

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2012



Volume XV, Issue V

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

Calendar of Events

June 2 Saturday

7 pm **The Royalston Blues Night** - Tickets, call Lorraine 249-5151

June 4 Monday

7:12 a.m. **Full Strawberry Moon**

June 9 Saturday

7:30 - noon Saturday Morning on the Common, featuring the Village School pancake breakfast and silent auction, the library plant and book sale and ore.

1-3 pm **Cultural Council Pastel Program** at the Town Hall

Gregory Maichack, twice nominated for the MCC Gold Star Program Award, and award-winning pastelist, will present an all-new workshop: The Art of Georgia O'Keeffe: How To Pastel Paint Flowers. Instruction, demo, & hands-on work.

June 16 Saturday

9 - 12 am **202 Mini-golf Fundraiser** for the Athol Royalston Education Foundation. Contact Laurie Deveneau for info.

3- 6 p.m. Nashville recording artist and Royalston resident, **Will Corey performs with warm up act, Spirithouse Band** at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club. Adults \$15 and children under 12 free. Pre-sales through Geoff Newton 978-249-3726 until 6/10, on-line through 6/15 or buy at the gate. Benefits Town 250th Celebration. Burgers, beer, dogs and such for sale at event. www.WillCorey.com

June 17 Sunday

Father's Day

June 18 Monday

5:30 pm **Library Book Group** meets to discuss Tea Obreht's *The Tiger's Wife*. All welcome.

June 19 Tuesday

11:02 a.m. **New Buck Moon**

5 - 7 pm **Retirement reception for Joann Deacon**, the kindergarten teacher for a generation of Royalston kids, at RCS. Drop in and give your regards. Also, Becky Divoll is collecting pictures and written memories to use for decorations. Send to: rdivoll@arrsd.org

June 20 Wednesday

7:09 p.m. **Summer Solstice**



June 21 Thursday

early dismissal **last day of school in the ARRSD schools**. School resumes Weds., August. 29.

June 22 Friday

9:30 am Rehearsals for the Royalston Shakespeare Company's *The Tempest* begin. Kids and teens are encouraged to sign up now by contacting the library. Free summer fun with the Bard on the beautiful Common.

June 23 Saturday

5 pm **Royalston F&G Chicken BBQ** benefits the town's 250th anniversary celebration. Reserve a spot by leaving a message at the club or ask a 250th committee member for tickets.

Save these dates:

Friday July 6

7 pm **Royalston Shakespeare Company workshop performance of *The Tempest***. All welcome. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Cultural Council.

Saturday July 14

8 am - 3 pm **Congregational Churches Fair** on the Common.

Saturday August 12

9 am - 3 pm **Town-Wide Tag Sale** to benefit the Town's 250th anniversary celebration.

Saturday September 15

6:30 pm **Local Foods Harvest Supper** - to help, call Beth 978-249-0358.

A colorful poster for a Saturday morning event. At the top left is a cartoon character with a large head and a long tail. The main title is 'SATURDAY MORNING ON ROYALSTON COMMON' in large, bold letters. To the right, 'JUNE 9 2012' is written in a stylized font. Below the title, there are several event listings with times and locations. At the bottom, there are illustrations of various animals like a cow, a pig, and a sheep.

SATURDAY MORNING ON ROYALSTON COMMON **JUNE 9 2012**

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

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

TAG SALE
8:30-11:00 AM

9:30 AM **MILLERS RIVER MORRIS MEN**

10:00 AM **LIVE BIRDS OF PREY**
with Tom Ricardi

11:00 AM **OLD-FASHIONED CAKE WALK**
Everyone is a winner!

RAFFLE 4 Red Sox tickets

ANNUAL LIBRARY PLANT SALE
at the Royalston Post Office

BOOK SALE
at the Phinehas S. Newton Library

FACE PAINTING

ROYALSTON POLICE
Search and Rescue Dog & Child Car Seat Checks

Selectboard Notes

Christine Long

The Selectboard thanks annual town meeting voters for their support of a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2013, the school budgets, and a number of other spending issues. Because the Board learned that the state will likely be increasing aid to cities and towns, it was able to recommend some articles be funded from regular revenue without having to tap too deeply into the Stabilization Fund.

The town has another fund it has dubbed the "Storm Fund," into which it deposited state reimbursement from storm-related expenses after the ice storm of 2008 and more recent weather events. Voters at this town meeting used some of those funds to make a start on what needs to be done to allow the Royalston Community School to function as an emergency shelter, most notably, the purchase of a POD where shelter equipment can be stored and which can function as a small animal shelter during an emergency. The next step will be to purchase a generator for the school, and the Selectboard has begun the research into how this will be accomplished.

Once again, however, the town had to recommend against funding the demolition of the abandoned building at 1 School St., despite pleas from a contingent of South Royalston residents who worry about fire. Since then, however, a number of possible solutions to this problem have emerged, and the Select Board will be exploring these.

Annual town meeting will finish up on Friday, June 29 at 7 p.m. at the Royalston Community School. A special town meeting will also be held that evening; the warrant for the special is open now and will close June 5.



What Happened at the Annual Town Meeting?

Thirty-four voters followed the recommendations of the selectboard and finance committee, approving a \$1.7 million budget. The meeting went without contention because of the clear, concise explanations of the issues given by Selectboard chairperson, Linda Alger. Andy West did a commendable job as stand-in moderator. Articles of note included Larry Siegel's article to see if the town would agree to return the position of tree warden to unpaid status was voted down. The article

to approve the demolition of #1 School Street at a cost of \$50,000 was voted down, but the voters approved \$3500 to board up the building. A large contingent of the already meager turnout left immediately following this discussion. Superintendent Polito described upcoming staff cuts in the ARRSB due to budget constraints, but reassured voters that the Royalston Community School will see few changes and maintain a classroom teacher position k-6. With little discussion, voters strongly supported the debt exclusion of \$1.45 million to replace the South Royalston wastewater treatment plant.

Fire Department Reminders

Chief Keith R. Newton

The use of burning permits has ended for this 2012 season. In the past, I have allowed residents the opportunity for summer cooking fires using the same permit number and contact info as their residence. However, I am concerned that some are not using this privilege wisely. Please remember that you must call the non-emergency telephone line at the station, (978-249-8138) and register your permit info. Also, please keep your 2'x2' contained cooking fire 75' or more away from buildings. Keep a hose and rake near the fire to be lawful. Please help me keep all safe by following these simple rules.

Thank you all for your full cooperation.

Royalston Broadband Committee

Earlier this spring, workers from the MassBroadband123 project visited Whitney Hall to determine the best place to install the planned high speed fiber optic internet line. MassBroadband123, sponsored by the Mass Broadband Institute, is a state and federally funded initiative to install broadband capability to more than 123 cities and towns in central and western Massachusetts. The funding connects one or more points to this fiber "middle mile" network. The towns must then develop a plan to distribute the internet connection.

In the early stages of planning, MBI planned to connect other points in town such as the Police/Fire Station and the Library. Unfortunately, due to unexpected increase in costs, Royalston ended up with one connection. The members of the Royalston Broadband Committee lobbied hard to make the connection be in South Royalston. This was the closest point to the planned fiber route and a key unserved population in town. MBI agreed and the installation will begin later this year or early next year.

After the fiber is installed, the town must find a way to distribute this internet connection to residents. Initially, the Broadband committee will most likely search for a provider to sell wireless service to residents near the fiber link in and around South Royalston. It will not be free. The exact coverage area will depend on antenna placement and has not yet been developed.

In order to extend the reach of a wireless system throughout the whole town, the Broadband Committee applied for and received a grant from MBI to design a wireless high speed broadband solution. WiValley was chosen to help design the system. The plan should be completed by the end of June. This grant was just for the design. Once complete, the Broadband Committee will search for grants to fund construction.

The members of the Committee strongly believe that the best solution is to eventually install fiber to every home. This is a very long term goal. However, over the past year, the town has formed a municipal light power (MLP) statute organization to act as a bonding vehicle for telecom broadband implementation. We have also joined Wired West, a high speed fiber telecom cooperative of 30-40 towns with an aggressive goal of building a \$90-100 million glass fiber network to every house in each member town.

The Broadband Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the Town Hall. If you have questions come to the meeting or email broadband@royalston-ma.gov.

Cultural Council Pastel Program

Saturday, June 9. Time 1-3 pm at the Town Hall

Gregory Maichack, twice nominated for the MCC Gold Star Program Award, and award-winning pastelist, will present an all-new workshop: The Art of Georgia O'Keeffe: How To Pastel Paint Flowers. Workshop includes instruction, demo, & hands-on work by participants, who keep their pastel paintings. There will be a demo of pastel handling, & a showing of Maichack's original Calla pastel paintings. Artist's free-hand calla drawings will unveil the process, covering techniques for sheer beginners and advanced artists, painting O'Keeffe's images, and the Calla Lily. Pearlescent pastels from Holland provided.

Open Space and Recreation Committee News

Paul Montero, Chairperson and New England Trail Representative

Here is your invitation to take a hike. Royalston welcomes the New England Trail!

The New England National Scenic Trail (now known as the New England Trail) is a 215-mile trail route that has been in existence for over half a century. It travels through 39 communities in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The NET is comprised primarily of the historic Metacomet, Monadnock and Matabesett (M-M-M) Trails. The New England Trail follows the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts.

The route of the New England Trail through Royalston comprises approximately 2 miles in the northwest corner of our town. The trail traverses lands of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, The Trustees of Reservations and private lands whose owners have granted easements for the trail. Clearly marked by blazes in trees painted yellow or white the trail offers an enjoyable hike through the wooded lands of Royalston.

Our section of this trail begins at the Town Line of Warwick near White Hill, crosses Bliss Hill Road, Athol-Richmond Road (Route 32), and finally follows the Falls Brook to the New Hampshire state line. Some features include a parking area at land of the Trustees of Reservations on Route 32, a shelter approximately one-half mile just east of Route 32 and a link trail to Royalston Falls.

The New England National Scenic Trail was designated on March 30, 2009 as part of Public Law 111-11 (Section 5202). The law references the Trail Management Blueprint described in the report titled the 'Metacomet Monadnock Matabesett Trail System National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated: Spring 2006, as the framework for trail management and administration.

The group welcomes everyone to the meetings we hold to discuss issues of Open Space and Recreation in our town. Our next meeting will be held on July 12, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall on The Common.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

New windshield stickers are now in and are available for \$15. They are due July 1st. The stickers are red and allow residents access to the facility. This money helps offset costs incurred to provide free recycling and other free services at the recycling center such as the reusable area and oil collection. Please see attendant for purchase by July 1.

Due to new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) adopted by the Board of Selectmen, we will be purchasing a dual receipt cash register. The attendant will be required to give you a receipt for all sales. If you do not want to keep the receipt, please recycle it instead of letting it blow around on the ground. The Board of Health is required to do this for audit purposes. We hope to have this up and running no later than July 1st.

Still finding plastic and other non-paper items in the roll offs. We won't ever be able to make paper out of plastic, so IF IT'S IN YOUR HAND, PUT IT IN THE RIGHT CAN, PLEASE!

Royalston's 250th Anniversary

Call Geoff Newton for information about any of these events- 978-249-3726. Help the committee raise money and plan for the upcoming cele-bralooza. There are many good ways to get involved:

Raffle: See any board member for a chance to win: a cord of Royalston wood, \$100 in cash, a NASCAR jacket, a handmade Royalston 250th blanket, Royalston maple syrup, gift cards from Market Basket, Best Buy, and Edible Arrangements and much much more. Tickets cost \$1 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets.

Eat: June 23rd Chicken BBQ supper at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. See any committee member for tickets, \$12 adults, \$6 children under 12.

Rent the Tent for your graduation event! \$40/day for a 20x30' tent. Will help set up and take down. Call Geoff 249- 3726. Proceeds benefit the 250th cause.

Hand crocheted afghans by Marlene Jarvenpaa for sale to benefit the 250th committee. \$75.

Local foods supper is coming in September. **Plant an extra row** this spring for the 250th committee. To help with the supper in any way, call or e-mail Beth Gospodarek. 978-249-0358

Come to a country music concert: Nashville recording artist and Royalston resident, Will Corey, performs at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club on June 16 from 3-6 p.m. Gate opens at 1:00. Tickets are \$15 for adults, children 12 and under are free. Pre-sale tickets are available at www.willcorey.com until June 15 or by calling Geoff Newton at 978-249-3726 until June 10. Tickets also available at the gate on the day of the show.

Have **input** about the 250th celebration? Want to get involved in town? Come to the next 250th committee meeting at 7 pm on June 7 at town hall. All welcome.

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 in Memory of Werner Bundschuh

Carl Kamp and Alyce Mayo



Donations to the Friends

Stephanie and John McClure

Kick off the summer with the Bard:

KIDS AND TEENS:

ACTORS, ARTISTS, STAGE CREW AND

LIGHTING LACKEYS SOUGHT FOR

THE ROYALSTON SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S

THE TEMPEST,

A MAGICAL TALE OF SHIPWRECK, COMEDY,
AND ROMANCE IN 2 ACTS

Contact the library to sign up or Beth 249-0358 for information

Participants will immerse in the words, ideas, comradery and hard work involved in staging a play by Shakespeare in 2 whirlwind weeks. This format seems crazy, but this is the 9th season of the RSC, meaning dozens of local kids have had fun treading these boards before. All have met great theatrical success. Why not grab the opportunity to become part of this unique Royalston tradition?

The RSC is free but requires a commitment to attend every rehearsal weekdays 9:30 – 12:30:

Friday, June 22

Mon – Fri June 25 – 29.

(n.b. Wednesday, June 27 times are slightly different: 9 – 11:30)

Mon – Tues July 2 – 3

Thurs- Fri July 5 and 6

Performance on Friday, July 6

Other times as required

Excitingly, the RCS has been handing over direction and production to its former participants. 2012 directors are Noah Dawson and Yasmine Seghir, with production and technical direction by Gibson LaRoche and Caleb Chase. Executive producers remain Maureen Blasco, Norah Dooley and Beth Gospodarek.

*The RSC is funded by The Royalston Cultural Council and the Friends of the Phinehas S Newton Library.

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 5:30-6:45 p.m. On June 18, it will discuss Tea Obrecht's *The Tiger's Wife*. All welcome.

Please Pot up your Thinnings and Save those Extra Seedlings:

Friends of the Library Plant and Book Sales on Saturday, June 9th from 9 - noon. This annual event is a big success thanks to the green thumbs and kind instincts rampant in this community. Herbs, perennials, house plants, annuals, shrubs, fruits and vegetables will be available. Horticultural histories and advice cheerfully dispensed. Good prices.

Every year there are many widely sought favorites like cilantro, cottage roses, rhubarb or tomatoes, but there is also something unusual. Last year, it was Buddy's artichoke plants. What will it be this year? All money taken in benefits library projects (like this newsletter).

Drop donations at the library a few days before the sale or at the library on the day of the sale.

summer fun at the library:

Free Summer Reading Programs for kids

Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the library

July 5 – Paper airplane design and paper making

July 12 – Book-making using handmade paper

July 19 – Native American flute making and stories

July 26 – Homemade Ice Cream Celebration

Free Preschool Summer Programs

Mondays at 10:00 a.m. at the library

Watch for these programs: Fun Food, a Petting Zoo, Yoga, Weaving and Homemade Ice Cream

New! Young Adult/ Adult Programs

July 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Beading with Lauren Pacosa from NohoBeadery. The class will teach knotting and cord endings. Learn how to create simple jewelry using different techniques. In this class, participants will go over how to create a sliding knot necklace and how to attach a clasp to cording such as silk or nylon. Everyone will leave class with a necklace, bracelet, and the knowledge to create many more adornments. *Supplies for this class will be from \$10 to \$20 depending upon the materials chosen.* All tools will be supplied for the class.

Origami with Haruo Shiga from the Worcester Art Museum – watch the website and next month's newsletter for final information.

New Things to be Checked Out at the Library :

State Park Pass

The library once again has a State Park Pass valid for parking for one vehicle at over 50 State Parks thanks to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks & Recreation. Those with a valid library card may borrow the pass. Visit the library for more information.

Multimedia Digital Projector to Loan

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we have purchased a new multimedia digital projector and thus now have one that we can loan to individuals with valid library cards. This projector can be connected to computers (PC or Mac), iPad, or DVD player. For more information about the borrowing procedure, please contact the library.

New Materials June 2012

Audiobooks

Burroughs, Augusten
This is How

CDs

Jones, Norah ...*Little Broken Hearts*
Moore, Kip *Up all Night*
Raitt, Bonnie *Slipstream*
Rascal Flatts *Changed*
Santana *Shape Shifter*
Underwood, Carrie *Blown Away*

DVDs:

American Teacher
Kids Yoga with Phonics
Kidz Bop
One for the Money
The Air I Breathe
The Grey
New Year's Eve
Spanish for Kids: Adentro Y Afuera
Spanish for Kids: Los Animales
The Vow
War Inc.
Yogakids

Need a Father's Day gift and want to support the library?

Consider purchasing the commemorative book of the library's 100th anniversary celebration or any of the other great Royalston memorabilia available at the library. \$35/copy. Supplies limited.

Elm Tree Planted at the Library

Thanks to Andy West, the library has a new disease-resistant elm gracing the front of the library. The tree should grow to its vase-like stature in good health.

Fiction

Archer, Jeffrey *The Sins of the Father*
Barbieri, Heather *The Cottage at Glass Beach*
Bechdel, Alison *Are you my Mother?*
Binet, Laurent *HHhH*
Carey, Peter *The Chemistry of Tears*
Clark, Marcia *Guilt by Degrees*
Evans, Richard Paul *The Road to Grace*
Ford, Richard *Canada*
Friedman, Daniel *Don't Ever Get Old*
Harris, Charlaine *Deadlocked*
Irving, John *In One Person*
James, E.L. *Fifty Shades of Grey*
James, E.L. *Fifty Shades Darker*
James, E.L. *Fifty Shades Freed*
Kendrick, Beth *The Lucky Dog Matchmaking Service*
King, Stephen *The Wind Through the Keyhole*
Lackberg, Camilla *The Stonecutter*
Lupton, Rosamund *Afterwards*
Morrison, Toni *Home*
Pearlman, Edith *Binocular Vision*
Perry, Anne *Dorchester Terrace*
Quick, Amanda *Crystal Gardens*
Roberts, Nora *The Last Boyfriend*
Roy, Anuradha *The Folded Earth*
Saramago, Jose *Manual of Painting and Calligraphy*
Saramago, Jose *The Lives of Things*
Simon, Clea *Cats Can't Shoot*
Stanford, John *Stolen Prey*
Theroux, Paul *The Lower River*

Non-Fiction

Albright, Madeleine *Prague Winter*
Berry, Wendell *New Collected Poems*
Brosman, Catherine *On the North Slope*
Burroughs, Augusten *This is How*
Chernila, Alana *The Homemade Pantry*
Fodor's *New Orleans 2012*
Frommer's *Boston 2012*
Kaplan, Alice *Dreaming in French*
Kessler-Harris, Alice *A Difficult Woman*
Quindlen, Anna *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*
Taraborrelli, J. *After Camelot*
Young, Jon *What the Robin Knows*

Young Adult Fiction/ Nonfiction

Bacigalupi, Paolo *The Drowned Cities*
Caletti, Deb *The Story of Us*
Cashmore, Kristin *Bitterblue*
Chambers, Aidan *Dying to Know You*
DiTerlizzi, Tony *A Hero for WondLa*
DiTerlizzi, Tony *The Search for WondaLa*
Hocking, Amanda *Ascend*
Kagawa, Julie *The Immortal Rules*
Kenney, Karen *Strength Training for Teen Athletes*
McCormick, Patricia *Never Fall Down*
Nix, Garth *A Confusion of Princes*
Parks, Peggy *Teenage Sex and Pregnancy*
Riordan, Rick *The Serpent's Shadow*
Unger, Richard *Time Snatchers*

Children's Fiction

Carbone, Elisa *Heroes of the Surf*
Carvell, Tim *Planet Tad*
Dyckman, Ame *Boy and Bot*
Frost, Helen *Step Gently Out*
Funke, Cornelia *Ghost Knight*
Hoban, Russell *Bread and Jam for Frances*
Mlynowski, Sarah *Fairest of All*
Patterson, James *Middle School*
Paulsen, Gary *Crush*
Pinkwater, Daniel *Mrs. Noodlekugel*
Pullman, Philip *Two Crafty Criminals*
Selig, Josh *Red & Yellow's Noisy Night*
Spires, Ashley *Larf*
Willems, Mo *I Broke my Trunk!*

Children's nonfiction

Coombs, Kate *Water Sings Blue*
Isaacs, Sally *Stagecoaches and Railroads*
Jenkins, Steve *The Beetle Book*
Rau, Dana *Going Organic*
Rau, Dana *The Northeast*
Vernick, Audrey *Brothers at Bat*
Willett, Edward *J.R.R. Tolkien*
Zeiger, Jennifer *Barack Obama*

Upcoming Entertainment

The Royalston Blues Night will be on June 2. Proceeds will benefit the Royalston 250th Celebration Committee and the Royalston Cultural Council.

Will Corey concert on June 16 to benefit the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration to be held outdoors at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club.



“Will Corey’s county music stems from his deep roots, as a true courageous Western American Cowboy. Born and raised on a family owned ranch in rural California, Will embraces the buckaroo tradition.... Will’s musical talents surfaced in high school, when he joined the choir to get closer to one particular girl. A year later, Will took guitar lessons to amplify his musical gifts. Will later performed country tunes in clubs across America while driving truck and doing construction work. Back on the West Coast, Will became a local stage favorite and a vocal winner regionally and nationally before moving to Texas to explore his country roots. Will currently ropes, rides, and hog ties on a working Bliss Hill ranch.

A growing number of fans have generated enough enthusiasm to spark Will’s exciting entrance into the national country music industry. Influenced by his favorites George Strait, Garth Brooks, and Toby Keith.” Will has just released his debut CD. His summer tour includes Royalston, Mechanics Hall and the Big E. Visit www.WillCorey.com for more information and on line ticket sales until June 15. Tickets: \$15/ adult and 12 and under are free. For early ticket sales, call Geoff Newton 978-249-3726 before June 10. Tickets also available at the gate.

Melanie & The Blue Shots Spring Tour:

June 2nd Royalston Town Hall, 7-11pm Blues Night w/The Scott Monette All-Stars

June 25th Gardner Ale House 7-10pm Blues Night.

Milestones

Millie Poor recently turned 90 and was feted by neighbors and family.



Congratulations to **Sheila Griffith** and **Robert and Barbara Denis** of South Royalston. They have a new grandson/ great-grandson, Liam Duncan Wingood. He weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was born on April 18.

Condolences to **Colleen McManus**, whose aunt Doratheen E. Lucas passed away on May 21st, 2012 at the age of 97.

According to the town clerk’s report, in 2011 there were 2 births, 2 marriages and 10 deaths in the Town of Royalston.

Obituary

Meryl O. Willhite, 89, of 40 North Fitzwilliam Rd., went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, May 27, 2012.

Meryl was born in Belva, Okla., on April 28, 1923, the son of Noah and Jenny (Oakley) Willhite. He grew up in Missouri, later moving to Boston, and for the past 46 years has resided in Royalston.



Meryl was a self-employed contractor for over 60 years, and was admired and known for his ethic of hard work that continued right up until his death.

He was an avid horseshoe player, competing in many tournaments throughout the years, winning many trophies, and also enjoyed bowling.

His Christianity and love for his Lord and his family were the most important parts of his life.

Meryl was known as a kind and gentle man and was loved and respected by all those that he came into contact with.

He leaves his wife of 59 years, Marie A. (Coderre) Willhite; his children, Janet and Kimberley Willhite, both of Athol, Linda Willhite of Worcester, Mark Willhite of Charleton, Maine, and Kelley Rigopoulos and her husband Steve of Athol; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He also leaves a brother, Enis Willhite of Royalston; three sisters, Cherry of Colorado, Pearl of California and Joy of Missouri; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Mitchell of Athol, many nieces and nephews and his pastor and friends, Dick and Sherrill Noel.

He was predeceased by a granddaughter, Danielle Miller, two brothers, Victor and James Willhite, a sister, Juanita Seward and sister-in-law, Barbara Willhite. For further information or to share a memory with the family go to: www.higginsoconnorfuneralhome.com.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS



Graduates: Share your accomplishments with your community. Send the RCN photos and announcements from your big day. Got something else to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at the library.

Recent Graduates

Christine Sawyer recently received an Associate's Degree and Barbara Guiney completed a certificate program at Mount Wachusett Community College

Andrew Parnanen received an Associate's Degree in Science from Quinsigamond Community College

Congrats to **Andy Martioski**, son of Diana Newton and step-son of Geoff Newton, who graduated from Westfield State University on May 19 with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice.

Benjamin West recently graduated from North Central Charter Essential School in Fitchburg. He will attend Roger Williams University in the fall where he will study civil engineering.

Congratulations to **Raeann LeBlanc** of Frye Hill Road for graduating in May with her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from UMass Amherst. She was also awarded the 2012 Graduate Leadership Award from the School of Nursing. Way to go Doctor Nurse!

Allison E. Bergquist, daughter of Lori Bergquist Darling and step-daughter of Daniel Darling, was named *Telegram and Gazette* Student Achiever for Athol High School 2012. Allison will major in criminal justice at Westfield State University.

AHS Girls State Reps-2012: Michele Thompson, and Shelby Bronnes and Ashley Javier as alternates.

3rd quarter Academic Honor Rolls:

Monty Tech: Special honors: Amy Putney, high honors: **Amanda Putney, Michael Persson, Gabriel Jarvenpaa, and Lainey Wright.** *Honors: Ashley Butterworth, Sydni Ayers, Meredith Carrier, Joshua Roberts, Colleen Demboske and Ian Duffin*

Athol-Royalston Middle School: straight As Taryn Bousquet, Mark Brighenti Jr, Rhiannon Fletcher, Melissa Persson, Cassandra Frazier. All As and Bs: Daniel Amado. Thomas Bickford, Abigail Divoll, Loryn Killay, Alicia Lachance, Allison Mowrey, Curtis Neale, Summer Binkauski, Tyler Boyd, Brianna Cauley, Katherine Dustin, Alyana LaJoie, Ann Reynolds, Rebecca Tetreault, Madison Truehart, bronze: Derek Bates, Lorenzo Carra, John Knight, Megan Perreault, Kariana Tobias-Tessier, and Charlie White.

Deans' Lists:

Jessica Benoit, Samantha Hutchins, William Rheault, and Paul Thibodeau made Dean's List at Mount Wachusett Community College. **Cady Boucher** made Dean's List at Penn State.

Our Town



A group of regulars at the Royalston General Store teamed up to spruce up the vacant property adjacent to the store in preparation for Memorial Day. Pictured from left to right are: Tim Wright, Tom Bushee, Rene' Lake-Gagliardi, Pat Bushee, Luann Simula, Irene Lawrence, and Ray Simula. Not in the photo are Bill Rose and Peter Gagliardi.



Charlie Scribner, long-time organizer of the Town roadside Clean-Up and acclaimed chili chef, poses with Rep. Denise Andrews after the successful May 28th volunteer trash-a-thon.

Thank you: Rose Lawrence appreciates the kind help of the community: "I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Royalston Resue/EMS/Fire for its quick response and professional care given in regards to my bicycle accident. A heartfelt thank you to the individuals who stopped and offered their assistance with support and comfort. I will be forever grateful. Please remember to wear a helmet at all times! I learned a valuable lesson!"



104 Federal Street Greenfield
Get ready for Spring with a bicycle tune up.
Reasonable rates and skilled mechanics.
Free local pick up and delivery if you mention this ad!
Call Bert Sawicki at 978-396-0039 for details.

R.C.S. News

Bella O'Connor

This month, like many others, is going to be hectic. As a bitersweet start, Mrs. Deacon is having her retirement party on Tuesday, June 19 from 5-7pm at R.C.S. and Ms. Divoll



is looking for pictures or written memories. If you have any, can you please email to her at rdivoll@arrsd.org. Field Day is on June 14 with a rain date of the 15. Let's hope for good weather!

The River Rat Reading Race winners are:

- K- Colin Rowe 1- Rebecca Nano
- 2- Hannah Cummings 3- Aliyah Neale
- 4- Kevin O'Connor 5- Jesse Hixon
- 6- Kayla Gerry Overall K-2 Zoe Wilder

Overall 3-6 Erika Gambill "I Beat Ms. Divoll" Award- Brady Killay. Good job readers!

The sixth graders have planned their Red Carpet themed graduation for the 15th also, and all the teachers that haven't yet are planning their field trips. Check your child's backpack for notices. The Spring Musical is on June 1st. The sixth graders had a fun and educational week at Nature's Classroom, and

RCS End of May/June Calendar

- May 30 Students to AHS – Scottish Highlanders *9:30 – 10:30am
- May 31 Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal @ 2:00pm
- June 01 Spring Concert @ 6:30pm
- June 05 Kindergarten Community Helpers Field Trip*8:45 – 2:30pm
- June 06 Grade Five Wax Museum
- June 07 Poetry Celebration @ 6:30pm
- June 12 PTG Meeting @ 3:15pm
- June 13 Kindergarten Field Trip to Davis Farmland
- June 14 FIELD DAY
- June 15 RAIN DATE * FIELD DAY
- June 15 Grade 6 COMPLETION CEREMONY @ 6:30pm
- June 18 Grades 3 & 4 field trip to Hitchcock Center
- June 18 It's All About "K" Night *6:00 – 8:30pm
- June 19 Grade 5 to Sturbridge Village *8:30 – 3:00pm
- June 21 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Monty Tech News

Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay – mbarclay@juno.com – 978-249-2598

The Monty Tech Foundation's annual Superintendent's Dinner, with a New England Theme, netted an impressive \$49,700. These dollars are reinvested in students, mostly through scholarships and grants – although this year the Foundation also provided a generous donation which, when combined with student donations from various graduating classes, will replace the sign out front with a full-color LED sign.

Monty Tech received ten nominations for the 2012 TAMY Awards (Theatre at the Mount), for Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Featured Actor, Best Featured Actress, three Not-Your-Average Chorus Members; Best Choreographer; Best Lighting Design; and Best Playbill. Not bad for a school without a fine arts program

A \$27,600 Academic Support Grant was received from the Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education – the money to pay for this year's Summer MCAS Academy.

Congratulations to Superintendent-Director Steve Sharek on an event-filled few weeks coming up – his stepson Paul graduates from Greater New Bedford Voc Tech, his wife, Dolly, receives her MBA from U-MA Dartmouth AND the family will relocate to a new home in Hudson, which will be roughly half-way between Monty Tech and Dolly's new job.

Village School News

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School:

Go to www.villageschoolma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 9 to July 23, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up and new this year, Woodworking with Kids, ages 8 and up. Scholarships are available to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

If you or someone you know has a consumer problem or question, please contact:

The Northwester District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division

413-774-3186 Greenfield 413-586-9225 Northampton
northwesternnda.org
Working in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office

Congregational Churches News

*The FAIR is back. We will be holding the church fair on the common July 14th, from 8:00am - 3:00 pm. There will be great food, music, and fun for the whole family.

*Donations for Attic Treasures is back! If you would like to donate your items, give us a call. (see # below)

*Church service times for Sundays start at 9:00 am, at the South Royalston Church (SCCR) on School Street, and at 11 am at the First Congregational Church (FCCR) located on the Common.

* FCCR would like to let the community of Royalston know about its food pantry. If you are a family experiencing hunger, please come by, or give us a call. We are here to help.

* If you would like to inquire about the food pantry, or the walk for hunger, please feel free to call us at 978-249-4311. You can also check us out on line at WWW.FCCRLIVE.COM

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

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

Before you know it, the kids will have had just enough time out of elementary school that they'll be announcing, "I'M BORED!" Do your entire family a favor by having them attend "Readiness U," an on-line emergency preparedness program at www.ready.gov designed for FEMA by Scholastic, Inc. in cooperation with various education and public service entities for children who have basic reading and math skills, essentially fourth to sixth graders. They learn the facts (in age appropriate ways) about weather events like tornados, earthquakes, and hurricanes, as well as sudden emergencies like flooding or fires. Students will make a plan to guide the family in case of emergencies, assemble resources necessary to survive an emergency, and along the way, enjoy an array of games, puzzles, movies...and for those who complete the program, an on-line test and certificate of graduation.

Teens will find plenty of information at www.ready.gov, too. Truly motivated teens are welcome to contact me for information on the various volunteer programs in FEMA's Citizen Corps program – ranging from the general, all-round "Community Emergency Response Teams," to VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service), Fire Corps (volunteers assisting the fire service) and with affiliates such as ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) for licensed "hams," and NASAR (National Association of Search and Rescue.)

Other summer options for teens include: beginning amateur radio courses for those as young as 12, CPR and First Responder classes, and training with local search and rescue dogs. These programs generally qualify for "community service" requirements for high school and college.

Your kids don't have to be bored this summer – they can be "Ready Kids"

Royalston Fish and Game Club News

Mary C. Barclay

The Royalston F&G will be extracting lead from the shooting range for the next couple of months, so until further notice, the Shooting Range is open on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to dusk and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



A June 23rd chicken barbecue to benefit the town's 250th anniversary celebration begins at 5 p.m. at the club. Delicious chicken half, baked potato, cole slaw, bread & butter, cranberry and assorted desserts all for \$12. Tickets go quickly, so reserve one soon at the club or through any 250th committee member.

Save the date: Saturday July 28, Royalston F&G Car Show and Chicken Barbecue.

What's new? Watch for Disc Golf, coming soon at the F&G!

The Royalston F&G is open Sundays from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. and Fridays from 6 p.m. to midnight. Memberships are available at the bar or at the Royalston General Store. If you are interested in more information, contact Ginny at 978-249-4951, Marie at 978-249-2836 or the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004.

Paul A. Montero. P.L.S.
Professional Land Surveyor

10 Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd - PO Box 20
Royalston, Massachusetts 01368
Telephone: (978) 249-5879

Classifieds

Found: Adult woman's brown fleece jacket left at HipHop. If you're missing this jacket, it's at the library.

Services Available:

Charlie's Mowing & Yard Work. Dependable and hard-working Royalston 15 yr. old ready to tackle your toughest project. Call Charlie White at 978-249-9122.

Sharpening: knives and scissors. Also, custom knife making. Call Rob at 978-320-9982.

Little Farmers Child Care, located next to RCS now has full and part time openings! It also has before and after school child care. Hours are 6am-5pm Call Joni @ 978-575-1083

Graphic digital artist for hire. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, invitations, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Call Barbara at 508.364.3339 or email brguiney@wildblue.net.

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

House cleaning. 4 hr - \$60.00. Experienced with references. Royalston resident. Call Fran: home 978-249-4596 or cell 895-0817.

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

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

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 (978) 249-2871 or Tom Musco @ Royalston Oak Timber Frames at (978) 249-9633. We also make beautiful timber frames for additions, barns, sheds and homes.

For sale

BR0: window AC; humidifier with pedestal; 9" TV with opt. bracket; Fischer steel-edged XC skis with pin bindings; 248-9404

275 gallon heating oil tank (empty), black, with gauge installed. 5 years old, in excellent condition; switched to propane heat, so no longer needed. \$150 or best offer. Call Aaron or Elizabeth 249-6771.

1994 Ford F140 Pick Up - Has 6" lift. Runs well. 5.8 L, approximately 110k. \$2500 or B/O. 978-249-9274.

'Crazy Johns' the vegetable, fruit and flower seller operated by Royalston's Clair Alix and John Jeffrey, has moved and is now open for business next to Mr. Mikes at the intersection of Routes 12 and 119 in Fitzwilliam.

Free-Range, pasture raised pork. Raised in Royalston. Taking orders for fall. \$2.00/pound; hanging weight. Processing fees not included. Whole pig or half. We arrange and ship for processing. Come pick one out. Call Chet Hall IV 978-249-2182.

Grass-fed Beef: All cuts available. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.

Nature books and prints suitable for children and adults. Commissions accepted. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

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

Firewood- Taking orders for spring delivery of green firewood \$180/ 170 cu feet. Also, limited supply of semi-seasoned wood. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.

Local Maple Syrup from Richardson's sugarhouse is now available at Pete & Henry's. It is also available from the Richardsons at 978-249-6283.

Royalston Maple Syrup, made at Divoll's Deland Hill Sugar House. Prices \$9/pint; \$15/qt; \$28/half gal.; \$50/gal. Call Randy at 978-602-5583.

"Where Many Rivers Fall" t-shirts sold to benefit 250th committee. \$15. Buy at Royalston store or call Geoff 249-3726. Make good gifts.

Garden Notes

May 22, 2012

Further feedback regarding the impact of our non-winter on the garden: when we moved here in 1976, a wild azalea shrub was discovered in the backyard. Not as showy as its cultivated cousins, the wild azalea nonetheless possesses a heady (think cloves) aroma that announces its presence even before you've spotted it. Year-in and year-out it has put out new growth, sometimes flowering in moderation and sometimes not at all. This year it is covered with blossoms. Not ten feet away is a rose bush given to us by a neighbor thirty-some years ago. Invariably, it dies back to the ground, new shoots emerging in the spring, flowers non-existent. This year, there was no dieback and the shrub is awash in buds, preparing to burst into flower in early to mid-June. There were casualties as well: the beds of thymes, oregano, and chamomile suffered severe losses. Fortunately, these are ground covers and by summer's end they will have re-filled the beds and fully recovered. More inexplicably, most of our peppermint died. As many of you with a mint patch have learned, the stuff is indestructible. There were no losses to our spearmint, applemint, curled mint and water mint and I am hard pressed to come up with an explanation.

Self-seeded plants provided surprises as well. I have fifteen or so flowers, herbs, and vegetables which reliably self-seed, some prodigiously, some less so. This year's winners were cilantro, chervil, and sunflowers, which seemed to occupy every bit of open ground not already occupied by the maple seedlings (only the blind among you have failed to notice the invasion of the maples in the garden, in the lawn, along the edge of the road, in the soil-encrusted bed of the pick-up. The losers? Parsnips, lettuce, hollyhocks, calendula.

Then there is the matter of potatoes. Like years past, they have become downright weedy, emerging wherever a potato was missed during prior harvests. Unlike years past, I have taken a different approach to them. Instead of taking down the plants with my hoe, I've begun to dig them up. Many have grown from nubbins, marble-sized potatoes, easy to have missed. No surprise there. Many others have grown from real potatoes, four ounces or more, difficult to have missed. Big surprise there. So I break off the shoots, wash them, cook them, and consume them. Spring-dug potatoes. Go figure.

The garden season continues advanced and so do the garden activities. A bed of beans has been planted, days earlier than every before. Some cucumbers have been planted as well, ten days earlier than normal. Tomatoes were set out today. Those potatoes I planted in the middle of April took their sweet time to emerge, but emerge they did. Now I can turn my attention to hilling them up and searching for potato beetles.

For the procrastinators among you, June is the forgiving month. Anything (with the exception of peas, spinach, and lettuce) which could have been planted in May can be planted in June. Procrastinate no more.

Work hard. Do good. Be incredible.*

Larry Siegel

*If only I was inventive enough to have come up with these words. I was not but gifted author Cheryl Strayed was and I trust she would not be offended by my 'borrowing' them.



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Wildlife Sightings

On May 22, Charlie Chase and Paula Pralinski encountered a **black bear** on N. Fitzwilliam Rd. during their daily early-morning constitutional, so they promptly turned around and walked in the other direction. Three days later (and a little surreally), the bear was in Paula's Frye Hill driveway, a few yards from the house.

A dawn drama played out on the morning of May 20th at the intersection of Northeast Fitzwilliam Road and Frye Hill, where the incessant clucking of a **turkey** finally drew the Barclays out of bed to the front hall window. A **baby fox** was chasing a fairly hefty hen turkey in circles. The clucking was presumably to call for some back-up (apparently fellow turkeys were actually chickens because no one showed up.) The baby fox went up into the hayfield across the street, lurking in the tall grass as the turkey trotted off down the middle of the road.

Another juvenile **red fox** was seen May 21, following a **gray squirrel** across the road from the Putney's riding ring. The horses perked up as the chase passed by, but didn't seem overly concerned.

A large – approximately 18" long carapace – **snapping turtle** trying to cross Route 68 South out of the Common drew numerous visitors the evening of May 25. Families with kids, curious adults, and even bicyclists stopped to watch the slow progress. A carload of teens appeared to be planning to take the reptile for a ride, but thought better of it, and set it to the side of the road.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
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Royalston Resident
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Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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