

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2012



Volume XV, Issue VII

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

Calendar of Events

Monday _____ September 3 **Labor Day**
Schools, post office and library closed

Thursday _____ September 6 **Election Day**
7 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Polls open for presidential primary** election. If you are registered in a particular party, you may only vote that party's ballot. If you are registered Unenrolled (no party) you may choose any party's ballot to vote. Polling locations are:
Precinct 1 – Town Hall, 13 The Common;
Precinct 2 – Whitney Hall, 5 School St.

3:45 pm **Friends of the Library meeting.** Discuss library support, upcoming programs and this newsletter. All welcome.

Friday _____ September 14
midnight **Last chance to turn in the Broadband Survey inserted in this newsletter.** If you want/need faster internet in town, return the survey!

Saturday _____ September 15
Rosh Hashana begins at sunset – Jewish New Year 5773

6:00 pm **Local Foods Harvest Supper on the common.**
A \$12 ticket gets a seat at the table for homemade soups, salads, breads, main dishes and desserts made by your foodie neighbors from mainly local ingredients. Beer and wine on sale. Raffles. Proceeds benefit the upcoming town 250th anniversary celebration. For tickets or to help, see any committee member or call Geoff Newton or Beth Gospodarek 978-249-3726 or 249-0358.

7:30 **Movie showing - Evening Shift, written and directed by a native son, Taj Musco.** This short film was recently shown at the Telluride Film Festival and is short listed for a People's Choice Award at the 2012 Louis Vuitton Journeys Awards. (Cast a vote once a day from now until September 3rd, 2012 by clicking the link at www.tajmusco.com.) After the showing, Taj will take questions about film-making. Free. Facilitated by the Friends of the Library. Beer and wine on sale to benefit the 250th Committee.

10:11 p.m. **New Harvest Moon**

Monday _____ September 17
4:30-5:45 p.m. **Library Book Discussion Group** September's book is *True Believers* by Kurt Andersen. All welcome.



Early photograph of the common. Note newly planted trees at left.

Wednesday _____ September 19
7 p.m. Public meeting to discuss improvements of the Town Common at town hall. Wide spread public input encouraged.

Tuesday _____ September 25 **Yom Kippur** begins at sunset

Wednesday _____ September 26
5 p.m. **RSVP Deadline So. Royalston Elementary School Dinner**

Wednesday _____ September 26
7:30 p.m. **Gordon Morrison presents "Illustrations in Nature" at the Ladies' Benevolent Society Meeting** at the home of Deb Nunes, Squier Davis Farm on Rt 32.. Call 978-249-4000 for more information. All welcome. Exceptional refreshments served.

Thursday _____ September 27
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. **Open House** at the Royalston Community School. Families and community members are welcome to drop in.

Saturday _____ September 29
11:19 p.m. **Full Harvest Moon**

Save the Date:

Wednesday _____ October 3
6-8 p.m. **Curriculum Night at the Village School**, attend curriculum presentations done by the classroom teachers to get a taste of the Village School educational experience

Wednesday _____ October 10 **Flu Clinic** at Town Hall.

Select Board Notes: Save the Date, Save the Common

Christine Long, Member

The Common, of course, is the centerpiece of town, and sprucing it up would make a dramatic centerpiece to Royalston's 250th anniversary celebration, coming in 2015.

The kick-off to doing so will be held on **Wednesday, September 19 at 7 p.m. at town hall**, when residents from all over town can re-examine an old plan for the restoration of the Common, evaluate more recent ideas, and offer their own suggestions.

An information sheet will be available at the meeting; anyone wanting a preview copy can contact Selectwoman Christine Long at chris.long@royalston-ma.gov.

Following the September meeting, the Select Board will appoint a Common Restoration Committee comprised of citizens with interest and expertise to refine the suggestions, draft a proposal and budget, and apply for grants to move the project forward. It's YOUR Common, it's OUR Common.

Be a part of the solution!

Royalston Broadband Committee:

Once again, you can help us - Read On!

Andy West

The RBBC has made huge strides for home internet access on 2 fronts. First, we received a grant from the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) to design a network capable of reaching every home in Royalston with a high speed wireless internet signal. That plan is now complete! We are now hopeful we can find grant money to help us build this network. This is our best short term plan with the quickest installation.

For the longer term, Royalston has joined Wired West, a cooperative of 40 Western Mass towns with the goal of bringing a fiber optic connection to every house in those towns. Fiber is a powerhouse connection to the internet capable of providing internet, phone, and TV/movie services (similar to Verizon FIOS). Wired West needs to show potential investors that there are plenty of customers in the 40 towns to make the project successful. Therefore, all 40 towns are sending support forms to residents asking what services that they might buy.

Here is where you can help. You will find a support form in your tax bill and this newsletter. Please complete one and send it back or drop it off at the Library or General Store. You can also fill out the Support Form online at www.wired-west.net. if you have access. Extra support forms are also available at the Library and General store. The support form is not a contract; it's just a survey. In the past, our enormous participation made all the difference in being included in the MBI project. Please keep the momentum going by filling out this support form BEFORE Sept 15.

Assessors' Notes

Those receiving tax breaks through Chapter 61 programs must file renewals on time. Chap. 61 ten year plans are due Sept. 1. Chap. 61A and 61B are due Oct. 1 and must be filed yearly. Late filers will be removed from the program and issued penalties and rollback taxes.

Vacancy on the Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen are seeking someone to fill a vacant position. The appointment will be until next Annual Election. If interested, please contact the Board of Selectmen at 978-249-9641 or bos@royalston-ma.gov.

Open Space and Recreation Committee News

By Paul Montero, Chairperson

The first open space plan dates back to colonial times and is known as "The Common". The Common was a place where owners of home lots who owned little land could bring their farm animals to graze. The Common also served as a marketplace where farmers could sell their crops and buy tools and clothes.

The proprietors or the first holders of property that encompassed our town also saw The Common as a central location in the settlement of Royalston where the Meeting House and Town Hall would be built. It was traditional in New England towns that this centrally located space be shared by the inhabitants of the town.

While "On the Common" is perhaps the most prestigious address in the Town of Royalston, the land known as The Common belongs to or is designated to be used by all of the inhabitants of the Town of Royalston. The past owners of the graceful homes that surround the common either granted a share of their land or granted an easement to use the land for common purposes.

In modern times our Common is the venue for local fairs and offers a park like atmosphere that makes our town pleasant and attractive. Because of the historic nature of lands surrounding the Common and the fact that neighboring properties were placed in the National Register of Historic Places, the simple pleasure of having a Common is allowed to continue in perpetuity.

The Common was surveyed by W. M. Chaplin of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire in 1911 and again in 1988 by P.M.C.E., Incorporated. Both surveys established or reestablished the boundary of The Common by granite stone bounds that were placed at the perimeter. Both surveys confirm the Town Hall building being entirely within the boundary of The Common and that the First Congregational Church, once called The Meeting House, is partially within the boundary of The Common and partially on its own land. It has remained a curiosity that the boundary line runs squarely through the Meeting House now known as the First Congregational Church.

The Select Board will be holding a first meeting to solicit suggestions for improvements to The Common. Afterward a Common Restoration Committee will be appointed of citizens with interest or expertise to look over the suggestions, draft a budget and apply for grants to fund the proposed improvements. Please attend this first meeting to discuss your suggestions on Wednesday September 19, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall.

The Town of Royalston welcomes everyone to the meetings held to discuss issues of Open Space and Recreation, which are held on the second Thursday of every other month. Its next meeting is September 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall on The Common.

Election Information:

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

The Massachusetts State Primary will be held on THURSDAY, September 6. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please keep in mind that if you are registered in a particular party, you may only vote that party’s ballot. If you are registered Unenrolled (no party) you may choose any party’s ballot to vote. Polling locations are:

Precinct 1 – Town Hall, 13 The Common;

Precinct 2 – Whitney Hall, 5 School St.

The Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6. The last day to register to be eligible to vote or to change parties for this election is Wednesday, October 17. If you are already registered to vote, you do not need to re-register. To check your registration status, contact the Town Clerk at 978-249-0493.

A note about Registration Status: As required by state law, those voters who have not returned their annual census must be placed on the “Inactive Voter” list. Confirmation postcards for these voters were mailed out last month. Please sign and return these to maintain your Active Voter status. If you are listed as an Inactive Voter and come to vote on election day, you will be asked to confirm your Royalston residence by filling out a form and providing identification. Your status will then be changed to Active.

Cultural Council



This summer’s MusicFest was another huge success. Cultural Council Co-Chair Patti Carrier is pictured here with the 2012 T-shirt designed by local artist, Elizabeth Farnsworth. The Cultural Council is gearing up for another round of grant applications. To

apply for a grant, go to: <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.asp>. Applications are due by October 15, 2012.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

If you do not have a red 2013 sticker on your vehicle, you need to get one next time you use the transfer station. They cost \$15 for 1st vehicle and \$5 for any vehicle after that. This fee helps offset the cost for the free recycling that is provided at the transfer station. See Tony to get your sticker. They should be placed on lower driver’s side windshield.

Hazardous waste collection day will be Sept. 22 at the Orange Transfer Station off East Main St., after Pete’s Tire Barn. Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required. Register online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or fill out registration forms that are available at the transfer station.

The transfer station is collecting all kinds of clean textiles. Just put anything not wet into the Salvation Army collection box. Find a new life for your clothing, belts, ties, linens, towels etc.

Remember, you can’t make paper out of plastic!

Fire Department Reminders

Chief Keith R. Newton

The process of heating a home can be a challenge with the cost of fuel going through the roof, but don’t compromise safety while making that choice. Whichever fuel and method of heat are chosen, please think the process through so the possibilities of accidents are avoided. When home owners anticipate potential problems and have a solution in advance, the risk will diminish greatly. Please take the late summer / early fall months for developing a safe heating process, complete with cleanup and inspections of your chimneys.

This time of year is also a great opportunity to make all family members aware of home fire escape plans. If they need adjusting, there will be time to practice any changes before winter sets in and snow and cold weather become a hinderance.

Also smoke and carbon monoxide detectors should be checked and made ready for the heating season. A simple test can be done by the home owner to assure that they will operate when needed.

Please heat safely and call if you need guidance. 978-249-8138

Royalston Police Department News

Mary C. Barclay

Royalston police officers recently underwent a long and rigorous day of firearms training in Royalston, conducted by Chief Curtis A. Deveneau and Tom Sampson, a professional firearms instructor who formerly served on the Royalston PD. Officers received instruction, practiced and were observed for a variety of skills including their safe handling of a variety of weapons, their demeanor as they role-played various situations and of course, their accuracy with the weapons. Chet and Sheila Hall hosted the training day and Laurie Deveneau organized a cook-out lunch for participants. All new officers must undergo an initial firearms training and qualification program, then must practice and re-qualify each year.

Residents may have noticed some new faces in the passenger seat of the cruiser since July 1; they belong to two auxiliary officers, two special officers and four regular officers undergoing their probationary period. Police Chief Deveneau will be introducing the new as well as long-time members of the RPD over the next few months in a series of public service and educational articles in the RCN and Athol Daily News.



Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you

Donations to the Friends

Bernie and Susan Gronovicz
Paul Montero

Art Exhibits

The photographs of Rosemary Lincoln Cark will be displayed throughout the month of September. Her photographs depict nature scenes and people in natural settings. During October and November the photographs of Aaron Ellison will be exhibited.

Preschool Story Time to Resume



Fall and winter hours resume on September 13 with the return of the Monday morning hours meaning that the library will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on all non-holiday Mondays. Preschool story time will also resume at 10:00 on non-holiday Mondays as well.

All preschoolers and their caregivers are welcome to attend for stories, crafts, and healthy refreshments. No pre-registration is required so you may attend whenever you can.

Royalston Yellow Pages Coming

The Royalston Yellow Pages are a list of contact information for town officials, committee members and local services. do you have a business in town that you would like to list? Call the library and leave your particulars. The yellow pages are a service of the Friends of the Library. A fall publication of the directory is (still) planned.

Book Discussion Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. September's book is *True Believers* by Kurt Andersen, a novel described in an Amazon.com review as a "kaleidoscopic tour de force of cultural observation and seductive storytelling which alternates between the present and the 1960s—and indelibly captures the enduring impact of that time on the ways we live now." Copies of the book are available at the library. All are welcome to come munch cookies and chat about the book with this relaxed group of bibliophiles.

What can be checked out at the library?

For sure, books...

But also lots of extras...

With a valid library card in good standing, these may be reserved by calling or stopping by the library.

Ice Cream Makers to Loan

'Play and Freeze Ice Cream Balls' the Friends purchased. Patrons may borrow one or both of these ice cream balls from the library to make their own ice cream. And for fifty cents, enough rock salt to make a batch of ice cream can be purchased.

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. Turn your barn wall into a drive in?



104 Federal Street Greenfield
Get spring into summer 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.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult Fiction

Amis, Martin *Lionel Asbo*
Auster, Paul *Winter Journal*
Black, Baxter *Ride, Cowboy, Ride!*
Black, Benjamin *Vengeance*
Cain, Chelsea *Kill you Twice*
Doig, Ivan *The Bartender's Tale*
Erdrich, Louise *The Plague of Doves*
George, Kathleen *Simple*
Gregory, Philippa *The Kingmaker's Daughter*
Jacobs, Anna *Winds of Change*
Kleypas, Lisa *Dream Lake*
Koontz, Dean *Odd Apocalypse*
Lippman, Laura *And When she was Good*
Mccall Smith, A. *The Importance of Being Seven*
Prince, Sveva *Formaggio*
Rendell, Ruth *The St. Zita Society*
Thalasinis, Andrea *An Echo through the Snow*
Turtledove, Harry *Coup d'etat*

Adult Non-Fiction

The 20th Century in Poetry
Barlett, Donlad *The Betrayal of the American Dream*
Beresford, Kiersten *Easy Tapas*
Budworth, Geoffrey *The Ultimate Book of Everyday Knots*
Logren, Mike *The Party is Over*
Logan, William *Air*
Malone, Michael *The Guardian of all Things*
Spitz, Bob *Dearie*
The, Robert *5-Minute Massage*

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Hale, Shannon *Rapunzel's Revenge*(graphic novel)
Hocking, Amanda *Wake*
White, Kiersten *Endlessly*

Juvenile Fiction

Banks, Kate *The Magician's Apprentice*
Buitrago, Jairo *Jimmy the Greatest!*
Cooper, Wade *Farm Animals*
Dorling *My First Animal lift-the-flap Book*
French, Vivian *Princess Chloe and the Primrose Petticoats*
French, Vivian *Princess Jessica and the Best-friend Bracelet*
French, Vivian *Princess Lauren and the Diamond Necklace*
Levy, Elizabeth *The Schoolyard Mystery*
McMullan, Kate *Pearl and Wagner: Five Days till Summer*
Menotti, Andrea *How Many Jelly Beans?*
Stead, Philip *A Home for Bird*
Stead, Rebecca *Liar & Spy*

Juvenile Non-Fiction

Blue, Rose *Colin Powell*
Taylor-Butler, C. *Meteorology the Study of Weather*

Audiobooks Cohen, Andy *Most Talkative*

Dvds *Charlestown , Dora's Fantastic Gymnastics Adventure, Friends with Kids, Hatfields & McCoys, House M.D. , Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, Sherlock Season 1, The Three Stooges , and The Weight of the Nation*

Cds

Brown, Zac *Uncaged*
Stone, Joss *Soul Sessions, Vol. 2*
Kidz Bop 22

Wrapping up a swell summer at the Phinehas Newton Library

June and July were filled with an ambitious schedule of successful library programs, for kids, teens and adults.



Laurie Truehart made Native American flutes with the kids and told Native American stories at one of the summer reading programs.



The Royalston Shakespeare Company (produced by the Friends of the Library) put on *The Tempest*. The RSC is unique as it puts on an authentic Shakespeare play with kids in two weeks and is free to participants. They have fun, work hard and shine in the spotlight.

Local dinner and a movie: September 15 at Town Hall at 6 pm

Local Foods Harvest Supper

Followed by a Local Showing of Taj Musco's new award-winning short film, *Evening Shift*

Dinner: A \$12 ticket gets a seat at the table for homemade soups, salads, breads, main dishes and desserts made by your foodie neighbors from mainly local ingredients. The menu is evolving and change is inevitable, but some items that are planned are corn chowder, kale soup, butternut bisque, gazpacho, herb and zucchini breads, refrigerator pickles and dilly beans, Caprese salad, garden salad, maple glazed carrots, garlic rosemary mashed potatoes, lamb curry, zucchini parmesan, Mexican pork with chipotles, stuffed pumpkin, pound cakes, blueberry cobbler, apple cake, rhubarb sorbet, and more. To drink, there will be sumac juice and cider. Beer and wine will be on sale. Local produce like shallot braids, big pumpkins, maple syrup and home made jam will be raffled. Proceeds benefit the upcoming town 250th anniversary celebration. Help setting up, serving and cleaning up is still needed. For tickets or to help, see any committee member or call Geoff Newton or Beth Gospodarek 978-249-3726 or 249-0358. Order early as this event is popular.



Movie: At 7:30, *Evening Shift*, a short film written and directed by Royalston native, Taj Musco will be shown. Taj is an NYU film student living in Singapore.



An elderly man travels to a distant beach to fulfill his duty to his wife. A young police officer on patrol must fulfill his duty to the law. Sometimes, the most unexpected and inconvenient encounters are the ones that teach us the most about life.

This short film was recently shown at the Telluride Film Festival and is short-listed for a People's Choice Award at the 2012 Louis Vuitton Journeys Awards. (Cast a vote once a day from now until September 3rd, 2012 by clicking the link at www.tajmusco.com.) After the showing, Taj will take questions about film-making. Free. Facilitated by the Friends of the Library. Beer and wine on sale to benefit the 250th Committee.

Have input about the 250th celebration? Want to get involved in town? Come to the next 250th committee meeting at 7 pm on September 6 at town hall. All welcome.

Other Ways to Support the 250th Anniversary Celebration:

Grab the Gear: "Where Many Rivers Fall" t-shirts \$15 and new 2012 Holiday Ornaments. Buy at Royalston store or at 250th events. Make good gifts.

Rent the Tent for your autumnal 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 Literati

Sharon Harmon of Butterworth Rd will have her new story, "Life Saver", published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: I Can't Believe My Cat Did That!* It will be available in stores September 18, 2012. People can post a review on Amazon.com-

Aaron Ellison and Elizabeth Farnsworth of Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd have a long article, "Wonderful Woodland Ants", featured in the Summer 2012 issue of the magazine *Northern Woodlands*. Together with Nicholas Gotelli and Gary Albert, they have written *A Field Guide to Ants of New England*, recently published by Yale University Press.

Allen Young of Butterworth Rd has a compilation of over 40 articles, previously published in the Athol Daily News over 35 years, entitled *The Man Who Got Lost: North Quabbin Stories* being released this month. It has 236 pp., dozens of photos, and is published by Haley's of Athol.

Paul Thibodeau of Frye Hill published a book of original poetry in June. *Broken Angel, a poetic journey inspired by broken hearts and broken wings*, is available as an e-book from amazon.com.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS



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



After working towards it for an entire lifetime, Caitlin Joy Barclay has been hired for her “dream job,” Animal Care Specialist at SeaWorld San Antonio. She found out shortly before her August 14th birthday...Happy 24th birthday to Caitlin!



Angie (Cloutier) Waclawski returned home for a visit a little before her August 14th birthday, with daughter Kaylin and son Evan. They stayed between parents John and Terry Cloutier or with Angie’s sister, Amy. LOTS of time was spent visiting at Pete & Henry’s, and checking out the new collection of old photos on the walls.

Sports News

Jamieson Francis was a member of the Chuck Stone Little League team, The Elks, which won the Mallet Cup by defeating this season’s championship team from Orange. His father, Pastor Jeff Francis was a coach for the Elks

Dorothy Anna Bacci, grand-daughter of Richard and Gert Corser of Warwick Rd, was named the outstanding catcher and homerun hitter on the Cambridge, Massachusetts city-wide, championship winning girls’ softball team. She will attend UMASS- Dartmouth in the fall and study biomedical engineering.

Milestones



photo Benjamin Morris-Siegel

On Saturday August 25, Kate Jennings, daughter of John and Claudia Jennings of Setauket, New York and Joshua Morris-Siegel, son of Larry Siegel and Kathy Morris of town, were married at Hartmann’s Herb Farm in Barre. A reception for family and friends followed the wedding. The couple resides in South Royalston.

Obituary

William H. Cutting, 76, of Royalston and St. Marys, Georgia, died Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012 in the Athol Memorial Hospital, Athol.

He was born in Templeton, on Aug. 31, the son of the late John N. and Edith (Rumrill) Cutting. He grew up in Baldwinville and graduated from Templeton High School and the Rittner School of Floral Design in Boston. He was employed by Kuhn Flowers in Jacksonville, Fla., for 15 years. He then moved to Livonia, Mich., to become National Field Services Supervisor for Florists Transworld Delivery Services. After seven years he returned to Jacksonville to operate Kuhn Flowers which he eventually purchased. He sold in 2008 to retire.

He had a variety of interests including golf, traveling, entertaining, antiquing and collecting, reading, cooking and gardening.

He leaves his wife of 54 years, Lian R. (Corser) Cutting; two daughters, Terri M. Taynton and her husband Mark of Ft. Pierce, Fla.; Kelly J. McLeod and her husband Jim of Livonia and two sons, Timothy J. and his wife Michelle of St. Simons, Ga. and Kevin R. and his wife, Kerri of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; three sisters, Mary Davis of Boston, Margaret Baczewski of Baldwinville, Marilyn Euvard of Athol, four brothers, John of Gaithersburg, Va., Donald of Spofford, N.H., David of Pensacold, Fla., and James of Phillipston and 10 grandchildren.

Changes in the Administration of the Royalston Community School

Mr. Garafolo recently resigned as principal of the Royalston Community School. While the district is conducting a search for a replacement, Mr. Mitch Grosky has agreed to serve as interim principal. He submitted this statement:

"I am delighted to be able to serve as interim principal at RCS while the principal search is being conducted. I am eagerly anticipating Day One of the new school year, and look forward to welcoming back our wonderful returning students as well as greeting all those children who are new to our school. I can only begin to tell you what a pleasure it is to be returning once more, for a brief time, to a community of which I am so proud and one in which I was privileged to serve as principal for four years. RCS has always placed the highest value on its role as a community school—one in which students, staff, parents, and families work together to create a real community in which the ideas, values, and abilities of all are shared, valued, and respected. I can honestly say that I really love the children of RCS, and I am excited about working with an excellent staff to meet the needs of every child. As I support children and staff members, and also work with and serve parents and the community, I hope to provide a strong transition as a new principal is selected."

R.C.S. open house will be Thursday, September 27, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

South Royalston Elementary School Reunion

Luann Simula, president of the South Royalston Elementary School Reunion Association is inviting "anyone who EVER attended the South Royalston Elementary School" for the annual dinner and meeting, scheduled for Sunday, October 7 beginning at 1 p.m. with one of the Royalston Fish & Game Club's famous roast beef dinners. Reservations must be in no later than Wednesday, September 26. The group is also looking for any class pictures that can be displayed and could use some committee volunteers.

Congregational Churches News

Pastor Jeff Francis

Thank you to everyone who joined us this past July for our church fair. We are grateful for your attendance and support. Now that the summer is coming to an end, we are gearing up for our Church Picnic and Water Baptism at Tully Lake on September 2nd at 1:00 pm. We would like to thank those who serve the community at Tully Lake and provide such a beautiful and pleasant atmosphere for our church outing.

We are moving forward with our Food Pantry in the fall and winter months. If our church can be of any help to you, please call 978-249-9155. We will do our best to assist you in this difficult season. Our church services are as follows: SCCR 9:00 am at 3 School St. in South Royalston and FCCR 11:00 am at 15 on the Common in Center Royalston.

We are excited about Judi Francis taking the lead role of praise and worship leader at FCCR and seeing her use her vocal gifts for the glory of God. Come join us for prayer and worship every Sunday at times listed above.

After-school childcare and music lessons at the Village School for all Royalston children

If you are looking for after school care, the Village School has a great After School Program from 3:15 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS school bus and get dropped off at the Village School on the common. The cost is around \$7 an hour and children can stay for any portion of the time. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting!) run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair. To sign up, call the school at 249-3505.

Jocelyn Langer, Village School music teacher, is offering private music lessons, group lessons and ensembles at the Village School, after school on Mondays and Tuesdays this year, from 3:15 to 5:00. Students can learn a new instrument and/or work on improving skills. Kids love making music with Jocelyn. Jocelyn is teaching flute, recorder and guitar. 1/2 hour private lessons are \$18 All group lessons & ensembles are \$12 per session. Call or email Jocelyn for more information: 978 724-3287 jocelyn.langer@gmail.com

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 and order online- it's easy! Pick up the coffee in the Village School hallway.

Monty Tech News

Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay

mbarclay@juno.com - 978-249-2598

Congratulations to the Royalston Community School and parents of the seven, yes seven freshmen accepted at Monty Tech! This is no small feat and not coincidental. By district agreement, Royalston is eligible for just two freshmen seats. Ten Royalston students applied and after all quota seats were filled, all applications were re-ordered by intake scores. Royalston managed to have five additional students with scores so high, they filled some of the untaken seats. We still have three students on the wait list, which means they, too, scored very well. This is a DIRECT reflection of the preparation our students receive in elementary school and the support provided to the schools by parents.

The 18th Annual Monty Tech Golf Tournament is September 18, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Westminster Country Club. Hundreds of thousands of dollars has been raised at this tourney and re-invested in Monty Tech, mostly via student scholarships. In addition to players, sponsors from \$25 - \$3,000 are needed (\$100 sponsors a hole!); gifts for on course-prizes, player gifts, silent auction and raffle are all being sought. The public is invited to purchase tickets for the 4 p.m. dinner. Please call 978-345-9200 x5212 for reservations, pledges or any additional information.

The MT SchoolCom has combined and reorganized subcommittees into the following: Workforce Subcommittee with Brian Walker as chair; Financial Management Subcommittee with Vice Chairman Barbara Reynolds as chair; Capital Improvements Subcommittee with Immediate Past Chairman Diane Swenson serving as chair; and Steering Subcommittee, with Royalston Representative Mary C. Barclay as Chair. The Royalston Rep is also serving, again, as an appointee to the Student Advisory Subcommittee.

September is National Preparedness Month

Mary C. Barclay

September is an excellent time to take stock of how well you and your family are prepared for any kind of an event that comes with unexpected consequences – loss of power, flooding or a hazardous environment. The reality is, no matter how prepared state, regional and federal professionals are, it takes about three days to mobilize and respond in a meaningful way to a major event. Most families in the Town of Royalston should be easily able to support themselves - all of their needs – for 72 hours. Let's say a major hurricane slams New England...and yes, they most certainly do... Everyone should have plenty of clean, sealed drinking water on hand. A gallon per person per day is recommended. Three days' worth of non-perishable foods for people and pets should be in storage. Make a choice about alternative lighting; battery or solar lamps, candles, or lanterns all come with benefits and risks. One notable shortage in Royalston during the 2008 Ice Storm? Radios! Have on hand a portable battery/solar/hand crank radio and ensure it is ready to receive. For those with a generator, now would be a great time to clean, maintain and see that it's working properly. Now is the time to organize a "grab and go box" containing all vital documents as well.

Those with internet access should check out www.ready.gov, which offers helpful lists, video clips and even some fun kid activities that can help residents prepare for the unexpected. If residents have some ideas, or resources helpful in an emergency or know of someone who should be immediately checked on during an emergency, please contact Royalston Emergency Management Director Jim Barclay at 978-249-2904 or ema@royalston-ma.gov.

Hospice Volunteers Needed

Gardner NVNA Hospice Announces Volunteer Training

Hospice Volunteers dedicate their time and support by providing comfort, compassion and a caring presence for the terminally ill and their families. Volunteers perform a variety of important duties such as providing respite care, running errands, home-making, friendly visitation, clerical work, and assisting with bereavement and spiritual care. There is also a need for complimentary care practitioners to volunteer in the fields of massage therapy, reiki and other modalities to work with patients. The only requirements are a caring heart, dependability, compassion and a willingness to serve patients of diverse backgrounds.

A free, comprehensive training program is required. This 10 session program meets once a week on Wednesdays from 6-8 pm beginning September 12, 2012 and concluding November 14th.

for more information or an application, contact Diana Lielasus, 978-632-1230 ext. 3040 or by e-mail at dawn.lielasus@gardnervna.org.

September Recipes

Paul Montero's Portuguese Kale Soup

(like his grandmother used to make)

Taste before you cook: Paul will make this recipe for the local foods supper on September 15th.

This simple recipe is a favorite that my grandmother made for us when we were kids growing up in New Bedford. I always loved eating soup with grandmother and anything else she was cooking. This recipe has some substitutions to make this a vegetarian dish. The recipe for the traditional soup usually had bits of sausage called "linguica" (mild) or "chourico" (spicy) which my grandfather would make in his summer kitchen. The traditional Portuguese bread to serve with this soup is the "papo seco" (pronounced: "pop sic"). Our local Hannaford supermarket has "Portuguese rolls" in the bakery sometimes and they are very much like the papo seco. The same local supermarket also has the Portuguese sausages that are made in New Bedford. Here are my ingredients for the vegetarian recipe:

Olive oil (enough to cover the bottom of a large stock pot)
Garlic (use several tablespoons of finely chopped garlic)
Onion (use diced onion or whatever onion you like. I like to use a red onion)
Turnips (use diced turnips about 1/2 to one cup)
Carrots (use one cup or more of diced carrots)
Kale (one bunch)
Bay leaves (3-6 leaves)
Parsley leaves (finely chop one fresh bunch)
Thyme leaves (finely chop 4 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves)
Vegetable stock (use 8 cups or two 32-ounce packages. I like Emeril's Organic Vegetable Stock)
Kidney beans (use two 15-ounce cans of organic kidney beans)
Garbanzo beans (my Grandmother called these chick peas. Use two cans like the kidney beans)
Lima beans (for some reason I have always loved lima beans so I added them to the recipe)
Potatoes diced (10-15 ounces of diced red potatoes)

In a large stock pot, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic, onion, carrots and turnips and cook for 5 minutes. Add the kale, bay leaves, parsley and thyme then mix well. Add the stock and beans. Bring the soup to a boil then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 30 to 40 minutes. Meanwhile in a medium saucepan bring some water to a boil and add the diced potatoes. Cook until tender (10 minutes) drain and add to the soup. Remove bay leaves and serve hot with Portuguese rolls. It is better to wait at least a day to eat the soup for the full flavor to come out. Enjoy!

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

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

Classifieds

Wanted: Animal care a few hours a week. I am looking for a teen or mature pre-teen to feed my animal a couple days during the week. Exchange with an adult who needs work done is also a possibility. Our place is in W. Royalston near Warwick and Bliss Hill Roads. Contact Grace: 617-413-7145 or 249-3092

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 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.

Free

kittens looking for homes. Please call Lula at 978-894-5812 for information.

For sale

Vegetables by Larry Siegel: You've read about the garden, now taste it. Currently picking cherry tomatoes, beans, beets, chard and basil. More to follow. Call 978-249-4260

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale, Goats for sale: for meat or pets or rent them for brush clearing. Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062

Royalston Grown Veggies from Royalston's oldest working farm, the Neale Farm at the intersection of Neale Road and Neale Place. Call ahead or stop by for fresh, wholesome food. 978-249-6872.

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 978-249-2183.

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

Squier Davis Farm- honey for sale. \$6.00/lb. Available in 1 and 2 lb. jars. Also, eggs for sale from cultured, happy chickens - \$3.00/dozen. Please call for availability. Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000.

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 from Divoll's sugar house. Prices \$9/pint; \$15/qt; \$28/half gal.; \$50/gal. Call Randy at 978-602-5583.

Garden Notes

August 23, 2012

It was less than two months ago when I was lamenting less than perfect conditions in the late spring garden. In retrospect, those conditions were far closer to perfect than what has followed.

From June 26 through August 4, only one and a quarter inches of rain fell, including a rainless stretch of nineteen days in July. The principle casualties were the summer seedlings, spotty germination, even spottier growth. Spinach, beans, and cucumbers were planted and re-planted and re-planted again, until I ran out of seed. Cucumber plants gave up the ghost almost as quickly as they started yielding. The corn survived, though ears are significantly smaller than normal. The late maturing potatoes died almost as quickly as the early ones. There was a large set of potatoes, but the lack of rain resulted in potatoes significantly smaller than usual. The carrots look magnificent above ground but early pickings have not provided much in the way of carrots below. None of this came as a surprise. What did were the success stories: beets, celery, chard and basil have never performed better. There is a bumper crop of beans and cherry tomatoes.

Then, there is the matter of porcupines. Our fruit trees might more accurately be described as fruitless trees this year. Reports from around town confirm these conditions. We harvested a couple of handfuls of peaches from our four trees. Heretofore it was a given that we would be awash in peaches with the only problem being how to deal with them. One of our seven apple trees bore fruit and it appeared to attract porcupines from near and far. Having quickly consumed whatever fruit was available, they turned their appetites to the garden (for the first time ever). It was not a pretty sight. First they consumed the buckwheat, which I could tolerate (the buckwheat serving as a cover crop). Then, they turned their attention to the brassicas, which I could not tolerate. They shrugged at the makeshift fencing I put up. The winter squash served as dessert.

Then was then and now is now. I might try one more planting of spinach. Otherwise, that aspect of the growing season has come to a close. Just as well. the porcupines particularly liked my most recent planting of beets. Always looking ahead to the next year, there are empty beds to work and weeds to pull before they set seed. September is primarily a harvest time and the porcupines have left behind enough to assure a period of busyness.

That bumper crop of blueberries I mentioned turned out to be somewhat less than bumper, another casualty of the drought (although we did secure a winter supply). So now I look forward to fall raspberries, which have set fruit (cause enough for early optimism). Their surrounding fence does keep the porcupines out and Japanese beetles, though present, are moderate in numbers (unlike next year's crop of tomato hornworms and squash bugs, which must have infiltrated every garden in Rooyalston). Grapes, too, abound. To preserve them, I cook until tender, put them through a food mill to remove skin and seed, and boil (slowly) the remaining liquid until thick. Sweeten to taste. (We use our maple.) It is an unusual taste that doesn't require a whole bunch of sweetener. Voila, grape butter.

The garden season is not winding down; it is merely moving ahead.

Larry Siegel

Late breaking news: racoons in the corn. Nobody has suggested this garden trip would be a lark.



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Wildlife Sightings

Baby **turkeys chicks** are in every corner of town in late August.

On Saturday, July 7, at 5:00 a.m. Nathaniel, Theo, and Cyrus Belmont of Warwick Road awoke to the sound of their mother yelling, "There is a **moose on the roof!**" There was a large adult male moose with a full set of antlers wandering around on the roof of their earth sheltered home.



The boys measured the hoof prints: 6" long and 4" wide.

Jim Taylor of Warwick Road says he has had a summer busy with hawks. In the spring, a Red-shouldered Hawk built her nest in a big pine tree on his woodlot. While the brood was young, mother hawk, who Jim nicknamed 'Randi the Bully', would swoop on any person nearby, adding a note of excitement and danger to any yard project. But in the last week or so, swooping season finally came to a close and now the yard is frequented by a pair of curious, scruffy-looking, juvenile hawks, sunning on the deck rail and overflowing bird bath.

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