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars. Tree wardens shall enforce the provisions of this section; but if a tree warden fails to act in the case of a state highway within thirty days after the receipt by him of a complaint in writing from the department, the department may proceed to enforce this section." If the boundaries of the roadway cannot be made certain by records or monuments, and hence it is doubtful whether the tree is within the roadway, it shall be taken to be within the roadway and to be public property until the contrary is shown. Research the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Sections 1 – 11 online at <http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter87/Section1>

Royalston Cemetery Commission

Next time by the Riverside Cemetery, be sure to check out the new landscape: The decrepit pine trees in the middle of the cemetery (those parts which had not already fallen onto/around aging headstones) have been removed. The next phase will include grinding of the stumps and re-seeding. Riverside and the Jonas Alliene Cemeteries are also looking better since the removal of some overgrown shrubs and brush. Work will soon begin on the Hillside Cemetery fencing, with a grant from the Community Preservation Act funds. If you or your organization would like to volunteer some time to help with brush removal and simple repairs at any of Royalston's many cemeteries, please contact Cemetery Commissioner Roland G. Hamel at 978-249-4587 or massk9@verizon.net.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00 am- 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you

Donations to the Friends:

Major General Robert. C. Davenport

Mary Pat Jackson

and to Alyssa Bergquist for expert help processing books

Clarence Rabideau for weeding our collection so efficiently

Summer Reading Programs

‘One World Many Stories’ is the theme for this year’s summer reading program in 49 states and we have some great programs planned and encourage everyone to participate. Our programs are funded by a generous grant from the Royalston Academy and the Friends of the Library. This year the Boston Bruins are co-sponsoring the Massachusetts Summer Reading Program and we have applied for a grant to try to get the Bruins to pay a visit to our library.

All programs for older kids are on Thursdays at 1:30 at the library and will be followed by snacks. If it rains the Creature Teachers program will be at the Town Hall.

July 7 - **Bubbles** – Giant, Weird and Cool. We’ll learn the science to create sheets of bubbles, make wands and have a wet soapy fun time. Dress to get wet.

July 14 - **Tree Masks** – Create a clay mask from bark imprinted clay. Join Kerry Stone for this great workshop.

July 21 - **Creature Teachers** - Different animals from around the world will provide the basis for this educational and fun program as Creature Teachers tell you the stories behind each of several unique animals.

July 28 - **Ice Cream Social** – Our traditional summer end program with some game, and a great time cranking ice cream. Savor the flavor of homemade ice cream and enjoy great fun and a wrap up the summer’s events.

Preschool Summer Program

Held on Monday mornings at 10:00 at the library, this program is specifically designed for preschool children. Older kids may come but not participate in the programs except to help out. The library is not open for business and thus not staffed during this time so others attending will have to remain outside while the program is in session.

July 11 – **Storytelling and Native American Flute** - Listen while Michael Young weaves stories and music in an engaging, delightful morning.

July 18 – **Music and Movement** – Join Jenny Nano for a hopping fun program dancing away the morning.

July 25 – **Stepping Stones** – create and decorate a personalized stepping stone to put in your yard or garden

Royalston Shakespeare Company:

A Free Summer Shakespeare Workshop for Kids, is Back this June

It almost seemed too much - pulling off the events for the library’s 100th celebration and a Royalston Shakespeare Company performance in June, but due to popular clamor from the regular participants in the RSC, it’s “once more into the breach”.

With this performance, the RSC has become a reparatory theater. It will be reprising its first workshop from 2004, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Originally, most of the players in the RSC still attended RCS. (Dante Divoll as Oberon brought some maturity to the cast as a middle schooler.) A lot has happened in seven years. With experience, the actors are ready to bring new perspective and skills to the play. Long time Royalston Shakespeare Co. participants Noah Dawson and Asher Chase are now college students and will be taking over direction (perhaps in collaboration with others) this year. Nonetheless, the tired and true triumvirate of directors, Norah Dooley, Maureen Blasco and Beth Gospodarek, are still waiting in the wings with transitional assistance.

The schedule is a bit awkward because of the snow-day induced late dismissal of local public schools. Rehearsals are scheduled upstairs in the town hall Mon. June 20 and Weds. 22 evening (7 - 8:30) as well as Thurs. June 23rd afternoon (12 - 3). After that, it’s every morning 6/ 24- 7/1 (9:30 - 1) except Sunday 6/ 26. Plan to attend an evening performance 7 /1 at 7 pm. Actors must attend every rehearsal. This theater workshop is free and open to all aged 7 – 20 thanks to a grant from the cultural council and support from the friends of the library.



Register by stopping by calling the library 978-249-3572. Questions? Call Beth Gospodarek at 978-249-0358.

photo: RSC original cast production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream in July 2004. A revival is scheduled this summer. The performance is Friday July 1, 2011 at 7 pm.

100th Anniversary Celebration of the Phinehas S. Newton Library on Saturday, June 18, 2011

It's almost here! We hope everyone will come out and celebrate this momentous occasion with us. There will be lots going on, prizes galore, as well as good food, good fun and good friends.

Schedule of Events:

On June 18 the library will be closing at 11:00 a.m. instead of noon.

Parade: Those planning on being in the parade should contact Jen Bartkus at the library and plan on being at Bullock Park at 12:40 to line up for the parade, which will begin at 1:00 and proceed to the library. Cash prizes in these categories: best decorated vehicle including floats, bikes and strollers; decorated or becostumed person; and "best in show".

Speeches: Several speakers, including Senator Brewer, Mary Carnie and David Putney, will address the topic of libraries and community; the new town poet laureate will be crowned; and there several musical interludes. This program mirrors the outline of the original 1911 dedication.

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Refreshments and Music: At about 2:00 p.m. there will be tea and refreshments in the tent outside the library served by the Ladies Benevolent Society as well as selections of classical guitar music by Carl Kamp.

Living History: Take a stroll through history and meet re-enactors portraying the people who made the library possible. From the library steps you will meet the architect who designed the building, the man who donated the land (played by Warren Hill, direct descendant of William Hill), an original library trustee and members of the 1911 Board of Library Commissioners. As you enter the library you will meet the librarian, Phinehas S. Newton, weavers, (who make Phinehas's wealth possible), Phinehas's intended, the donors of the clock, and others important in library history.

Herbarium and Field Guide Nature Walk: In the other tent, Gordon Morrison and Elizabeth Farnsworth, well-known, botanical field guide illustrators, will have artwork and the original 1911 library herbarium. Elizabeth will lead a fern walk. Walk and talk: 3:00. Co-sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Historical Society Museum: The Royalston Historical Society will open the museum from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. See one of the Phinehas S. Newton hats and many other historical artifacts including the recently acquired Royalston memorabilia.

Games: giant hula hoops, bubble making, and face painting facilitated by the Athol High School National Honor Society.

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Chicken BBQ - Sponsored by the Royalston Fire & EMS Association: Enjoy dinner on the common. Seating under tents in front of the Town Hall and in the dining room. Tickets: \$12 at the library or from any fire fighter.

7:30 - 10:00 pm

Literary Ball at the Royalston Town Hall from – Come dressed as your favorite author or fictional or real character if you desire. (Stumped for ideas? Try matching the decore. Posters and murals paying homage to expatriot authors of the 20s, *The Odyssey*, *Little Women*, *Cinderella*, *Robert Frost*, *The Steeple Speaks*, *Mid-summer Night's Dream* and *Where the Wild Things Are*. (Let the wild rumpus begin) are planned. Prizes awarded. Period music by Melanie and the Blue Shots. Tickets are free but must be reserved by contacting the library.

Portrait of Phinehas S. Newton Returns to Library

Work on the portrait of Phinehas S. Newton will be completed by the WorcesterArt Museum around the beginning of June and Phinehas will be making the return trip to Royalston in time to take his place of honor over the fireplace in the South room for the 100th anniversary celebration. Thanks to the people who have donated to the cleaning and restoration, the Friends of the Library, and the Library Fund for funding this project. Donations may still be made to the Friends to fund this and other projects. This fall we plan to have the conservators from the Worcester Art Museum do a presentation on conservation, preservation, and restoration of artwork using this portrait as an example.

Annual Plant Sale at Post Office and Book Sale at the Library on June 11th 9 a.m. - noon

Purple smoke bush, red Rubin basil, golden glow, bright lights chard... add some color to your sensory palette at the Friends of the Library Plant sale. As always, a fine selection of perennials, annuals, herbs, flowers, veggies, and shrubs available along with reliable advice - all at good prices. Plants donated by local nurseries and generous Royalston residents, so they are proven right for our soil and climate conditions. All proceeds benefit library purchases, programs and projects (like this newsletter.) donations can be dropped at the library earlier in the week or at the post office on the morning of the sale. The friends are grateful for the ongoing community support of this event.

Royalston, where many waters flow and the fun never stops:

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School on the Common

All programs are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Royalston children receive a discount, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

- July 5-8 ages 4-9 Nature Arts and Play
 - July 11-15 ages 4-9 Nature Arts and Play
 - July 11-15 ages 7 and up Science and Art Experience
 - July 18-22 3rd grade and above The Young Artist's Workshop
- These programs are open to everyone. For more information, go to www.villageschoolma.org to download the brochure and registration form. Registration forms are at the library too.*

YOUTHREACH! Summer Theater Arts Program

Do you love acting?

Then join us for a fun and exciting four week immersion experience into the performing arts for youth entering grades 7 through 12. Explore your creativity and imagination in a unique program where we develop our own original theatrical production and then perform it live on stage to thunderous applause. Be a star!

Monday, June 27 through Saturday, July 23, 2011

At the Athol Area YMCA (weeks 1 - 3, 1 to 5 pm)

and the Orange Town Hall (week 4, 3 to 7 pm)

Cost: \$75.00 for non-members • \$50.00 for y members & former cast members. Scholarships available • limited to 20 participants • sign up now at the YMCA. *This program is funded in part by the Royalston Cultural Council an agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.*

Royalston Fish and Game BBQ Chicken Supper



Royalston F&G Chicken Barbecue Tickets are now available for the Saturday, June 25 barbecue. Dinner is served at 5 p.m. and features a half-chicken which is watched like a hawk and continually basted

with a "secret recipe" while being cooked over an open fire. Also enjoy crunchy cole slaw, a baked potato, bread and butter, cranberry sauce, coffee, and to top it off, watermelon for dessert- all for just \$10/plate. The next chicken barbecue will be Saturday, August 27 – mark your calendar now! Contact the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004 during open hours (Tue. & Fri. nights; Weekends) or call Marie at 978-249-2836 for reservations.

The Royalston F&G is open every Tuesday and Friday night. Memberships are available at the bar or at the Royalston General Store. If you are interested in more information, contact Marie at 978-249-2836 or the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004.

SATURDAY MORNING
ON ROYALSTON COMMON

VILLAGE SCHOOL PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Organic blueberry pancakes & local maple syrup
7:30-10:30 AM • Town Hall • \$6/\$3 KIDS

SPECTACULAR SILENT AUCTION
www.villageschool.to for list of items
8:00-11:00 AM • Town Hall

TAG SALE
8:30-11:00 AM

Town Wide Yard Sale and Chili Cook-off

On Saturday, August 20, from 9:00 to 2:00, the 250th Celebration Committee will be sponsoring a town-wide yard sale and chili cook-off on the Royalston Common and at locations around town. Participants in the yard sale will have the choice of booking table space on the Common or having their houses listed on a town yard sale map that will be available for sale on the Common.

The chili cook-off will be happening on the Common from 11:00 to 2:00. Participants should bring their own equipment and a big pot of their favorite homemade chili. First and runner-up prizes will be awarded for the best chili, chosen by consumer vote. Hotdogs, hamburgers and ice cream will also be available.

The cost to participate in each of the events is \$15. All proceeds from the two events will go towards building the fund for the gala 250th Royalston Anniversary events that will be taking place in 2015. Watch for the flyer and registration form in next month's newsletter! For more information, call Carla at 249-4422.



RCS End of Year Events

- June 1 Grades 5 & 6 to ARMS for orientation
- June 2 Gr. 1 – Field trip to Southwick Zoo
- June 2 Gr. 5 – Field trip to Overlook Farm, Rutland
- June 8 Gr. 6 – Field Trip to Smith College, Art Museum & Conservatory
- June 8 Poetry Celebration @ 6:30 pm
- June 10 Gr. 6 – RCS Sleepover
- June 15 Gr. 6 – Field trip to Harvard Forest & a Surprise Activity
- June 16 It's All About Kindergarten Night @ 6:00 pm
- June 17 Gr. K – Field trip to Davis Farmland
- June 17 Grades 3 & 4 – Field trip to Northfield Mountain
- June 20 RCS Field Day
- June 20 Gr. 6 Step-Up at RCS @ 6:30 pm
- June 21 RCS Field Day (Rain Date)
- June 23 Last Day of school for students - 1/2 Day
- June 24 Last Day of school for teachers & staff

The 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem June events:

Saturday, June 11th: **Beaumont String Quartet** - classical chamber music - 7:30PM

Sunday, June 12th: **Quabbin Valley Pro Musica** - chorus accompanied by the Beaumont String Quartet - 4PM

Thursday, June 16th: **Unit-7** - horn-based pop - 7:30PM

Saturday, June 18th: **Boston Blackthorne** - Celtic and Irish American tunes - 7:30PM

Sunday, June 19th: **The Pangeans** - world music - 4PM

Saturday, June 25th: staged readings of **Swift River Valley Anthology** - 7:30PM

Sunday, June 26th: **Swift River Valley Anthology** matinee 2PM

Thursday, June 30th: **Samantha Farrell** - pop with a hint of jazz - 7:30PM

Mini-Golf Family Fun Day

Fundraiser for Athol Royalston Education Foundation

June 25, 2011 at 202 Mini-Golf, 207 Daniel Shays Highway, Orange Ma 01364 from 9:00am – Noon

\$6.00 Adults ~ Under 12 years \$4.00, senior citizens 55+ \$5.00, foursome of golfers \$20.00 and replays are half price

All admission collected will benefit the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation, a group of local citizens who work to provide enrichment opportunities in our local schools. Consider becoming a member or joining the board. Visit our web-site: www.a-ref.org

Ladies' B.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society will host a raffle on The Common Saturday, June 11, in front of the Town Hall from 9 a.m. – noon, to benefit Royalston's 250th Celebration Fund. The scrap and black afghan is made in a shell pattern of first use 100% acrylic yarn. Tickets are \$1/each or 6/\$5. The winner does not need to be present at the time of drawing

The Ladies' Benevolent Society Float for the Phinehas S. Newton Library's 100th Anniversary parade June 18 is a 1924 Model T Ford, to be festooned with paper flowers and streamers. The car is owned by Joseph P. Bulger, Sr. of Winchendon, who salvaged the vehicle (in pieces) about eight years ago, and has completely restored the black beauty. Joe will be chauffeuring the Society's eldest member, Marguerite (Clark) Langlois, who at age 90, remains active in the Society, travels nation-wide to American Legion Auxiliary events, participates in a bowling league and always manages to turn out large quantities of freshly-baked goodies for every family get-together.

In honor of the Library's 100th Anniversary, the Ladies' B. is organizing a 100th Anniversary Tea and Social. Anyone able to lend equipment (tea services, punch bowls, etc.) or donate supplies, food or beverages is asked to contact the event hostess, Society member Donna L. Caisse at 978-249-4497.

Bruce's Browser presents it 7th Annual Pride Series

Royalston residents Allen Young and Diane Lincoln join forces again to present the 7th Annual Pride Series in "the back corner" at Bruce's Browser, 1497 Main St, Athol, MA. The events seek to entertain and engage audience members while raising awareness of LGBT issues and celebrating diversity. There is no admission fee, and refreshments will be provided. www.brucesbrowser.com

Friday, June 10th, 7PM: Award-winning filmmaker Joe Wilson from Washington DC is coming to "the back corner" to present and discuss his timely documentary "Out in the Silence."

Tuesday, June 14th, 7PM: "A Marine Story" starring actress Drea Weber (The Gymnast) addresses the harm done by DADT, sexism and homophobia

Friday, June 24th, 7PM: "Howl" starring James Franco as Allen Ginsberg - the obscenity trial that started a revolution - the poem that rocked a generation

Tuesday, June 28th, 7PM: "Saving Marriage" - one vote changed a nation forever- the true story of the Massachusetts fight to save marriage equality

Follies 2011 Photo CD Now Available

The 2011 Follies were a big success leaving lingering memories of very funny moments, lots of town talent, creativity, energy and cooperation. Thank you to all of those who helped put this event together in all its different facets, and to those who enthusiastically cheered on. Liane Brandon has put together a CD of 60 marvelous pictures of every act performed that night. She has graciously donated the proceeds of this sale to the Royalston Cultural Council. The CD is \$7 each. Please order by sending a check together with an e-mail address and/or telephone number to Jim Bennett /P.O. Box 81./Royalston,MA 01368. Checks for the CD should be made to the Royalston Cultural Council.



Patience Bundshuh and Phil Leger, 1st prize



Lorraine Cassinghino, best use of kitchen implements



Elizabeth West, 2nd prize

photos courtesy of Liane Brandon

Poetry from the RCS 2nd grade field trip:

A visit to the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art:

rEmarkable
Rainbow
Inventive
Colorful

ExCitement
Art
wRiter
cLever
pErfect !

Recipe of the Month

This recipe comes from Barb Richardson, former town clerk, well known in town for her kind heart, independent thought and practical attitude. She lives with her husband Jim (an indispensable member of the Board of Assessors) and fine sons Michael and Aaron near Doane's Falls on Richardson land that has been in their family since the founding of the town. In fact, an ancestor, Timothy Richardson, was elected selectman in 1765. Tradition says that the wife of Timothy Richardson, then a young woman, rode from Wrentham to settle in Royalston; as she started out, she broke off a twig from an apple tree for a riding whip. On arriving at the new home, she stuck the twig in the ground where it took root and became a stalwart tree which bore apples for many years. There are still a lot of apple trees around the Richardson's house and Barbara's gardens are famously both useful and beautiful and are regularly featured in the library garden tour.

Spaghetti Squash Casserole

1-large or 2 small spaghetti squash

Olive oil

5-6 clove garlic

1-large onion

2 lb ground beef

1 cup red wine

1 quart of diced tomatoes

1 small container of farmer's cheese or ricotta cheese

1 cup parmesan cheese

Lots of basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary and crushed red pepper (to taste)

Start by roasting the squash, cut in half the long way, de-seed and roast face up after drizzling with oil and a pinch of each spice. Roast until fork tender and the squash will pull out of shell nice and stringy. (350 degrees about 45 min)

While squash cooks brown the beef with onions and garlic, add spices and let infuse, add wine and allow it to reduce a bit. Add tomatoes with their juice and simmer until your squash is cooked and cooled enough to handle.

Combine the squash (pull it from its shell with a fork) and your sauce. Place in a baking dish, or return to the squash shell. Sprinkle with parmesan and finally place dollops of the farmer's cheese over the top.

Classifieds

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Especially for those who spin yarn or do felting... farm downsizing, so **two alpacas** need great homes. Call Ginger for information. 978-249-7629

Music lessons with Jocelyn Langer. Flute, recorder and guitar. Private lessons at \$18 each and group lessons at \$12 each. Mondays at the Village School in July and August by appointment. Email: jocelyn.langer@gmail.com

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Garden Notes

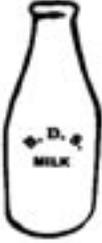
May 22, 2011

The garden is my refuge. Our nation, the world's cop, is engaged in three wars. I go through airport security feeling abased and humiliated but no more secure when I seat myself within the plane. Civility has ceased to exist, the Democrats and Republicans clawing at each other. Gasoline ia at \$4.00/gallon; in a couple of months we will wish it was at \$4.00/gallon. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer. I retreat to the garden and these thoughts disappear. The garden is not without its ills. The voles continue to tunnel through the beds. (Is there a cat out there available for adoption?) Germination has been iffy given the cold, wet conditions. Asparagus has been anything but plentiful and parsnips even less so (a victim of vole damage over the winter). Weeds are growing up through the mulch. But the troubles in the garden are manageable (or at least endurable) and the troubles of the world are not.

We are mired in an extended stretch of foul weather. There has not been two hours of sun in the past nine days and the forecast for the next several is no more encouraging. There have been benefits however: the rain provided a break from the black flies (though they returned with a vengeance during dry spells, lack of sun notwithstanding). All these years I've toughed out the black flies, but this year I've met my match. Truly horrific ! (and I am not partial to hyperbole, or the use of exclamation points for that matter.) And, while working in the rain is decidedly less than ideal, everything in the garden thrives. If this weather persists for a couple more weeks (with the heat-loving plants in the ground), it will be quite another story. For the moment, though, those plants grow on in the comfort of the greenhouse. Grass couldn't be happier. Hay-makers have a lot of hay to make if only it would dry out enough for them to make that hay. Additionally, it is the finest of times for transplanting, for the transplant if not necessarily the transplanter. I have, alas, run out of cool weather plants to transplant. On the down side, fruit trees are in full bloom. Fruit blossoms are pollinated by flying creatures. Since there is a dearth of creatures flying at the moment, fruit set is problematic. Stay tuned.

A word, or two, or three regarding thinning (and I do not refer to reduction in body weight; these are garden notes after all). Large-seeded vegetables need not be thinned. As mentioned last month, pea seed is set one inch apart. The literature recommends a two to four inch spacing for beans. I select three inches. Almost all the peas and beans will germinate. The corn, far more dependent on soil moisture and, especially, soil temperature, will not reliably germinate. My final spacing is twelve inches but I plant seed every four inches. If germination is poor I will still have enough; if good, I dig up the extras and pass them on to fellow gardeners. They transplant quite easily. Other seeds are far less cooperative. In spite of every effort, I must pull scores more seedling than those that remain. Final spacing? Carrots, one to two inches; beets three inches; fennel, six inches, kale, eight inches; rutabaga, six inches; spinach, four inches; chard, six inches. Plants will not fully develop without this thinning. It is a formidable task indeed. Formidable enough so that the seed purveyors now offer planting tapes (which have the seeds spaced appropriately). The time-honored method is to get down there and thin. I choose the latter. What would gardening be without soiled knees and dirt under the fingernails?

Larry Siegel



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What was happening in the world 100 years ago in 1911 when the library was dedicated?

Feb 6 - 1st old-age home opened in Prescott, Ariz
March 4 - Victor Berger (Wise) becomes 1st socialist US congressman
Mar 25- Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire 145 die, all but 13 girls
Apr 12 - 1st non-stop London-Paris flight
May 31 - R.M.S. Titanic launched.
Jul 4 - 105°F (41°C) at Vernon, Vermont (state record)
Jul 24 - Hiram Bingham discovers Lost City of the Incas
Aug 15 - Procter & Gamble unveils its Crisco shortening
Aug 22 - Mona Lisa stolen from Louvre (Recovered in 1913)
Sep 25 - Ground breaking begins in Boston for Fenway Park
Dec 14 - South Pole 1st reached, by Norwegian Roald Amundsen
Dec 29 - Sun Yat-sen becomes the first President of the Republic of China.

...and what was happening in town that day?

According to Lilley B. Caswell in the 1917 tome, The History of the Town of Royalston Massachusetts, the original library dedication was

One of the Red Letter Days of Royalston history which will always be remembered with pleasure by the present generation... It was a proud day for this little hill town.... When the morning of the day dawned the appearance of clouds gave rise to fears of rain, but before noon the clouds had cleared away, and by time for the exercises the Common was thronged with more than 500 people.

Come out and join the new 2011 through this June 18!

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

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