

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

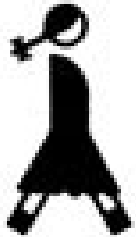
September 2011



Volume XIV, Issue VII

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

## Calendar of Events



ing from this educational and supportive program. Call Luann at 978-249-8746 or drop by any Thursday.

September 2 Friday **VJ Day, WWII**

**No school ARRS**

4 pm **LBS "Summer Send-Off" family picnic** and swim on Packard Pond. Potluck at 6 pm and marshmallow roasting to follow. Call 249-0358 for directions.

September 4 Sunday

1:30 - **annual water baptism service and Congregational churches picnic** at Tully Lake.

September 5 Monday **Labor Day**

Schools, post office, library, Town offices closed.

September 6 Tuesday

7 p.m. **Board of Selectmen** meets at town hall

September 7 Wednesday

8 a.m. **Village School opens** for its 22nd school year

September 8 Thursday

7 pm **250th Anniversary Committee** meets at town hall. All welcome to come, give suggestions to improve future town-wide yard sales, pitch in with the planned local foods dinner, or give ideas about upcoming events and the anniversary celebration

September 11 Sunday

**10th anniversary of 9/11/2001**

September 12 Monday

**Diocletian New Year 1728**

5:27 a.m. **Full Harvest Moon**

7:00 p.m. **Community Preservation Act Committee** meets in the town hall. Submit applications for CPA funds for projects related to open space, recreation, historic preservation or affordable/community housing.

September 14 Wednesday

**Byzantine New Year 7520**

7:30 p.m. **Royalston F&G Club meeting** (Directors at 7 p.m.)

September 15 Thursday

7:30 p.m. **Historic District Commission** meets at Town Hall

September 17 Saturday

**Constitution Day**

9 am **Fungus Fair:** Mushroom displays, talks, cook-ups and forays, organized by the king of the Royalston fun guys, Noah Siegel, at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St. Athol.

September 20 Tuesday

2 - 4 pm and 7 -8 pm **Special voter registration** at town clerk's office in Whitney Hall.

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

6 - 8 pm **Public meeting to honestly discuss Athol High School:** its successes as well as areas perceived to need improvement in order to draw more Royalston residents. Held at the high school. Sponsored by Hands Across Quabbin.

September 21 Wednesday

**International Peace Day**

September 23 Friday

5:05 a.m. **Autumnal Equinox** – first day of fall

September 24 Saturday

**Hazardous Waste Collection Day** at the Orange Transfer Station. Royalston residents must pre-register; space limited: first come, first served. Call 413-772-2438, zap @ www.franklincountywast-edistrict.org or get a sign up sheet from Tony at the transfer station.

6 pm **Locally Grown Supper on the Common** to benefit the 250th Anniversary Celebration. Tickets \$12/ adult/ \$6/ child. See any committee member or call Beth 978-249-0358 for tickets.

September 27 Tuesday

7:09 a.m. **New Hunter's Moon**

September 28 Wednesday

sunset **Rosh Hashanah**

6 p.m. **Village School Curriculum Night**

7:30 p.m. **LBS Baking Demonstration** with Kristen A. West, hosted by Andrea Lively

September 30 Friday

7 pm **Special Town Meeting**

October 1 Saturday

7 pm **A-REF's Oktoberfest** at the Red Apple Farm. Food, friends and fun to help fund enrichment programs in the local public schools. \$20 ticket includes German buffet, dancing to Melanie and the Blue Shots, and (quite possibly) an altruistic glow. Last year, projects like the RCS author visits, family quilting project and hip hop dance workshops, the middle school multi-cultural fest and theater group and the high school musical and poet visits all received grants through A-REF. See board members for tickets or call Beth 249-0358.

## Selectboard Notes

*Linda Alger, chairperson*

The Town was awarded a CBDG grant for housing rehab and ADA compliance of \$300,000 to be split with The Town of Phillipston. Applications previously submitted will be reviewed. If funding is still available new applications will be considered. Please contact Helen Divoll for an application. The Town also received a grant to continue to pursue Broadband in municipal buildings.

Our application for the grant to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Facility was not funded during the last round, we will be re-submitting for the round of funding that begins in September.

This is the first year that the care of Commons, Cemeteries, and Parks was not contracted out. Our DPW is now facilitating the process and the town grounds are looking spectacular; thanks for a job well done.

Hands Across North Quabbin is facilitating a project to further improve the quality of the Athol/Royalston Regional School District; the Board of Selectman is supporting this effort and hope to get as many townspeople as possible to follow suit. Save the date, Sept. 20th, 6-8pm at Athol High School.

There is a Special Town Meeting Scheduled for September 30th at 7pm. The warrant will open and close at the Selectmen's Meeting on September 6th.

## Board of Health News

*Phil Leger, chairperson*

Hazardous waste collection day this year will be September 24 at the Orange Transfer Station. You must pre-register and we have a budget of \$500, so first come first served. Call the Franklin County Solid Waste District @ 413-772-2438 or on line @ [www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org) or get a sign-up sheet from Tony at the transfer station.

New asphalt has been applied at the transfer station recently. This has secured the cement blocks by the roll-offs, making them safer long term. The BOH would like to thank the DPW and its chief Keith Newton for organizing, preparing, and supervising the work. McLaughlin Paving from New Salem did the paving with good results. The money came from cost savings in our transfer station operational budget.

Although only 6 people took advantage of our last Friday of the month 1-4pm opening, we will continue this practice through the last Friday of December. Take advantage of the Friday hours if you can.

## CPC - Community Preservation Committee

*Marsha Charest, chairperson*

The committee will meet on Monday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall and encourages anyone from town to submit an application for CPA funds. No applications were received over the summer. As a reminder, funds are available for Open Space, Recreation, Historic Preservation and Affordable/Community Housing.

## 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Thanks for supporting the recent Town-Wide Yard Sale. It was a beautiful and successful day with a fine community vibe.

Don't miss the upcoming local foods dinner on September 24 on the common to benefit the upcoming town anniversary celebration. See a committee member for a \$12 ticket or call 249-0358.

Rent the tent! Did you notice the committee's shiny new 20' x 30' event tent shading ice cream sales at the Musicfest or the hamburger stand at the yard sale? This easy-to-use tent is available for your next gathering. \$40/day. Call Geoff, 978-249-3726.

T-shirts depicting Royalston's 3 waterfalls are in. They make a great holiday gift and are on sale at all anniversary committee events.

## Department of Public Works

*Keith Newton, Supervisor of Public Works*

Lots of great things are happening around town with department staff mowing cemeteries, parks and commons. The guys are doing a super job with this new challenge. Trimming of brush areas in both the South Village and Royalston Center is helping the safety aspect of travel by improving the "line of sight" along roadways. The cemeteries are looking terrific with great improvements inside and out, including removing unsightly brush, placing loam and reseeding sections that make approaches look super. The goal is to reclaim all grass areas where brush was cut. Road side mowing has been delayed while waiting for parts for the over the rail mower machine. Back orders are common with this operation. Thanks for being patient!

Road projects are in line for this construction period. Engineering for these projects has been completed. The Conservation Commission is reviewing the plans and funding requests are being sought through the Chapter 90 program. Two roads, New Boston Road and Rt. 68 (Warwick Road) from Rt. 32 east toward town, will take priority for the first phase of repair. Others slated for repairs are North Fitzwilliam Rd., Tully Road, and Taft Hill Road. Sectional leveling will be done at various locations.



*The Royalston Cemetery Commission chairman Roland G. Hamel recently reported to the selectmen that the cemeteries have never been as well cared for as they have since the DPW began mowing them July 1. Workers Jaret Thiem (with rake) and Tony Basso (in loader) recently cleared overgrown brush and are shown spreading mulch and seeding the area between Winchendon Road and the stonewall surrounding the Jonas Aliene Cemetery.*  
photo Barclay

## Broadband Committee

Marsha Charest, Member

The Town of Royalston recently received a \$12,500 broadband planning grant from Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). The committee has developed a detailed Statement of Work and sent out a request for bids to potential vendors to have an engineering firm design an infrastructure capable of supporting a fixed wireless broadband network to provide broadband access across the entire Town. The deadline for the designated potential vendors to submit their bids is September 1st. The committee will meet shortly after this deadline to determine its next path.



## COA Luncheon Club

Residents of ALL ages are invited to the weekly get-togethers at the Royalston Town Hall, sponsored by the Council on Aging. The Royalston Luncheon Club meets 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Wednesdays for a hot meal (\$2 for 60+; \$2.50/under 60) and some fun. Monthly activities include silent auctions, health clinics, and distribution of Western MA Food Bank “Brown Bags.” Coupons to local farmers markets are sometimes available. Play cards, a board game or just come to chat before or after the meal. Contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 for more information.

## Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904 [ema@royalston-ma.gov](mailto:ema@royalston-ma.gov) or at 978-297-2904.

Royalston is still dealing with some of the consequences of Hurricane/ Tropical Storm Irene: 5” of rain, brown outs, downed branches, and a delay in the start of public school.

The event serves as a reminder that it’s time to prepare for the upcoming fall and winter storms, their whipping winds, precipitation of all types and the potential for flooding, power outages and structural damage. Please be sure to check out [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), a website dedicated to helping individuals as well as families and businesses prepare for whatever the rest of 2011 has in store. If you have questions or need printed materials, contact me at the above number or e-ddress.

Special thanks to Royalston Police Sergeant Roland G. Hamel who devised and carried out an intense, two-session traffic control and direction class for 30 area EMA volunteers from Royalston, Athol, Orange, Templeton and Gardner. The Friday evening session provided lecture and “hands up” practice, and on Saturday, live training, rerouting traffic around a short segment of closed road on The Common. Thanks, too, to the residents who dutifully used turn signals and were patient with the inexperienced traffic controllers, thanks to accountability volunteers Roberta Meehan and Tina Smedley of Athol, and to the Towns of Winchendon and Athol for the loan of their Homeland Security Department message boards.

## Royalston Appreciation Day



Royalston Appreciation Day was held last June 26 to thank all of the “town officials, committee members, and volunteers, who love Royalston and strive to preserve its character, and keep it running smoothly month to month and year to year.” Comments were made especially thanking spouses and children who accommodate the time and energy these commitments to the town require of a family;

the dedication of the town’s paid employees was lauded as well. Retired selectman Andy West was presented with a gift certificate for his unique contributions to Royalston. Celt Grant and Marie Claire Humblet organized and hosted the event at the Lightning Rods, Allen Young and John Hardie spoke in praise of the Royalstonians, and Nobody’s Fat provided a jazzy soundtrack for the appreciative crowd.



Top to bottom, l-r: Bobbi and Peter Newman, Diana and Geoff Newton, Andy and Samantha West, Gene Cauthen, Celt Grant and Boyd Estus photos: Diane Keijzer.

# 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](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

## Thank you

*Donations to the Friends:*

*Benny and Susan Gronowicz*

*Robert Anthony*

*Shirley Anderson*

*The Bundshuh family for honoring the Friends with memorial contributions remembering Werner, a good friend.*

**Liane Brandon, Boyd Estus, Noah Siegel, and Kate Collins** for photographs and **Michael Young** for video from the 100th Anniversary Celebration

**The Royalston Academy** for funding our preschool and summer reading programs

For Preschool Summer Programs: **Michael Young and Jenny Nano**

For help with the Preschool and Summer Reading Programs: **Jess Willhite, Jess Benoit, Brooke Reynolds, and Ron Daub**

For Summer Reading Programs: **Jon Hardie and Rebecca Krause-Hardie**

For help around the library: **Allison Bergquist, Amanda Nye, and Clarence Rabideau**

## Photos and DVD from the 100th Anniversary



Many thanks to Liane Brandon, Boyd Estus, Noah Siegel and others for photos from the library's 100th Anniversary. A two hour DVD, filmed and edited by Michael Young, of all the events of the 100th Anniversary Celebration, from the parade to the speeches, the '100 Years Overdue' reenactment, through the literary ball was made by A-OTV and is available at the library to borrow or may be

owned by making a \$10 contribution to the library. The photos will be printed and put into a scrapbook and are posted on the library website. *photo: Liane Brandon l-r Geoff Newton, dressed as his Great Uncle Phinehas, accompanying Peg Langlois*

## Who Painted Phinehas?

Library Trustee Barbara Guiney was researching library records in the Annual Town Reports and found in the 1913 Town Report that the recently restored portrait painted of Phinehas S. Newton was "done in oil by Mr. Loring of Providence, Rhode Island." Library staff at the Worcester Art Museum are on the case and will let RCN readers know more about the mysterious "Mr. Loring" as information comes to light.

## Upcoming Events:

**Tai Chi** continues this fall Tuesday's from 6-7 pm. Everyone is welcome. Free program of the Friends of the Library. For more info, contact Becky at 978-575-1454

## Resident Talks about Experience with Doctors without Borders in Libya

MSF (medicins sans frontieres) or doctor's without borders is an international medical humanitarian organization, founded in 1971 by French doctors who broke with the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) because of a commitment to speak out about what they were seeing during the Nigerian civil war. MSF seeks to address the medical needs of people who have little access to medical care or who are deliberately excluded. Often volunteers work in areas where medical care is unavailable because of natural disasters, such as the earthquake in Haiti or the tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan, or because of war.

Deane Marchbein of Prospect Hill, an anesthesiologist who works for Mass. General Hospital and the Cambridge Health Alliance, has worked for MSF since January, 2006. She takes an annual leave of absence to do humanitarian work. She is the vice president of the US branch of the organization. Her missions have taken her to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, South Sudan and Haiti. She will be speaking at the library when she returns from Misratah in Libya, probably in October.

## Basket Making Workshop

Basket Making with Sandy Hopkins. Thanks to a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council there will be a basket making class in early November. This class will be open to adults and young adults 12 and over.

## Art Exhibit at the Library

If you haven't seen the exhibit of artwork done by many Royalston artists, please stop by the library. This exhibit demonstrates the extraordinary and diverse talent of many of Royalston's own residents. On exhibit are sculptures, carvings, oils, pen and ink drawings, and paintings. During October and November, Caleb Chase will have his paintings on display.

## Installation of Garden Sculpture at Library to Remember Barbara Willhite, Long-time Treasurer of the Friends Group

The community is invited to join friends and family in the library garden on Sunday, October 16 at 2 pm to enjoy some refreshments and informally remember the kindness and service of Barbara Willhite as we install a new granite birdbath.

Barbara, 80, a fifty-year resident of North Fitzwilliam Rd, died on May 24, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer on May 24, 2011, at home, surrounded by her loving family.

She leaves her husband of 62 years, Enis Willhite; their children, Diane Conner and her husband Mike, of Templeton; Karen McWhirk and her husband Paul, of Manchester, N.H.; and Daniel Willhite and his wife AnneMarie, of Hudson; five grandchildren; Tim Bachelder, Todd Bachelder, Doug Gale, Suzann Washburn, and Elizabeth Conner, several great-grandchildren and many close and caring friends.

She enjoyed nursing; starting as a CNA and retiring as Vice President of Athol Memorial Hospital. Throughout her career, Barbara had the pleasure to work alongside many wonderful nurses. She served as treasurer of the Friends of the Phinehas S Newton library and was a member of the Golden Agers, AARP and the Red Hat Society.

Barbara always enjoyed hosting holiday and Sunday meals for the family. She traveled to almost every state in the United States and enjoyed going to Foxwoods and playing bingo.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Tim and Bobbi Bachelder for their compassionate care of Barbara. *Memorial donations can be made to the Athol Memorial Hospital, 2033 Main St., Athol, Mass. 01331.*

**Read any good books lately?  
Why not write a review for the newsletter?**

**Christine Sawyer recommends:**

*Small as an Elephant* by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

This book follows a boy, Jack, and his toy elephant after he is abandoned while camping in Acadia National Park with his mercurial mother; it's night, and Jack has very little money with which to get back to Boston. He does not want government authorities to get involved in his problems. Christine Sawyer comments: *Small as an Elephant* was a thrilling book to read! This book was hard to put down and I recommend it to anyone interested in a book that keeps the reader curious for more."



## Preschool Story Time and Fall Hours to Resume

The library will be open on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. and preschool story time will be at 10:00 beginning September 12. Preschool Story Time is open to all preschoolers to age 6. No pre-registration is required. Stories, snacks, and social time make this event a great opportunity for young children (and their caregivers) to have fun and interact with others. For more information, feel free to call the library or visit our website.



*Stashu Sawicki, a resident preschooler who appreciates a good story.*

## Looking for the new books and dvds list?

Visit [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org) -

(and beyond the new books, here are ...)

### 10 more reasons to visit the library website:

10. library hours are posted
9. calendar of upcoming events listed
8. old archived newsletters available
7. renew books and dvds on-line
6. see library catalog
5. ask a regional reference librarian for help
4. borrow books from other Central Mass. libraries or get an e-card from the Boston Public Library.
3. access academic data bases using your library card number as a password
2. photo archive of library events going back to 2005, including wonderful photos of the recent library 100th anniversary celebration
1. volunteer Jeff Mangum, library web-guru, does a beautiful job maintaining the site; visit the site and then go pat Jeff on the back. (btw - Jeff reportedly learned how to design a web-site by checking out a book from our library.)

The Athol-Royalston Education Foundation's  
**Oktoberfest**

Food, Friends, Fun

7 - 10 pm October 1st at Red Apple Farm

Benefits enrichment activities

in our local public schools

Tickets \$20: includes German buffet and dancing

Call Beth 249-0358 for info

**What's Happening at the Village School?**

Classes start on Wednesday September 7. The children come back to explore in the garden and find and harvest fresh vegetables. This year, the 2nd-3rd classroom is studying Native American culture, and the 4th-6th is studying the Middle Ages. Both classes will immerse themselves in stories, history, art, music and crafts related to their themes. There will be some great museum visits too.

It's field trip time! Classes are visiting local gardens, visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham, going to Red Apple Farm and the Farm School, and hiking to Lawrence Brook. With this great weather, most science classes are taking place outside, investigating the local flora and fauna.

Wednesday September 28 6-8 p.m. Curriculum Night If you are interested in your child attending the Village School, attend curriculum presentations in each classroom, done by the classroom teachers. You will get a great taste of the Village School educational experience.

Saturday and Sunday October 1st and 2nd: Visit the Village School tent at the Garlic Fest. *For up to date Village School information, go to [www.villageschoolma.org](http://www.villageschoolma.org)*

**Ladies B.**

The Ladies' B. will enjoy a "Summer Send-Off" family picnic and swim the afternoon of September 2 on Packard Pond, and will then launch into the autumn with fun, food and fundraising for all. September's business meeting will take place Wednesday the 28th at the home of Andrea L Lively. Following will be "A Baking Demo with Kristen A. West," well known for her delicious contributions of artfully presented baked goods.

LBS October Program - Paul Kachinsky will present a program on Antique and Collectible Holiday Decorations on Wednesday, October 26th at 8 pm at Barbara Stowell's home following the regular meeting of the LBS. Paul will have several tables of interesting and beautiful items on display and will share historical and collectible information.

For a variety of reasons, the 9th Annual LBS Memorial Piano Concert will be held on March 21, 2012 at the Ballroom. This will be a wonderful way to greet the spring. To participate, please contact Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

At all of these events, refreshments will be served and the public is invited. Contact LBS President Laurie M. Deveneau at [lmdeveneau@msn.com](mailto:lmdeveneau@msn.com) or 978-249-5807 for more information.

**Monty Tech - Out of this World**

Monty Tech was one of the 16 U.S. schools – the ONLY voc-tech - sending a science experiment aboard STS-135, the final flight of the Space Shuttle Atlantis! A generous grant of \$13,334 from the Community Foundation of Central Mass. and a second generous grant of \$6,667 came from the Mass. Space Grant Consortium covered entire cost of flying "...an express payload via NanoRacks." The experiment was so impressive that Monty Tech has been invited to send another experiment up to the international space station next year on the Russian space ship Soyuz.

**Congregational Churches News**

*Pastor Jeffrey L. Francis*

I pray that everyone had a fun, safe, and fruitful summer! We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who attended this year's church fair which was a great success. Thank you to all those who made donations of time and treasures.

As September is now upon us, there are several church events/activities that may be of interest. Our churches are collecting "back-to-school" items for students who may not have the resources necessary for backpacks, pencils, crayons, rulers, etc. To donate these much needed gifts for our children, please call the church office or drop them off at the church or parsonage. We will be contacting the school district for families who may appreciate the extra help in this tough economic season.

September 4th will be our annual water baptism service and church picnic at Tully Lake from 1:30 pm till evening. This year we are hosting an evening concert at Tully with our guest artist, Scarlett Fade, a young group of talented musicians and singers from Connecticut. If you are interested in being baptized you may call the office and get more information. All are welcome to attend this great community event. Free admission.

We are looking forward to a much needed "facelift" (floorlift) at FCCR this month. We have been raising support for new carpeting in the sanctuary for several months as the old has served faithfully for over 40 years! Many a foot has traveled down the aisles to receive Christ and/or receive prayer and now it's time for a change. Come check out the colors and the newest addition to our beautiful house of worship. Much has been accomplished in the properties of FCCR over the past three years and we thank all of you who have contributed to these needed renovations.

Mark your calendars for October 14-16th as we host our 3rd annual Mission's Conference, Touch the World. We will be joining our hearts together in prayer for the nations of the earth. If you have never attended FCCR/SCCR come out see how God is using these congregations to touch the world through the many outreaches to the different nations.

Our regular Sunday Service times are: 9:00 am at the South Royalston location and 11:00 am at the Center Royalston location. The first service is a traditional service and the second is a contemporary service. Come check us out and see which fits you.

## Recipe of the Month

*Buddy Dyer, carpenter, master gardener, Cultural Council alumnus, and stonemasonry artist, has been living in Royalston since 1974, leaving for a while, but always returning. He has succeeded in growing artichokes on Butterworth Road and shares his gardening and culinary secrets here.*

“Always trying to plant different varieties, I happened to bring up the subject of growing artichokes at a gathering at Aurora Ranch a few summers ago. A young student from the Farm School gave me a great tip: ‘trick them’. Yes, trick the artichokes into thinking they’ve gone through a winter. Here’s the trick: Order seeds early from Fedco or Pinetree and start them around Ground Hog’s Day. When the seedlings have 4 leaves, put them out in cold temperatures for a couple of weeks but don’t allow to freeze. Then, transplant them like you would broccoli, putting out in the garden at the same time with the spinach and peas in mid-April. By mid-July, gardeners in Royalston can be picking artichokes.” Once you have ‘em, cook ‘em:

### Artichoke and Zucchini Frittata

#### Ingredients

1 small onion  
1 small clove of garlic, finely chopped  
3 tbs olive oil  
artichoke hearts, frozen or fresh cooked until soft  
2 medium zucchini (sliced)  
8 beaten eggs  
salt and pepper

Cook onion and garlic until soft, do not brown. Add zucchini and artichoke hearts and cook over medium heat 3-5 minutes, turning frequently. Reduce heat and pour eggs over vegetables. Stir until the eggs mix. Cover and cook over low heat about 3 minutes or until the eggs are set. Cut into wedges and serve.

Look for Buddy’s produce as part of the buffet at the upcoming local foods dinner.



*Ted Neale sells veggies on the oldest farm in town. Visit his farm stand on the corner of Neale and New Boston Rds. Look for beets like these, deliciously roasted, at the local foods dinner at town hall on September 24. Get tix from any 250th committee member or call 249-0358.*

## 250th Committee: Local Foods Harvest Supper

A local foods dinner to benefit the Royalston 250th anniversary celebration shall be held on Saturday September 24th at 6 pm. Think a big community table on the lawn of the Common or upstairs on the town hall with a buffet table loaded with simply prepared dishes whose ingredients are mainly harvested from our town/region.

The buffet menu is evolving but already includes grass-fed beef, roasted fall vegetables, braised garlicky greens, heirloom tomato salad, quiche from happy hens, rosemary potatoes, wild mushrooms, stuffed pumpkins and zukes, several kinds of slaw, eggplant parmesan, pumpkin bread and drops applesauce as well as peach, pear, apple and plum based desserts using this year’s bounteous crop. Local cider and home-made Concord grape juice served and regionally produced beer and (maybe) hard cider available for purchase. Tickets are \$12 adults/ \$6 kids.

Ranchers, gardeners, hunters and gatherers: donations still needed! If you’ve got local food (vegetables, fruits, eggs, fungi, honey, syrup, meat, fish or fowl... whatever) to sell at a fair price (or a discount for “the cause”) either ingredients or a prepared dish, serving 12 - 25, you’d be generating interest in local agriculture, building community and helping support the 250th anniversary celebralooza. **To help with the food or reserve a seat at the table, contact any committee member or call or e-mail Beth Gospodarek, 249-0358 or chasegos@gis.net.**

### Did you know?

*You can eat local everyday even without planting a garden? Take advantage of the harvest and support your neighbors. Shopping at these local farms is good for you, the bucolic look of the town and the whole Earth, not to mention surprisingly affordable and unusually delicious. Call for directions, prices and hours:*

**Aurora Ranch,** Kate and George have locally grazed beef and lamb. It’s also fun to watch their dogs herd the sheep. 978-249-4407

**Divoll’s Farm:** Randy and his son John sell hay, corn, maple syrup and potatoes. 978-602-5583 or 978-894-5109

**Prospect Hill Farm:** grass-fed beef, perennials, 50-mile view and the fine vegetables and advice you know from this newsletter’s Garden Notes column. 978-249-4260

**Neale Farm:** seasonable vegetables and fruit, sweet corn, decorative corn and stalks; the oldest working farm in town. 978-249-6872.

**Amelia’s Tomatoes:** Dozens of heirloom tomatoes in all colors and shapes. Canning tomatoes, homemade spaghetti sauce, summer squash and valley corn available as well. 774-297-3216.

**Squier Davis Farm:** Deb and Joe Nunes have honey, \$6/1 lb jar and sometimes eggs and preordered turkeys. 978-249-4000.

**The LeRays, Richardsons and Steven Robinson** also sometimes produce local foodstuffs and may have a surplus. *Others in town have businesses selling food produced in the Connecticut river Valley. These include:*

**Bear’s Dairy Service:** Home delivery of milk in glass bottles, other dairy products and smoked salmon 978-249-6843

**Jeffrey’s Farm Stand:** Depot Corner/ Rt 119/ Fitzwilliam NH. 978-249

**High Winds Farm:** beef, pork, eggs, produce, honey, maple syrup, plants, coffee, applesauce and many other regional items available at store on Rt 2A Orange.

## Obituary



*Werner M. Bundschuh 1941 - 2011*

was born on Feb. 24, 1941, in Floral Park, Long Island, N.Y. He grew up on a poultry farm and spent much of his early childhood trying to avoid working on the farm. After graduating from Plainview High School in 1959, Werner enlisted in the Navy and became the newspaper editor on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Wasp.

Despite encouragement from his parents to enter trade school after the Navy (he was told in high school that he was “not college material”), Werner set his sights on a local junior college and then received a scholarship to Boston University’s School of Public Communications. It was the early 1960s and Werner became editor of the BU News where he was an activist and champion of the freedom of the press. While at BU, he met his wife of 45 years, Patience (Westcott). Werner graduated from BU in 1965 with a major in film production.

A cameraman, writer, editor and producer, Werner began his career in film and television at WGBH-TV in Boston. Over the years he wrote and produced many programs, a number of them broadcast nationally on PBS, including “The Totalitarian Temptation,” and “The Bomb That Fizzled” for the series “In Search of the Real America,” as well as directing “The Ancient Mariners” for the series “Out of the Past.”

He was a founding partner with Henry Hampton of BlackSide Inc., which produced the award-winning series “Eyes on the Prize,” an epic six-part presentation of the historic black struggle for human and civil rights. In 1984 he produced “Campaign Fever” which won a New England Emmy.

His work also brought him around the world. His daughter’s first birthday was on location in Israel and his teenage son spent a winter working with him in Guatemala. In between film jobs, Werner renovated historic homes and buildings in Charlestown, Mass.

## Milestones

“Renaissance Man,” documentary filmmaker and a developer of historic properties, **Werner Bundschuh** died at The Maples, his home on the common in Royalston, on Friday, Aug. 19, 2011. Werner was removing a gutter and accidentally fell from the porch roof. He was 70-years-old.

A man from modest beginnings, Werner was the son of immigrants Ludwig and Marie Bundschuh, and

He and Patience combined a unique flair and sense of style with respect for tradition to the construction and restoration of buildings in Charlestown, and they did much of the work with their own hands.

In 1979, Werner moved his family to The Maples, in Royalston, which, over the last 32 years, had become his life’s work and passion.

Werner involved himself in the social and civic life of the communities where he lived. Werner had recently been elected to the board of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and he was a founding member of the Charlestown Preservation Society; he served as chairman and member of the Royalston selectboard, and was a board member of the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee, the Royalston Academy, and served as a trustee of the First Congregational Church of Royalston. With his snow-white beard and twinkling eyes, riding his lawn mower, working with his backhoe, or at the wheel of a 1932 Lagonda, Werner had an old world courtliness that combined with his very American humor.

To Werner, The Maples had always been more than just a home -- it was and is a piece of history to be preserved, celebrated and shared; a meeting place, refuge, and entertaining space for family, friends and neighbors.

As much as the films and television programs he produced, his greatest production was the life he made and the friends he touched. This was Werner Bundschuh’s legacy. In addition to his wife and countless friends, Werner leaves his children Emily and Damon, son-in-law Chris Santillo, grandsons Oren and Isaac, his brother Ernie, sister-in-law Haydee, and their children and grandchildren.

A celebration of Werner’s life attended by 100s was held in the garden at the Maples on the Common, Royalston. A private burial was in Lawrence Brook Cemetery.

## Birth Announcement

**Paul Jace Fowler** was born at 11:46 am on July 20, 2011 at



Leominster hospital, measuring 8lbs 5 oz and 21 inches long. He resides in Fitchburg, with his parents Jennifer Fowler, originally from Royalston and Ulysses Fowler. His grandparents are Patricia Cormier and the late Paul Cormier of Royalston. He was named after his grandfather, who unfortunately never got to meet him. He joins 3 brothers, Tyson Trimel, Ulysses Fowler Jr, Derek Fowler and a sister Lauren Fowler.



**Recovering** from recent hip replacement is **Donna Smith** of 12 New Boston Road. Donna is currently doing her rehab in her home. If anyone would like to stop by or drop her a card of get well wishes, we know she would appreciate hearing from you.

**Birthday Performance: Melanie and the Blue Shots**

Come celebrate Phil's 60th and Jim B's 63rd b-day at the Cheshire Tavern at the Fitzwilliam Inn on Oct. 8th, 8:30pm. Be there or be square. Also catch the band at A-REF's Oktoberfest October 1st, 7 pm at Red Apple Farm. Dance with gusto in support of our local public schools.

**Engaged:** Claudia and John Jennings of Setauket, New York and Kathy Morris and Larry Siegel of town are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Kate Jennings and Joshua Morris-Siegel. They are planning a wedding for 2012.



**Добро пожаловать обратно** to Alexandra Krasowski, who spent her summer in Moscow, working on her Russian. She is beginning her junior year as a student of classical languages at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

**Ulysses Fowler**, son in law of Patricia and the late Paul Cormier of Royalston and wife of Jennifer Fowler, originally from Royalston, won the title of WNB American Champ at the Pro American & INBF NE Classic in Marlborough, Mass on June 4, 2011. He won in his division and overall. His win is currently the cover story of the November issue of *Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness* magazine.



**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS**



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

**Published Poets:** These students from RCS had their poems selected for publication in the *Pine Tree Poetry 2011 Collection*. **Kevin O'Connor, Destiny Wrigley, Ziola Wilder, Julianne Trega, Autumn Tourigny, Kristopher Selanis, Annie Reynolds, Kyla Rathburn, Tayiah Neale, Aliyah Neale, Owen MacPhee, Lindsay Leadbetter, James Laford, Jessica May, Amber Mahony, Justin Blake, Kayla Gerry, Molly Divoll, Anthony Divoll, Sarah Demboske, Emily Davis, Alyssa Cassarino, Cole Benoit, Hannah Bartkus, and Haylie Baker.** Some of these children are members of the RCS poetry club and others were members of Mrs. Chevalier's 5th grade.

**Grady MacPhee** received the Herbert E. Nims 1893 Prize for excellence in Sophomore English and made the High Honor roll. He also received an Athletic Achievement Award for JV Baseball. **Owen** made Honor Roll at RCS and helped lead the 11 year old Chuck Stone All Star baseball team to an undefeated regular season.



**John Knight**, a Scout in Troop 8 of Athol for three years, has achieved his Star rank and recently was awarded his Environmental Science, and Camping merit badges, along with

the Arthur Lomax III Marksman Award. at Camp wonacksett in Dublin, NH. This prestigious patch is awarded to a scout who displays marksmanship in archery, shotgun and rifle. The scout is given ten arrows and attempts to get as many bulls eyes as possible, any arrow that lands in the bulls eye are returned to the scout, they must then take only those arrows and attempt a second bulls eye, again only the arrows in the bulls eye are returned to the scout and a third and final bulls eye must be attained. At that point the scout may attempt the rifle obtaining four out of five shots at hitting a spoon at greater than twenty yards, and then he is given one chance with the shot gun, to hit seven out of ten clay pigeons.

Also during a "tap out" ceremony held at the camp, John became a candidate for membership into the Order of the Arrow where the scout's peers select the candidate. The next step is to attend what is called an Ordeal, the induction experience for the Order of the Arrow. At Ordeal weekend, the scout will have a chance to prove his courage and self-reliance; listen to his inner thoughts; serve his fellow man cheerfully; and prove his ability to live the Scout Oath and Law. The Order is shrouded in mystery. Members closely safeguard their ceremonies and traditions. The scout has two chances to complete the Ordeal within twelve months of being elected. Once completed the scout becomes a full member of the Order of the Arrow. John will attempt his Ordeal in September. Good Luck John!

## Classifieds

**Little Farmers Child Care** has 1 full time opening for September. Child must be over 18 months. Also, some part time is available. For more information please call Joni Adams @ 978-575-1083.

**After-school Program for Royalston children:** the Village School has a great program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS school bus and stay for any portion of the time. Cost: \$6/hour. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting); program run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair. Call the school at 249-3505.

**After-school Music Programs** – Jocelyn Langer, Village School music teacher, is offering music lessons in flute, guitar or recorder for all ages, after school on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:15 to 5:00. Students can learn a new instrument and/or work on improving skills. \$18/ half hour private. \$12/ group lesson. Call or email: 978 724-3287 [jocelyn.langer@gmail.com](mailto:jocelyn.langer@gmail.com)

**House keeping in your home.** 4 hr \$60. Also errands, etc and companion for the elderly. Call Fran, Royalston resident. Home: 978-249-4596, cell: 978-895-0817. Experienced with references.

Do you need help with **housekeeping, outdoor work, or other odd jobs?** \$14/hr. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

### For sale

**Rock Maple Heywood Wakefield 3 pc. bedroom set.** Excellent condition. Call Shirley, 978-249-4013.

**Hand knit items:** baby sweater sets, mittens, hats, socks, etc. All sizes and colors. Call Shirley, 978-249-4013.

**3 Californian Rabbits:** 1 – 14 month old buck; 1 – 14 month old doe; 1 – 3 month old doe. Cages also available. 978-249-3291.

**Firewood** – Green, cut, split and delivered in Royalston for \$165/185 cubic feet (loose cord). Call Tom Ramsdell at 978-249-2586.

**Firewood** - \$180/170 cubic feet for green, cut, split and delivered locally. Bagged sawdust available. Leave message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379. Email: [jamesmput@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesmput@yahoo.com)

**Custom Sawmilling Service** - Our portable mill can turn your logs or ours into boards, planks, or beams. Log capacity is 36" diameter 21' long. Call for pricing: Josh Doub at (978) 724-4382 or Tom Musco @ Royalston Oak Timber Frames at (978) 249-9633. Currently have over 2000bf of nice air dried 4/4 pine and hemlock mostly 6"-12" wide - \$.65/bf.

**Birch Hill Computers** - Sales, Repairs and Parts. 978-790-7876. [birchhillcomputers.com](http://birchhillcomputers.com).

**Justice of the Peace and Notary Public.** Mariah Mallet 249-9410.

**Dean's Beans Coffee:** Get yours delivered, fresh, once a month to the Village School, whole beans or ground. Find the order form at [www.villageschoolma.org](http://www.villageschoolma.org) and order online.

## Garden Notes

August 22, 2011

Two months ago, when I last wrote, I was able to harvest spinach, lettuce, and scallions and nothing else. Now, I could set aside these notes, wander off to the gardens and return with a dozen different vegetables (with four more, potatoes, garlic, onions, and shallots, already in the house), fruit from the apple and peach trees, and the very first fall raspberries. Two months. And if that's not magical (after its own fashion), I'm not sure what is.

The key factor, I am sure, is rain. A healthy soil and an attentive gardener are useful, but without the rain the garden would be a sad place indeed. I have a rain gauge of course. But my determinant for whether we've had timely and sufficient rainfall is the black trumpet mushroom. Arguably the tastiest and most aromatic of the mushrooms commonly growing wild in Royalston, the black trumpet is more sensitive to rain than any crop I grow in the garden. Two years ago, in the season of wet, I gathered fifty pounds. Last year, in the season of dry, I gathered none. This year, ample June rains provided an early flush of mushrooms but the dry spell in July brought it to a halt. With generous amounts of rain in the past couple of weeks, there has been a resurgence. For those of you in the gathering mood, I generally find them in swales around oak. Finding them is no easy task since they blend into the forest floor, but spot one and you will be sure to spot more. They look like, no surprise here, little black (gray actually) trumpets.

I am more than pleased with garden results to date and anticipate the fall garden will be as productive. I am buried in cucumbers and buried in peaches and buried in beans, but I'd rather be buried than to walk to a neighbor and ask for some cucumbers or peaches or beans. The performance of a few crops befuddles me. There was an early fruit set on the tomatoes, but only now are mature tomatoes appearing (in spite of the fact that the recent hot spell should have encouraged ripening). Carrots grew well, at least above the ground, but the roots remain small. I am a meticulous thinner of carrots, so it is not a question of space. I am less befuddled by the poor performance of the onions. I have to endure several seasons of low yields before a banner year emerges. The plants start off well but ultimately succumb to a disease which begins to kill off the leaves. The plants survive but the bulbs do not grow to their full potential. I move the onions around every year but the disease appears to migrate with them.



I continue to garden in earnest, still planting and thinning and transplanting. Compost piles are turned, mulch applied to the beds. The potato patch was planted to buckwheat. I'm even picking off beetles from late emerging volunteer potato plants. And, on an ongoing basis, I do battle with the encroaching weeds. Our gov'ment, as keepers of the 'peace,' maintain no-fly zones. I maintain my no-grow zone, a three-foot wide path surrounding the gardens. I've mentioned before my preference for discarded oriental rugs to establish the zone; I have been supplementing them recently with burlap bags, a lesser choice since they are not impervious to grasses. Cardboard covered with wood chips does the trick for the fastidious among you. At this time of year, I am obliged to re-establish the zone, weeds being what they are.

It is a busy, productive, and fun time.

Larry Siegel



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### Wildlife Sightings

A side effect of this year's fine fruit crop is that many residents have been frustrated with destruction to orchard trees caused by gnawing **porcupine** (*Erethizon dorsatum*). Angered gardeners, including erstwhile hippy-types, are rumored to have lately shot, trapped and even hacked to death with a machete these "quill pigs."

Porcupines chew pretty constantly to keep their front teeth chiseled, can weigh up to 40 lbs., and have few predators, except the fisher, unwary dogs and people. Nevertheless, they are timid and their 30,000 quills are used only for defense. Porcupine cannot "throw" quills, but the hollow quills are barbed and move in one direction so that once attached, quills continue to work in deeper and deeper. (It is said to be easier to remove quills when first cut in half .) Porcupines are herbivores and often nibble on treetop leaves, which brings more sunlight to dense forests. These large rodents like to munch new growth on hemlock, particularly in winter, and its possible that the Woolly Adelgid infestation that is killing and weakening hemlock all over Worcester County is affecting the density of porcupine populations in our town. Mating season for porcupines begins in the fall and litters consist of a single baby born late spring. A mature porcupine can live a decade or more in the wild. Porcupines swim and climb well but do not see well; they are clumsy, often tumbling out of trees and sometimes even poking themselves with their own quills.

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