

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2006



Volume IX, Issue VII

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

Town Government Needs You

There is a town-wide appeal from the Board of Selectmen requesting citizen participation, there are seats to be filled on the Historic District Commission, Sewer Commission and the Open Space Committee.

September 1 Friday

Half-Day at Monty Tech

September 4 Monday

Labor Day Library, post office and schools closed

September 7 Thursday

2:42 p.m. **Full Corn Moon**

Ninth Grade Orientation at Monty Tech

3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Library Meeting.**

September 9 Saturday

TBA **Centennial Celebration**, Second Congregational Church

September 10 Sunday

Grandparents' Day

September 11 Monday

noon **early dismissal** at ARRSD elementary schools

7:00 pm **Library Trustee meeting** at the town library

September 19 Tuesday

7 a.m to 8 p.m. polls open for **State Primary**

September 21 Thursday

7:00 pm **"Invasive Exotic Species: A Threat to Our Gardens and to Our World,"** a joint presentation of the North Quabbin Garden Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club. At the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Members free, non-members \$5. Info: gardens@millersriver.net.

September 22 Friday

7:45 a.m. **New Harvest Moon** (and the moon is at apogee today, its farthest point – approximately 248,000 miles – from the Earth)

At sunset **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year 5767 begins

September 23 Saturday

12:03 a.m. **Autumnal Equinox**, first day of autumn

6:30 p.m. **Chicken BBQ** by the Royalston Fire & EMS Association, Town Hall; \$10

September 24 Sunday

4:30 p.m. **Patricia Klindienst**, author of *The Earth Knows my Name*, will speak about ethnic gardens around the United States.

At sunset, **Ramadan**, Islamic period of fasting and repentance begins.

September 27 Wednesday

7:30 p.m. **LBS business meeting**

8:00 p.m. **Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Piano Concert** in the Bundshuh's ballroom on the Common. All genders and generations welcome. Tempting refreshments. Call 978-249-6081 for information.

September 30 Saturday

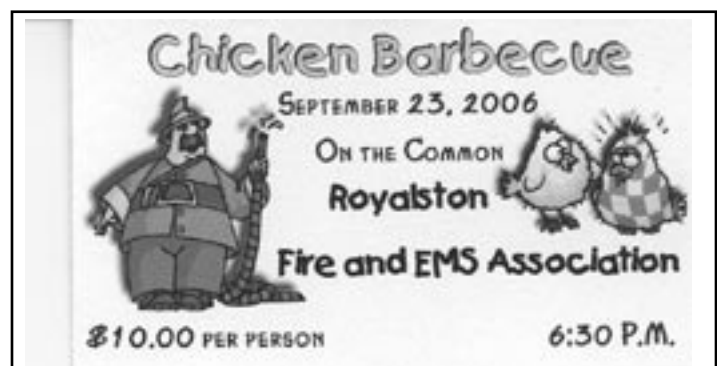
South Royalston School Reunion Association 103rd Gathering at Royalston Fish and Game Club. All students and staff ever involved with South Royalston Schools are welcome.

4:00 p.m. business meeting and "sip and chat"

6:00 p.m. dinner dance. tix \$10. Call President Luann (La-Roche) Simula at 978-249-8746 for more info.

October 11 Wednesday

7:00 PM Athol Bird and Nature Club - Meeting **Costa Rica: from Corcovado to Tortuguero. Royalston's Jacob & Joshua Morris-Siegel will share photos and stories** from their combined three trips to this Central American paradise. Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street Athol.



Get BBQ tix from any firefighter

Department of Public Works Update

The ongoing "Bridge to Bridge" project in South Royalston has made a lot of progress during the past summer. Brush has been cut back and removed, creating a park-like setting along the Millers River on Rt 68. Granite remnants of the old fire station and post office, including some beautiful hitching posts, were uncovered and will be strategically placed to create a small riverside picnic area. Care was taken to leave the Red Maples for their shade and fall foliage. The DPW wishes to thank the South Royalston Improvement Committee for its cooperation and input.

Unfortunately, the plan to improve Rt 32 has run into some speed-bumps, but it is proceeding. The State originally indicated that Royalston's portion of the planning cost would be around \$200,000, but recently informed the Town it could be up to \$650,000. That figure is unaffordable and the Town is looking for ways to cut costs on the project. The State has agreed to accept a "book job" on the plans. This means that all of the meets and bounds, grades and elevations and drainages must be submitted, but the entire set of plans do not need to be drawn up by an engineer. The DPW is working with Trowbridge Engineering of Westminster to come up with these abbreviated (cheaper) "book job" plans. In the near future, watch for information about a Public Informational Meeting, which will launch a consolidated citizen effort to attract more state funding for Rt 32.



The new dump truck has arrived. Work should go more efficiently with more time spent working on roads and less time dicking with the equipment. Falls Road and North Fitzwilliam Road are slated for paving projects and many roadsides will see brush cutting details this fall.

Open Space Committee News

This year, a blue brochure was mailed along with the property tax bills. The brochure, "Options and Incentives for Private Landowners", summarizes a variety of options available to landowners who are interested in preserving the agricultural, recreational, and/or open space values of their land. If you would like additional copies of the brochure, visit our web site and download the brochure or call a Committee member and request a copy. Other useful and interesting information is available on our web site www.royalstonopenspace.org. We would be happy to meet with you and discuss the brochure in more detail, answer questions you may have, or provide contact information for agencies or organizations that can help you.

You can contact us by email info@royalstonopenspace.org or by calling one of the Committee members. We are listed in the Royalston "Yellow Pages". The members of the Open Space Committee welcome your comments, questions and feedback. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

South Royalston Store Has Re-opened

Maureen Blasco



After a closed-down summer, the Country Store has re-opened. Long time residents Tom and Pat (Newman) Bushee, of Main St are in the process of buying the property. They've put a lot of energy into re-modeling and re-organizing the space. Though Tom is officially retired, he is excited about

taking on this project. The menu at the grill will feature both breakfast and pizza as well as subs and sandwiched, all day, every day. In the fall, Pat hopes to feature new soups and maybe offer take-out dinner specials. Beer, lottery tix, candy, newspapers, videos and of course, coffee to go are also available.

So, come by and support the re-opening of this Town resource. Hours are: Mon, Tues, and Weds: 7 am - 7 pm
Thurs and Fri: 7 am - 8 pm Sat: 8 am - 8 pm and Sun: 9 am - 6 pm

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairman

The compactor pad has been poured at the transfer station. By the time this goes to press, the new compactor will be in place. We expect an after Labor Day start up. What will change with this new set up? The main change is instead of six dumpsters to put trash they will be two sides to the hopper at the compactor. It will be important to maintain a one way traffic flow counter clockwise through the facility. This will allow for two side off loading at the compactor hopper. If no need to drop off trash, simply bypass the compactor completely and go around to the rest of the facility. We ask for everyone's patience during this transition. In the end, it will eliminate vectors getting into the trash and streamline the transportation end of the process.

The transfer station now can accept hardcover books. "Got Books" a company that specializes in distributing unwanted books, has dropped off a 20 yard closed top container to the right of the recycling building. The station will take hardcover books from any source, including libraries, schools, and homes. Put the books in cardboard boxes and deposit them inside the gaylord boxes in the

Memorial Day Committee

Mary Barclay is no longer collecting flags for retirement. The American Legion in Athol holds regular retirement ceremonies, and welcomes worn, faded or damaged American flags. Individuals are also able to respectfully retire flags on their own, according to the Uniform Code. Flags can be retired in a fire (wood stove, fire place, bon fire) set specifically for that purpose; flags should be completely consumed until nothing but ashes remain.

Royalston Police Department News

Royalston Police Officer Sherry A. Miner offers free Car Seat Safety Inspections for anyone who wishes to verify that a car or booster seat and installation are safe and meet current standards. She can also inspect car seats for damage or expiration dates. Car seats can also sustain damage when involved in a motor vehicle collision or are subjected to some other force such as being dropped. Individuals or groups who would like Officer Miner to provide a presentation on car seat safety may make an appointment by leaving a message at 978-249-5838.

Zoning Task Force Update

Vyto Andreliunas

The initial series of public meetings of the Zoning Task Force, eight sessions from April 4th to July 27th, raised some thoughts and ideas which we would like to share. First, we commend the hearty souls who braved the daunting task of confronting public policy issues arising from zoning and land use. The issues ain't easy, and sorting them out takes time and patience. But there were a lot of participants and their involvement will prove invaluable.

Most of us don't spend our free moments reading zoning bylaws, so it was no surprise that we spent time on what exists before we got into what, if anything needs to change. Overall, the effort we all shared in was one of revealing; what are the possibilities, how can we make them work? Because these are laws, they are often wordy and complex, which means we will need to work hard on accuracy and completeness. But for this phase, we have to concentrate on the objectives which are driving this process. These are: to make the bylaws legally defensible, up to date and consistent with state laws, responsive to current and reasonably foreseeable needs, and understood by the townspeople.

Our consultant, attorney Paul Bobrowski, has provided a series of memoranda over the course of these sessions in which he details legal issues, vulnerabilities, improvements in language and valuable suggestions on how to attain outcomes through use of various controls. He has and will continue to provide examples of bylaws that have been tested and proven. The constant theme of our meetings has been one of inquiry into what would make our community work better on behalf of the diverse interests which make it up. No issues have been decided, though several seem to have met general acceptance. These are: a better definition of home occupation, of accessory uses and structures, of permitted versus by-right uses, of accommodating housing needs (particularly for seniors), and a better way of preserving open space.

The next step will be to narrow down any issues that may arise as these suggestions are put into a framework, particularly those in the table of uses, an item that was much debated a year ago. The Planning Board will eventually begin its statutory task of public review from which there will emerge a final document for presentation to the Town Meeting. We will keep you informed of further meetings and publish the draft of resulting deliberations and outcomes as we go along. Please access the bylaws, memos, and schedules on our town's website www.royalston-ma.gov. Contact Kim MacPhee (249-0946) or Vyto Andreliunas (249-7341) on any questions.

2006 street lists are available for \$2.00, either at the post office or in the Town Clerk's Office

A Message from the Local Public School Committee:

"We Want You to Come Back"

Help us to rebuild the Athol Royalston Regional School district. Over the years, we have lost some of our best students to school choice. We want you back to be part of Red Raider Pride.

With the passage of the recent override, the voters of Athol and Royalston have shown they support efforts to improve our schools and to develop a challenging and rewarding curriculum for all our students. You should be aware that this was the first successful override ever passed in Athol, and it is to be used exclusively for the ARRSB.

If you have choiced out to another District over the past few years, we want to hear from you. We want to know what we have to do to bring you back home. Please call superintendent Anthony Polito. He wants to hear from you personally.

Rebuilding academic excellence will not be an easy task, nor will it be easy to win your trust, but we are ready to begin. The job will be difficult to say the least and everyone needs to lend a helping hand. School choice dollars that go to other districts, if brought back to the ARRSB, will go a long way in our efforts to make positive, long-term changes for our children.

We have developed a new school improvement plan, provided funds to begin replacing text books, and have introduced a new math curriculum. We offer advanced placement programs, dual enrollment for both juniors and seniors at Mt Wachusett Community College, which provides students with college credit before graduation. We have a very active and rewarding School to Career Program, which provides hands on career exploration for all students, whether college bound or planning to enter directly into the work force. Our award winning sports teams, art, and music programs will continue to move forward.

Athol Royalston Regional School District still has the best record in the region for placement at four year colleges. Many of our students over the years over the years have been accepted to the top colleges in the nation. This year was no exception; two members of the class of 2006 were accepted at Cornell University.

ARRSB has a proud and significant history. The first school in Athol was built in 1766, only four years after the town's incorporation. Be part of the history, be part of the improvement plan... come back to Red Raider country.

We can be a School District that all can take pride in, but we must make this a team effort. Let's work together to build academic excellence.

Central Office located at the Athol Royalston Middle School
1062 Pleasant Street, Athol 978-249-2400

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

979-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank yous

Hard Working Summer Reading Program Help

Sandy and Brian Knight for making multiple rocket launchers and providing air compressors, cutting the rings for the stepping stones, and mixing mortar.

Doreen Sawyer for donating all the colorful and wonderful stones, polished glass, and shells for the stepping stones.

Beth Gospodarek and Marjorie Chase for another fantastic tie-dye program.

Brenda Putney and Becky Divoll for loaning us their ice cream freezers so that we could make yummy homemade ice cream.

Heather Lively for volunteering during the Summer Reading Programs and really making my life much easier, especially when she mixed the mortar (check out the picture on the website).

Allison Zettel for sharing her love of reptiles:



Also to:

Tina Gemborys for leading great Kindermusik® programs for the preschoolers

Linda LeBlanc for leading not one, but two terrific, fun and educational bug programs and to both Linda and her husband, Ernie, for supplying all the wildlife for the pond life aquarium they installed in the Children's Room

Abby Divoll for help with reshelving in the young adult room

The Plummer family for donating a children's movie and **Tom Musco** for a movie

Janet Bettey for donating books and books-on-tape

Barb Richardson and Michelle McCassie for book donations

Kim and Bill Manser for taking pictures for us of the garden improvements in action

Rita Gates for donating iris for sale at the garden tour

Keven Barry for donating mulch for the library garden

Athol Granite for moving the Corser memorial bench to the garden.

And to all those who helped out in so many different ways this summer

Recent Donors to the Friends

Membership donations help support the library and its programs, including this newsletter and the recent summer kids' events; the Friends also provide supplemental funding for library purchases.

Alyce Mayo

Cedric and Gisella Nash

Garden Tour Blooming Success

Nearly 100 visitors enjoyed the recent garden tour organized by Maureen Blasco, so the event was another fine fundraiser for the Friends of the Library. Agreeing to let scores of strangers traipse by to gawk at your backyard is incredibly motivating to take on even more backyard chores and expense to spruce up the place. The Friends whole-heartedly appreciate the labor and thought these gardeners donated to this event. Many many thanks to **the Richardson family, Ted Neale, Sonja Vacarri, Marjorie Bassett, the Bouchards, the Morris-Siegel family, Linda and Ernie LaBlanc and the Coflesky family.**

Hamlet: The Play Was the Thing

What a piece of work was the The Royalston Shakespeare Company summer '06 production of Hamlet? How noble in reason? How infinite in faculty? In form and movement how express and admirable? Well it may not have represented the beauty of the world or the paragon of theater, but the RSC proved once again what 40 plus dedicated kids, 11 days, high expectations, a lot of kind community support and a classic script can bring about. Hamlet was a killer.

See for yourself. A DVD of the show is available to be checked out and there is a fine scrapbook of the show to be perused at the Phinehas S Newton Library. A few DVDs and t-shirts for purchase are also available. Extra DVDs can be ordered.

The Friends of the Library are proud to produce this summer theater workshop and would be remiss not to thank and re-thank the volunteer directors: **Norah Dooley, Maureen Blasco, and Beth Gospodarek** for their long days and late nights of toil. Thanks also to the **Town of Royalston** for use of the Town Hall, **Stephen Chase Contracting** for set construction, the **Salvation Army** for costume help, **Athol High** for lights, **the Cuttings** for pizza, and parents for willingness to pitch in.

www.royalstonlibrary.org

There are lots of new photos of summer events posted on the web. Click on and check them out. While online, notice some of the other links, including access to academic data bases, the perfect tools for convenient and reputable information to incorporate into any back-to-school research paper.

Writer Patricia Klindienst to Speak at Pat Poor Memorial Lecture on September 24th



We are pleased to have the author of *The Earth Knows My Name*, Patricia Klindienst, speak about ethnic gardens around the United States on Sunday, September 24th at 4:30 p.m. at the Library. This discussion is the first in the Pat Poor Memorial Lecture Series. Pat was an avid gardener, talented crafts person, engaged participant in town affairs, a knowledgeable reader, and wonderful person. She was a quiet but

active part of the library. She made sure we always had magazine subscriptions for young adults, donated countless books, and spent hours working on the card catalog. It seems fitting that Patricia Klindienst should be our first speaker in this lecture series. Patricia is a graduate of Hampshire College, a gardener, and a summer lecturer at Yale in creative writing. She spent several years traveling around the country visiting different gardens and gardeners growing vegetables from their native countries. She also visited a Pueblo in New Mexico that has remained true to its heritage of growing and eating traditional foods. She will discuss the importance of food in maintaining culture and connections. Her book has received widespread praise (I thoroughly enjoyed it) and is available at the library. Locally grown and homemade refreshments will precede her talk.

Preschool Story Time to Resume

Thanks to a grant from the Athol-Royalston Community Partnership for Children, the library will resume its Monday morning hours, opening at 10:00 a.m. with a story time for preschoolers at 10:30. Each week, there will be a story, a craft, healthy snacks, and time to look at books, play, and enjoy the library. The story time will take place on non-holiday Mondays, beginning September 11th and continuing through the end of June. No pre-registration is necessary and people are invited to drop in whenever it's convenient. Older children and others are also invited to use the library during this time. This is a great way to meet others with small children and to introduce children to the library. Jen Bartkus facilitates the program. She has attended the Central Massachusetts Regional Librarys' "Baby Reads" Programs.



Library Garden Expands

Thanks to generous memorial donations, the quiet garden in the back of the library is expanding. John Poor donated funds to purchase a beautiful granite lantern and shrubs for the garden. This is fitting as his late wife, Pat, was an avid and knowledgeable gardener. In addition, Bill and Lian Cutting have kindly offered to donate shrubs. Athol Granite volunteered to move the memorial bench dedicated to Donald and Dorothy Corser, Lian's mother and father, from the front of the building to a restful place in the garden. Sonja Vaccari is using her wonderful design sense to expand the garden slightly to accommodate new shrubs. Aaron and Michael Richardson are helping plant and maintain the beds.



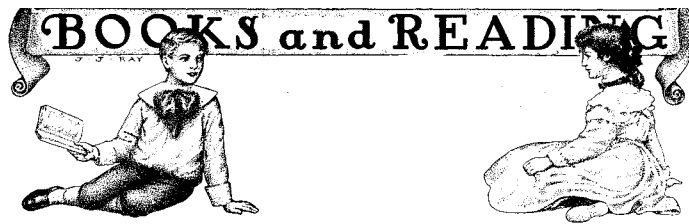
Originally, this garden was the brainchild and Eagle Scout project of Nathan Melbourne, who envisioned a pretty place where children would

be read to outdoors. With his scout leader, family, lots of volunteers and donated materials, he created a wonderful space behind our library. Many of the plants gracing the garden have come from local gardens and the annual plant sale.

This summer found many of the participants of the various programs enjoying snacks on the grass areas enclosed by the garden. The Friends of the Library are looking into installing a table that can be used for after hours access to the library's wi-fi internet hook-up as well as picnics and the like. We are fortunate to have had such a generous and dedicated group of people working to create this public space that enhances the library and the Town. A plaque describing the creation and evolution of the garden will be placed in the garden so that visitors can learn its history. For pictures of Nathan and the many volunteers involved in the creation of the garden, for children enjoying the space this summer, and to see its new look, visit the library's website www.royalstonlibrary.com for a photo exhibit. Better still, walk around, relax, and sit awhile in the garden.

GeoCaches Around Royalston

Winchendon Rds' Kim and Bill Manser, known as "Team Slinky" in the Geocaching world, were hunting down the cache in the vicinity of the library and let us know that there are 15 geocaches in Royalston. The geocache around the library, *cache-a-book 3*, was installed by Andrew Skinner of the Athol Public Library. If you're interested in the sport, you can check out the new book in the library, *Compete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching*. If you're at Royalston Community School this fall, join Joann Deacon's afterschool Geocaching and Leaf Peeping Club, sponsored by the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation.



Adult and Young Adult Nonfiction

Blackstone, Margaret *Girl Stuff: A Survival Guide to Growing Up*
Baugh, Kay Allen *Chocolate For A Woman's Soul*
Bushee, Joseph Jr. *Waterfalls of Mass: An Explorer's Guide to 55 Scenic Wonders*
Callery, Emma *House Beautiful: Ready, Set Decorate The Complete Guide to Getting it Right Everytime*
Doeser, Linda *Fabulous Fish In Minutes*
Dubus, Andre *Meditations From A Movable Chair*
Good, Phyllis *Fix-It and Enjoy-It! Cookbook: All-Purpose, Welcome-Home Recipes*
Gottlieb, Lori *I Love You, Nice To Meet You*
Griffith, H. Winter *Complete Guide to Symptoms, Illness & Surgery*
Ibrahim, I.A. *A Brief Illustrated Guide to Understanding Islam*
Junger, Sebastian *A Death in Belmont*
Klindienst, Patricia *The Earth Knows My Name: Food, Culture and Sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans*
Knapp, Caroline *Pack of Two: The Inticate Bond Between People and Dogs*
Kohlein, Fritz *Color Encyclopedia of Garden Plants and Habitats*
Kovacs, Maureen *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
Kushner, Harold S. *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*

Lamar, William *The World's Most Spectacular Reptiles*
Lattimore, Richmond *The Iliad of Homer*
Moehringer, J.R. *The Tender Bar*
Nolen-Hoeksema, Susan *Eating Drinking Overthinking: The Toxic Triangle*
North American Hunting Club *Whitetail Wisdom*
O'Faolain, Nuala *Are You Somebody? The Accidental Memoir of a Dublin Woman*
O'Rourke, P.J. *Eat the Rich*
Patchett, Ann *Truth & Beauty A Friendship*
Smith, Mary P. Wells *The Boy Captive of Old Deerfield*
Tolan, Sandy *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*
Urquhart, Thomas *For The Beauty of the Earth: Birding, Opera, and other Journeys*
Vaughan, Brian *Runaways Volume 1: Pride and Joy*
Vaughan, Brian *Runaways Volume 2: Teenage Wasteland*
Vaughan, Brian *Runaways Volume 3: The Good Die Young*
Whiteman, Dorit Bader *Lonek's Journey: The True Story of a Boy's Escape to Freedom*
Winchester, Simon *The Professor and the Madman*
Wise, Victoria *Gardner's Community Cookbook*

Adult and Young Adult Fiction

Anderson, Laurie *Halse Speak*
Adams, Douglas *Mostly Harmless*
Almond, David *The Fire Eaters*
Avi *Midnight Magic*
Barry, Dave *Peter and the Shadow Thieves*
Beagle, Peter S. *The Line Between*
Bechard, Margaret *Hanging on to Max*
Blume, Judy *Wifey*
Bohjalian, Chris *Midwives*
Bosnak, Karyn *20 Times A Lady*
Boyle, T.C. *Talk Talk*
Brooks, Geraldine *March*
Brown, Sandra *Ricochet*
Burke, James Lee *Pegasus Descending*
Carey, Jacqueline *Kushiel's Scion*
Carr, Josephine *The Dewey Decimal System of Love*
Castle, Jayne *Ghost Hunter*
Chapman, Janet *The Seduction of his Wife*
Clark, Mary Higgins *The Christmas Thief*
Coelho, Paulo *The Devil and Miss Prym*
Cook, Robin *Crisis*
Cooney, Caroline *The Voice on the Radio*
Cooney, Caroline *Whatever Happened to Janie?*
Cooper, Susan *Victory*
Cornwell, Patricia *At Risk*
Crafts, Hannah *The Bondwoman's Narrative*
Dean, Zoey *Some Like It Hot: An A-List Novel*
Dessen, Sarah *The Truth About Forever*
Dhami, Narinder *Bindi Babes*

Dodd, Christina *Trouble in High Heels*
Duncan, Lois *Don't Look Behind You*
Fairstein, Linda *The Kills*
Flanagan, John *Ranger's Apprentice: Book 1: The Ruins of Gorlan*
Flanagan, John *The Burning Bridge*
Fowler, Christopher *Ten Second Staircase: A Bryant & May Mystery*
Frost, Scott *Never Fear*
Going, K.L. *The Liberation of Gabriel King*
Graham, Heather *The Vision*
Greeley, Andrew *Star Bright*
Harrison, Lisi *Dial L For Loser*
Harvey, John *Darkness & Light*
Hoffman, Alice *Green Angel*
Hooper, Kay *Sleeping With Fear*
Hopkins, Cathy *Mates, Dates, and Inflatable Bras*
Horowitz, Anthony *Evil Star*
Horowitz, Anthony *Skeleton Key*
Howard, Linda *Cover of Night*
Johnson, Angela *The First Part Last*
Kelton, Elmer *The Raiders: Sons of Texas*
Klass, David *You Don't Know Me*
Malarkey, Tucker *Resurrection: A Novel*
Markoe, Merrill *Walking in Circles Before Lying Down*
Maupin, Armistead *Significant Others*
Mawer, Simon *The Gospel of Judas*
McCaffrey, Anne *Dragon's Fire*
Meyer, Stephanie *New Moon*

Miller, Kirsten *Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City*
Mlynowski, Sarah *Bras & Broomsticks*
Mlynowski, Sarah *Frogs & French Kisses*
Murdock, Catherine *Dairy Queen: A Novel Na, An Wait For Me*
Nichols, Lee *True Lies of a Drama Queen*
Parker, Robert *Blue Screen*
Patterson, James *Judge & Jury*
Penny, Louise *Still Life*
Picoult, Jodi *Harvesting the Heart*
Picoult, Jodi *The Pact*
Plumley, Lisa *Mad About Max*
Reichs, Kathy *Break No Bones*
Rendell, Ruth *End In Tears*
Roberts, Nora *Angels Fall*
Salamon, Julie *The Christmas Tree*
Shteyngart, Gary *Absurdian: A Novel*
Silva, Daniel *The Messenger*
Sinclair, Upton *The Jungle*
Slaughter, Karin *Trip Tych*
Smith, Scott *The Ruins: A Novel*
Sobel, Dava *Galileo's Daughter*
Steel, Danielle *Coming Out*
Turtledove, Harry *Settling Accounts: The Grapple*
Van Der Post, Laurens *A Story Like the Wind*
Weisberger, Lauren *The Devil Wears Prada*
Winston, Lolly *Happiness Sold Separately*
Woodrell, Daniel *Winter's Bone*



Congratulations and Good News

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

Amy R Nix and Jerry J Martin of Pleasant Street were married on July 22 in a civil ceremony held at Moores State Park in Paxton. Amy's son Anthony gave her away and her daughter Jessica was flower girl. Jerry's son Adriel was best man.



Kenji Shoul, Son of Mark Shoul and Ruth Suyenaga of 35 New Boston Road graduated from Athol High School in the class of 2006. He plans to attend Mount Wachusett Community College. Major: Automotive Technology.

Ashley Rae Willhite, daughter of Darlene and Mark Willhite of North Fitzwilliam Road, graduated from Vassar College with a major in geogaphy. She was awarded the Ellen Churchill Semple Prize.

Recipe of the Month

If you want to find **Betty Woodbury**, check around the Common. Every Wednesday morning, she's at Town Hall preparing for the Royalston Luncheon Group, of which she is an dedicated member. Last August 23rd was officially a B.A.D. day (Betty Appreciation Day) at the senior mealsite. In addition, Betty often helps the Friends of the Library get out this newsletter, and she's frequently at the 1st Congregational Church lending a hand. She enjoys her involvement in the community as well as crafts such as knitting and cross stitching on plastic canvas. Her work is frequently for sale at the annual church fair.

Betty was born in Athol and moved to Royalston as a newlywed in 1953, she has been an active member of our community ever since. Her daughter, Jan, was born at her North Fitzwilliam Rd home, one of the few in Town that can claim that distinction any more.

Here's her oft requested recipe for **Banana Bread**.

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs unbeaten
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3 bananas-mashed
- 1/2 cup walnuts-optional



Cream the shortening and sugar. Add eggs one at a time and beat thoroughly after each addition. Add flour, sifted with salt and soda, alternately with mashed bananas and nuts. Pour into large, greased loaf pan and bake one hour in moderate oven at 350 degrees.

James M. Barclay and daughter **Caitlin J. Barclay** completed the PADI Open Water Diver SCUBA certification late May in Keene then traveled to Australia for five weeks. Three of the weeks were spent in Cairnes, where the pair enjoyed two four-day "live-aboard" boat trips, made 18 dives around the Great Barrier Reef and earned their Advanced Open Water SCUBA certification. While in Australia, they visited several preserves with kangaroos, wallabies and koala bears; hiked into the rainforest; visited aquariums, the Toronga Zoo as well as the Opera House and Her Majesty's Botanical Garden in Sydney. Caitlin also took surfing lessons at Manly Beach, and toured the sites around the harbour.

Royalston singer-songwriter **Linq** has taken her new CD, *FAST MOVING DREAM*, to the airwaves across the country. As of August 20th she has been aired in eighteen states and two Canadian provinces. She will be performing at the 4th Annual Meetinghouse Musicfest in New Salem on September 23rd.

Local Cop In 9/11 Ride

Winchendon Police Officer **Ray Anair**, a Royalston resident, will be participating in his third consecutive Tour de Force 9/11 Memorial Bike Ride, undertaken each year in memory of the law enforcement officers killed during the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. Ray and the group will depart from the site of the former World Trade Center towers on Friday, September 8, and will arrive in D.C. on Monday, September 11,. The ride is a fundraiser to help support families of the officers killed in the line of duty. Donations are welcome in any amount, and may be made on-line at www.tourdeforce911.com/donation.asp, or at the Winchendon Police Department; 15 Pleasant St.; Winchendon, MA 01475. Tax deductible checks should be made to: Tour de Force with Ray Anair's name in the memo section.

Royalston featured at the Petersham Craft Center

The roads of Royalston will be featured in many of the collages by artist **Jane Duderstadt** in her most recent show at the Petersham Craft Center. The show runs Sept. 3-Oct. 12 with the artist reception Sunday, Sept. 10, 3-5pm. All are welcome. Jane and her husband Bill Wheatley lived in Royalston for several years in the early 90's and based their book, "Mr. Bumble and the Hippo" on their experiences there with their Cairn terrior Jimmy, aka Mr. Bumble. Many of the collages in this show of new works were inspired by the many walks taken throughout the area. Featured are the Athol Road, the South Royalston Road, the North Fitzwilliam Road, the Northeast Fitzwilliam Road, Doanes Falls, as well as several collages of Petersham where Jane and Bill are now living. Jane uses paper painted to create her whimsical collages. "I think of them as representational since they are all based on actual places. But sometimes the abstract element and the color take over and they take on a meaning of their own," says Jane. An artist for 25 years, Duderstadt has shown her work in Boston and New York as well as held several shows at the Phinehas Newton Library and Royalston Town Hall. The Petersham Craft Center is located on Route 32. Hours are Wed.-Sunday, 12 noon to 4 p.m. It is wise to call ahead, 978-724-3415, since it is staffed by volunteers.

Upcoming at the Village School:

Preschool and Kindergarten orientation are from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5. The first (half) day of school at the Village School is Wednesday, September 6. Wednesday evening, September 27 is **Curriculum Night** for the 1st-6th grade. People are welcome to come and hear a presentation of this year's curriculum by the classroom teachers. Call for the time. 978-249-3505. The traditional **Lantern Walk** takes place on Friday, November 3, starting with a bonfire at the school at 5:30, a procession led by children swinging lanterns in the dark to the Town Hall, potluck dinner at 6:00 at the Town Hall, followed by family contradance led by Norah Dooley and the No Name Band. Families are very welcome, be sure to make lanterns at home for your children to bring.

Help Wanted at the Village School:

Office assistant. 16-20 hours a week. Mostly mornings, some afternoons. Skills needed: good with people, great with kids, Word, Excel, Publisher and ability to multitask.

1st-3rd Grade Classroom Assistant. 4-5 mornings a week, 8:30 to 12. Will work with grade level math and reading groups. Need some experience in education, some college course work, gentleness and patience. Great opportunity for an education major who wants some classroom experience, under the direction of a master teacher.

After School Program Assistant. 3:00 to 5:30 daily, plus possibly Wednesday from 12-3. Working with the After School teacher, you will play with kids, help with homework, and help provide a gentle setting for children to "chill" after school. Great hours for a college student or a high school senior.

Please call Risa at the Village School 978-249-3505 for an interview, or email her at rise@villageschool.to, or send your resume and references to: Director, The Village School, P.O. Box 122, Royalston 01368.

Produce or Agricultural Goods to Sell or Trade?

Royalston residents with farm, garden and agricultural products (vegetables, honey, eggs, herbs, wool, maple syrup, hay, meat animals, firewood, plants, etc.) to sell or trade are welcome to market them through the monthly e-mails to members of the Royalston Community Coop. E-mails are exchanged a couple of times each ordering cycle, and details on what you have to offer and a way to contact you directly would be included. The RCC will not derive any income from this, but is always happy to promote local agriculture.

The September coop orders are due in September 7, and will be delivered September 14. If you would like coop members to receive a blurb about your produce or agricultural products, contact mclbarclay@juno.com or bputney@crystal-mtn.com. Royalston residents are also welcome to offer their goods in the RCN classifieds. Contact RCN at chasegos@gis.net or 978-249-0358.

S. R. School Reunion Association News

The 103rd gathering of the South Royalston Reunion Association has been planned for Saturday, September 30, at the Royalston Fish & Game Club. The brief annual business meeting – at which all former attendees of the South Royalston Elementary School are welcome to vote – will begin at 4 p.m., and will be followed by a sip and chat social hour. If you are a past student, staff or faculty member, please attend and bring some former classmates or fellow workers.

A PUBLIC DINNER & DANCE will begin at 6 p.m. with a sit-down dinner, followed by dancing to the extraordinary collection of 1950s and 1960s music of DJ DUANE NEALE, who is coming out of "retirement" for this one, special event. All are welcome. Tickets are just \$10 each. To reserve, call SRSR Association President Luann (LaRoche) Simula at 978-249-8746, Vice President Debbie (Alger) Vescovi at 978-249-9445, or alumni Roland G. Hamel at 978-249-4587 or Richard H. Lawrence at 978-249-6814.

Monty Tech News

"Vacationless Summer" is over at Monty Tech! Staff, faculty and administrators have been working hard to see that summer school and sports, as well as the first day of the 2006-2007 school year occurred without a hitch. The SchoolCom held its first meeting of the new school year, the "July" meeting, in late June. Summer school is long ended, sports physicals were held August 18, and practices are underway for football, volleyball, golf, cross country, field hockey, soccer, and cheering. The first day for teachers was August 28; August 29 for students. The first half-day is slated – already – for September 1.

Royalston was once again fortunate to have earned above the quota of three seats at this outstanding school. Once quota seats are filled, extras go to those who have the highest intake scores – that means the two extra Royalston students had outstanding attendance, unblemished behavior records and excellent grades from the last half of sixth grade through the first half of eighth grade. They also received superior recommendations from the sending guidance department, and impressed the interviewing guidance counselor at Monty Tech. Our five freshmen (three males; two females) join two sophomores, 14 juniors, and six seniors, bringing Royalston's total enrollment at Monty Tech to 27.

Restored Steeple is Tops

The work on the newly restored steeple on the First Congregational Church is done, but the fundraising is not. Skyline Engineering's Steve Quinn did a spectacular carpentry job, inside and out. He replaced rotted members, installed new ventilation ports, and painstakingly applied the outside surfaces in such a manner that it should withstand about a half-century of whatever New England and Mother Nature dispense. Donations are still being accepted to defray the expense, which came in closer to \$50,000 than the originally-planned \$35,000. Fundraising activities are being planned in hopes of closing the gap. Contact David Putney at 978-249-4218 for the latest fundraising event plans.



LBS Piano Concert Sept. 27th

Deb Nunes

The Fourth Annual Ladies Benevolent Society Memorial Piano Concert will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at 8:00 pm in the ballroom at The Maples on Royalston Common. The concert began four years ago to honor the memory of recently departed, beloved members of the LBS. Patience and Werner Bundschuh had acquired and restored the beautiful Mason & Hamlin grand piano that had once graced the home of Katherine Cole, a benefactress and arts patron who figured prominently in the annals of our town history. The Bundschuhs have once again graciously offered their beautiful home and ballroom to the Ladies for this ever growing, popular event. This year's participants will include Benjamin West and Deb Nunes. The business meeting of the LBS will begin at 7:30 p.m., and the concert will follow at 8 p.m., lasting approximately one hour. Home baked goodies and liquid refreshments will be served following the concert. We are delighted to invite the public (of all genders and generations) to come and enjoy the music and share in the memories of our Ladies.

Thayer Symphony Orchestra

A Memorial Concert is slated for Monday, September 11, the fifth anniversary of the 911 terrorist attacks. Proceeds of the concert will go to the On-Site Academy in Gardner, an internationally-known center for addressing Critical Incident Stress (CIS) in public safety and health care personnel. On-Site has been a leader in dealing with the unique type of "post traumatic stress" experienced by people who are in the business of saving lives. Tickets are \$15 students, \$18 seniors (60+) and \$25 general admission. 978-249-3518

Tool Town Live Free Concerts

Free outdoor concerts open to all ages and presented by the Town of Athol will be held weekends in September (with a rain venue in the Athol Town Hall) from 7-9pm.

Fri. 9/1, Al Plotkin Band, powerful and entertaining jazz/fusion ensemble, performs at Fish Park.

Fri. 9/8, Westbound Train (ska band) performs at Uptown Common, with special funk band guests, The Franks.

Sat. 9/16, Ray Hendricks Revival, hot new band described as a cross between Ben Harper and Tracy Chapman, at Uptown Common.

Sat. 9/23, Era For a Moment (power driven passionate chick band) and Hydraulic Sandwich (Greenfield based melodic punk band) at Fish Park.

Fri 9/29, The Ethan Stone Band performs at Fish Park. Athol's own songwriter/ recording artist is a rocker who blends traces of jazz, funk, soul, pop, acoustic, and other sounds.

Local non-profit groups will sell crafts and refreshments. Port-potties and bug spray with Deet available; www.tooltownlive.com for more information.

Meetinghouse Musicfest

The 4th annual Meetinghouse Musicfest is at noon on Saturday, September 23. Royalston's own Diane Lincoln (Linq) will be followed by Guy-Michael Grande, Jenny Jones, Michael Pickett, Sister Funk and Mark Erelli. The outdoor stage, wide open field and broad selection of foods makes this afternoon of Blues, Country, Folk and Rock a very family-friendly event. Tickets are \$12/ adults; children under 12 free. Information is available on line at www.1794meetinghouse.org or by calling 978-544-5200,

Royalston Fish & Game Club News

It must be fall – **Pitch Tournaments** begin on September 5, 7 p.m., and continue through December on Tuesdays. All are welcome. Bring a partner if you can – if not, they'll try to pair you up there. The first club meeting following the summer hiatus is Wednesday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m. All members are welcome. Directors will meet at 7 p.m. Meetings have been moved back to second Wednesdays, September through June.

Garlic and Arts Festival in Orange

Saturday and Sunday September 16 and 17 go enjoy garlicky food, art for sale (including Royalston made crafts), live music (including folksinger Dar Williams) and games for kids. Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Chestnut Hill. Follow Signs. Admission \$4.

KATZ, Local Womens' Bowling League Re-forming

The Katz Women's Bowling League begins the new season on Monday, September 11, 9:30 a.m., at Playaway Lanes in Winchendon. About twenty women from Royalston and Winchendon belong, in teams of three, and play on a weekly basis from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 11:30 a.m. New individuals to fill open slots, and new teams of three are welcome at any time. No prior bowling experience is necessary. Having fun is a must! For more information contact Karen LeBlanc at 978-249-3135 or drop by some Monday morning around 9:30 a.m.

Women's Christian Fellowship Group Ready for Holidays

The Women's Fellowship of the Second Congregational Church begins the fall season Wednesday, September 6, with a 6:30 p.m. meeting in the church parlor. Plans for the holiday season will be among items discussed. All women are invited. Contact Luann Simula at 978-249-8746 for further details.

Garden Club Explores Exotic Invasive Species

Bittersweet strangling trees? Knotweed overwhelming the river-side? Honeysuckle taking over the forest? If you have seen and worried about any of these problems, you can learn more about "Invasive Exotic Species: A Threat to Our Gardens AND to Our World." Cynthia Boettner, coordinator of the Connecticut River Invasive Plant Control Initiative, will present a program exploring what such plants are, why they pose a threat, and what can be done about them on Thursday, September 21, at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Jointly sponsored by the North Quabbin Garden Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club, the program is free for members; others are asked for a \$5 donation. For more information write to gardens@millersriver.net.

Artists in their own Milieu

The Back Roads Studio Tour will be held on Saturday, September 30th and Sunday, October 1st, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. inviting the public to visit their studios during the first weekend of October for a rare view of artists in their workspaces. This self-guided tour through the picturesque towns of central Massachusetts reveals quality art and crafts produced here. For more information, visit www.backroadsstudiotour.com.

Wildlife Sightings

Black Bears: **Russ Long** saw a black bear on Butterworth Rd in late June, **Chris MacNamara** spotted a bear at dusk in the field on Rte 32 across the street from Diane Lincoln's and **Brandon Jeffrey** was jogging on NE Fitzwilliam Rd when he came across a large black bear 10' from the Jeffrey home. Furthermore, on July 10th, a bear about four feet tall visited the **Nunes'** bird feeders at their house on Rt. 32 near the Newton Cemetery. Joe had to scare him/her off 4 times during the night. The bear was only interested in the birdseed; it destroyed the feeder, but didn't go near the beehives.

Kathy and John Chencharik saw a mother moose and her two calves crossing Winchendon Road.

In Your Own Backyard

Beth Gospodarek

Disconcertingly, there were a lot of tomato hornworms in my backyard this August. This 4" chartreuse caterpillar with a spine on its end looks like something from Alice in Wonderland. It has 8 pale diagonal stripes and several yellow bulbous dots that serve as false eyes on its sides. Such a huge and fantastic creature ought to be easy to spot, but in fact it is perfectly camouflaged in a tomato patch and what the gardener inevitably notices first is not the worm, but the denuded plants, stripped of foliage seemingly overnight, and its tell-tale dark droppings below. As these caterpillars can eat 4 times their weight in a day and live for a month, indifference to their presence may lead to crop failure.

What is a gardener to do? Handpicking followed by ruthless murder works well, but it takes patience to find the hornworms. They tend to avoid the hottest times of day when they'll be more apt to be buried in lush foliage at dawn and dusk, they are easier to find when they are on the ends of branches. Once found, there is still the problem of what to do with it. The thing is as big as a mouse and squishing it by hand is not for the squeamish. Conking with a rock, snipping with shears, grinding under the heel of a shoe or dropping into a bucket of water are all effective and locally successful (if gristly) methods of eradication. For the waste-not, want-not minded, try making fried green tomato hornworms. (Basically, dip the worms in egg and white cornmeal with salt and pepper and fry in olive oil. Reputed to taste very "chlorophyll - rich".)

Brachonid wasps are a natural vector to the hornworms. Look for them in July and August laying their eggs on the caterpillars. When the wasps hatch, their maggots feed on the flesh of the caterpillar. It is good not to disturb the writhing carcass because the more generations of wasps that grow to maturity in the garden, the fewer hornworms that will survive.

Also, roto-tilling the tomato patch in the fall after frost can help prevent future infestations. After the tomato hornworms eat up the late summer tomato patch, they pupate in the soil for the winter. In late June, they hatch out as huge hawk moths. These moths lay a single pearly green egg on the underside of a tomato leaf and die. By late July, the caterpillars hatch again and the tomato carnage begins again. Digging up the soil in the patch in the fall may disturb the pupas enough that this life cycle is interrupted. Take heart, there is only one generation per season.

Garden Notes

by Larry Siegel

To describe events in the garden during the past two months as dramatic would be to understate severely these events. When I last wrote (during the third week of June), the transplanted seedlings were barely a foot high. Beans, cukes, squash, corn, most everything else, had hardly emerged from the ground. Now, in this the onset of the third week in August, the garden overwhelms with its lushness and its bounty. The sweet corn stands at seven plus feet, dwarfed by the nine feet tall popcorn. I have cucumber vines that have climbed to the top of a ten foot trellis and begun working their way back down. Nothing in the garden, though, nothing compares with the enthusiasm of a well-placed pumpkin seedling atop a compost pile. Twenty-one feet and there is no compelling reason for it not to extend another ten feet before frost puts an end to it all.

I know, any eighth grade textbook can explain the workings of the seed and its ultimate development into a productive plant, but, for me, it remains almost magical. I drop a seed into the ground and a couple of months later there is food for the table. It is payback time: the energy previously expended in garden preparation and maintenance has provided its rewards. Finally, I get to consume some of that energy I have expended. There has, in fact, been some harvesting since mid-April, but the magnitude and diversity has increased significantly. Virtually every day there is something to be picked. Thankfully, there is no garden chore as rewarding and I eagerly anticipate each day's haul. The burden, if there be one, is to ensure that this harvest be consumed. I find it a dereliction in duty if some of it is not. It almost goes without saying that the daily meals are built around the garden yield. Winter needs are satisfied by the ongoing processes of canning and freezing. Much of the surplus is peddled at the weekly Amherst Farmers' Market or passed on to neighbors and friends. We are pigless this year (for the first time in twenty-five years), but the chickens have become consumers of last resort, either pecking away at those otherwise unused vegetables or kicking them around their yard (where they will eventually decompose and enrich the soil).

Nature abhors a vacuum. So, in fact, do I. As soon as a bed opens up, I re-plant or re-fill it. The pea beds have long since been occupied by cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower plants; fall spinach is up, and thriving, in the former garlic bed. Cabbage and celery seedlings were recently retrieved from a dumpster behind a produce stand and found a home in the just harvested wheat beds. The likelihood of mature cops developing from these plants is small, but what is gardening if not a challenge?

Finally, I am pleased to report that we have begun eating the corn. I am even more pleased to report that the raccoons have not.





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House Cleaning in your home (Royalston and surrounding towns) - 4 hours \$60.00. Ask for Fran, 978-895-0817 (cell phone).

Wanted: 10' x 10' straight leg (not slanted) E-Z Up canopy. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.

Info sought about John Fitzgerald - He lived in Royalston and died in 1933 at the Harrington farm. If anyone has any information or photos about Fitzgerald or his family, pls email : lacount@aol.com or call the library

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01331

Royalston Resident
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Newsletter Staff

Editor: Beth Gospodarek
Layout: Stephen Chase
Circulation: Jim Kelley
Treasurer: Barbara Willhite
Sponsorships: Stephen Chase
Staff: Maureen Blasco, Deb Nunes, Mary Barclay, Larry Siegel

How to Contact Us

Submission deadline for October issue is: Sept 23

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net

Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386

Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)

Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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