

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

October 2012



Volume XV, Issue VIII

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

Calendar of Events

October 1 Monday

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

October 2 Tuesday

6 pm **Selectboard meeting at Town Hall.** State Senator candidate Stan Rosenberg will attend.

October 3 Wednesday

6-8 p.m. **Curriculum Night at the Village School,** attend curriculum presentations by the classroom teachers.

October 5 Friday

ARRSD Teacher Professional Development Day – No classes
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. **Monty Tech Career Awareness Night**

Saturday October 6

10 am - noon **“Meet and Greet”** at Phinehas S. Newton Library, with **State Senator candidate Stan Rosenberg.**

October 7 Sunday

RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 20 – South Royalston School Reunion Association Dinner & Meeting

October 8 Monday **Columbus Day** (observed)

Schools, Town offices closed; meetings canceled

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

October 13 Saturday

10 a.m. **Ladies’ Day at the Range: intro to shooting** for women aged 15+

7 - 10 pm **Athol-Royalston Education Foundations’s**

Oktoberfest: good food, good music and good fun to benefit the extras in the local public schools.

October 14 Sunday

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Village School Parent Work Day**

October 15 Monday

4:30-5:45 p.m. **Library Book Discussion Group.** This month come chat about *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The book is available at the Phinehas S. Newton Library. All welcome.

October 18 Thursday

7:30 pm The Historic District Commission holds a **public hearing on guidelines for solar panels in the Historic District,** at the Town Hall.

October 19 Friday

Monty Tech Tour Day – School Dismissed at lunchtime
7 p.m. **Royalston F&G Turkey Raffle**

October 20 Saturday

7:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Monthly Phillipston Lions’ Club Breakfast**

1 p.m. **South Royalston School Reunion Association Dinner & Meeting**

6 pm **Royalston 250th Committee’s Spaghetti Supper** at Town Hall. Tickets \$8/ adult. Call Geoff for tickets.

October 24 Wednesday

7:30 pm **Ladies Benevolent Society meeting.** Business meeting followed by program with Kristen West on **how to bake good cakes.** At the home of Andrea Lively. Come prepared to be creative with frosting! All members of the community are invited. Call 249-5807 for LBS information.

October 26 Friday

7 pm **The Historical Society fall pot luck supper and meeting at the home of Peter Kraniak.** It is the hope of the society that it will have a good turn-out to infuse the society with some good ideas.

7 pm **Local Authors’ Reception at the Library** featuring RCS poets, Aaron Ellison, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Sharon Harmon, Paul Thibodeau and Allen Young. Each recently published writer will read from his or her work and take questions from the audience. Some will have books available for purchase. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

October 27 Saturday

2 – 4 p.m. **Royalston Police Department’s traditional Halloween Party for Kids** at Town Hall

October 29 Monday

10 am **The Library Preschool Story Time fall party with Halloween stories and special treats.** Participants are invited to come dressed in a costume for the event.



3:49 p.m. **Full Hunter’s Moon**

October 31 Wednesday **Halloween**
5 – 8 p.m. **Trick-or-Treating**

The Royalston PD will have extra patrols on during these hours; children are invited to stop at any cruiser or the station for either a trick or a treat! The library will also be open to hand out treats.

Select Board Notes: Will you serve the Common?

Christine Long, Member



If we look to restoring the Common, what should it look like? Should we hark back to a particular point in history and seek to revive that era? Should the Common be bowery with trees or as open as a pasture?

Those were the “big picture” questions raised by residents and town officials as they viewed vintage photographs and postcards of the Common at last month’s kick-off meeting for the restoration project. Answering those questions will be the first task of the committee charged with developing a plan.

Other questions the committee will tackle include these: Should the service roads in the Common be paved or unpaved? Should one of the service roads be eliminated? Can better looking signs that still meet legal muster be obtained? Should decorative lighting fixtures be installed? Should a sitting area be created, or benches sited here and there?

The big question today is, will you serve on that committee? Specifically the Select Board is seeking one resident of the Common and two at-large members to serve with four town officials. If you have questions or wish to volunteer to serve on the committee or to help the members, please contact Historic District Commission member Celt Grant at celtcgrant@gmail.com or 978-249-0350 by October 30.

250th Committee Events

A zillion thanks to all of the many growers, cooks, diners, table schleppers, pot swabbers, and friends who helped with the recent local food harvest supper and avant garde movie night. The food was delicious; the company convivial; and the evening quite special.

Winners of the 120 club drawn that night were: \$20 prizes - Geoff Newton, Helen Divoll, Lisa Bushee, Lee Seco, Janice Draper; \$50 prizes- Mike Grimes, Drew Duplesis and Katie O’Grady; \$100 prizes- Lee Seco; \$250 prizes- Cindy Savoy, Barbara Stowell and Curtis Deveneau

The fun is not done...

*Come slurp spaghetti, break bread, crunch salad and dig into dessert at the committee’s October 20th supper at town hall at 6 pm. Tickets \$8 from any committee member.

*Holiday shop at the craft fair to benefit 250th anniversary events coming up at RCS from 8 am - 3 pm on Saturday, November 17th. *Have input about the 250th anniversary celebration? All welcome to come share ideas on October 4 at 7 pm at the next committee meeting .*

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.

Royalston WiredWest Support Form Update:

Jon Hardie - Royalston WiredWest Delegate & Broadband Committee

Thanks to the great response, all across town, Royalston now has the 2nd highest support rate among the 42 WiredWest Regional Cooperative Members for our WiredWest Ultra-High Speed Fiber Optics Services to the Door Network.

Royalston’s on the WiredWest map <http://wired-west.net/participating-towns/regional-map/> The response across our community, clearly and strongly, demonstrates our need and enthusiastic support for - real high speed internet – right here in Royalston.

Here are the numbers so far: More than 34%, about 180 residents & businesses out of 527 locations, have completed the Royalston Wired West Support Form; either safely and securely online - at <https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php> or by returning forms to the library, the General Store, or town hall. To make it easier for residents, these completed forms (one per household) will be entered on-line by the broadband committee.

This support form will be used for planning the broadband network right here in Royalston. Reviewing town-wide responses more carefully, it is clear that many folks who have said they use the internet, who need the internet for kids’ education, home businesses, work from home offices, families, seniors connecting with grand kids still have not yet completed the Royalston WiredWest Support Form. **The broadband group does not want to miss anyone.** It wants to make sure all are included in the planning and the actual build out of the network in Royalston.

So, here is your chance to get with the program and be included in the detailed network planning for Royalston. Inserted in this Newsletter, is a support form for you to complete ASAP. Don’t get left out – the planning train is leaving the station & we want you onboard. (one support form per family)

1. If you have not already done so - Please complete and detach the form and drop it off at The Library, General Store, or Town Hall, and we will enter your form online ... for you.

2. OR, You can go online and complete the form - safely and securely – it takes just a couple minutes when you go directly to the Support form <https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php> or www.wired-west.net Link in on the top right of the page.

Let’s make sure everyone who needs, wants, and uses the internet gets included in the planning. And thanks a bunch for 34% of the town helping to make Royalston one of the top 2 towns in our 42 Town, WiredWest Cooperative Network - in demonstrating support for our needed high speed internet & other services - Right here in Royalston - GOOD JOB!

Jon Hardie & Andy West are Royalston WiredWest Coop Directors & Delegates. Have any questions about our WiredWest Coop or the Fiber Network? Call Jon on his cell phone 978-790-8474.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

EEE ALERT:

Until there is a hard killing frost, there is an advisory to avoid dusk to dawn outside activities due to the presence of positive Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) mosquitoes in our area. Use protective clothing, long pants, shirts, hats and repellent when going out during these hours. One of the habitats for this particular mosquito is red maple swamps of which there are many in our area. Because EEE is a serious illness, and this is peak time for human cases due to the mosquitoes that are still around being more virulent, this alert has been issued. We apologize for any scheduling inconveniences. Please take precautions and once the killing frost comes, the alert will be lifted. Contact Phil Leger RBOH 617-584-9714 for further info or email the RBOH @ boh@royalston-ma.gov .

NEW CLOTHING COLLECTION BOX:

There is a new clothing and textile collection box at the transfer station on the side of the CRT container. Royalston will receive a share of the profits from the items collected from that container. Residents choose which box to put textiles, clothing, belts etc. The Salvation Army box remains and is a worthy charity. The other container will generate some revenue for the facility. You choose; either way, don't throw those useful textiles in the trash. Put them to good use.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

The Royalston Emergency Management Agency is not an emergency response group, but one that supports the planning for, response to and recovery from events that DPW, fire, police, rescue and Board of Health work to ameliorate. In support of the Board of Health during the recent public health concerns regarding mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, REMA sent a brief, informational reverse 9-1-1 call on September 12th to all residences and has been alerting the public to the concern via the message board, which has appeared in a variety of locations since the initial alert. When the alert has been cancelled by MA EMA, another reverse 9-1-1 call will be made and the sign board "retired."

Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

The Royalston Cultural Council has set an October 15, 2012 post-mark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

These grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Royalston -- including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

The Royalston Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp.

Need \$\$\$ to Fix up your House?

Meet Ann Carabba of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission on Monday nights in October (except October 8) at Whitney Hall to find the details of how to receive a grant of up to \$35,000 for home improvements. Open to all residents. Roofing, deleading, improving energy efficiency, meeting code requirements and much more are all possible projects through this federal grant .

Luncheon Club News: Flu Clinic 2012

The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free of charge and is for Royalston residents 18 years of age or older. Walk-ins are welcome. Health insurance is not required. This year's flu shot contains vaccines for influenza B virus, influenza A (H1N1) virus and influenza A (H3N2) virus. Once again, CVS Pharmacy in Athol will be administering the vaccine.

New this year will be a voucher for those eligible for vaccine but not able to attend the Clinic at the Town Hall. The voucher will be available at the Selectmen's Office during normal hours from October 8 - 11, and can be presented at CVS in Athol (1653 Main Street) until October 31, 2012.

Royalston Police Department News

Mary C. Barclay

Now that school's in session, all are advised to be alert for extra traffic in the area of the Royalston Community School. The cruiser is frequently in the school zone between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. as a gentle reminder the speed limit during those hours is reduced to 20 mph to help keep everyone safe.

School season also comes with fewer daylight hours and increased risk to pedestrians. Monty Tech students await busses in complete darkness at 6 a.m.; athletes return from school on late busses after 6 p.m. RCS students can be walking home from school at dusk when they've finished their after school activities. Others out for a run or to walk pets are also at high risk.

Regardless of the time of day, all pedestrians should wear clothing that stands out in all conditions. Bright colors, like the "hi viz" gear now available at local stores is great for daytime wear; the components with reflective taping are excellent for foggy days and darkness. Backpacks, sneakers, hats and gloves in bright colors and with reflective material are also excellent additions to a pedestrian's wardrobe. It's never a bad idea to have a flashlight at the ready.

The Royalston Police Department will offer some suggestions for staying safe while on the road -- specifically while trick-or-treating -- at their annual Town Wide Halloween Party being held Saturday, October 27, from 2 -- 4 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited -- games, give aways, refreshments and prizes for all. Come dressed for the occasion and be sure to bring a camera! Donations of refreshments, candy for goodie bags and give-aways appreciated; volunteers always welcome! Donations may be left at the station with any officer or at the Town Hall. Contact Laurie at lmdeveneau@msn.com.

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

John Poor

Mary C. Barclay

In Memory of Werner Bundschuh

In Memory of William (Bill) Cutting

Buddy Dyer

Valerie Sprinker

Art Exhibits

Artist Exhibit

During October and November Aaron Ellison of Northeast Fitzwilliam Road will display his photographs which are views of the North Quabbin from the very small to the very large. Aaron has been taking photographs for over forty years.

Preschool Story Time Fall Holiday Party

On Monday, October 29th the Preschool Story Time will hold a party with fall and Halloween stories and special treats. Participants are invited to come dressed in a costume for the event.

Library Open Halloween Evening

Once again the tradition of trick-or-treating at the library will occur during regular trick-or-treat hours on Wednesday, October 31.



Royalston Yellow Pages -still- 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 late fall publication of the directory is (still) planned.

Local Authors Speak at Library

On Friday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the library there will be a reception with baked goods, fruit and cheeses for local authors:

*Royalston Community School poets featured in Pine Tree Press

*Aaron Ellison and Elizabeth Farnsworth, whose *A Field Guide to Ants of New England*, was recently published by Yale University Press.

*Sharon Harmon, whose new story, "Life Saver", was published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: I Can't Believe My Cat Did That!*

*Paul Thibodeau's poetry from his new e-book, *Broken Angel*

*Allen Young's compilation, *The Man Who Got Lost: North Quabbin Stories*.

Each recently published writer will discuss his or her work and take questions from the audience. Some will have books available for purchase. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. For more information, call the library or visit the website.

Book Discussion Group

meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. In October the group will discuss, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, a non-fiction work intertwining the history of cellular cancer research and the social consequences for the family of the woman whose "immortal" cells were sliced out and studied without her knowledge. 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.



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Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult Fiction

Albert, Susan *The Darling Dahlias and the Confederate Rose*
 Albom, Mitch *The Time Keeper*
 Amis, Martin *Lionel Asbo*
 Anderson, Kurt *True Believers*
 Beaton, M.C. *Hiss and Hers*
 Boyle, T.C. *San Miguel*
 Castle, Jayne *The Lost Night*
 Chabon, Michael *Telegraph Avenue*
 Child, Lee *A Wanted Man*
 Cussler, Clive *The Tombs*
 Diaz, Junot *This is how you Lose Her*
 Doctorow, Cory *Rapture of the Nerds*
 Follett, Ken *Winter of the World*
 George, Kathleen *Simple*
 Gerritsen, Tess *Last to Die*
 Goodman, Jo *The Last Renegade*
 Indridason, Arnaldur *Outrage*
 James, Eloisa *The Ugly Duchess*
 King, Laurie *Garment of Shadows*
 Lewis, Beverly *The Bridesmaid*
 MacMahon, Kathleen *This is How it Ends*
 McCall-Smith, A. *The Importance of being Seven*
 Oates, Joyce Carol *Black Dahlia & White Rose*
 Patterson, James *Zoo*
 Penny, Louise *The Beautiful Mystery*
 Reichs, Kathy *Bones are Forever*
 Ryan, Hank *The Other Woman*
 Saintcrow, Lilith *The Iron Wyrms Affair*
 Segal, Francesca *The Innocents*
 Semple, Maria *Where'd you go, Bernadette*
 Smith, Zadie *NW*
 Thalasinis, Andrea *An Echo through the Snow*

Adult Non-Fiction

Auster, Paul *Winter Journal*
 Bender, Mike *Awkward Family Photos*
 Eichenwald, Kurt *500 Days*
 Hitchens, Christopher *Mortality*
 Malone, Michael *The Guardian of all Things*
 Souder, Williams *On a Farther Shore: Rachel Carson*
 Velasquez-Manoff, M. *An Epidemic of Absence*
 Young, Allen *The Man who Got Lost*

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Bray, Libba *The Diviners*
 Coben, Harlan *Seconds Away*
 Hale, Shannon *Princess Academy*
 Kate, Lauren *Rapture*
 Marr, Melissa *Carnival of Souls*
 McLaughlin, Emma *Over You*
 Meyer, L.A. *Viva Jacquelina!*
 Oates, Joyce Carol *Two or Three things I forgot to Tell You*
 Stiefvater, Maggie *The Raven Boys*

Audiobooks

Colfer, Chris *The Land of Stories* Grisham, John *Calico Joe*
 Swofford, Anthony *Exit A* Flynn, Gillian *Gone Girl*

Juvenile Fiction

Brett, Jan *Mossy*
 Colfer, Chris *The Land of Stories*
 Cooper, Ilene *Lucy's Tricks and Treats*
 Cooper, Wade *Farm Animals*
 Creech, Sharon *The Great Unexpected*
 Curtis, Jamie *My Brave Year of Firsts*
 Danzinger, Paula *Amber Brown is Tickled Pink*
 Dewdney, Anna *Llama Llama time to Share*
 DiCamillo, Kate *Mercy Watson*
 Dorling *My First Animal lift-the-flap Book*
 Duke, Kate *Ready for Pumpkins*
 Falconer, Ian *Olivia and the Fairy Princesses*
 Fleming, Candace *Oh, No!*
 Henkes, Kevin *Penny and her Doll*
 Hood, Susan *The Tooth Mouse*
 Hunter, Erin *The Empty City*
 Johnston, Tony *Laugh out Loud Baby*
 Jousse, Barbara *Lovabye Dragon*
 Lean, Sarah *A Dog Called Homeless*
 Litwin, Eric *Pete the Cat*
 Litwin, Eric *Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons*
 McDonald, Megan *Judy Moody and the Bad Luck Charm*
 McDonald, Megan *Stink and the Ultimate Thumb-Wrestling Smackdown*
 Norman, Kimberly *I know a Wee Piggy*
 Osborne, Mary Pope *A Perfect Time for Pandas*
 Peirce, Lincoln *Big Nate*
 Peirce, Lincoln *Big Nate Goes for Broke*
 Peirce, Lincoln *Big Nate Makes the Grade*
 Pilkey, Dav *Captain Underpants/Tinkletrousers*
 Schaefer, Carole *ABCers*
 Smith, Roland *Shatterproof*
 Stead, Philip *Bear has a Story to Tell*
 Stewart, Sarah *The Quiet Place*
 Tillman Tumford's *Rude Noises*
 Viorst, Judith *Lulu walks the Dogs*
 Wells, Rosemary *Following Grandfather*
 Willems, Mo *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*
 Yolen, Jane *How do Dinosaurs say Happy Chanukah?*

Juvenile Non-Fiction

Codell, Esme *Seed by Seed*
 Flatt, Lizann *Counting on Fall*
 Hatke, Ben *Legends of Zita the Spacegirl*
 Nytra, David *The Secret of the Stone Frog*
 Patent, Dorothy *Dogs on Duty*

Dvds: *Adventures in Babysitting, Battleship, Bernie, Dance of the Inches, The Five Year Engagement, Glee: Complete 3rd Season, The Hunger Games, The Lorax, The Lucky One, Lurking in the Trees, Monsieur Lazhar, Once Upon a Time, Pirates! Band of Mi-fits, Safe, Sherlock Season 2, Snow White and the Huntsman, and What to Expect When You're Expecting*

Cds

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy *Rattle Them Bones*
 Bob Dylan *Tempest* Disney *Brave Soundtrack*
 Kidz Bop *Halloween hits!* Little Big Town *Tornado*
 Matchbox Twenty *North*, Now that's What I call Music 43

Milestones



Martin and Patrizia of Royalston celebrate the birth of their daughter Chiara Maria Brown, born on Saturday 8th September at UMass Memorial in Worcester. They are now settling in happily together at home.

John W. Wheeler, 88, passed away on Sept. 5, 2012, in Ocala, Fla.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Margaret (nee Montgomery) of Ocala, two sons, Mark and his wife Kathy of Virginia Beach, Va., Craig and his wife Liz of Ocala, and five grandchildren: Dylan and his wife Stephanie, Emory, Blake, Erin and Nicholas. He was predeceased by his parents Sydney and Mae (nee Holden), and sisters Nancy Newton of Royalston, and Martha Heilmann.



As a child John enjoyed summer visits to Royalston, where with his family he picnicked and swam in the brook by the bridge on the old road. He was a descendant of the Nichols, Wilder and Holden families of Royalston.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an 18-year-old, eventually joining the Flying Tigers 74th Fighter Squadron, 23rd group, in Kweilin, China, under General Claire Chennault. Between 1942 and 1945 John flew P40's and P51's and was shot down twice by ground fire. He attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air medal, and the Purple Heart for his efforts.

After serving in WWII John returned to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where in 1948 he received a degree in mechanical engineering. John was a 52-year resident of Barrington, R.I., and was the former owner of Naragansett Concrete Company and John Wheeler Yachts. He was an avid sailor and waterman and owned and built classic wooden boats. Three years ago, while in failing health, John and Margaret moved to Ocala, Fla., where he lived the remainder of his life with his son and family.

A graveside service with Military Honors was held at Lawrence Brook Cemetery in Royalston, on Saturday, Sept. 15, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, www.bgca.org.

Gerard L. Chiasson, 95 of 8 South Royalston Road, Royalston, died Sunday, September 9, 2012 in the Athol Memorial Hospital, Athol.

He was born in Island River, New Brunswick, Canada on Aug. 19, 1917 the son of Leon and Margaret Chiasson.



His Wife Bernice (Crumb) Chiasson predeceased him on Feb. 7, 2008. Gerard attended Athol Schools and enjoyed playing baseball when he wasn't learning to play the drums. He played the drums in numerous bands, including Johnny Newton Band and the Ken Boutelle Band and was the last survivor of Mal Hall's Orchestra. He played often in Vaudeville at the York Theater in Athol as well as weddings, school proms, variety and minstrel shows. Until recently, he played with Ethan Stone at various nursing homes. His passion was his music. Gerard was a member of the Starrett bowling and softball leagues. He worked for the L.S. Starrett Company for 37 years and was in the micrometer division doing main lab work. Gerard was a life member of the local American Legion Post 0102 and a life member of the Athol/Orange Elks Lodge #1837. He was a 3rd degree Knight of Columbus Chapter 1182 in Athol. Both Gerard and Bernice enjoyed antiquing and traveling and made many trips to Florida and Canada. Corporal Gerard L. Chiasson served in the military with the 3501st AAF Base Unit from 1942 to 1946. While stationed in Seymour Johnson Air Base in North Carolina, he was an instructor in the precision tool branch. He was later transferred to Boca Raton, Florida where he was a flight engineer on a RB-24 and was part of the flight crew. While in Florida, he organized the Squadron Orchestra. Some of the members of his orchestra were Actor/Singer Tony Martin and Pianist/Arranger Benny Paine, who went to on play with Billy Daniels.

Gerard leaves a Brother Claude J. Chiasson of Athol and a Sister Geraldina (Chiasson) Frenette Duda of Athol. He was predeceased by a Sister Ida (Chiasson) Lozier. He leaves nephews Gerard Lozier and his wife Linda of Athol, caregiver Leon Lozier and his wife Loretta of Athol, Paul Frenette and his wife Joan of Windsor Connecticut, Richard Lozier and his wife Donna of Athol, Glenn Frenette of Athol, Thomas Lozier and his wife Shari of Athol and a niece Anne Lozier and her partner Scott Songer of Orange and several great nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on September 12, 2012 at 10:30 am in Our Lady Immaculate Church, followed by burial with military honors followed in Lawrence Brook Cemetery, Royalston.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made in his memory to American Cancer Society's, New England Division Office, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

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.

Ellee J Bronnes was named to the dean's list recently at Worcester State University. She is a 2008 graduate of Athol High School and the daughter of Jeff and Jody Bronnes of town.

RCS Poets Published: The following children have been accepted for publication in the upcoming edition of Pine Tree Poetry: **Hannah Bartkus, Karris Agnelli, Julia Benoit, Zoe Wilder, Julianne Trenga, Jocelyn Trenga, Olivia Parnanen, Isabelle O'Connor, Aliyah Neale, MacKenzie Mastaler, Ava LeBlanc, Nova Lajoie, Ashley Hadmack, Sara Gibbons, Erika Gambill, Molly Divoll, Anthony Divoll and Bella Cooke.** Some of these poets will read their work at the Phineas S. Newton Library authors' night on Oct. 26 at 7 pm. Sign up for this year's poetry club by contacting Mary Carnie at the school, 978-249-2900; she will give you the information as to the start up date and meeting times.

Upcoming local music

The Obsession Band, featuring **Sandra Bruso** on vocals, is playing at The Fitzwilliam Inn on October 12, 2012, a Friday night from 8:30 till 11:30pm. The band has an awesome new guitarist by the name of Len Rabinowitz; Royalston's **Paul Montero** will drum and **Ray Maillet** will be on bass.

Open Space and Recreation Committee News

By Paul Montero, Chairperson
One Town: Three waterfalls

Three of the most spectacular waterfalls in New England are nearby and within the boundaries of Royalston. All are free to enjoy and are protected by the Trustees of Reservations.



Elizabeth Farnsworth

The Doane's Falls on Lawrence Brook are situated along Chestnut Hill two miles south of the Common on the road to Athol. Doane's Falls, probably the most popular falls in town, are a series of cascades plunging 200 feet and ending in Tully Lake. These falls are accessible from two trails. At the stone bridge atop Chestnut Hill (Athol Road), there is a parking area and from there, follow the cascades down a moderately steep nature trail to the basin.

A second trail and parking area at the bottom of the falls will lead also to the basin. The second trail is hard packed stone dust and handicapped accessible. There is no swimming or diving allowed; please observe this rule and other cautions posted there by The Trustees of Reservations. *More about Royalston waterfalls next month.*

The Open Space and Recreation committee welcomes everyone to its meetings to discuss issues of Open Space and Recreation in our town. It holds public meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every other month. Next meeting: November 8, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

Recipe of the Month

Diners at the recent local foods supper, benefitting the 250th committee, raved about this dish prepared by Mariah Mallet. Here is your chance to try it at home:

Kourmet Afghan Lamb

Serves 6 - 8 Cooking time 1/2 to 1 hour

4 yellow onions sliced into crescent moons
3 lbs. deboned lamb shoulder or leg cut into 2" chunks
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1/4 tsp tumeric
1 tsp doordooah spice *
2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup water
2 tomatoes
1 cup cooked chick peas or 2 -3 cooked potatoes/ sweet potatoes
*Mix a teaspoon each of black cardamom, tumeric, cloves, and cinnamon. (There will be extra).

Blend all spices in a grinder. Put onions in a soup pot. Wash lamb with cold water and put in pot. Add vegetable oil, tumeric, 1/2 cup water, spices, and salt. Cover, cook on medium high until onions have disintegrated to a thick stew and the lamb is tender (1/2 hour to an hour). Add cooked chick peas or cooked potatoes cut into small chunks. Serve with rice or naan bread.

Thanks so much to all who contributed to this amazing repast. It was a town wide effort for a lovely result. The contributors included:

Refrigerator pickles grown and prepared by Maureen Blasco. Dilly beans canned by Beth Gospodarek with Larry Siegel's beans. Herb bread by Mary Barclay town grown herbs. Zucchini bread baked by Mariah Mallet with Buddy Dyer's zuke. Paul Montero's kale soup from his grandmother's recipe with Divoll potatoes and Gospodarek's self-seeding kale. Patti Stanko's chicken soup from all her own veggies and Celt Grant's chicken. Tom Musco's corn chowder with Ted Neale's corn and onions and Divoll potatoes. Bert Sawicki's gazpacho with zucchini, cucumbers and onions from Patti and Maureen's garden, tomatoes from the Brouillet garden, Ted Neale's corn and Larry Siegel's garlic. Beth's butternut bisque with Larry Siegel's butternut, Patti and Maureen's onions and a Stanton pears and apples. Patti Stanko's all-her-own-veggies garden salad with Bert Sawicki's dressing made with Larry Siegel's garlic. Patti Carrier's Asian cabbage salad with Allen Young's cabbage. Barbara Stowell's beet salad with goat cheese made from Ted Neale's beets, greens and Siegel garlic. Beth Gospodarek's wild mushroom croustini with Noah Siegel and Allysa Allen foraged black trumpets. Mariah Mallet's Afghani curry made from Aurora Farm lamb, Maureen's onions, Larry's garlic, and George Krasowski's personally prepared blend of spices. Kristen West's zucchini parmesan with sauce made from her own garden tomatoes and zucchinis as well as a few zukes from Rise Richardson's garden. Phil Rabinowitz's Mexican sopa de puerco con cilantro e chipotle using Chettie Hall's pork, Divoll potatoes and Erica and Larry Brouillet's tomatoes and Ted Neale's onions. Maureen Blasco's stuffed peppers from Ted Neale's peppers and veggies from her garden. Beth Gospodarek's stuffed pumpkins with Brenda Putney's sugar pumpkin, Jim Bennett's celery, Maureen's onions, Tully foraged cranberries, as well as garlic, peppers and herbs from her own backyard. Garlic--rosemary mashed potatoes with Divoll potatoes, Larry's garlic and Beth's rosemary. Ted Neale and Randy Divoll's right-off-the-stalk corn on the cob boiled by committee. Bert Sawicki's maple glazed carrots with Ted Neale's carrots and Larry Siegel's small batch maple syrup. Susan William's strawberry cake with her own berries. Beth Gospodarek's rhubarb sorbet from her own rhubarb. Maureen's blueberry pear cobbler from one-by-one-picked drought year Gap Mountain blueberries and Stanton pears. Deb Nunes' pound cakes with eggs from her happy hens topped with Larry Siegel's raspberries and Teddy Bear's whipped cream. Barbara Pralinski's (Paula's mom) apple cake from Stanton apples and Celt Grant's eggs. Alyce Mayo's chocolate-apple cake from her mom's recipe with Stanton apples and Celt's eggs. Marie-Claire Humblett's plum compote and bouquets. Grace Belmont's good intentions. Taj Musco's coolsville film and explanation.

Royalston Community School Update

Tayiah Neale, 6th grader

This month at R.C.S is going to be busy!

New principal: Mr. Mike Leander started the role of principal overlapping with Mr. Mitch Grosky on September 17th. Mr. Leander will start alone on the 1st of October. Some Royalston families will know Mr. Leander as he taught 6th grade and coached soccer at the Athol-Royalston Middle School for many years. We are very excited to have him.

The Parent Teacher Group: PTG meeting on October 1. Time TBA. The first fundraiser is Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough. Be on the look out for the date of the Halloween dance.

Class updates: Grade six has been with Kindergarten. It has been really great. They are looking forward to doing many more activities together. They have also been working with ferns and reading, *The Reluctant Dragon*. Grade five has been doing a class election for president and vice president. They have been working with the planets as well. Grade one has been working in math a lot and reading. Grade K has a new teacher we would like to welcome, Ms. Lunetta. There is a lot happening this month at R.C.S

Monty Tech News

Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay

mbarclay@juno.com – 978-249-2598

Last month, the point was made that many more than the guaranteed two students per freshman class are accepted to Monty Tech each year (SEVEN this year), largely due to an elementary school where a firm foundation for future learning is established, and committed parents who ensure their children are aware of their educational options. With districts like ARRSD opting out of the school hours “Tour Day” and VIP at Monty Tech the past couple of years, the ONLY way for students to truly explore Monty Tech is with their parents’ help. The most thorough explorations occur during the multi-week, free after school Monty VIP (Vocational Interest Program - next March/April for Royalston) or the upcoming Career Awareness Night Monday, October 5, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Career Awareness Night is an excellent first exposure opportunity for Royalston Community School students and their families – and fourth or fifth grade is NOT too early! In order to even be eligible for admission to Monty Tech, certain criteria must be met for academics, attendance and behavior during the last half of grade six, all of grade seven and the first half of grade eight. Data from these years are plugged into the formula just for ELIGIBILITY (which doesn’t necessarily translate into acceptance), which often gives students a reason to step up their game. It’s worth an evening to explore Monty Tech with elementary aged children. Even if the child decides to attend another school, children who have a vested interest in their education are much better prepared for whatever educational opportunities arise in the future.

Also, Monty Tech has recently begun buying local, fresh, organic food to serve students and staff. Royalston’s Brandywine Farm is a provider of delicious tomatoes and other veggies.

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

Village School News

After School Program for Royalston children

If you are looking for after school care, the Village School offers a fun After School Program from 3 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS bus and get dropped off at the Village School on the common. 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.

After School Music Lessons

Private and group lessons are offered at the Village School daily from 3:30-5:30 p.m., for flute, recorder, guitar and beginning piano. Call the school for more info. 978 249-3505

What’s happening at the Village School

We had a great Nutrition Week, learning about Rainbow Plate, digging potatoes from the garden, eating roast potatoes the next day, and culminating in an All School Rainbow Plate lunch, with children choosing foods from all the different food groups, prepared by the various classes. It’s still field trip time! Classes are visiting local gardens, visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham, the Farm School in Athol, going to Red Apple Farm, Sturbridge Village, hiking to Lawrence Brook and climbing Jacobs Hill. On our mid-October Sunday Parent Work Day, we’ll all pitch in and spruce up the inside and outside of the school. We look forward to October 31st, when the 4th-6th turns its classroom into Hades, as part of their year-long study of Ancient Greece.

Upcoming events at the Village School

Curriculum Night Wednesday October 3 5:45 K-1, 6:30 2nd-3rd, 7:15 4th-6th Teachers will present the curriculum for the year. Prospective parents are invited to attend to learn more about the school.

Literacy Night Wednesday October 24 6 p.m. The focus this year is how to support your child’s reading, with plenty of great examples and useful applications.

Open House Saturday November 3 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the classrooms, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children to enjoy activities in the classrooms just for them. Next year’s preschool will start filling up.

Autumn Lantern Walk for Families Friday November 9

The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 9th. The public is invited to participate in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school with a gathering in the dark for stories, and songs. Everyone then joins in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a family contra dance with the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Renown folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will call the dances. Children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations are suggested of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family.

For continual updates on events, go to www.villageschoolma.org

Support the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation

A-REF proudly presents its 8th annual

OKTOBERFEST

Friends, Music, Food,
and lots of Fun...
All for a Great Cause



One \$20 ticket includes:

- Live music and dancing with New and Then
- Samples of microbrewed beers
- local fun meet friends and support our schools
- Buffet of German and hearty harvest foods: sauerkraut, corny bread, potato salad, stuffed squash, as well as plum, apple and chocolate cakes and lots more!

Saturday, October 13th, 7-10 pm
Ellinwood Country Club

Sponsored by the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation

Tickets available from A-REF board members, Kimball-Cooke Insurance and Star's Liquor or by contacting Beth Gospodarek: 978-249-0158 (chasegw@gmail.com)

Proceeds benefit enrichment programs in the Athol-Royalston Public Schools

All proceeds support enrichment activities beyond the school budget in the local public schools. How to support A-REF? Attend the fest! (See Laurie Deveneau, Nancy Melbourne, Becky Divoll, Maureen Blasco or Beth Gospodarek for tix.) Alternatively, just make a donation to PO Box 149, Athol, 01331.

Royalston Fish and Game Club

And let the Turkey Raffle Season begin! The Royalston Fish & Game Club offers the season opener Friday, October 19 beginning promptly at 7 p.m. Spin for meats, fruits, vegetables and a variety of interesting specials and of course, the annual Thanksgiving baskets. Light refreshments; lots of fun.

A Ladies' Day at the Range is being conducted on Saturday, October 13 by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Royalston F&G.. All women 15 years and older are invited to the introductory program to guns and shooting; all will have an opportunity to shoot a shotgun, rifle and handgun. Royalston F&G members will also offer the ladies the chance to try out bow and arrow shooting! The program is FREE! This is a "must" for woman in households with guns, and it's a great idea for younger women who often discover they enjoy sport shooting. Pre-registration is required. Contact 978-248-9875 or fstc2a@gmail.com.

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.

North Quabbin Garden Club

Thursday, October 18, 2012, 7 p.m.
Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main Street, Athol, MA

Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants

Botanist John Howell, former horticulturalist at U-Mass Extension, and now horticulture consultant, will present a talk on understanding a soil test report and building healthy soil. He will speak about good fertilizers and soil amendments and how best to use them for different plants including vegetables, lawns, shrubs and flowers. As we reflect upon our season coming to a close, making plans for next year's successes include this vital topic.



In 2011-12, A-REF funded drama groups, author visits, several garden projects, Athol history events in schools, the multi-cultural fest, bubble science presentations, family art nights and more Grant applications for the 2012-13 school year are due on Nov. 2nd. Visit the web-site for more information.

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. Looking for a teen or mature pre-teen to feed my animal a couple days during the week. Work exchange is also a possibility. Our place is near Warwick and Bliss Hill Roads. Call 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.

For sale

Ford F150 1994. \$2,000 or best offer. Call Henry. 978-249-9274.

Hand-knitted items: baby sweater sets, mittens, hats, boot socks, etc. Nice selection of colors. Call 978-249-4013.

Vegetables by Larry Siegel: You've read about the garden, now taste it. Currently picking cherry tomatoes, beans, beets, chard, raspberries, carrots and leeks. 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

September 22, 2012

I best fess up. I have not just come in from a day's toil in the garden. I am, in fact, (more than) comfortably installed in a rocking chair on the patio of a retreat in western North Carolina (the location of a mushroom weekend I have been attending for several years), awaiting the setting of the sun over the mountains to the west.

Do I miss the garden? Yup, but the garden will manage without me. The better half has been instructed as to what and when to harvest, the only chore I am missing. It is a formidable chore: we are harvesting tomatoes, peppers, basil, beans, chard, spinach, lettuce, leeks, carrots, beets, fennel, raspberries, and an assortment of brassicas. I actually managed to salvage some of the brassicas by throwing row covers over the plants that had been decimated by the porcupines. They re-grew and are now providing (as least) a modest crop.

I return in two days. The pace will accelerate. Harvests will continue on a daily basis, but so too does bed preparation for next year, garden clean-up, and at least a modicum of weeding. They are a persistent lot, those weeds. The first frost may bring an end to the tomatoes/peppers/beans before I'm prepared for an end to the tomatoes/peppers/beans, but it also brings an end to the worst of those annual weeds and for that I am grateful.

Two days later. Thus, through the magic (and ordeal) of air traffic, I have returned. It matters not where I have been; I prefer here to there. I have just cruised the garden. It has endured, thrived actually, during my five-day absence. I continue to scratch my head in wonderment at how good it looks, especially in light of the wretched conditions in June and July. Tomatoes and peppers, sluggish throughout the summer, have finally filled with fruit, and, if the frost gods are benevolent, should mature a good number of them. Greens are green, roots continue to engorge, and the garden is awash with flowers (mostly zinnias). The beans are beyond magnificent. The bush beans provide a crop, rest ten days, and provide a second crop. The earliest plantings have flowered for the third time. The pole beans have reached the top of the twelve foot poles and are working their way back down. Picking is a challenge. The four-foot step ladder has been replaced by the eight-foot step ladder. I hesitate to haul out the twelve-foot ladder.

I refused to give up on the spinach, which wouldn't germinate, and the cucumbers, which wouldn't grow. Success, finally, on my fourth planting of spinach (September 4), and while it may be too late for much of a harvest this fall a crop early next spring is anticipated. So, too, with the cucumbers. The fourth attempt successfully grew, there are flowers, and if those same frost gods oblige, there may even be a few cucumbers.

The big question, of course, is when that first frost will arrive. (Whenever that may be, it is a given it will arrive at Putney Hollow before it arrives on Prospect Hill.) There are degrees of frost. The first to awake in the morning (usually me) would take stock and wordlessly communicate the degree to the rest of the family: finger to palm (touch of frost), fist to palm (hit by frost), or finger shaped-like-a-gun (the dreaded killing frost). We've been spoiled in recent years and I will be more than disappointed if I am obliged to shape my fingers like a gun before mid-month.

My annual entreaty to those of you who garden: Do your spring work now, while the air is crisp and the leaves are changing, and not in May, when the days are less-than-crisp and be-riddled with black flies. Seems like a no-brainer to me.

Larry Siegel

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South Royalston Elementary School Reunion

The South Royalston Elementary School Reunion Association Dinner and Annual Meeting has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 20, due to the number of people going away over the Columbus Day weekend. President Luann (Laroche) Simula is inviting "anyone who EVER attended the South Royalston Elementary School" for the annual Association get-together, which begins at the Royalston Fish & Game Club at 1 p.m. for one of its legendary roast beef dinners. Reservations are required for the dinner; the meeting should begin about 2 p.m.; Organizers are seeking any class pictures that can be displayed; some additional committee volunteers are also being sought. For information contact Luann at 978-249-8746.

photo Barclay



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Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386
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Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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