

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2004



Volume VII, Issue VII

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PHINEHAS S. NEWTON LIBRARY, ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The light is golden, the nights are chilly, the tomato horn worms are steadily chomping, and the impulse to buy shoes and pencils is pervasive. It must be September. The newsletter shows a relatively quiet month of re-establishing routines. The Fire Department is providing some spark with a semi-formal dinner dance. (At last, a chance to get some wear from those expensive bride's maid frocks.) The world is sweet and bitter-sweet with "last chance for a while" opportunities. Breathe deep and savor.

Calendar of Events



September 1 Wednesday
First Day of School ARRS

7:30 p.m. **Royalston Fish & Game Club meeting** (Directors meet at 7 p.m.)

September 5 Sunday
11:00 am **Disc Golf Tournament.** Meet at the south end of Tully Dam by the gate house. For more information, contact Park Ranger Steve Decker at (978) 249-9150.

7 p.m. **Last day to obtain ERV Dinner Dance Tickets** at the center fire station.

September 6 Monday
Labor Day – Library, post office, schools closed

September 7 Tuesday
10:00 am **Preschool and Kindergarten Orientation at the Village School.**

September 8 Wednesday
First Day of school at the Village School

September 9 Thursday
3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Library Meeting.** Discuss upcoming newsletters, library support and plans for fall programs. All welcome.

7:00 p.m. **Trustees of the Phinehas S. Newton Library Meeting** at the library. The trustees will be meeting with the Personnel Committee as well as holding their regular business meeting.

September 10 Friday
Fire Department Fundraiser – Semi-formal dinner dance.
6 p.m. for cocktails, 6:30 p.m. for dinner and 7:30 p.m. for dancing at the Firefighters' Association Semi-formal Dinner Dance for ERV, Athol-Orange Elks Hall.

September 13 Monday
10:30 am **Preschool Story Hour** resumes at the Phinehas S. Newton Library. Stories, play, conversation and snacks for 0-5 year olds and their parents or caregivers.

6:30 p.m. SHARP **FD combined Sta. #1 & Sta. #2 mtg.** classroom orientation and practical for Tanker Shuttle

September 14 Tuesday
10:29 a.m. **New Harvest Moon**
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. **State Primary voting** for presidential election. Precinct 1 - Town Hall; Precinct 2 - Whitney Hall.

September 16 Thursday
7:00 a.m. **Monty Tech's BEEF** (Business Education & Enrichment Foundation) meeting for businesses and professionals who wish to help support Monty Tech vocational and technical education through charitable giving and scholarships.

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown; Jewish New Year 5765

September 17 Friday **Citizenship Day**

September 22 Wednesday
Autumnal Equinox – The amount of daylight and darkness are equal today. Fall begins officially at 12:30 p.m., E.D.T., and from now until the Winter Solstice, daylight hours decrease and shadows increase.

September 23 Thursday
Noon **early dismissal for Monty Tech Students** – In-service training for staff

September 24 Friday
Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, begins at sundown

September 28 Tuesday
9:09 a.m. **Full Harvest Moon**

September 29 Wednesday
6:30 pm **Curriculum Night at the Village School** for 1st-6th grades. Info at 249-3505.
7:30 pm **"Training and Working with a Rescue Dog"** presentation by Roland Hamel and Sherry Miner, following brief business meeting of the Ladies Benevolent Society meeting. Held at home of Maureen Blasco. All members of community invited. Call President Kristin West at 249-5993 for info or directions.

SAVE A LIFE – LEARN CPR

The Royalston Fire Department is in the process of placing additional Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in more public buildings. These devices are easy to operate, and are the third link in the *Chain of Survival* that improves the chances that someone suffering from Sudden Cardiac Arrest will survive the event. The First two links are: Early Recognition and access to EMS, and Early CPR. Become part of this chain by learning CPR. **The Fire Department is offering Basic CPR classes to be held in town.** Classes are about three hours long and will teach participants how to recognize an emergency, help someone who is choking, perform rescue breathing and CPR, and how to use an AED. Optimum class size is six to ten people. For more information about CPR and AED, ask a member of the Rescue Squad. To sign up for a class, or to schedule a class for 6 – 10 people, call the Fire Station at 249-8138 (answering machine), the Selectmen's office at 249-9641, or Gary Winitzer at 249-8957.



Back to School

Athol high, Athol Royalston Middle School and RCS all have hired new principals for this school year.

NEW PRINCIPAL AT RCS

The Royalston Community School is pleased to welcome a new principal, Mrs. Bobbie French. Mrs. French is a resident of Phillipston and comes to us from the Narragansett School District where she has worked as a counselor and an elementary teacher. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Developmental Psychology, a Master of Science in Elementary Guidance, and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Counseling and Education from Fitchburg State College. Please stop by RCS to welcome her to the school and the community. Mrs. French and the entire staff look forward to an exciting, productive year at RCS."

MONTY TECH NEWS 1-800-853-6689 ~ www.montytech.net

Mary C. Barclay, 249-2598 ~ mcb Barclay@juno.com

August 31 marked the first day of the new school year, and 11 (maybe 12) members (#12 is wait listed) of the 366-member freshmen class hail from Royalston. The 11/12 Royalston students are both the good AND the bad news. The good news is that of the 18 applications submitted, 12 met the standards and scored well enough to be accepted. The sad news is that one who met the standards scored just low enough that there were no extra seats, and six did not achieve the minimum standards, and are not eligible to attend Monty Tech.

Entry requirements are fair but rigorous. If there is a chance your 6th or 7th grader is going to be interested in a Monty Tech education in 9th grade, it is imperative that you and your child begin looking at the requirements NOW.

EAT AND DANCE FOR ERV

The Royalston Firefighters' Association is pulling out all the stops for the fall Emergency Rescue Vehicle (ERV) fundraising event – a *SEMI-FORMAL DINNER DANCE* at the Athol-Orange Elks hall. This event begins Friday, September 10 with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a 6:30 p.m. catered dinner. Dinner music will turn to dancing music at 7:30 p.m. or so, and the 350 lucky attendees will enjoy a night of dancing, raffles and fun. Tickets are \$20 for individuals and \$35 for couples – and must be purchased **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5!** The firefighters will be at the station that night from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. and will sell whatever tickets remain.

ERV is pretty plump now, and is well past the \$68,000 mark. It is actually a little better than 2/3 of the way to the \$100,000 goal. If maximum attendance is seen at this fundraiser, it will be well into \$70,000 territory, thanks in part to generous help, by way of donations and reduced prices, from the Athol-Orange Elks, A & B Catering and DJ Joey.

ERV's dinner dance is not limited to Royalston residents; anyone is welcome to attend. Invite your out-of-town friends and family, firefighter and rescue squad acquaintances and anyone who is looking for a fun and affordable night out that stands to benefit many.

As always, donations (fully tax deductible under 501c) may be sent in any amount, at any time, to Royalston Firefighters' Association treasurer James M. Putney; 185 N. Fitzwilliam Rd.; Royalston, MA 01368.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Brenda L. Putney, (978) 249-7787 ~ bputney@crystal-mtn.com

Mary C. Barclay, (978) 249-2598 ~ mcb Barclay@juno.com

Barbara Richardson, (978) 249-6283

It has always been illegal to remove the commemorative flag holders on veterans' graves, but a recent piece of legislation (H 2390) passed by the House some time ago, and recently passed (39-0!) by the Senate, will expand the current law to ensure that veterans' gravesites will not be desecrated. The Memorial Day Committee has long been trying to verify that all veterans' graves in Royalston are properly marked. If you know of a veteran's grave, new or old, that is not properly marked with a flag holder from their era of service, please contact the Memorial Day Committee.

Assessors News

The preliminary figures for the tri-annual revaluation show a big jump in property values. This was expected as we have watched real estate prices increase dramatically over the last three years. Real estate tax bills will not increase in the same proportion however as Prop. 2 1/2 limits should drop the tax rate. The assessors will announce public meetings when you can view the new values and ask questions.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT “SMART GROWTH” IN ROYALSTON

*There is a lot of discussion in Royalston about the escalating annual rate of new home construction in town and whether this is a boon or a drag for the town. A citizen petition to limit the number of house start permits issued annually was tabled at town meeting because voters felt that the issue needed more time for discussion in order to hear from all sides and build consensus. To this end, the RCN welcomes short, clear, signed essays on the topic and will run them as space allows over the next few months. **Carla Rabinowitz** recently submitted these thoughts.*

Some residents recently received an e-mail from Jon Hardie with an article about “smart growth”, a strategy for preventing suburban sprawl by encouraging concentrated growth around transportation and shopping hubs. There’s a lot to be said for this idea, but if we try to apply it in Royalston we’ll need to rethink our assumptions about the kind of development we want. The following comments are simply meant to get people thinking about the kinds of hard choices that are involved in controlling growth.

“Smart growth” is smart because it puts less strain on police, fire, school transportation, and highway maintenance than uncontrolled growth, because it helps to conserve gas by decreasing the distance people have to drive to jobs and shopping, and because it allows for the preservation of open space that would otherwise be lost to sprawl. But in a town like Royalston without a transportation hub, we have to think about it differently. Unless we are willing to extend the sewer lines in South Royalston, “smart growth” in Royalston means growth that is concentrated along existing paved roads. The way to encourage textbook “smart growth” here would be to reduce the minimum lot size and road frontage on paved town roads, and to prohibit development on back lots except under the rigorous conditions laid out in the subdivision control bylaw. In doing so, we would not only keep down the cost of town services, but also minimize the impact of new housing on wildlife habitat by leaving larger portions of woodland undisturbed. That’s not going to be an easy idea to swallow, because our image of rural Royalston is more or less what we can see from our car windows. It’s hard to accept that leaving more of Royalston undisturbed might actually mean seeing more houses along the roads. But none of the choices involved in controlling growth is going to be easy, and most of the alternatives are either less fair or a lot more expensive.

In my opinion, one really appropriate part of the proposed by-law limiting growth (which was tabled at Town Meeting) was the limitation of one permit to any one person per year; this is fair and appropriate as a protection for moderate-income homebuyers as well as an effective protection against runaway development.

Anyone who’s willing to tackle the difficult issues of cost and fairness is invited to respond.

Open Space Update

Tom Musco

The consulting firm that helped write the Open Space and Recreation Plan has notified the town that the State has accepted and approved the plan. Official notification from the State is expected soon.

The Present Open Space Committee, the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, agreed at their last meeting to set up a permanent Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) with members recommended by the PB/ConCom and appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The OSAC will have the task of implementing the recommendations of the Open Space Report which include: establishing criteria for future open space acquisitions; prioritizing properties for watershed protection; creating habitat and trail networks; conducting outreach and education programs about the value of protecting specific open space parcels; and setting up a database of desired land parcels for preservation.

Any resident of Royalston who is interested in serving on OSAC should call or email Tom Musco (249-9633)/ tmusco@hotmail.com or Geo Northrop (249-4407)/ george01368@yahoo.com.

Bastille Progress

Stephen Chase, Contractor

Work on the Bastille is advancing on schedule. This c.1818 Federal style house built by the Rev. Ebenezer Perkins on the common last underwent major renovations in the 1930s. Since then it has received extensive moisture damage which is in the process of being repaired. Almost all of the interior woodwork and doors have remained intact. Recent interior renovations include a new two-fire-place chimney, plaster repairs, two tiled bathrooms, painting and decorating.

Exterior work has included a new roof, removal of the old ell, structural repairs and painting. I have received many inquiries about the paint job. The industry standard for a recoat work has not changed in many years: repair moisture problems, thorough washing and treating for mildew, hand scraping and sanding, one coat of top quality oil primer paint, two coats of 100% acrylic paint applied according to the manufacturers recommendations. The use of stain is not recommended by any preservation organizations. Although it does cost a lot less in labor and materials, stain is for new or previously stained wood.

We hope to have a new ell enclosed in time for winter when we will concentrate on interior work. This two-year project includes window restoration and reinstalling the shutters and roof balustrade.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:00noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank You

*The Summer Reading Program Presenters: Gary Lippincott, Sherry Miner, Roland Hamel, Laurie Truehart, Robert Truehart, Beth Gospodarek and Marjorie Chase.

*The Preschool Story time Kindermusik presenter and donor of children's musical instruments: Tina Gemborys

*Becky Divoll and Brenda Putney for the use of their ice cream makers and to Becky for donating the great maple syrup to sweeten our homemade ice cream.

*Donald Shambroom for donating gardening books in memory of Mimi

*Ferron Dooley Fairchild for her weekly volunteer work

*Lian and Bill Cutting for donating the exterior post lamp and it's installation

*Stephanie McClure for her fundraising efforts

*Janet Bettey and Jen Bartkus for books-on-tape donations

*the many others who donated books and other materials

Extraordinary Art at the Library



We are pleased to be able to exhibit several paintings of fantasy artist and illustrator Gary Lippincott at the library during the months of September and October. Gary has been drawing most of his life and is the well-know illustrator of many children's books, text books, fantasy magazine covers, and even jigsaw puzzles. He received his BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art and afterwards switched his concentration from oils to water colors and developed his unique style of fantasy illustration. His work has been exhibited extensively and is in many private collections. Examples of his work may also be viewed on his website www.garylippincott.com.

New Books

Adult Nonfiction

Pearse, Meic *Why the Rest Hates the West: Understanding the Roots of Global Rage*

Micklethwait, John *The Right Nation: Conservative Power in America*

Gardner, JoAnn *Heirloom Flower Gardens: Rediscovering and Designing with Classic Ornamentals*

Dawes, John *Complete Encyclopeida of the Freshwater Aquarium*

Lyford, Irene *Walls & Fences*

Davis, Jim *Garfield at 25: In Dog Years I'd Be Dead*

Macy, Sue *Swifter, Higher, Stronger: A Photographic History of the Summer Olympics*

Greenlaw, Linda *All Fishermen are Liars: True Tales from the Dry Dock Bar*

Murray, Aaron *Civil War: Battles and Leaders*

Clinton, Bill *My Life*

Chernow, Ron *Alexander Hamilton*

McFarland, Philip *Hawthorne in Concord*

Large Print

Doyle, Arthur Conan *Eight Great Sherlock Holmes Stories*

Eavnovich, Janet *Full Tilt*

Lewis, Beverly *The Sacrifice*

Jakes, John A *Century of Great Western Stories*

Packer, Ann *The Dive from Clausen's Pier*

Shaara, Michael *The Killer Angels*

Thomas, Jodi *The Texan's Wager*

Canfield, Jack *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

Armstrong, Lance with Sally Jenkins *Every Second Counts*

Clinton, Bill *My Life*

DVDs and Videos

13 Going on 30

50 First Dates

American Splendor

City of God

Cold Mountain

Hildago

The Last Samurai

Loaded Gun: Life, and Death, and Dickinson (VHS)

Miracle

Starsky & Hutch

Still, We Believe: The Boston Red Sox Movie

Touching the Void

Preschool Story Time and Extended Hours Resume

Thanks to a grant from the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children the extended hours and Pre-school Story Time will begin Monday, September 13th. The library will open at 10:00 a.m. and the Story Time will be at 10:30 with stories, snacks, and play time. No pre-registration is necessary and all children from infant to 5 years old and their care givers are welcome to attend. Monday library hours will then be 10:00-5:00 and 6:30-8:30.



www.royalstonlibrary.org

Check out the library website to see:

Lists of new Children's Books

Other new additions to the children's collection such as books-on-tape and CDs

Lists of new books in the adult collection

Photos from a Midsummer Night's Dream

Photos from various Summer Reading Program events

Photos from pre-school Kindermusik program

Current and archival editions of the Royalston Community Newsletter

Lists of Upcoming Library events

Many thanks to webguru Jeff Mangum for volunteering to maintain this great e-resource.

Regional Library Initiates Audiovisual Deposits

The Central Massachusetts Regional Library has begun delivering groups of from 20-30 DVDs, Books-on-tape for both adults and children, and Books-on-CD for adults. Each of these items will remain in the library for 3 months during which time anyone with a valid library card may borrow them.

CD News: Lots of Music Available at the Library

There's some good news about the CD distribution. The Central Massachusetts Regional Library hosted a CD swap so libraries could trade some of their duplicates. We decided it would be worth the trip if we could get just 5 different CDs. Jen Bartkus packed up our extra CDs and went to the swap. Shortly after it began a person from Worcester Public Library came in with 10 boxes of CDs and told everyone to help his or her self. In short, Jen came back to the library with about 200 CDs! Most of the titles still aren't the hottest new releases in any venue but we do have some nice music in most venues. We will be selling our few duplicates by the end of September and will use the funds to purchase new CDs. So stop by the library and check out some music CDs.

New Adult Fiction

Bell, William *Forbidden City*

Berry, Wendell *That Distant Land: The Collected Stories of Wendell Berry*

Box, C. J. *Trophy Hunt*

Bradbury, Ray *The Cat's Pajamas: Stories*

Bryant, Jen *The Trial*

Clark, Mary Jane *Hide Yourself Away*

Crane, Stephen *The Red Badge of Courage*

Delinsky, Barbara *The Summer I Dared*

Donnelly, Jennifer *A Northern Light*

Duncan, Lois *Don't Look Behind You*

Erdrich, Louise *Four Souls: A Novel*

Evanovich, Janet *Ten Big Ones*

Fielding, Helen *Olivia Joules and the Overactive Imagination*

Fleishman, Paul *Whirligig*

Grafton, Sue *R is for Ricochet*

Hambly, Barbara *Dead Water*

Hannah, Kristin *The Things We Do For Love*

Heinlein, Robert *To the Stars*

Henry, Patti *Losing the Moon*

Hiaasen, Carl *Skinny Dip*

Hoag, Tami *Kill the Messenger*

Kirkpatrick, Jane *Hold Tight the Thread*

Klause, Annette *The Silver Kiss*

Klass, David *You Don't Know Me*

Lackey, Mercedes *Alta*

Lethem, Jonathan *The Fortress of Solitude*

Lopez, Barry *Resistance*

Lowell, Elizabeth *The Color of Death*

Margolin, Phillip *Sleeping Beauty*

Margolis, Sue *Breakfast at Stephanie's*

Maron, Margaret *High Country Fall*

McBain, Ed *Hark!*

McInery, Ralph *The Ablative Case*

Meyers, Kent *The Work of Wolves*

Micklem, Sarah *Firethorn*

Mosley, Walter *Little Scarlet*

Mukherjee, Bharati *The Tree Bride*

Myers, Walter Dean *Fallen Angels*

O'Brien, Tim *The Things They Carried*

Patterson, James *Sam's Letters to Jennifer*

Powers, Richard *The Time of Our Singing*

Rennison, Louise *Away Laughing on a Fast Camel: Even More Confessions of Georgia Nicolson*

Robards, Karen *Bait*

Shea, Suzanne Strempek *Becoming Fiona*

Steel, Danielle *Second Chance*

Sykes, Plum *Bergdorf Blondes*

Trollope, Joanna *Girl from the South*

Woods, Stuart *Reckless Abandon*

Recent Donations to the Friends

The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library is legal non-profit Massachusetts organization, and as such is eligible for matching contributions from some employers. We would like to thank Tyco, Inc. for matching the contribution employee Susan Gronowicz made earlier this year through the Tyco Employee Matching Gifts Program.



Royalston Shakespeare Company

The Friends of the Library could not have been prouder of this summer's workshop performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In only two weeks, over 30 kids aged 7 – 15 from 5 towns worked to produce a delightful performance in the original language with charming sets and very cool costumes. The community came together and covered almost all of the \$600 in production costs of printing scripts and programs, renting a spotlight, purchasing costume and set supplies, subsidizing t-shirts, and funding a final pizza/cast party through donations and advertising in the program. Special thanks to Norah Dooley for sharing her theatrical know how in abridging the script and directing the cast and crew. A video of the performance is available to be checked out at the Phinehas S. Newton library courtesy of the camera work of Dodie Robinson. There is also a photo album of the performance for perusal and a collection of odd reprints at the library . Each cast and crew member may take home one reprint as a momento of Midsummer Days spent with the Bard.

The Outlook was not Brilliant ...

The Fire Department Scorched the Friends of the Library 27 to 13 in this year's softball matchup. It was a beautiful day, each team had some fine moments, the accompanying ERV fundraising BBQ was a success, and everyone who cared had opportunities to make goo goo faces at Phinehas Newton's new great great grand niece. Thank you Noah Siegel and Chris Fitzpatrick for your commitment as team managers. Many thanks to Chet Hall for umpiring the game and to all the fans who came out in support.

There is a strange social dynamic afoot in these annual softball games regarding stereotypes of librarians and firefighters, which benefits the library's team. When the library wins, it is a particularly humiliating upset for the Fire, but when the Library is smoked off the field, it can smile sheepishly and ask, "What else could be expected from a team called the "Friends?" The library appreciates the fire departments willingness to step up to the plate.

The Royalston Rhymer submitted these thoughts on the game. He/she captures the selfless heroism and purity of heart of the players well, but it seems unfair to suggest that the library knew it was beaten before the game even started. In fact, the Friends of Phinehas were contenders and played better than the score suggests.

The Team

*Please listen to the story about the old town team,
Every year, to beat the mighty fireman, thats the dream.
They're quite a collection of misfits', that's for sure,
They try their hardest, and to keep the game pure.*

*They practiced all season, at least one night a week;
Many of them compare to some form of a softball geek.
They heard the rumors, the opponent was going for the kill;
That didn't bother them, they only play for the thrill.*

*They proudly put the friends' shirts on that cool day,
from the start, they knew their trophy would not stay.
The only thing they could do was give it their best shot;
They took their beat, but respect is what they got.*

*Sadly, the gloves and balls are put away for another year;
one thing about this Charlie Brown team I know is clear
when spring rolls around they will give it one more try;
with their heart and soul, they'll try to reach for the sky.*

The Royalston Rhymer



Scraps from the Scrapbook



From 1906-1996, September for grammar school students in South Royalston Village meant attending classes at Whitney Hall. A terrible fire destroyed most of the village one hundred years ago on August 25, 1904 and George Whitney, the local woolen mill owner, generously paid to rebuild the school. Whitney Hall was an exact replica of its predecessor except for the number of windows in the top floor on the west side of the building. At the beginning of the 20th century, the student body was extremely multi-cultural; children of immigrant mill workers sometimes struggled to succeed immersed in English. There was no homework. Kids played a game similar to capture the flag and tag at recess. There were community talent shows in the cafeteria. The view from the windows upstairs was lovely, and students recall watching trains pass and the views of the river, clouds and the hills. Since the river was also an industrial sewer then, it sometimes smelled pretty bad. Eventually, Whitney Hall served as the 3-6th grade building for the Town. (The Raymond School was the K-2), so nearly everyone who grew up in Royalston during the last century has a story about this building.

Local artist, Tom Kellner, recently refurbished a portrait of George Whitney by repairing and strengthening the canvas. The project was funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Recipes of the Month

You wait all year and now they are here. What do you do with fresh tomatoes?

Rene Lake suggests this simple recipe:

Cut up the tomatoes; sprinkle with garlic salt, olive oil and chopped fresh basil..

Warren Preville likes tomato sandwiches: sliced tomatoes on Italian bread with mayo, salt and pepper.

Kristin West makes a splash with a fresh mozzarella and garden tomato salad. Slice mozzarella balls into 1/2" pieces. Double dip this cheese into a beaten egg and breadcrumbs. Freeze for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare a bed of greens. Arrange cut up garden tomatoes on top. (Cukes and grated carrots are optional.) Drizzle veggies with balsamic vinegar and olive oil. (Add herbs to taste.) Take chilled mozzarella out of freezer and fry briefly on both sides in a little olive oil until warm and crusty but not gooey. Arrange warmed cheese on top of veggies. Sprinkle fresh chopped basil over the whole salad.

Live Music Next Door

The First "Tool Town Live" concert series has begun in Athol. The series includes a wide variety of entertainers from many styles of music, and features local and regionally known performers. The shows take place on the uptown common and Fish Park bandstands in Athol, and all shows are **free** to the public. Refreshments are available at the concerts, sold by various charitable groups. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts take place at the town hall at 584 Main Street in Athol. The schedule is as follows:

-Friday September 3 from 7-9pm: "The Franks" with "Moonstruck" at Fish Park (rock, reggae, folk, jam) www.thefranksmusic.com, www.kellieandcaptain.com, www.heidi-johanson.com

-Friday September 10 from 7-9pm: "Zoe Darrow and the Fiddleheads" on the Uptown Common (15 year old Cape Breton fiddle phenom)

-Saturday September 18 from 7-9pm: "Destination Bound" with "Kenny Roberts" at Fish Park (country music) www.destinationbound.us, www.kennyrobertshomestead.com

-Saturday September 25 from 7-9pm: "Adam Bergeron, Linq, Julie Capone- Smith, Stephanie Parker, Marsia Shuron Harris, Mother Turtle" on the uptown common (classical, folk, soul, blues, popular and rock) www.linqmusic.com, www.mshmusic.com

-Saturday October 2 from 7-9pm: "The Ethan Stone Band" at Fish Park

Meeting House Musicfest is a family event of food, crafts and music at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem on Saturday, Sept 11. Beginning at noon, performers include: Scott Smith, the Rewinders, Joel Zoss Zoss Trio, and Trailer Park. The headline act is Patty Larkin at 5:00. Tix are \$12.00.

FOR SALE: Two 24" bikes - one boy's, one girl's, both in excellent shape. Also, one 26" men's Peugeot bike in good shape. Call Diana or Geoff at 978-249-3726 for details.



Congratulations and Good News

Got something to crow about? Drop the news by the library or e-mail chasegos@gis.net.

Sharon Harmon had an article on hostas called *Hostas Become a Habit* in the August/September national syndication of *Birds & Blooms*.

Lydia Jenkins Musco, daughter of Tom Musco and the late Judy Jenkins Musco of North Fitzwilliam Road, is currently doing sculpture and exhibiting her creations in South Korea. From there she will travel to Nepal where she has also been invited to work and exhibit.

Noah Siegel was awarded first prize, and two honorable mentions in the photography contest sponsored by the North American Mycological Society at their meeting in Asheville, North Carolina in July.

Jameson Melbourne has just started his senior year at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he is majoring in English. He was named to the Dean's List for the spring, 2004 semester for his excellent academic performance. He spent this past summer in Wareham, on Cape Cod, where he was employed in the construction trade. He is the son of **James and Nancy Melbourne** of Northeast Fitzwilliam Road.

Hiiiiii YAH to **Ethan Willhite** who competed this summer in the Worcester Classic Open Karate Championships, bringing home a first place trophy for fighting in the boys' teen advanced division. He studies under master instructors Bryan and Nancy Lagimoniere of the Athol Martial Arts Academy. Ethan is the son of Darlene and Mark Willhite of North Fitzwilliam Road.

Diane Lincoln recently was invited to play a set at the Just Plain Folks Northeast Gathering in Ludlow on Sun Aug 22nd. JPF is a national songwriting & musician networking organization with more than 25,000 members. Some of our local talent might be interested in joining. They're at www.jpfolks.com.

Emperor Karl Beatified

Emperor Karl, husband Empress Zita, who summered in Royalston during World War II, will be beatified on October 3rd at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and Venerable Karl will then be known as Blessed Karl. The beatification is in recognition of Karl's travails and piety as the ruler and deposed emperor of the Austrian Hungarian empire. Beatification is an important step towards becoming a Saint.

Pomp and Circumstance

Lindsey Caisse graduated from Athol HS on 6/6/04. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and SADD; she participated in spring and winter track, and attended Girl's State. She received the Maxine E. Wilcox Memorial and the Athol Memorial Auxiliary scholarships. She has been employed at CVS in Athol as a pharmacy technician. This fall she is entering the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where her major will be Pharm D. Lindsey is the daughter of Scot and Donna Caisse, 1 Norcross Road, Royalston.

Jessica Trask is a June AHS graduate, and begins studies this fall at Gordon College, where she will major in communications. During her high school career, she served as a member of SADD, a peer educator, a member of the Student Council and as student representative to the school committee. She was a member and secretary for the National Honor Society and participant in spring track. Miss Trask's parents are Janice and Larry Trask of Main Street.

Congratulations to **Caitlin Joy Barclay**, 16, who completed home school this spring. She has been accepted into the Commonwealth College (honors program) at Mount Wachusett Community College and begins studies this fall with plans to transfer to a four-year institution upon graduation. Miss Barclay is a member of the Clark Sharks Swim Team, and has earned numerous awards, including trophies for Good Sportsmanship, the Coaches' Award and a fourth-place trophy at the Mid-Region Swimming Championships in the 15+ females' division. She has volunteered for the past six years at the Phinehas S. Newton Library and is a two-year volunteer for MASK-9 (MA Air Scenting K-9s) handlers Sherry Miner and Roland Hamel. She holds certificates in Maps, Compass and Survival; Wilderness First Aid; Professional Rescuer CPR and AE defibulator; as well as lifeguarding. She is employed at the Clark Memorial Community Center as a swimming instructor and lifeguard and also provides pet and child care services. She is the daughter of Jim and Mary Barclay of The Anchorage.

Jacob Morris-Siegel received a Bachelor of Science with honors from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Congratulations to Royalston-schooled **Krystal Homon**, now of Gardner, who recently earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Western New England College.

Gramma **Betty Woodbury** is no doubt beaming over the graduation of her grandson, Zacharie S. St. Jean of Hubbardston. Cadet First Class St. Jean was recently awarded a degree in marine safety and environmental protection from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Royalston-schooled **Lisa M. (Denis) Carey**, daughter of former Pleasant Street residents Ronald and Theresa Denis, recently earned her Associate's degree in early childhood education from Greenfield Community College. The Phi Theta Kappa (honor society) member is also a 1982 AHS grad, an 1984 graduate of the David Hale Fanning Vocational Technical School, and the owner/operator of Christian Family Day Care in South Athol. She received an award for excellence and was cited "...for her pursuit of academic advancement and dedication to enhancing the quality of care and education for young children."

WHO'S NEW?



Alexandra Grace Phelps has finally arrived – a couple of weeks later than originally expected - to join her parents, **Elizabeth (Newton) and John Phelps**. Gramma and Grampa **Keith and Deborah Newton** and Uncle **Robert** were all on hand for the big event, which occurred at 9:10 a.m. on July 29, 2004. Alexandra tipped the scales at a respectable 7 lbs 13

ozs and measured 20” long. A beaming Grampa Keith reports that Alexandra didn’t maintain that weight for long...”She’s growing like a Newton!” Great Grandma **Dorothy W. Newton** lives on Athol Road. Paternal grandparents Clayton and Jeannie Phelps, and Donna Audet are from Ashburnham and Westminster, respectively. Great Grandma Helen Whitten lives in Winchedon, Great Grandpa Edward Thompson lives in Orange, and Great Grandpa Donald LeBreque lives in Gardner.

MILITARY NEWS

Kevin Nunes recently reported to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for 17 weeks of Basic and Military Police Training with the US Army. He will return home in December for two weeks before beginning a 15 month active duty assignment. He is a recent graduate of Murdock High School in Winchendon, and is the son of Deb and Joe Nunes of Athol-Richmond Road.

Royalston-schooled **Heather (Monette) Fortier**, a former Royalston Girl Scout and 2000 Monty Tech grad, received quite the birthday surprise this year. US Army Specialist Fortier, who celebrated her 22nd birthday in Baquba, Iraq with the 201st Forward Support Battalion, received hundreds of notes, letters and cards and even some scratch tickets as the result of a letter to the editor by a relative. According to a Gardner News article, SPC Fortier cooks, trains fellow soldiers on the use of large capacity weapons, makes deliveries and mans a large gun on top of a Humvee. She has survived a couple of close calls, including an explosive device going off behind the Humvee she was astride, and a suicide bomber who drove into the front gate of her camp. She has enjoyed the mail from home and would certainly welcome word from Royalston. Her address: SPC Fortier, Heather Lee; HHC/A co 201st FSB 11D; OIF 2, Camp Warhorse: APO AE 09392. (Regular US postage)

Memorials

Royalston Common will miss the sight of **Humphrey L. Nash Jr.** making his way over to the library or Post Office and resting on the bench under the full summertime maples. He always had a kind word for children and an intelligent comment for the adults (and often a particularly charming compliment for the ladies) who passed by. He was a generous benefactor of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. Mr. Nash, aged 86, passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 5, 2004. For more than 60 years, he spent summers in Royalston. Nash was born in Winnetka, Illinois on July 9, 1918. He lived in Shaker Heights Ohio until entering Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. He graduated from Harvard in 1939 and Harvard Law School in 1942. He worked as a lawyer for the firm Ropes Gray in Boston and as a tax attorney for ARAMCO until 1963 when he retired to look after other business interests. He is survived by his six children: Christopher Nash, Humphrey N Nash, Jennifer Nash Morgan, Cedric Nash, Tabitha Nash and Angus Nash; and by 15 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and his brother John Nash. The Nash family owns two homes on the north end of the Common and continues to spend vacations and family time here. Mr Nash is buried in Lawrence Brook Cemetery. Generous remembrance donations to the Phinehas S. Newton Library have been gratefully received.

Carrie Steinback of Bliss Hill Road passed away in August after a long illness. She was a regular visitor to the library and will be remembered by us as an avid reader and a kind woman of strength in the face of serious illness. She loved animals; frequently she took in stray cats and found them good homes or kept them.

Dorothy Hayden, a librarian at the Athol Public Library and good friend to many in this area, succumbed Lou Gehrig’s Disease on July 20. She was staying with long time friend Diane Lincoln in West Royalston. Dorothy Hayden grew up in Athol and attended Athol schools. She had a MA in Library Science from the University of Rhode Island. She was an editor for many local publications and served on the Athol Cultural Council and Athol Credit Union Board of Directors. She championed wage equity for women and worked on the “Raises not Roses” campaign. Memorial donations can be made to ALS Association, Suite 201, Dedham Ma 02026 or the Athol Memorial Library.

In your Own Back Yard

Last July, a neighbor on Frye Hill Rd accidentally hit a milk snake with a lawn mower. The next day the corpse was observed to jiggle and wiggle and slowly sink beneath the soil surface. *The Revenge of the Lawn Mowed* would make a good horror movie, but actually it wasn't anything sinister. It was Burying Beetles getting ready to start a family and preparing the nursery. Burying beetles are some of the best parents in the insect world. Almost uniquely, they stay with their young until they pupate and are exceptional providers. The "provider" role is where the dead snake comes in.

Males locate carcasses of small vertebrates like small snakes, birds and rodents by smell. If there is no female already at the corpse, the male will emit a pheromone to attract one. If all goes well, they'll mate, and her eggs will be fertilized. Often there are other beetles to be fought off. Males fight males and females fight females for the right to be king and queen of the carrion hill. Once the politics of who gets the girl and the prize carcass are decided, both partners work to prepare the carcass for burying by removing the hair and feathers and shaping it into a ball. Like all beetles, they are very strong and capable of moving a carcass a long distance to find suitably soft dirt for burial. The eventual burial chamber is sometimes as far down as 2 feet below the surface. They take pains to keep the carrion clean. Anal secretions slow its decay. Twelve hours or so after the carcass is first discovered, the female lays eggs in the soil just above the carcass. These will hatch 2-3 days later depending on the soil temperature. Just before the eggs hatch, the adults make a tunnel down to the carcass so that the larvae can feed themselves or be fed by the adults. If one parent dies, the other, regardless of gender will work hard to help the brood survive. After 5-8 days of gorging on carrion, the larvae crawl off and pupate. Their skins harden and their bodies undergo metamorphosis from creepy to crawl form. These beetles emerge about 2 weeks later and mate the next summer.

In the world's temperate environments, there are over 75 species of prettily patterned Burying Beetles (aka Carrion Beetles), all in the genus *Nicrophorus* and family Silphidae. There are none in Africa or Australia, but Royalston is home to six or seven different species, each with its own slice of summer and specific preferred habitat. April to September, there are natural undertakers at work in your own backyard.

LAST SHOT AT FREE COURSE

The final, FREE, *Maps, Compass and Survival* program in 2004, sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Environmental Police, takes place Saturday September 4. This is a fabulous family activity, suited to pre-teens and older, and is truly a must-take for outdoor enthusiasts. A brief classroom session is held in the morning, then students move outdoors to practice compass and map reading skills, first as individuals on "line courses" in open fields, and then in groups into the woods to identify a number of markers along the way to the assigned location. Preregistration is required by calling the Hunter Education Program at 508-792-7434.

Wildlife Sightings

A Black Bear was seen crossing South Royalston Rd near the Stearnes' house, where the power lines cross the road, in late June by Cindy and Cady Boucher and Shelby Skowronski. Said Cindy, "I've lived here all my life and the only time I ever saw a bear before now was at Clark's Trading Post."

Carolyn Labonte reported Sunday, August 22 to report she had just seen a juvenile coyote cross from her house over towards her daughter's house on the Stone Road. It appeared to be about 18 months old and about the size of a small border collie, with the coat of a younger animal. Normally shy coyotes have been spotted in several locations this summer and regularly raise quite a ruckus in the beaver-damned wetlands surrounded by Northeast Fitzwilliam Road, Route 68, Brown Road extension and Brown Road. The yipping, barking and howling can be heard just about any warm evening.



Benjamin Morris Siegel submitted this photo he took of a porcupine in a Northern spy apple tree at his home on Prospect Hill Rd.

ROYALSTON COMMUNITY CO-OP

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The September order is due in no later than Tuesday the 9th, and delivery will be Thursday the 16th, at about 10 a.m.. Special holiday items for Thanksgiving and Christmas should be ordered early enough that they won't be out of stock.

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The Clark is restructuring member fees, and will be reducing rates for those who wish to sign up for a monthly EFT (electronic funds transfer) program. The rate restructuring will mean lower fees for special sports activities and classes for members, and the inclusion of more activities with just the basic membership. The building is now air conditioned, most of the areas have been refurbished or completely redone with new equipment. Hours are a most useful 5 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, and 9 a.m. – noon on Sundays. Drop by and speak with a member of the fitness staff or call for a brochure.

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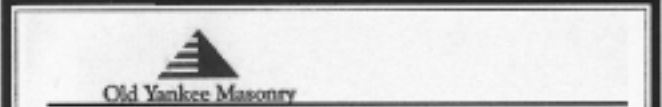
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NEWSLETTER STAFF

News Staff: Maureen Blasco, Deb Nunes, Mary Barclay
 Sponsorships: Barbara Stowell
 Treasurer: Barbara Willhite
 Circulation: Barbara Stowell
 Layout: Stephen Chase
 Editor: Beth Gospodarek

HOW TO CONTACT US

Submission deadline for October issue is: Sept. 22

To submit news, articles, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net

Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston, MA 01368

Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)

Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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