

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

October 2005



Volume VIII, Issue VII

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

September was a cruel month. Lovely warm days, buttery light and wine-scented roadsides somehow became part of the same day to day reality as huge, nearly unimaginable disasters. Local mosquitoes and Gulf storms went from nuisances to Terrible. International bloodshed seemed to increase. What to do but try to help where we can and take care of our families and neighbors as best we can. Beautiful fall foliage is coming. Here's hoping the daily news improves to fit the season.

Calendar of Events

October 3 Monday

6:23 a.m. **New Hunter's Moon**

Rosh Hashanah, Beginning of the Jewish New Year at sunset, and a ten-day period of repentance continues through sunset, October 13, ending with Yom Kippur

October 4 Tuesday

Early dismissal for Monty Tech – NEASC Accreditation Team visit
First Day of Ramadan, Islamic period of fasting and repentance begins at sunset, continues through sunset, November 3, with the ending celebration, Eid al Fitr.

October 5 Wednesday

noon **early dismissal in ARSSD elementary schools**
7:00 p.m. **Monty Tech School Committee** meets

October 6 Thursday

3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Library meeting**. Plan library support, publications, fundraising and upcoming events. New blood sought.

October 7 Friday

7:00 p.m. **Women's Fellowship** at 2nd Congregational Church Parlor

7:00 p.m. **Special Town Meeting at the RCS** to settle Athol-Royalston school district appropriations for current fiscal year.

October 9 Sunday

Late evening **Draconid Meteor Shower** with peak rates of about six per hour, originating in the northwestern skies – fairly slow, but sometimes dramatic. The “shooting stars” are associated with the Giacobini-Zinner Comet.

October 10 Monday **Columbus Day observed**

October 12 Wednesday

11:30 a.m. **20th Anniversary of Royalston Luncheon Club Celebration**. Singer Patty Carpenter will entertain. Concert free, but call Dorothy Newton at 978-249-8882 by Monday 10/10 for lunch tickets.

October 13 Thursday

7:30 p.m. **Open space committee meeting at Town Hall.**

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.)

October 17 Monday

8:14 a.m. **Full Hunter's Moon**

7 p.m. **FD EMS training** Continuing Ed. Program on “Medical-Legal Issues”

October 19 Wednesday

7:30 p.m. **Ladies' Benevolent Society meets**, followed by:

8:00 p.m. **LBS Memorial Piano Concert** (open to the public) at The Maples, home of Patience Bundschuh. Deb Nunes, director.

October 20 Thursday

Early Dismissal for Monty Tech – Tour Day during afternoon

7:00 p.m. **“Plants for Winter Interest,”** presented by the North Quabbin Garden Club at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Free. Info: gardens@millersriver.net.

October 21 Friday

6:30 p.m. **Royalston Historical Society Quarterly Meeting** and Potluck at the home of Peter Kraniak on the corner of Stone Rd and Winchendon Rd. Call 978-249-7625 for info.

Predawn hours, Friday through Sunday, the **Orionid Meteor Shower**- a rate of about 25/hour predicted. Best viewing in the southern sky, compliments of Halley's Comet.

October 24 Monday

No Classes at Monty Tech – Full Tour Day; Career Awareness Night

7:00 p.m. **Library Trustees Meeting** at the Library

October 27 Thursday

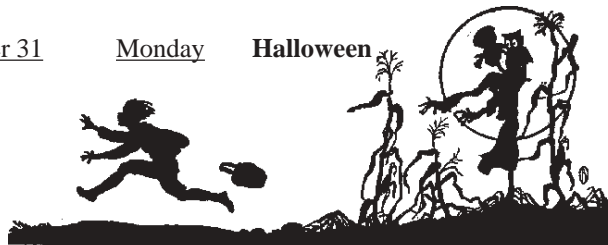
1:00p.m. Theater at the Mount performance of **Alexander and the No Good Horrible Bad Day** at RCS. Funded by Royalston Academy. A few extra free seats available. Call RCS 249-2900 for information.

October 28 Friday

7:00 p.m. **Turkey Raffle** to benefit the Royalston Fish & Game Club

October 31 Monday

Halloween



November 4

Friday

5:00 p.m.

Lantern Walk, Contradance and Potluck

Hosted by the Village School. (meet at school for walk at 5 pm, potluck and dance at Town Hall at 6pm) Open to all.

November 6

Sunday

2:00 p.m.

Open House at the Village School.

November 11

Friday

7:00 p.m.

Turkey Raffle at the Center Fire Station.

November 12

Saturday

6:00 p.m.

Braised Beef Supper at Town Hall to raise funds for Ladies' Benevolent Society Scholarships. Historical Matchbook display and talk upstairs following, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Over 5000 matchbooks, many collected locally beginning in the 1930s.

The Big EEE

Eastern Equine Encephalitis killed two exotic birds, pet emus, on Chestnut Hill Av in Athol near the Royalston line in September. EEE is an old blood borne virus; it is not completely understood. Many wild birds can host the virus without developing the disease. A particular species of mosquito, which almost only bites birds, spreads the EEE virus to yet more birds. These mosquitoes rarely bite other vertebrates, but if they do, the result can be encephalitis. Contact with blood from an EEE infected animal in an open cut can also spread the virus. In humans, horses, and some domestic poultry like emus, EEE virus can kill its host in 2 – 10 days. (There is a vaccine for horses and farm raised pheasants.) In humans, there is an over 30% mortality rate for those infected, with children and elderly most susceptible. Survivors have an over 30% chance of serious neurological damage.

The chances of humans contracting EEE are quite minimal, but the disease is so serious and so scary that sensible precautions should be taken to avoid mosquitoes until hard frost. The Royalston Board of Health is recommending that residents mosquito proof their homes and avoid mosquito bites. This includes draining standing water in gutters, flowerpots and wading pools and making sure window screens fit and are in good repair. Avoid outdoor activity during peak mosquito hours, especially dawn and dusk. Wear long sleeves and pants or even a face net when in buggy areas. Also, the BOH advises applying insect repellent. DEET is very effective when used according to the manufacturer's directions; however, it is not considered safe on children under 2 months of age and should never be used in concentrations of more than 30% on anyone. (For very small children, repellents with the active ingredient Picardin have been suggested.)

Mosquitoes from the area where the emus died are being captured and tested for the EEE virus by the state. Based on the results of these tests, the Board of Health will make recommendations for future strategies for preventing EEE in humans here. Since the virus can overwinter in birds, it is likely that residents of Royalston will need to continue with precautions next summer. Bear in mind that these same measures will help deter the West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease also emerging in our area. There are some articles explaining EEE available at the Phineas S Newton Library. Also, the U. of Florida Extension Service and Centers for Disease Control web-sites are technical but informative.

Road Work Ahead

Keith Newton, DPW Supervisor

Gravel roads are in rather rough shape as the Town grader is down yet again. It is a 1978 Champion model, which makes it extremely difficult to find parts. Used parts are unavailable and new parts have to be ordered from Canada and New York and then laboriously retrofitted. Makeshift grading with a York rake is underway now, but the DPW hopes to have the grader up and running in time to complete its fall grading schedule before snow flies.

Late season paving is planned for King Street and Jarvenpaa Road. Expect Delays. The DPW is sorry for any inconvenience.

Cultural Council Grant Applications Due

Patience Bundshuh, Chair

The Royalston Cultural Council announces the availability of applications for the current granting cycle for state funds from The Massachusetts Cultural Council. This year, the total allotment administered by the Royalston Cultural Council will be \$2500. This is an increase of \$500 over last year. Applicants are encouraged to apply.

Applications will be considered based on the following criteria. Funds are to be used for arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. There must be a public benefit. Funds must not be used to substitute for or replace current or previously funded public programs of a municipality such as in schools and libraries. Funds are not to be used as the sole means of support for projects of a continuing nature. Applicants may not be discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, religion, creed, color, national origin, disability or age. A portion of the allotment is administered under the PASS program which funds cultural field trips for school children by subsidizing the cost of admission to attend programs in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences including performances, educational tours and exhibits. In the past, depending on the amount of the allotment and the number of applications, The RCC has typically awarded 5 – 8 grants in the range of \$150 - \$500.

Applications are available on-line at www.massculturalcouncil.org or by contacting Patience Bundschuh at 978-249-6081 or any member of the Royalston Cultural Council. Current members are: Pat Andreluinas, Sonja Vaccari, Deb Nunes, Ann Kussy, Chris Black, Andrea Lively, Jim Bennett, Marie Claire Humblet. The postmark deadline for applications is Monday October 17, 2005. Applications should be mailed to Patience Bundschuh, Royalston Cultural Council, Box 105, Royalston, MA 01368.

Assessors' Notes

We would like to remind those citizens who pay reduced taxes through the Chapter 61 programs that it is their responsibility to submit their paperwork completely and on time. Failure to do so may result in their being dropped from the program and assessed for rollback taxes. The assessors are not obligated to send out reminders or forms although they may have done so some years ago.

Landowners entering into conservation restriction agreements must notify the assessors office as the state does not. CRs may affect your assessment due to loss of primary and secondary building lots. The Board of Assessors meet the first and third Wednesdays 7:00 PM at Whitney Hall. 978-249-0337.

Police Department Reminders

Officer Sherry Miner

The Royalston Police Department is available to install or check the installation of carseats. Call 249-5838 and leave a message for an appointment.

Obedience classes for dogs will be held on the Royalston Common beginning Oct 13th and /or 15th. Please call for more information 249-4587, leave a message or ask to speak with Sherry

Halloween is near. The kids will be out. Keep in mind safety. Youngsters that will be trick-or-treating should not go out alone. Accompany them or make sure they go out with others. If you are not going with them, know their route and give them a curfew. Check your children's treats before they eat.. Here are some other safety tips: When purchasing a costume, make sure it is flame retardant.. Have reflective tape on the costume. To prevent tripping, the costume should not drag on the ground. Avoid masks as they limit a child's vision; use make-up instead. Make sure your child carries a flashlight. Participating homes should keep lights on inside and outside and avoid decorating steps with jack-o-lanterns that have candles in them as open flames may ignite costumes. Offer only store bought, individually wrapped treats. Don't invite trick or treaters into your house. Be friendly.

Selectmen's Office News

There will be a Special Town Meeting Oct 7 at 7 pm at RCS. Royalston Selectmen recently honored two – well five, actually – members of the Royalston Police Department. **Officer Sherry A. Miner** and her husband, **Sergeant Roland G. Hamel** received a certificate of appreciation from the Town of Royalston for their unflinching dedication in the training and use of search and rescue K-9s. Officer Miner's K-9 partner **Rocky** and Sergeant Hamel's K-9 Partner **Reba** were on hand, and relatively unfazed by the honor, although they did seem to enjoy the attention from the standing room only crowd and news reporters. Special mention was made of **Amber**, the late K-9 partner of Officer Miner, who retired in 2003 after serving for two years with Royalston Police, and nine years as a member of the Massachusetts Air Scenting K-9 (MASK-9) volunteer search and rescue group. Amber was Miner's first K-9 partner, and the pair developed a very special bond. The pair is credited with seven "finds" resulting in the safe return of missing persons and property, and more than 30 searches regionally and nationally during their nine-years of working together. When Amber passed peacefully this summer, it was with Officer Miner by her side.

News from the Transfer Station

Phil Leger

Fall is a great time to purchase a compost bin. On sale at the transfer station for \$30 and is made from recycled plastic. Also collected are rechargeable batteries such as nickel cadmium batteries. Hand them into the attendant if you have any.



They went that-a-way. The Sawyer sisters, Christine and Ashley, rustled up a good time at the Town Halloween party October 2004, run by the Royalston Police Department. This year, as always, help is needed to run games and perhaps haunt a hunk of the Common. Call the PD to offer assistance. Watch backpacks for dates and times for this year's party as well as trick-or-treating hours.



What Happened at the Special Town Meeting?

What is Apt to Happen at the Oct 21 Special Town Meeting?

With over 90 qualified voters and over a dozen well behaved children attending, everything on the warrant at the Special Town Meeting passed nearly unanimously last September 2nd. The 6th grade was kept in Royalston as \$43,299 was transferred from the RCS School Mortgage Reduction Account to pay the teacher's salary at RCS. The Selectmen had requested some language be added to the article indicating that these salary funds were contingent upon town counsel's findings concerning the legality of the transfer. However, voters, especially Chet Hall and Carla Rabinowitz, voiced concerns that if the school didn't receive the money right away, the 6th grade kids would be transferred to Athol immediately. Voters expressed qualms about setting a precedent of paying salaries at RCS, which they felt should be covered by the ARRSB, but Ed Wheeler, chair of the Finance Committee said that the Town would be very unlikely to recommend appropriating this money again. Paying the salary this time was a way of buying time so the issue could be calmly discussed and resolved before the next school year. After almost an hour of discussion, the salary transfer was approved. Also approved that night were \$1,446 for plumbing and heating bills for uptown fire station maintenance. Water quality testing and filtering at the Raymond School were also approved with \$4000 coming from Town stabilization accounts and \$8500 coming from the Village School, which leases the Raymond School from the Town. Finally, the results of last April's town Election were confirmed by a vote.

There will be yet another Special Town Meeting October 7 at 7:00 p.m. at RCS. The warrant is not yet finalized, but it should include asking voters to approve just over \$260,000 as the town's share of the ARRSB education budget for fiscal year 06. This total is around \$22,000 more than the amount approved at the Annual Town Meeting last May. The \$22,000 was held back last spring as a way to get information about how the state figures Town apportionments. Accountants have explained the process to the finance committee, and it is now recommending that Royalston should indeed pay up. The overall education budget for fiscal year 06 in the Athol Royalston Regional School district is \$20.2 million. It is possible that issues of discontinued roads will also be on the warrant.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, 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

Marjorie Bassett for the beautiful mums gracing the front steps of the library.

Jen Bartkus, Janet Bettey, Lian Cutting, and Polly Longworth for donating books, books-on-tape, and/or movies.

Barbara Stowell for laying out and supervising publication of the Yellow Pages.

Thank you and welcome back to volunteer extraordinaire **Ferron Dooley Fairchild**.

Halloween Events at the Library

We have many Halloween books for children and young adults as well as books on costume making. The library will be open all day on Halloween for trick-or-treating including the allotted hours. At 10:30 a.m. there will be a special Fall/Halloween costume party during the preschool story time with special refreshments and treats.

Yellow Pages Enclosed

Inside this October issue of the RCN, please find a copy of the Royalston Town Directory. This practical publication comes courtesy of the Friends of the Library, who verified the information, created the layout, and organized and funded the distribution. The team at the Fieldstone Press generously covered printing costs. Publications like the newsletter and the yellow pages are only possible with member support. Thanks to all who contribute.

Recent Contributors to the Friends:

The Village School Tom Musco

Library Web Site Links to Data Bases

Exciting new database access now available at www.royalstonlibrary.org! From our "Resources" web page, you can now search online databases licensed by the state. Databases include magazines, journals, newspapers, and ebooks. There are databases geared for students of all ages from K-6, to high school, to advanced professional and scholar levels. There are many search options to help you find what you want quick. It is simply an awesome tool for the student, the researcher, or just the curious. So visit the web site and give it a try. While on the web, don't forget to peruse the on-line version of this newsletter and check out photos from recent library events like the Shakespeare production and Summer Reading Program.

Royalston Census 1910

A resident of Royalston has generously worked on and completed the first installation of the town census for the year 1910. It will be donated to The Phinehas S. Newton Library for the public to view. Did you know that the census lists names, addresses, marital status, professions and trades as well as many other interesting facts? You might read about some of your ancestors and learn some neat facts that you didn't know. Even if you don't have relatives who dwelled here, this census is really useful for getting an overall view of some of the people who did. The census will be compiled on a CD and offered for sale at the library at a modest fee to help raise money for the Friends. It just might make a dandy stocking stuffer for the upcoming holidays.

The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library support this Newsletter and many other activities.

Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library 2005 Membership & Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships:

Single \$2.00 _____

Family \$5.00 _____

Supporting \$25.00 _____

Donation \$_____ _____

I would also like to buy a Newsletter sponsorship ad:

\$25.00/month x _____ = \$_____

\$200/year (10 issues) \$_____

(we will contact you for display information)

Tax deductible. Make checks payable to:

Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

I would like to help with Friends projects



Thank You!

During the week of October 23-30, Massachusetts libraries will be collecting contributions to donate to hurricane relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Phinehas S. Newton Library will be taking part in this effort along with over 600 Massachusetts libraries. Monies will be donated to the relief effort of each library's choice. Contributions may be sent to the library with checks made out to the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

Preschool Story Time

Preschool Story Time meets every Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the library. Becky Divoll staffs the library and Tina Gemborys reads stories or does music and movement activities with the children. Afterwards children enjoy healthy snacks, play together, and/or look at books while caregivers can have time to chat and visit. On Halloween there will be a special Fall/Halloween costume party with special refreshments and treats. No pre-registration is required and you may attend whenever you are able.

Literacy is for Everyone Celebration

On Saturday, October 15th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Athol/Orange Elks Lodge there will be a Literacy is for Everyone Celebration with area organizations, including our library, presenting lots of fun activities both indoors and out. Included will be information on services available for everyone from babies to seniors that pertain to literacy. Families and individuals are invited to attend. Representing the Phinehas S. Newton Library will be Jen Bartkus and Becky Divoll. You can find out what programs are available at our library for all ages, participate in making a great craft, and even get a library card.

Two Creative Workshops Offered

Make Holiday Cards and Gifts: On Sunday, November 20th at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Janet Bettey will instruct participants in creating beautiful greeting cards and gift tags from rubber stamps. She will also demonstrate how to use a variety of tools to create different edges, how to make frames and borders with different papers, and how to create pleasing designs.

Learn Wheat Weaving: On Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 p.m. Kathy Morris will lead a wheat weaving workshop at the Royalston Town Hall. This ancient craft has been practiced around the world for thousands of years and most of the designs have specific meanings. Materials will be supplied and several different weaves will be taught. Participants will then have their choice of two different projects to create to take home.

You must pre-register and members of the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library have first preference. Cost for each workshop: \$5.00.

Local Authors Make a Splash

The Friends are planning a local author's night at the library in the coming months. If you are a writer or an illustrator and would like to participate, pls. call 978-249-3572.

Sharon A Harmon will have apoeem and short story published in the upcoming edition 2005 of *Tapestries*, put out by The Life program at Mt Wachusett Community college. Last September, she was the featured poet and gave a reading at Borders in Framingham. She will also be doing a poetry reading with Candee Curran of Athol at the Poet's Parlor in Southbridge this Friday, October 7th.

Dot Cloukey of Warwick Rd has had her 1st book published. *Dancing Leaf* is available at Bruce's Browser. It is historical fiction set in colonial New England. The plot centers on a girl, her brother and a minister as they try to reassemble their lives after their frontier village is attacked.

Elizabeth Farnsworth of NE Fitzwilliam Rd has had her illustrations published in the new edition of *the Peterson's Guide to Ferns*.

Some of the New Books at the Library

ADULT FICTION

Brown, Rita Mae *The Hunt Ball*
Coelho, Paulo *The Zahir: A Novel of Obsession*
Diamont, Anita *The Last Days of Dogtown*
Delaney, Joseph *Revenge of the Witch*
Doctorow, E. L. *The March: A Novel*
Erdrich, Louise *The Painted Drum*
Gerritsen, Tess *Vanish*
Hammett, Dashiell *Lost Stories*
Koontz, Dean *Dean Koontz's Frankenstein. Book Two, City of Knight*
McBain, Ed *Fiddlers: A Novel of the 87th Precinct*
Tapply, William G. *Nervous Water*

ADULT NONFICTION

Castro, Elizabeth *HTML For the World Wide Web*
Jackson, R. W. *You Say Tomato: An Amusing and Irreverent Guide to the Most Often Mispronounced Words in the English Language*
Consumer Reports Used Car Buying Guide 2005
Betty Crocker Editors *Betty Crocker Cookbook: Everything You Need to Know to Cook Today*
Trudeau, G. B. *The Long Road Home: One Step at a Time: A Doonesbury Book*
Harrington, Dan *Harrington on Hold 'Em: Expert Strategy for No-Limit Tournaments. Volume 1: Strategic Play*
Kidder, Tracy *My Detachment*

Library Collection Grows



photo: Rosemary Bolduc

Laura Magnolia Bartkus was born in August to Phinehas Newton Library Technician, Jen Bartkus, her husband Tim and sisters Hannah and Carley. We can't wait to see what she checks out of the stacks. A board book and CD of Mozart for Babies perhaps, or is she a Raffi girl? Mother and baby are fine and Jen will be back at work at the library and as assessor's clerk, soon.

Congregational Churches News

Kelly Newton

Bible Club started Wednesday, September 14 with an awesome turn out. Thank you to adult volunteers Sue Veilleux, Pastor Ginger and Mary Ellen Scribner. Mr. David Williams and Mr. James Enright will also periodically be joining us for lessons. Bible Club is every Wednesday at the Royalston Community School, after dismissal. This is a time when the children can learn about the Bible through reading, teachings, songs and fun activities. This is certainly a time when children will be able to have questions answered such as "Who is God? How come I can't see Him?" and many other questions. Parents and guardians are welcome to sit in with us during Bible Club if they choose. Contributions of craft items would be greatly appreciated. Call Sue Veilleux at (978) 249-5004.

Bible Study: Bible Study is for anyone who would like the opportunity to learn about the Bible. It is time spent in a comfortable setting with other adults and teens who just have the yearning to learn. We are all students who are equally inquisitive of the events of the Good Book. Participants choose between Tuesday mornings in the Church Parlor, Second Congregational Church at 9AM and Tuesday Evenings at the Parsonage, on the Common at 7PM, according to their schedules. Call Pastor Ginger (978) 249-9155.

Choir: If you may have an interest in singing, we have a choir that is growing, and all voices are welcome. Choir practice is on Thursday Evenings at 7PM at the Parsonage. Also, if you play an instrument and would like to join, arrangements can be made through Pastor Ginger or Lynn Jahl (978) 939-2691 Children and Adolescents Band/Choir: all ages encouraged to participate; please call me for details. Kelly Newton (978) 249-9252.

October Church Events

Couple's Retreat (Set aside some time, for you and your Soul Mate) Friday thru Sunday, October 28-30, 2005 at Haven of Hope, Alton Bay, NH. Cost \$250.00 per couple ~ Price includes meals and deluxe rooms w/private bath. You may reserve your accommodations with Pastor Ginger Asel 249-9155.

Harvest Party Time Again

Saturday, October 29, 2005 5:00 PM at First Congregational Church. Admission: A Bag of Candy. Costumes: Harvest/Farmers/Pilgrims only, if choosing to wear one. Supper: Steamed Hotdog with Chips and drink available: \$1.50 There will be many fun things to do including, Bobbing for Apples, Gourd Relays, Musical Chairs, Ring the Pumpkin, and more. This is a fun-filled time for all ages. To make a donation of sorts towards the Harvest Party, call Sue Veilleux (978) 249-5004 or Kelly Newton (978) 249-9252.

Save the Steeple Auction

Saturday, October 15, 2005 1:00 PM on the Parsonage Lawn. There will be refreshments, nibbles and bits. Bring the family and pack a picnic. A few of the 150 items to be auctioned off are: An Organ, Full Dining Room Set, Dressers, Chairs, Antique Items, a used computer, tools, and much, much more. If you would like to make a donation to the Auction, you may contact Pastor Ginger (978) 249-9155 for details.

Third Annual Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Piano Concert

On Wednesday, October 19th, the third annual LBS Memorial Concert will be presented in the ballroom at The Maples, the Bundshuh's home, on Royalston Common beginning about 8 p.m. Participants will include Benjamin West, Rene Lake and Deb Nunes performing beloved classical pieces on the Mason & Hamlin piano, formerly owned by Royalston's Katherine Cole. The concert will be followed by refreshments provided by the Ladies. The public is very welcome to attend. The concert is free, but donations to the LBS Scholarship Fund will be accepted.

Yoga

Brandy Lefsyk, originally from Royalston, and Pat Riox, fitness director of Athol YMCA, have started ongoing "Yoga For Everybody" classes. They are a very gentle beginners yoga class Thursday 10-11 a.m. at the Athol YMCA. Classes are also offered ongoing Thursday nights 6:30-8p.m. at the YMCA Athol and on Saturday mornings 9-10:30 a.m. at the Dance Studio South Main Street in Orange. Classes will be offered in the spring of 2006 at the Royalston Town Hall. For information call Brandy at (978) 544-7260 The first class is free. Mats and other props are provided.

Ladies' Bowling League has Vacancies

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 isn't necessary; love of fun is a must! Contact Ginny Gingras at 978-249-4951 or Barbara Denis at 978-249-4225.

1794 Meeting House

The folks at the 1794 Meetinghouse are taking a well-deserved break after a jam-packed summer season and spectacular from performances during the month of October, however they have a Sunday, November 27 concert planned. The "house orchestra," Quabbin Valley Pro Musica, will supply the Orange Congregational Church at 4 p.m. Conductor Geoff Hudson will present a collection of the old and the new: Faure's Requiem, with portions of a new choral work from Carolyn Brown Senior. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$12 for children and seniors. Info and tickets at 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).

Garden Club Discusses Winter Plants

Horticulturist Denise Bennett of Prospect Hill Rd will explore "Plants for Winter Interest," the many trees, shrubs and perennials that offer visual and structural beauty in the winter garden. The free program will take place Thursday, October 20 at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. It is offered by the North Quabbin Garden Club, a new organization with appeal for gardeners of all levels of experience. For more information write to gardens@millersriver.net.

Poetry Club Forming

The Royalston Community School Poetry Club is opening the book on another year of inventing imagery and lolly-gagging with language in early October. The club is free and open to all child poets in the community, including homeschoolers, Village Schoolers and RCS students. Under the tutelage of Mary Carnie, the club will meet from 3 - 4:00 p.m. at RCS once a week. The exact day is yet to be determined. Please call RCS to express an interest at 249-2900.

Band Instrument Lessons Available at RCS

Group lessons on band instruments are being offered at RCS on Wednesdays after school. The lessons are open to all children in the community and are taught by Bev Chadwick, a former RCS music teacher who has run a similar after school program at Briggs Elementary in Ashburnham for many years. Lessons last a half hour and cost \$8/student. Please call 249-2900 for information.

Two Cool Events in Early November at the Village School

Friday Evening, November 4 **enjoy a Lantern Walk, Contradance and Potluck** hosted by the Village School. This European traditional custom begins with a gathering around the fire, at the Village School Playground at 5 pm. Children will process around the playground with hand made lanterns glowing, gather for singing and a story, and then walk to the Town Hall, lighting the way with lanterns. Visiting children can bring homemade lanterns and join. The procession is followed by potluck supper at the Town Hall at 6 pm and contradancing led by the No Name Band and caller Norah Dooley. Donations welcome. Also, The Village School is holding an **Open House** on Sunday, November 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to visit the preschool, kindergarten, and the 1st-6th grade classrooms; meet teachers, students and parents. Arts and crafts projects and hands-on science activities for children will be offered in each classroom. There will be brief curriculum presentations.

A Tale of Two Turkey Raffles

The Royalston Fish & Game Club has one of the first fundraising Turkey Raffles; it takes place Friday, October 28, beginning promptly at 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse on Route 68 on the Royalston/Templeton town line. It's a fast-moving, fun night with \$1 spins for turkeys, variety meats, potatoes, apples and cider. Special raffles include Thanksgiving Baskets, the tickets for which will be available from any member after the October 5 meeting. Light refreshments include free clam chowder; a full selection of beverages will be available from the bar. Proceeds support the maintenance and improvement of this already-spectacular facility, and some of the open-to-the public events offered, such as the annual Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby.

The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is gearing up for their annual fundraising Turkey Raffle, slated for Friday, November 11, 7 p.m. at the Center Fire Station. Tons of turkeys, pounds of potatoes, and a wide variety of other good stuff will be won during the two-hour blitz. Basket tickets should be available later this month, for one of two chock-a-block full laundry baskets of Thanksgiving meal fixings. Proceeds from this and other fundraising events will continue to outfit our new Emergency Rescue Vehicle; continuing education for firefighters and rescue personnel; special equipment, supplies and protective gear. Generous support of the Royalston Fire & EMS Association results in lower property taxes.

Falls Road Fortuneteller

Halloween is a fine time for spooky stories. This one comes from pp 213-15 of *Caswell's History of Royalston*, which is available to be perused at the Phinehas Newton Library. Southern Richmond, New Hampshire and the northern section of Royalston near Royalston Falls were home to the Ballou family from colonial times into the 20th century. They were an important early family, and the New Hampshire side produced one of the 1st Baptist ministers in the region, an important early founder of the Universalist Church, the 1st president of Tufts University and the mother of President Garfield. The Royalston side of the border also had a famous daughter, "Old Nance Whipple," the fortuneteller. In the mid 1800s, she was known far and wide and her services were much sought after. The Rev. Albert Bryant, poet of Royalston's Centennial Celebration in 1865, described her with this poem:

"Ho, time is a Goblin, and awful the dance
Whose mazes return not, but always advance,
Through which his gay partners he gleefully whirls
And to bald, shriveled crones turns the fairest of girls."
So, laughed the strange teller of fortunes, Old Nance.

She dwelt in a valley far over the hills,
Her eyes were piercing, her accents were shrill,
Through her town and our town wandered her fame,
Till the sage and the simple, all ages came
To learn of the future: five dimes was the bill.

One day in December the schoolmaster sat
By her wide chimney corner spell bound by her chat,
As she told him how a widow with plenty of gold,
With houses and acres and beauties untold,
Would be his for the asking-with never a brat.

Now fleeter and fleeter the swift moments flew,
The chimney was wide and fierce the wind blew,
The smoke and the ashes drew out and drew in,
And the schoolmaster fancied the dame was so thin,
That he saw, for a moment, the firelight shine through.

The master was eager, the dame's tongue was brisk,
His fortune grew larger-and lesser the ris,
Till his locks rose upright and he screamed to behold
Old Nancy like burned paper rolled,
And up the vast flue disappeared with a whisk.

By the chimney still stands an empty arm chair,
To attest that my story is truthful and fair;
What became of the master I have never known,
And, for aught I can tell the merry old crone
Is completing his fortunes up in the air.





Congratulations and Good News

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

Welcome to baby **Craig Thomas Carey**, born to Wayne and Jaclyn Carey August 21st. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. Craig joins brothers Trevor and Riley.

Congratulations to **Carol Seco Rogers** and **Kevin Rogers**, who were married July 9. D.J. Seco was best man and Debbie Seco was maid of honor. The family resides on River Rd. Also, the Rogers, together with their neighbors, the Nolettes, are starting a new business in Town, Spectrum Construction.

Deb and Joe Nunes enjoyed having son **M.P. Kevin Nunes** return to their Athol-Richmond Road home for a two-week leave from the U.S. Army. While home, he delighted his sister Laura, by attending her September wedding in Delaware. Kevin is in the Military Police, working with traffic accident investigation. He is stationed at Camp Casey in Korea.



Memorial: Condolences to the family and many friends of **Winston "Winnie" G. Neale**, 92 of New Boston Road, who died August 28, 2005 at the Baldwinville Nursing Home. The South Royalston native and lifelong resident was borne to Alfred and Bertha (Fremeran) Neale on August 17, 1913. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Irene (Gagne) Neale, their son, Duane A. Neale and his wife, Joyce; their

children Todd Neale and Tricia Cummings; Todd's son, Curtis Neale; and Tricia's children, Daniel Cummings and Hannah Cummings. Mr. Neale's brothers Wesley and William preceded him in death. Mr. Neale worked into his 70's, and "retired" to gardening and sold apples that were second to none. He will be missed terribly by all who knew him. The family has suggested that memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church; 123 South Royalston Road; Royalston, MA 01368 or to the Residents Activities Fund in c/o the Baldwinville Nursing Home; P.O. Box 24; Baldwinville, MA 01436.

Food Coop Seeks New Members

In order to meet the required monthly minimum order, the Royalston Community Coop maintains a membership of 6-10 families. We currently have six regularly ordering families, and other families who order intermittently throughout the year. We are accepting a limited number of new member families, and will provide a guest copy of the catalogue for a month as a trial. If interested, contact Mary at 978-249-2598. The Coop has completed the transition to the new delivery schedule. October orders are due in to Brenda Putney bputney@crystal-mtn.com AND Mary Barclay royalston_community_news@yahoo.com by Thursday, the 13th, and will be delivered the following Thursday, October 20, between 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Officer **Sherry A. Miner** of the Royalston Police Department, recently completed a two weeks intense course at the Boston Police Academy. Officer Miner is now certified as a School Resource Officer and Dare Officer for our Community School.



Sarah Ramsdell, R.N. of Royalston, was one of 21 new graduates participating in a Clinical Internship program at Heywood Hospital. She invested more than three months in one-to-one mentoring by veteran R.N. preceptors, and had the opportunity to develop her abilities to prioritize, think critically, as well as to improve her patient assessment abilities, technical skills and level of emotional support for patients and their families. Congratulations. The nursing profession is fortunate to have you.

Athol Police **Lieutenant Karen L. (Divoll) Kolimaga** of Royalston, has just graduated from Worcester's Curry College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a perfect GPA of 4.0. Karen began her career in law enforcement in 1987, as a dispatcher for the City of Worcester P.D.. She joined the Athol P.D. in 1988 as a dispatcher, completed academy and was appointed Patrolman in 1989. She was promoted to interim Sergeant in 1999, named a permanent Sergeant in 2000, and promoted to Lieutenant in 2002. Kudos.

Mount Wachusett Community College Student Government Association **President Caitlin J. Barclay**, a third semester student from Royalston, provided a welcoming speech for the incoming 1,200 students at the college at orientation recently. She encouraged students to do more than just show up for classes, and challenged them to take part in some of the many activities the school offers.

Wildlife Sightings

Toward the end of August, **black bear** made their presence known about Town. Benjamin West saw a bear and two cubs on the hill along Old Winchendon Rd, which adjoins the Royalston Academy Conservation Area. A few days later Pat Jackson spied a bear in the same place. Vyto Andreliunas came upon a bear digging up yellow jacket nests for the tasty grubs near Falls Rd. Aaron Ellison had his honey hives smashed on Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd. Most likely, the vandal was a bear.



Coyotes serenaded the Common during the September full moon. The local dogs responded enthusiastically and tenaciously during this all night concert.

A big **bull moose** was sighted in the morning twilight on September 26 half way between the common and Doanes Falls on Athol Rd.

Three Ways to Support A-REF

The Athol Royalston Education Foundation is a private nonprofit group of local citizens which raises money for enrichment projects in the local public schools. A-REF money, combined with the enthusiasm and hard work of teachers and community members, has greatly benefited Royalston students. Over the last few years, A-REF has funded the Sandy Waters Nature Trail, and the Chess, Spanish, Math, Orienteering and Hiking/Photography afterschool clubs at RCS; as well as the Multi-Cultural Fair at ARMS and the Birds of Prey Program at AHS. To raise money for future enrichment programs, A-REF has three different opportunities in full swing this October. First, a wonderbar Oktoberfest with German food, music and beer will be held Friday, October 21st at the Elks Club in Orange. Please call Beth Gospodarek (249-0358) for tix. Also, a raffle is being held which includes great prizes: a cord of dry, split, delivered fire wood kindly donated by Sawyers Trucking and Logging of Royalston; a \$200 savingsbond from the Athol Savings Bank; a \$180 value family portrait package from Classic Photography and Framing by Molly Baxter; and a \$50 gas card from Huhtala Oil. Finally, a direct mail drive is underway. Please respond.

October is United Way Month

Virginia Gingras is this year's United Way Campaign Chairman As Chairman I always hope to go over goal, and last year we did, thanks to all of your generous contributions. We help six agencies: Literacy Volunteers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and the Athol Area YMCA. I know this year we have all donated to the hurricane victims, but I also hope to do well in our own community. I thank you for your help. Nancy Bolton will also be collecting funds for the United Way.

Recipe of the Month

This recipe comes from Virginia Gingras. Indefatigable Ginny, who celebrates her 71st birthday on October 23rd, is continuing this year as Royalston's United Way campaign chairman. No biggie? Consider that in addition to exceeding her UW goal each year, she maintains an ambitious volunteer schedule with the American Legion Auxiliary, is a whiz-bang bowler on TWO women's teams, serves as the bar manager for our busy Royalston Fish & Game Club, AND works a regular schedule at the Baldwinville American Legion Hall. And Ginny rarely misses a family get-together or party. This pasta salad is a favorite with her community minded family, including her sister, Peggy Langlois; her brother and sister in law, Bill and Phyllis Clark; and her nieces and their husbands, Laurie and Curtis Deveneau and Nancy and James Melbourne.

Ginny's Pasta Salad

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 lb. box of medium shells | 1 jar green olives |
| _ lb. provolone cheese | 1 jar black olives |
| _ lb. salami | 3 small tomatoes |
| _ lb. ham | 1 tsp. pepper |
| 2 green peppers | 1 tsp. oregano |
| 1 red onion | 1 tsp. garlic |

Prepare shells according to directions for al dente and rinse with cold water to chill. When drained, place in a large bowl. Dice cheese, meats, peppers and tomatoes, and add to the shells. Drain and discard juice from olives, and add olives to the shells. Pour Wish Bone Italian dressing over the top and toss gently to mix and coat ingredients. Chill until ready to serve. Makes a generous bowlful.

Check-It-Out-Before-Forwarding-It-To-Everyone

Jon Hardie

Well it seems to be time for the annual Email Hoax & Virus Hoax Message. This time it's prompted by the rumor machine working overtime accompanying the recent hurricanes. We are all hungry for juicy tidbits, and the more those tidbits sound sorta like something we are inclined to agree with anyway, we latch on and send it to forty of our friends, and they sent it to forty of their friends. It is a self perpetuating virus that clogs the email system and can really obscure true information. Soooo, If you get one of those juicy tidbits, check it out. Here are some great bookmarks <http://urbanlegends.about.com/> or <http://www.snopes.com/>

Perhaps the most damaging e-rumors are those that misrepresent and stereotype groups of people. For example "All those folks down in New Orleans should have left. They are really stupid" In fact, here are the results of a survey of evacuees in the Houston Astrodome: Half of Hurricane Katrina evacuees who were trapped in their houses by flood waters waited three or more days to be rescued; 55 % said their homes were destroyed along with all their possessions; 39% said they did not receive any help from government agencies or volunteer organizations during the flooding and evacuation; and finally, 38% of the people who stayed behind despite orders to evacuate said they were either physically unable to leave or were caring for a disabled person. The storm was horrific enough. The survivors of the worst storm in our history deserve more than being blamed for their desperate situation.

Some Local Relief Efforts

During the week of October 23-30, The Phinehas S. Newton Library will be collecting donations for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Contributions may be sent to the library with checks made out to the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.

The First Congregational Church has contributed \$500.00 to the Salvation Army, "Disaster Relief Fund."To donate, send checks, earmarked 'disaster relief,' to your local Salvation Army or to: The Salvation Army, Hurricane Relief Fund, PO Box 630243, Baltimore, MD 21263-0243.

The Royalston Community School held a penny/change drive and donated the proceeds to the Red Cross for hurricane relief.

Kim MacPhee of Stewart Rd organized a local response to "Project Backpack". Over 80 gently used backpacks, filled with school supplies, were donated by local families to school children from the Gulf states who had been displaced by Hurricane Katrina and were entering new schools in Gardner, Worcester, Shreveport LA and Otis Air Force Base. Often the donation included lovely personal notes. The Parent Teacher Groups at the Village School, Silver Lake School and RCS were instrumental in the success.

The Nursing Students at Mount Wachusett Community College are coordinating a food drive for those in central Massachusetts in need of assistance. Non-perishable items in non-glass containers will be collected from Mon., Oct. 3 to Fri., Oct. 13 at MWCC. Money will also be accepted. Contact Taunja Golding (978-827-4410) and Kim Shea (978-297-1157)

Read this Newsletter. It Could Save your Life.

The Royalston Community Newsletter is taking credit for playing a role in saving a poisoned 2 year old. The toddler had eaten enticing bright red berries. His mother noticed a bad reaction. She called the Poison Control Center, where staff told her to find someone who could identify the berries. The mother remembered reading a "Who are the People in your Neighborhood?" column in this newsletter about botanist Elizabeth Farnsworth. She looked up Elizabeth's number and rushed to meet her. The berries were identified as Nightshade. The boy was rushed to Athol Memorial Hospital and treated. He is now fine thanks to the quick-thinking mother and expertise of Elizabeth and hospital staff. Here at the newsletter, we say "Shucks, ma'am, we're just happy to help."

In your Own Backyard

Jeff Mangum



After reading about the Royalston toddler poisoned by deadly nightshade berries, you may be wondering about this plant. Yes, it is naturally occurring in Royalston and throughout most of the U.S., but is not native (just like over 4,000 other non-native plants brought to our soils.) It is native to parts of Africa, Asia, and Europe. *Solanum dulcamara* goes by many common names besides deadly nightshade, such as bitter-sweet (different from

American bittersweet *Celastrus scandens*), bitter nightshade, climbing nightshade and so on.

It is a member of the same plant family (Solanaceae) as tomatoes, potatoes, tobacco, and several hallucinogenic plants. Its toxins have been used for centuries in medicines, witch ointments, truth potions, aphrodisiacs, and hallucinogenic drugs.

Deadly nightshade is a perennial vine commonly found along roadsides, fencerows, and forest edges. It has beautiful flowers that look like yellow rockets with broad purple flames trailing behind them as they fire towards earth. The shiny red berries are beautiful too, and were even used in jewelry by Louis Tiffany (of Tiffany lamp fame) in the early 20th century.

These temptingly beautiful, and reportedly sweet-tasting berries are actually the poisonous part of the plant. Appearing in late summer, they contain solanine and other toxins. The toxins can cause abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, difficulty breathing, weakness and shock. Some sources warn it could be fatal, but an April 2002 *Journal of Toxicology* article said that in 18 years there were no confirmed fatalities from this plant. In any case, eating them is a bad idea and especially dangerous to younger diners.

Gardening Notes

Larry Siegel

Frost may or may not have occurred by the time these notes are read, but, if it hasn't, it most certainly will in October and almost certainly arrive by mid-month. First frost is generally a modest one, nurse some plants through it and you may benefit from a couple more weeks of frost-free growing. Our weapon-of-choice for frost suppression is the blanket, a mountain of which lay in wait in the corner of the barn. I do not bother covering basil; it succumbs at the mere hint of frost. Cherry tomatoes are winding down, but the ground sprawling slicing tomatoes are loaded, still, with fruit and worthy of attention. If frost threatens I will cover as soon as the afternoon sun is off them and hope for the best. The peppers, which are just now beginning to yield, will get special attentions (and extra blankets) to see them through the night. Beans and cucumbers must fend for themselves; I am beginning to tire of beans and cucumbers.

The garden has held up well during this particularly parched September. (Not so the well, which just ran dry.) Summer-like temperatures persist; we've had but one reading in the 40's, none in the 30's. My last planting of beans is already producing; there will be fall spinach throughout the month. October, for us, is brassica month. We'll eat broccoli one night, cauliflower the next, cabbage maybe on the third (and probably return to broccoli on the fourth. (Somehow we gotta find room on the plate for Chinese cabbage and kale.) Brassicas, all, the perfect fall crop.

Clearly, I'm spending more time in the garden than chores might indicate. It is my refuge, my retreat, my escape, really from the trials and tribulations of day-to-day living. They don't disappear; for a couple of hours, though, I need not dwell upon them. Those chores that are required are overwhelmingly harvesting and processing for winter grub.

October brings apples, grapes, and pears, sometimes in rather large quantities. For the first time we have a bumper crop of fall raspberries. Those, as well as the lingering cukes, beans, and tomatoes, will be picked every other day. The root crops are far less demanding. Onions and potatoes are out of the ground, but the beets and carrots and rutabaga and turnips and radishes and daikons continue to put on weight. They will remain in the ground throughout the month.

October is also leaf season. Leaf raking is not one of my favorite undertakings; were it not for the fact that all of them, in time, will enrich the garden, I might be inclined to rely on the wind to clean up the yard. I used to make one large pile; now, I have a series of smaller ones, closely situated to where they will ultimately be incorporated into the soil. When manure is available, it is added to the leaf pile, and everything is topped with a healthy dose of wood ashes.

There is a sense of finality surrounding frost. But the garden goes on and I go on and the world goes on, so frost is not quite so final as it seems.





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Local Produce Available

The **Putneys'** happy hens have outdone themselves this summer. If you would like some **eggs** for quiche, baking, boiling, throwing ... please give Brenda a call at 978-249-7787.

Trish Miller, just over the Royalston line in Winchendon (691 River Street - continuation of our Winchendon Road) has also been blessed with more **eggs** than her family can consume. Son **Chris Miller** has been raising **turkeys**, which will be available just before Thanksgiving. Give either of them a call at 978-249-5127.

Ted Neale (down Norcross, up New Boston, at Neale Place or from the South Village, out River, up Neale to Neale Place) expects some **vegetables** left on October 1. Ted has acorn squash, plenty of butternut, carrots, decorative cornstalks and haybales, and, if the frost holds off, may still have some zucchini, summer squash and tomatoes. You can drop by or call him at 249-6872.

Randy Divoll, 978-249-3158, is the one to call if you need decorative, mulch or good tight feed bales of **hay**. He will also soon have some of this past spring's **maple syrup** put up in retail-sized amounts. Also, Randy can arrange for a delivery of **log-length firewood**. Most will be freshly dropped logs, which should be cut, split and stacked for at least a full year before burning.

Diligent **Dante Divoll will rake leaves**. Call 978-249-3158

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