

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2005



Volume VIII, Issue VI

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

## Calendar of Events

September 2 Friday

### No School Monty Tech

7:00 p.m. **Special Town Meeting** at Royalston Community School. Articles on the warrant include approving money for several purposes including: hiring a teacher to keep the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at RCS, paying for repairs on the uptown fire station, and dealing with the water system at the Raymond School. There may be issues regarding Royalston's portion of the Athol Royalston Regional School District budget for this school year as well.

September 5 Monday **Labor Day**

September 7 Wednesday

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

September 8 Thursday

3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library meeting**; new members welcomed.

September 10 Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Carseat Safety Check** sponsored by Royalston Police Department. Have your carseat checked for safety and learn proper installation techniques. Call for an appt. 1-800-377-4325.

September 12 Monday

10:30 a.m. **Preschool Story Time** at the Library. **Winter hours resume** 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. to 8:30.

September 13 Tuesday

noon **early dismissal ARRSD elementaries**, lunch served

September 14 Wednesday

3:00 - 4:15 p.m. **Bible Club** begins after school at the RCS

September 15 Thursday

7:00 p.m. The North Quabbin Garden Club presents "**Sculpture in the Garden**" with Tom Kellner at the Millers River Environmental Center, Main St. Athol. Open to all area gardeners. Free.

September 17 Saturday

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Garlic and Arts Festival** Art, crafts, food, regional agriculture and musicians, including Royalston's fiddler/ blues singer Norah Dooley, at Chestnut Hill Farm in Orange. \$4 adults/ kids free. Continues Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

6:00 p.m. **Fundraiser for the Steeple** at the Town Hall. Buffet Dinner \$10- Adults, \$6 - children. Raffle - Arm length of tickets for \$5.

September 18 Sunday

10:00 a.m. **Mushroom walk** led by Noah Siegel. Meet at parking lot at top of Tully Dam. Sponsored by Monadnock Mushroomers Club. Open to public. Free.

6:30 p.m. **Vic and Sticks** storytelling and musical comedy for the whole family at the First Congregational Church. Free.

September 20 Tuesday

6:30 p.m. **Potluck Dinner** at First Congregational Church with guest speaker Rev. Numbere from Nigeria, Africa.

September 21 Wednesday

7:00 p.m. **ARRSD School Committee Meeting** at RCS

September 26 Monday

7:00 p.m. **Library Trustee Meeting** at Library

September 28 Wednesday

11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club** with **blood pressure clinic** and distribution of **Brown Bag** commodities, Town Hall

7:30 pm **Ladies' Benevolent Society meeting** with guest Brenda Bhatti of Mt Grace Land Trust speaking on "**Preserving our Rural Landscape and Natural Resources**" Short business meeting to precede the talk. At the home of Rebecca Krause-Hardie. All members of the community are welcome. Call 575-1454 for directions.

October 15 Saturday

3:00 p.m. **Steeple Fundraiser Auction** with auctioneers David Putney and John Poor - First Congregational Church. (Donations accepted - call David Putney at 249-4218.)

## Royalston Town Directory Update

The "Yellow" Royalston Town Directory for 2005-2006 will be published with the next issue of the Royalston Community Newsletter in October. This is the directory that lists all town officers, cultural and civic groups, and *Royalston-based* businesses.

*If you have any changes/additions to your listing or know of a new civic or a new Royalston-based business to be included, please send us the information by September 15.*

- \* For official town agencies and committees, we list all members with their title and phone numbers.
- \* For community groups, we list one contact person with phone number and the meeting day and time if applicable.
- \* For local businesses, we include the business name, telephone number, and website if applicable.

To view the information contained in the current version of the Directory, visit [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org). Please contact Barbara Stowell at [stowell@rcn.com](mailto:stowell@rcn.com) or 249-4611 or drop off the information at the Library or the Post Office (Box 133).



## **Calendar Reminders:**

The Royalston Senior Luncheon Club meets every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Royalston Town Hall. (The 1st Wed. of the month is a Chinese Auction). All welcome. The Fire Department meets Mondays at 7 p.m. for training sessions and work parties.

## **SELECTMEN'S OFFICE NEWS**

*Helen Divoll, Town Administrative Assistant*

The Selectboard meetings for the month of September will be held at 7:00 P.M., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, in the Selectmen's Office, Town Hall, On The Common.

The Board is looking for a person to fill the position of "Town Constable" to fill the position until the next Town Election at which time the person would have to take out nomination papers to run for the position, if still interested. Anyone interested should send a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen by Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Board is also looking for a volunteer Landscape Architect or someone to help with the design and beautification of the area around the King Street Bridge near Pete & Henry's and other small parcels of town land in the center of South Royalston Village. Anyone interested please contact the Selectmen's Office at (978) 249-9641 or ask to be put on the agenda of any Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month.

We hope everyone has had a safe and delightful summer. Fall will be coming soon and will, hopefully be not quite so hot and humid!

## **Special Town Meeting: 9/2 at 7 School Issues Likely to Draw Voters**

*Beth Gospodarek*

There will be a Special Town Meeting September 2nd at 7 p.m. at the Royalston Community School. Articles on the warrant include issues with funding the public schools, Fire Station repairs, and the Raymond School water system. Voters will be asked to transfer \$43,000 from an account to pay down the mortgage of the community school to pay for the salary of a RCS teacher this school year. This is an attempt to keep the 6th grade in Royalston rather than moving to the middle school in Athol as had been approved by the school committee. There may also be discussion and/or a vote to raise funds regarding Royalston's portion of the ARRSB budget. At the Annual Town Meeting last May, the Finance Committee recommended underfunding the amount requested by the school district by about \$24,000 because it exceeded the state's minimum contribution requirement. Now, the district may be requesting that \$24,000 again. Also, an outstanding bill for roof and other repair work on the Center Fire Station needs to be paid in the amount of \$1,446. Lastly, the Village School is making a \$4,500 donation to the Town earmarked to hire a consultant to make tests and file paper work demanded by the Mass. DEP for the "public water system" as well as to install a filter system at the Raymond School. The well water there is apparently highly acidic and lead and copper is leaching into the water from the pipes and fixtures. Voters will be asked to appropriate a maximum of \$8,000 to cover these costs.

## **Tree Department**

*Larry Siegel*

Regretfully, there is a new look to the uptown common. Five trees, all sugar maples, were taken down and several others severely pruned. The Board of Selectmen, D.P.W. Supervisor, and Tree Warden are considering replacement plantings. Mass Electric graciously made available its tree service to drop the trees and the Highway Department provided the equipment and personnel to remove the wood. A thank you to Richard Corser, who happened to be passing by on Bliss Hill Road and helped to extricate me from a particularly touchy situation involving two hung-up beech trees. As a bonus, I received a lesson in the new approach to tree felling. There is a supply of wood available to townspeople for their personal use from these cuttings. Call 249-4260 for details but be prepared to engage in a lot of cutting and splitting.

## **Land Use Planning in Royalston**

*Kimberly MacPhee and Vyto Andreliunas*

This is the first of regular updates on the status of land use planning activities in town. There are a number of concurrent activities under way which, in time, should help us define where future growth will take us. We have in hand both a Community Development Plan and an Open Space and Recreation Plan, all developed in the past year through grants and community participation. These plans set forth goals and strategies to guide future growth and development, and are replete with a wealth of analyses, inventories, trends, and ideas. What remains is for the people to decide what, if any, actions they wish to take in order to make use of these recommendations in working cooperatively to guide our future.

The most powerful tool we have for planning future growth is zoning. Through establishing thoughtful rules and guidelines, we can protect the values that we love about our town; the small town character, the diversity, and natural beauty of our landscape. Included in the issues that will arise from this are the potential for different types of housing, provision for seniors, redevelopment, and accessory use, among others. The proper mix of these, the fit with existing uses, and preservation of natural values should come out of open discussion and debate.

The job of updating bylaws is somewhat complex and involves much detail as well as coordination in order to have it stand up to the rigor of a town meeting and gain two thirds approval. We need to take advantage of the work done to date and the experience gained through that process. In order to make that happen, the Selectmen have appointed a task force to coordinate the various activities, boards, public meetings, and outside help in order that a complete package may be brought to town meeting. Most recently, the Town submitted an application for a Smart Growth Technical Assistance grant, which, if successful, will help defray the expense of hiring legal and technical expertise to help with the bylaw project.

The project will succeed only if the process is transparent and inclusive. The documents and maps mentioned above will be available in the library and we will work to make additional access available through internet and any other means. Land use affects all of us in many ways, making this everybody's project. Please make it a point to have your views heard as we start the ball rolling in the near future.

## Fire and EMS News

Mary C. Barclay

GOT PHOTOS? - The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is planning a fundraising calendar and is looking for any old pictures of the FD or Rescue Squad. If you have one or more, contact Joshua Morris-Siegel at 508-733-2243. Business card sized ads (just 25) are available for a \$35 donation; 1" x 5", bottom of the month ads are available (only 12!) for a \$45 donation. The first \$300 donor can own the cover of the calendar! Contact Scott Newton at 978-844-0276 to reserve an ad space.

Members of the Royalston Fire & EMS Association are profuse in their thanks to the many donors and participants during their recent golf tournament, which earned more than \$2,000. Former Royalston FD member Kenny White generously donated Route 202 Mini Golf and Par 3 Golf courses for the day. Royalston Fire & EMS Association members manned the various stations throughout the day. Thanks also to those who sponsored holes during the tournament: Wayne R. Newton Excavation, Jeff Hopkins Masonry, John O'Connell Lawn Services, Aldrich Engineering, Northeast Concrete, R&A Stumpgrinding, South Royalston General Store, Sevigny Picnic Tables and Clayton Phelps Logging.

### From the New Town Clerk:

I'm Melanie Mangum, and I am the new Town Clerk for Royalston. I was appointed by Selectmen in July, and have been busy training with the now former Town Clerk, Lloyd LeBlanc. I've met many of you throughout my six years living in town and have enjoyed meeting more of Royalston's residents in the short time I've been on the job.

**New Office Hours:** Effective Sep. 12, my new office hours will be as follows: Monday 6:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Ready to be sworn-in?** At the end of June, selectmen made yearly appointments to various town boards and positions. I have sworn in several of those who were appointed, but there are still a significant amount of people who have not come in to be sworn in. You should have received a swear-in notice if you were appointed to a position/committee. When you come to be sworn-in, please bring that notice with you. If it is not convenient for you to come in during the current or the upcoming new office hours, please contact the clerk's office at 978-249-0493. If you can't catch me in the office, please leave a message. I check messages on a regular basis, and can get back to you to schedule an appointment.



### Pink Pages/Street List Both In The Works

The 2005 Street list is now being compiled, and will be immediately followed by compilation of the Royalston Pink Pages. Last minute Pink Pages information may still be provided; drop the information at the Town Clerk's office during regular hours or contact Mary C. Barclay at 249-2598 or [royalston\\_community\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:royalston_community_news@yahoo.com).

## Carseat Safety Checkup Event

Sherry Miner, Royalston Police Department

The Royalston Police along with Safe Kids will be sponsoring a carseat safety checkup event. It will be held on Saturday September 10th at the Royalston Police/Fire Station from 9:00 to 1:00. Carseats will be inspected for safety and proper installation. If you need a carseat installed we will do it for you. Checkup is by appointment. For an appointment call 1-800-377-4325.

At a carseat checkup event, carseats are installed for you properly by trained and certified technicians. The technicians will explain how to properly install your carseat so you can do it yourself if you need to take it out for some reason. Carseats are checked for safety and also for their expiration date. YES, carseats do expire. Manufactures feel that, because of the hot and cold extremes the seats go through, the materials begin to break down, thus becoming less effective in a crash. Properly installed safe carseats help a child 'ride down' a crash experiencing less trauma.

Royalston Police now have a certified technician and will begin checking and installing carseats by appointment beginning after the checkup event.

## Board of Health News

Phil Leger, Chairman

Thanks everyone who purchased their new transfer station sticker. They were due July 1st. The new stickers are white. If you didn't get yours yet, see Charlie at the transfer station. They are \$10 for residents and \$50 for non-residents and commercial haulers. We received some comments about Board of Health members approaching residents that hadn't gotten new stickers yet. We were told that we don't need such officiating in Royalston. If you do not have a current sticker, expect to be asked about it. We do rely on the honor system for the most part, but not everyone is completely honorable unfortunately. Plus some people just forget to get new stickers. Furthermore, we do not think we need a guard house at the gate. We appreciate everyone's tolerance in this matter.

The goal of the transfer station is to break even. We are not trying to become a profit center for the town. We are committed to being a full service solid waste and recycling center. We generated almost \$50,000 in revenue last fiscal year, an increase of \$20,000 from the previous fiscal year. This was due in part to non-residents. We want to be clear that they are paying their own way. By breaking even, we do not become a tax burden. Not all residents in town use the facility.

We are researching a trash compactor installation. However, the tipping fee for this type of set up would be only \$5 a ton less than what we pay now with the dumpster set up. It does not justify the cost of building a cement pad and the electric work needed for the change at this time. We would encourage people to continue to recycle as much as possible. Recycling is free. Trash is \$120 a ton. If you do not recycle, but complain that there is no room in the dumpsters, we would argue that you are not being responsible. If it's in your hand, put it in the right can!

If anyone wants to discuss any transfer station recycling center issues, please attend our monthly meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at Whitney Hall in S. Royalston or page the Chair Philip Leger @978-366-1553.

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

### Thank You

Many thanks to the **Royalston Academy**, the **Judith Jenkins Musco Fund**, and the **Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library** for funding this year's great Summer Reading Programs. Many thanks, too, to this year's presenters in the Summer Reading Program: **Wendy Warner, Kerry Stone, Stephen Chase, and Noah Siegel**. Each program was excellent.

Thanks to **Janet Bettey** and **Pat Jackson** for book donations.



*Going Places on Stilts at this Summer's Library Reading Program*

**Support the Friends!** The Yellow Pages and Pink Pages Directories, 10 issues of the newsletter annually, a series on Islam, Spanish lessons, kid vacation and cross cultural programs, and hopefully an author talk are all in the works for the next few months at your public library through the work of the Friends. There are lots of ways to help out: Become a member, adopt a shelf at the library, help with library programs, advertise in the newsletter, come to a meeting and give input, attend events or buy some of this interesting stuff : **Shop at the Library- Cool Fundraising Items are Available to Benefit Friends:** 8x10" glossy aerial photos of your home for \$10; *I was Born in a Small Town* DVDs for \$10; Royalston Shakespeare Company and Friends Softball Team t-shirts for \$10 and the Natural Treasures of Royalston poster for \$5. All are arty, reasonably priced and designed by and for our unique community.

### Thank you to these Recent Friends Contributors

Anonymous

John Hardie and Rebecca Krause-Hardie

Rick & Paul Paul

Patience Bundshuh

Becky Divoll

### Library Receives Four Grants

The library has received funding for the Boston Museum of Science Traveling Planetarium Program and the Preschool Kindermusik® Program for next summer from the Royalston Academy and the Judith Jenkins Musco Scholarship Fund. We have also received funding for the preschool story time and the extended Monday morning hours from the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children. The Council-on-Aging has generously given us money to purchase large print materials. The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities has awarded the library a grant for the program "Understanding the Modern Middle East" a series of three lectures based on the book *Between Memory and Desire: The Middle East in Troubled Time* by R. Stephen Humphrey to be held in March and April 2006. Each lecture will be led by an expert on a particular area of the Middle East. Matching funding for this program has been graciously donated by Polly Longsworth and the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

### Library Technician Position Available at the Library

The position of Library Technician has become available at the library due to the awarding of the position of Technical Librarian to Jen Bartkus. The responsibilities of this position include staffing the circulation desk, reshelving books, ordering and processing interlibrary loans, processing books for circulation, handling reference transactions and assisting patrons in finding library materials, maintaining the card catalog, and assisting in many aspects of library functioning. The person filling this position must be responsible, prompt, and personable and enjoy interacting with the public. Skills should include a general knowledge of literature, the ability to alphabetize efficiently and accurately, the ability to use a computer to search the internet, order interlibrary loans, be able to use the programs on Microsoft Office Professional®, accept responsibility, and work independently. Educational requirements are a high school diploma or equivalent experience. Preference will be given to those candidates with library experience. Apply at the Phinehas S. Newton Library during regular hours.

### New Staff at the Library

Jen Bartkus, who has worked at the library for almost four years, has been awarded the position of Technical Librarian by the Trustees of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. She will be taking the position vacated by Barbara Stowell. Becky Divoll will be filling the position of Preschool Story Time staff person and also substituting weekly for Jen while she is on maternity leave. In addition, we have also hired Barbara Richardson, Elizabeth Farnsworth, and Patti Stanko as substitute librarians to fill in for us so that we can take a day off and don't have to be here when we're sick! They have all come through for us already filling in on very short notice and we are lucky to have such capable and willing people helping at the library.

**Preschool Story Time - Mondays 10:30 - 11:30 at the library**

Programs led by Becky Divoll or Tina Gemborys  
Healthy Snacks - Play and sharing for kids  
Conversation and company for parents and caregivers

Free, no registration, drop ins welcome  
Funded by the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children

**Tempest Floors “Em**

A million thanks to Norah Dooley and Beth Gospodarek for their direction of the extraordinary Royalston Shakespeare Co./ Friends of the Library production of *The Tempest* this summer.. It was impressive what 30 kids could do with a great script, 2 weeks and a lot of refrigerator boxes. Participants from Royalston included Rosalie Dooley Fairchild, Kelsey Savoy, Ben and Elizabeth West, Addie Ramsdell, Katie Robinson, Aaron and Michael Richardson, Jacob LaJoie, Asher, Caleb and Tobey Chase, Grady MacPhee, Dan Vaccari and Hannah Kacian. Others came from Warwick, Orange, Phillipston, Athol, Petersham, Winchendon, Iowa and Brooklyn, NY to take part. The production was free to participants, charged no admission, and ran up over \$700 in expenses, yet it made money for the Friends in the final accounting! Thanks to all who supported this endeavor, especially the Salvation Army and New England Fabrics of Keene for costume and set materials, Stephen Chase Contracting for a wicked cool ship that ripped asunder in the opening storm, and Athol High School for lighting help.



Queen Alonso laments the loss of her son in *The Tempest*.  
photo: Bruce Robinson

ADULT FICTION  
Beaton, M. C. *The Perfect Paragon*  
Bell, Hilair *Rise of a Hero*  
Bretton, Barbara *Someone Like You*  
Brown, Sandra *Chill Factor*  
Cabot, Meg *Princess in Training*  
Clark, Mary Higgins *No Place Like Home*  
Connelly, Michael *The Closers*  
Curran, Sheila *Diana Lively Is Falling Down*  
Dailey, Janet *Lone Calder Star*  
Evanovich, Janet *Back to the Bedroom*  
Eickhoff, Randy Lee *The Quick and the Dead*  
Evanovich, Janet *Full Bloom*  
Gilchrist, Ellen *Nora Jane: A Life in Stories*  
Hooper, Kay *Chill of Fear*  
Horowitz, Anthony *Eagle Strike*  
Horowitz, Anthony *Point Blank*  
Horowitz, Anthony *Raven's Gate*  
Horowitz, Anthony *Stormbreaker*  
Higgins, Jack *Without Mercy*  
Irving, John *Until I Find You*  
Jance, J. S. *Long Time Gone*  
Lewis, Beverly *The Prodigal* (Large Print)  
Marias, Javier *A Heart So White*  
Martin, Steve *Double Tap*  
McCaffrey, Anne & Scarborough, Elizabeth Ann *First Warning*  
McCarthy, Cormac *No Country for Old Men*  
McMillan, Terry *The Interruption of Everything*  
Meyer, L. A. *Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, Ship's Boy*  
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds *Alice on Her Way*  
Paolini, Christopher *Eldest*  
Patterson, James & Gross, Andrew *Lifeguard*  
Perry, Anne *Angels in the Gloom*  
Phillips, Susan Elizabeth *Match Me If You Can*  
Reich, Christopher *The Patriots Club*  
Roberts, Nora *Black Rose*  
Shinn, Sharon *The Truth-Teller's Tale*  
Siddons, Anne Rivers *Sweetwater Creek*  
Turtledove, Harry *Settling Accounts: Drive to the East*

ADULT NON-FICTION

Bird, Leonard *Folding Paper Cranes*  
Woodward, Bob *The Secret Man: The Story of Watergate's Deep Throat*  
The Official SAT Study Guide for the New SAT  
Gallagher, Tim *The Grail Bird: Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*  
Aden, Paul *The Hosta Book*  
Gottry, Steve *Common Sense Business*  
Tougas, Michael *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do*  
Terkel, Studs *And They All Sang: Adventures of an Eclectic Disc Jockey*  
Brian, Denis *The Curies: A Biography of the Most Controversial Family in Science*  
Kent, Deborah *Jimmy Carter*

## The Steeple and the Community

A major project has begun to restore the steeple in the center of our town. The crane is in place. Workmen are looking into the extent of deteriorations from New England sun and storms.

Did you know that the clock housed in the church tower is the town clock? There has been an interwoven oneness between town and spire throughout Royalston's history.

We extend a heart-felt "Thank you" for all those who have contributed to the steeple fund in giving monetarily, donating items for the auction(s), and/or by your attendance at fundraising events. A special thank you goes out to David Putney and John Poor for their team auctioneering at the Country Fair. They will be at it again on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. This is an example of town and church coming together for a common cause – "Saving the Steeple!" If you have items to donate to the auction please call David Putney to arrange for items to be picked up. (978-249-4218)



John Poor, who is not a church member, has challenged us all. He has pledged to donate \$5000 in memory of Patricia Poor when the first \$10,000 is raised. John is challenging others to step up to the plate and get into the action. Presently the fund stands at \$5459.00. The minimal estimated cost of repairs is \$35,000+.

Therefore fundraisers continue to be planned. One such event is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. A buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall. (\$10 for adults, \$6 for children) There will be a raffle at the supper. An arm length of tickets will be available for \$5. Mary Barclay is donating a homemade afghan. There are sure to be more contributions as well.

Thank you for your help in preserving a historic Royalston landmark.

## Help Wanted: Volunteer Drummers

The First Congregational Church has a brand new set of Orbitone drums that has been generously donated. Now all we need are drummers to volunteer to play them during our services on Sunday mornings from 11-12, to accompany praise and worship music. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Lynn Jahl at 978-939-2691 or email [ja hl@pipeline.com](mailto:ja hl@pipeline.com) for information.

*The First Congregational Church of Royalston will be hosting:*

### Vic and Sticks

Musical storytelling with Vicki and Rick Ethier of "Vic and Sticks and the Storytime Band", as well as The Musical Comedy "I know My Nana Rosa Is An Alien" on Sunday, September 18, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. FREE Fun for ALL Ages!!!

Vicki and Rick Ethier are storytellers who take the audience back in time as they share their own original stories with a "vaudeville flair". From the top notch musicianship, to the comical and lighthearted theatrics, the Vic and Sticks show is sure to keep you entertained and on the edge of your seat. <http://vicandsticks.com/>

## An Historic Look at the Steeple

(Excerpts "The Meetinghouses," the second chapter of *The History of the First Congregational Church of Royalston* by Dr. Ginger Asel)

In her play, *The Steeple Speaks*, Katherine Cole relates the history of Royalston as seen by the lofty 131' spire of the First Congregational Church. In this 1987 production, events of yesteryear parade before the audience in reminiscent review. The artistic use of the steeple as narrator was very appropriate, for indeed the four consecutive meetinghouses provide continuity in the story of Royalston.

The steeple's bell tells an interesting tale. The original bell of 1811 is listed in Dr. A. H. Nichols' book *Revere Bells* as the 128th of Revere manufacture. Because it was difficult to procure the suitable metal needed to produce high quality bells, recasting became a common practice. The residual remains of that 128th Revere Bell (third meetinghouse was destroyed by fire) were melted down with three hundred pounds of additional metal to form the new. It is likely the old Paul Revere bell was recast into the present bell, probably with silver added, according to the custom, to improve the tone...

On September 21, 1938, a nameless hurricane barreled into New England like a freight train thundering down a mountainside with no one at the controls. People were caught unaware. The torrential rains were the harbingers of destruction. The winds harvested the forests, and toppled mighty spires. The steeple, which had been repaired in 1927, fell to the northeast, victim of the Northeasterner of the century! In her fall, she had crashed through the right side of the church roof, leaving a gaping hole. Her broken fragments lay like firewood, piled high against the neighboring fire station. The church looked undressed without her elegant tower. Summer resident Calvin Bullock and his son, Hugh, tangibly expressed their sentiments by underwriting the cost for the rebuilding of the steeple. On March 1, 1939, they contracted with Custance Brothers, Inc. out of Lexington for the rebuilding of the steeple. The work was to be completed on or before June 1, 1939 for the cost of \$6,355. Roger Putney milled the large support beams from logs purchased from Leon Newton. The staging amassed for the project rose like a derrick on an oil field.

At the dedication of the Church Steeple on August 27, 1939, Pastor Thomas MacAnespie read these words from Calvin Bullock:



"This church was my mother's chief interest. If she could have seen that spire, one of the most beautiful in New England, in ruins, her sorrow would have been beyond words. When we came back after the storm and saw it lying in fragments we both felt, that on my mother's account, we had no right to repair damage to our own places before arrangements had been made to rebuild the spire."

"The Steeple Speaks" in Royalston into a new century. The spire adds more to the community than grace and beauty. There in time, the town and church are again united. When the steeple was rebuilt, the town clock, purchased on November 14, 1883, was repaired and replaced in the church spire.

## After School Program for Royalston Elementary Students

The Village School offers an After School Program from 3-5:30 p.m. daily on school days. RCS students can be dropped off at the Village School by the RCS bus. You can sign up for individual days or times. The program includes arts and crafts, outdoor play, homework help and a snack. Please see the Village School web site [www.villageschool.to](http://www.villageschool.to) or call the school at 978-249-3505 for more information.

## Breast Cancer Study Needs Sisters

*Mary Carnie, 2nd grade teacher RCS*

I am writing to inform the women residents of town about a valuable study currently being undertaken by the National Institutes of Health. It is entitled The Sister Study. In helping to discover the causes of breast cancer the study is undertaking the study of sisters. Because of shared environment, genes and experiences, sisters of women with breast cancer have an increased risk of developing the disease themselves. By studying these sisters, they hope to identify risk factors that may help to find ways to prevent breast cancer. Briefly, in order to be eligible you must have a sister (either living or deceased) related to you by blood that has or has had breast cancer. You must never have had breast cancer yourself. You must be between the ages of 35 and 74. You must live in the United States. More information is available at [www.sisterstudy.org](http://www.sisterstudy.org) or by phoning 1-877-474-7837 (1-877-4sister). I would encourage all women who may be eligible to contact the study for further information. If you are not eligible please share the information with a friend. We all know there is a cure out there somewhere. It is just a matter of time. Our help does make a difference.

## Cool Free Concerts Fridays in Athol

The Tool Town Live! 2005 Concert Series is in full effect!! An incredibly diverse and exciting program has been unleashed. Concerts are free and open to the public, and take place from 7-9 p.m. They are great for all ages, family-friendly and alcohol-free. In the event of rain, concerts take place in Memorial Hall at the Athol Town Hall. Refreshments are available to benefit local non-profit organizations.

Saturday, September 3, Boston Music Award Nominees, **Westbound Train**, a nationally touring ska group, at the Uptown Common performs. Features Athol native Rich Graiko on trumpet. and a boppin beat.

Saturday, September 10, **The Al Plotkin Band**, which recently opened for Grank Funk Railroad and Three Dog Night, performs great instrumental jazz/fusion at Fish Park.

Friday, September 16, An all-female acoustic group **Moonstruck** will perform at the Uptown Common with an opening performance by the talented **Ray Hendricks** at 6:45pm.

Saturday, September 17, award winning regional act, **The Franks**, will play at Uptown Common Their sound has been compared to The Police, Men At Work, Sublime and Rusted Root.

Friday, September 23, Boston based nationally touring reggae act, **The New Souls**, will perform at Fish Park.

Saturday, September 24, Country Music Legend and World Champion Yodeler, **Kenny Roberts**, will perform at Fish Park. He will be joined by his wife Bettyanne and the John Penny Country Music Band

Saturday, October 1, the **Little Monsters Band**, one of the best classic rock and roll bands in the region, will perform at the Uptown Common

## Monty Tech News

As of the August 15 report, 12 Royalston freshmen applied to Monty Tech for this fall. Two of the 12 withdrew their acceptances. Three students are accepted for this September. One student has completed an application and is on the waiting list for an available seat, and five applicants are wait-listed, pending receipt of addition information for their applications. One Royalston student did not meet admissions criteria.

Royalston has just three seats, by district agreement, in each Monty Tech freshmen class. Because Royalston students tend to do so well in sixth, seventh and eighth grade, they rank very high on the list of students waiting to fill available seats after all town quotas have been met, and for the past several years, we have been fortunate to have as many as 13 students accepted into a freshmen class. Monty Tech students go on to two and four year colleges at almost identical rates as our "classic" high school; students who don't continue for degrees enter technical or trade schools, go on to military service or directly to employment. Of students seeking employment, Monty Tech grads see nearly 100% employment, most in their chosen field.

As student population increases to a peak in about 2012, there will be fewer and fewer seats available over and above the three to which Royalston is entitled. Monty Tech already turns away two students for every freshman accepted, and in all likelihood, that will increase to three or four students too many for each freshman seat. To improve chances of your child being ELIGIBLE for admission to Monty Tech, basic English and math skills must meet minimum criteria. Attendance and behavior must be outstanding. Your child will have the best chance at one of the seats at Monty Tech if they begin preparing for that possibility in sixth grade.

## Events at 1794 MEETING HOUSE

**CIRCUS MINIMUS**, a new musical by Dorothy Johnson and Andy Lichtenberg. It is a funny North Quabbin community musical. It appears on New Salem's 1794 Meetinghouse stage Friday, Sept. 9 & 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 10 & 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 11 & 18 at 2 p.m. \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and children.

**MEETINGHOUSE MUSICFEST**, Saturday, Sept. 24 from noon to 7:30 p.m., rain or shine (Orange Town Hall in case of inclement weather.) Featuring Cailte Kelley, Deb Pasternak, Janet Ryan and Straight Up, Marsia Shuron Harris and Mother Turtle, Northern Lights, as well as Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem. Food concessions, arts & crafts tables, musicians' discs, videos, tee shirts and other memorabilia. \$12/adults; children under 12 enjoy free admission.

Final call for 1794 Meetinghouse Musicfest Raffle tickets for a **LONDON ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA** Win a trip for two to London, including round trip air fare, five-night hotel stay, dinners and theatre tickets (or \$2,500 cash). The drawing takes place at the Meetinghouse Musicfest on Sept. 24. A \$10 donation provides a donor with a one in 2,000 chance of a London vacation!

Info and tickets at [www.1794meetinghouse.org](http://www.1794meetinghouse.org), or Royalston members of the 1794 Meetinghouse volunteers: President Patience Bundschuh (978-249-6081), Treasurer Phil Rabinowitz (978-249-4422) or Board Member Diane Lincoln (978-249-4173).



## Congratulations and Good News

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

**Kathy Chencharik** was runner-up for the Mysterious Photo Contest in the Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine where her entry will be listed in the November issue.

**Gary Lippincott** of Bliss Hill Road, whose art graced the library walls for several months and who presented two great programs here, will have his art represented by Duirwaigh Gallery of Atlanta, Georgia. They are well-known and respected artist representation business and publisher of fantasy illustrations. Gary will also have the fantasy painting of his daughter, titled *Elfin Aja*, for a month long exhibit at the Society of Illustrators Gallery in New York City with the opening reception on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Jameson Melbourne** has completed studies at U-Mass Amherst, earning a Bachelor of Arts in English. He hopes to pursue a career in writing. While getting his feet wet in that industry, the graduate of Royalston elementary schools and Athol High has accepted a one-year renewable English teaching assignment in Japan, through Nova of Boston. Congratulations to Jameson and his parents, Nancy and James Melbourne of Northeast Fitzwilliam Road, and grandparents, Bill and Phyllis Clark of Florida and Stone Road in Royalston.

### Library Softball Team Checks In

When the Fire Department declined to play the Friends of the Library softball team this summer, the team joined a slow pitch league in Athol under the management, instigation and financial backing of Noah Siegel. Our team probably had the youngest and oldest players in the league and a third of our starters were female in a league with very few other women players. Nonetheless, the team did quite well. We finished with a winning record and came within a run of beating the #1 undefeated team in a heartbreaker. Everyone on the team had his/her heroic moments, but Jim MacPhee finished as the offensive standout with a batting average of .681, 3 homeruns, 26 RBIs and 28 runs scored after 47 at bats. The team is about to compete in a 1 pitch tournament playoff. If the Fire Department finds time and inclination, we're willing to play to get the trophy back. Hey F.D., September weekends can be a fine for softball.



left to right: Joshua Morris-Siegel, Jim MacPhee, Neil O'Brien, Beth Gospodarek, Brett Jeffery, Dante Divoll, John Burke, Larry Siegel, Becky Divoll, Noah Siegel, Jacob Morris-Siegel, Brandon Jeffery and M.E. Kane. Not pictured, on disabled list: Tom Kellner

Keep up the good recovery **Bernice Chaisson**. You are in our thoughts and hopes.

**Welcome to Laura Magnolia Bartkus**, born July 23rd at 12:50 a.m. to Jen and Tim Bartkus and sisters Hannah and Carly of Athol Rd. Laura weighed 6 1/2 healthy and happy pounds at birth.

Congratulations **David and Shirley Putney** on their 50th wedding anniversary last July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Condolences to the family of **Linda (Emery) Porter** of Warwick Rd. Mrs. Porter died July 8<sup>th</sup> in her home. She enjoyed playing bingo and bowling. She leaves a husband of 36 years, Raymond Porter, as well as two daughters and a son, her father and three brothers, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions can be made to the Gardner Visiting Nursing Association or the Athol Memorial Hospital Oncology Department.

Condolences also to the family of **Donald S Thomas** of Neale Rd. He moved to Royalston 3 years ago to reside with his daughter Nancy Monette. He was a decorated WWII veteran earning the American Theater Ribbon and WWII Victory Medal. He was a long time member of the Masons and the Rotary Club and he loved playing golf. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Harriett Thomas as well as three daughters, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the Gardner Visiting Nursing Association, 34 Pearly Ln, Gardner MA 01440.

Our sympathy to the family of **Edward J Flanagan**, 89, of 116 Winchendon Rd, who died August 21 surrounded by his family. He is a WWII veteran who received a Victory medal for his military service.

Condolences to **James P. Kelley** and **Marlys** on the passing of Jim's brother, Joseph Kelley. The family attended a June 17 memorial mass, followed by a collation and luncheon for the many relatives and friends who traveled to Duxbury.

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### Intermediate Spanish Class Forming

**An Intermediate Spanish conversation class** is forming in Royalston. The group is looking for a few more people who would like to have weekly or bi-weekly discussion with a native Spanish speaker. Reasonable fee. Call Maureen for information at 978-249-5138

### Lady Bowlers Starting Up

New members are needed to fill vacancies on a couple of women's bowling teams at Playaway Lanes in Winchendon (out behind the Clark Memorial). About a dozen Royalston women belong to the Monday and Wednesday morning leagues, which play from September through April. New members (individuals or teams of three) are welcome at any time. All ages are welcome. Previous bowling experience is not necessary. A desire to have fun is a must! Contact Ginny Gingras at 978-249-4951 or Barbara Denis at 978-249-4225.

## Labor Day Thoughts about Labor in Royalston

Information garnered from Hubert Carlton Bartlett's *Reflections on Royalston* (Published by the Reflector, Fitchburg, Ma 1927). A photocopy of this book is available to be perused at the reference room of at the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

Labor Day in Royalston comes right as the sunlight is turning noticeably golden and the extra blankets are being pulled down off the shelves. The days are still hot in full sun, but there is no question that fall is nearly here. Labor Day in our town is generally a day to avoid labor and instead savor the last things of summer like garden tomatoes, swimming or cooking outside. The holiday brings up the question, "Where do residents actually work?" Certainly houses in our region are going up faster than jobs are being created. How far is a reasonable commute?

Royalston seems so rural now, it is hard to believe that it used to be a hive of industrial labor. As part of all the labor of growing food and getting clothing and shelter, the settlers of the 1700s built gristmills and sawmills on brooks all over Town. By the early 1800s, factories for profit rather than local necessity were taking hold. The water power of the Millers River in the South Village was used to fuel factories beginning with the Royalston Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company of 1812. In the 19<sup>th</sup> C., woolen goods, lumber, pine furniture, cradles and caskets, shoe pegs, and brush handles were profitably produced for a time. Eventually, the dams of the Whitney woolen mills and chair shop controlled the water flow and other shops declined for various reasons. After the terrible South Royalston fire of 1904, the rebuilt woolen factory became part of American Woolen Mills and began producing blankets. From 1910 to the 1940s, it employed over 150 employees, many of whom arrived for work from Baldwinville, Gardner and other nearby towns on the train each morning.

The water power of the Millers River is obvious, but even small streams saw industrial uses. In the mid 1800s, the tiny nameless stream on the south of Frye Hill Rd was dammed and a canal was dug from Little Pond to increase the flow to the group of factories which sprang up near where NE Fitzwilliam meets Frye Hill Rd. The mill pond was used to power a water wheel which in turn powered saws at a furniture factory for the production of tables with folding leaves, bureaus, washstands, cradles and coffins. This dammed brook also was used in a shoemakers shop at the base of Frye Hill as well as powered a carriage shop, which soon changed into a palm leaf bleaching shop. The process of bleaching the materials in the factory was particularly Hellish as it required the room to be stacked up with hard rolls of palm and then boarded up and practically air tight. Then, sulphur and brimstone was burnt to fumigate the palm. After bleaching, the palm leaves were split and braided into hats on looms in private homes and many townfolk, particularly housewives, made extra piece meal income making the bases for "Shaker bonnets." In 1847, a woman could make 25 cents a day by braiding palm in the evenings. Phinehas S Newton, who funded the Town library, made a lot of his money distributing palm materials and trading goods for the finished braided palm.

Royalston Common was almost an industrial hub as well. In the 1850s, local investors, including Col. George Whitney, spent over \$6000 to build a massive steam powered factory on Royalston Common to build chairs, pails and tubs in an attempt to keep up with the profitable furniture businesses springing up in Gardner, Ashburnham and Templeton. It was located somewhere back by the current tennis courts of the Stanton property and could have employed over 100 workers. The building was completed, the three huge boilers installed and a towering chimney built, but no machinery was ever brought in. "Perhaps the financial panic of 1857 prevented the mill from ever operating", or perhaps the backers realized there was not a sufficient supply of water in that location to run a steam powered factory. At any rate, it stood vacant for nine years before being sold for \$1,500 and moved to Fitchburg, where it served as the first piano factory in that city.



There were other centers of industrial production in town, notably, the base of Jacobs Ladder and Newton Hollow, but those could be stories for another Labor Day. What is surprising is that a town that produced so much furniture and furniture stock as well as 50 years worth of palm leaf hats has so few artifacts to display. The Village Improvement and Historical Society museum has neither a locally produced chair nor hat to show for all this labor, but would love to rectify this situation. Contact Peter Kraniak if you have information.

## Labors in the Royalston Kitchen, 1918 style

Nowadays, preparing food can be fun or it can be work depending on perspective, but a century ago, there was undeniably a lot more labor involved. Pre-electricity, refrigeration involved getting and storing ice, cooking required cutting wood or getting coal delivered, building fires and cleaning up the ashes. The food itself was often a direct product of a family's labor. In a 1918 *Cookbook of Tried and True Recipes* put out by the Royalston Grange, ladies used some processed ingredients (notably canned pineapple and salmon and packages of Jello) but many recipes used ingredients from their own gardens or used wild local fruits. Here are some examples:

**Tomato Butter:** pare 7 lbs. Ripe tomatoes, 3 lbs. sugar, 1 oz ground cinnamon, 1/2 oz. whole cloves, 1 pint vinegar. Boil 3 hours, slowly.-

Mrs. Sherwood **Grape Juice:** Cover grapes with water; boil until skins break. Strain and add half as much sugar as you have juice. Boil 10 min. and bottle closely. -Mrs. C.H. Brown.

**India Jam:** 8 lbs. hard pears, chopped fine, 6 lbs. sugar, 1/2 lb preserved ginger, chopped fine. Simmer 3 hours. Grate in the rind and extract the juice of 3 lemons. Add to the above and simmer a little longer.- Lucy Shepardson

**Blackberry Cordial:** 2 qts. blackberry juice, 1 -1/2 lbs. sugar, 1 oz. allspice, 1/2 oz. nutmegs and cinnamon, 1/4 oz clove. Boil and when cool, add 1 pint brandy. - The Willow

Of course, the ladies also prepared exotic foods, so there are also recipes for home made marshmallows and fancy salads such as **Banana and Olive Salad:** Place bananas, cut lengthwise, on crisp lettuce leaves, and garnish with stuffed olives, halved. Use salad dressing or thick cream. - Helen E. Holden

## Coming This Fall: North Quabbin Garden Club

Gardeners of all level of experience are invited to join the newly formed North Quabbin Garden Club, which kicks off this fall with three free meetings. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Interestingly, all four speakers this fall are from Royalston. Thomas Kellner will present "Sculpture in the Garden" on September 15; Denise Bennett will demonstrate "Plants for Winter Interest" on October 20; Christine Beckert Long will highlight "Native Stars of the Fall Garden" on November 17; and Sharon Harmon will present a workshop on holiday swags on December 15. (There is a \$4 materials fee for this meeting.) For more information, visit the web at [www.millersriver.net/nqgc](http://www.millersriver.net/nqgc), send an e-mail to [gardens@millersriver.net](mailto:gardens@millersriver.net), or call Christine Long at (978) 249-0246.

## Free Hunter Ed Program

Another one of those awesome, free **MAP, COMPASS & SURVIVAL** courses is being offered in September, on Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Hunter Education Program HQ at the end of Outlook Road in Westminster. The program, 8:30 – 5 p.m., features a brief indoor classroom session on map reading and survival techniques, and then several hours out-of-doors. Students first learn orienteering skills in an open field using a "line course." Then, teams are dropped off at a given location with a map and compass and must navigate through the woods to a series of checkpoints to emerge from the woods at a designated spot. This is a fantastic family activity! Call 978-632-7648 to reserve seats.

## Fern Reproduction; Who Knew?

*Beth Gospodarek*

Plop down in knee high ferns and breathe deeply. Aside from golden light, whiny mosquitoes and evocative smells, you may also notice little specks in orderly arrangements on the undersides of leaves. They are spore sacks called sporangia, which hold the tiny powdery spores. Until attending the Royalston Biodiversity Days Walk last June, I thought these spores eventually released and blew off to make new ferns like seed drops from a weed, but I learned that day that fern reproduction is not that simple.

When a fern spore blows off and lands in suitable conditions, it doesn't grow into a fern immediately. Instead, it forms a small (about an inch across), heart shaped plantlet called a gametophyte. The gametophyte has both male and female reproductive organs on the underside of its leaves. They are a little separated from each other. If there is a film of moisture, the sperm cells from the male parts swim toward the egg cells in the female parts. Wetness is crucial and this is why ferns are found in damp hollows. Males can hook up with females from the same gametophyte or from an adjacent one. When all goes well, their genetic material fuses to make a cell, which is the beginning of an adult fern. The cell multiplies to become a sporophyte and eventually it takes over from the tiny gametophyte and becomes an adult fern.

Ferns can reproduce in other ways as well. They can spread by rhizomes (roots) or sprout baby ferns at the "proliferous" tips of their fronds. (If the parent frond touches the soil, the babies can take root.) Rhizomes and proliferous babies have the exact same genes as their parent plant. Only ferns that grow from spores and use male meets female fertilization on a heart shaped plantlet have the advantages of genetic diversity.

## Garden Notes

*Larry Siegel*

August provided a few surprises, but the extent of the berry harvest was not among them. As anticipated, whether wild or cultivated, there has been no shortage of strawberries, red and black raspberries and blueberries. We are in the midst of a once-in-a-decade black-berry harvest; our particular wild patch appears inexhaustible and there must be a dozen similar patches spotted around town.

Day in, day out, September is the month for harvest. It is not a once-a-week activity. My own schedule is to pick tomatoes and beans every third day; cucumbers and squash every other; and peaches daily. I treat the harvest as something of a final exam: if (as is always the case) a particular crop is modest (or less) in its yield, I consider it something of a reflection of my own shortcomings. On the other hand, if yields exceed expectations, I silently pat myself on the back. One year's success is another year's failure and one year's failure is another year's success. By planting as wide a variety as practical, I am assured of a plentiful and diverse supply of vegetables and fruit. I continue to fiddle around the garden, pulling the occasional weed and tidying up. Partly this is to prevent weeds from going to seed (reducing weed pressure next year) but mostly because I want to get a good look at the vegetables I am harvesting and the flowers I am admiring.

As soon as a crop is harvested, I'll jostle the soil a bit and cover with hay. Time permitting, I will roll back the mulch, enrich the bed, and re-cover. Otherwise, the task is performed in the spring, when, hopefully, the weeds will not have emerged.

What are the season's standouts? Beans. Cucumbers. It is my most productive bean season ever. Lots of heat, lots of rain during the early stages resulted in luxurious growth. Everything dried up at the onset of bean formation, ensuring a disease-free harvest period. Tomatoes have been variable. In my travels, I have seen lush plots of tomatoes as well as some which seem to be struggling. Mine fall somewhat in-between with a couple of varieties performing well and a couple performing poorly. My peppers are less than adequate, having set very little fruit.

I have discovered my first emerging cauliflower, as much a precursor of autumn as that early-turning red maple in the wetlands. Before September is too advanced, broccolis and cauliflowers will be competing for attention with the still-prolific hot weather crops. Frost is likely in many areas of Royalston this month, though less likely here on the upper slope of Prospect Hill (where, more often than not, we don't experience a killing frost until the first week in October). Particular dates are most variable in town, with cold air descending to the low-lying areas. The Putneys, who garden astride Lawrence Brook, are perhaps only 1 mile away but 350 feet lower in elevation. They can be 10 degrees colder than us in the early A.M.

All the garlic and shallots, many of the potatoes, and some of the onions have been pulled. Together with trays and trays of tomatoes and peaches and cucumbers, our living quarters are beginning to resemble a produce warehouse. I would want it no other way.



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**Adult babysitter/mom** willing to watch your child(ren) in my home if our schedules are compatible. Call Becky Divoll to make arrangements. 978-249-3158

**Leaves need raking?** Dante Divoll, 14 years old, smiling and diligent, is available for yard work/odd jobs. Call 978-249-3158

**Wildlife Sightings:**

Carrie Hutchins and Deborah Linus saw a big **black bear** on Rt 32 going north on Friday, Aug. 19th at 12:00 pm right before the big red farm house on the left past the Wheeler's house. It went down the logging road across the street. It was very exciting and a little shocking to see such a big animal in the road

In early July, Jeff Hendrickx saw a bear going into the field on South Royalston Road by the Harrington Farm.

Observers on NE Fitzwilliam Rd and at the ranger station on Tully Dam noticed "hummingbird fights" at their feeders in early July. The females seemed particularly aggressive.

The Royalston Community Newsletter  
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library  
PO Box 133  
Royalston MA 01368

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