

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

October 2006



Volume IX, Issue VIII

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

Calendar of Events

October 2 Monday

Yom Kippur

October 5 Thursday

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome.

October 6 Friday

Counselors' Day at Monty Tech

11:13 p.m. **Full Harvest Moon**

October 7 Saturday

10 a.m. **Youth Group Hikes Monadnock**, meet 1st Cong. Church
(Rain Date: Oct. 14)

8 p.m. **Thayer Symphony Orchestra** at Monty Tech 'Gala Opening'

October 8 - 14

Fire Prevention Week

October 9 Monday **Columbus Day Observed.**

Schools, banks, post offices and library closed.

October 10 Tuesday

noon **early dismissal ARRS elementary schools**

October 11 Wednesday

7 pm **Slides and Stories of Costa Rican** wildlife sightings with
Jacob and Josh Morris Siegel at the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

October 12 Thursday

5 p.m. **Royalston Coop Orders Due** for delivery on the 19th

October 14 Saturday

7 p.m. **"Shiloh"** in Concert at 1st Congregational Church

October 16 Monday

midnight **The deadline for Royalston Cultural Council-
grant applications** Info: Marie 575-0654 or Andrea 249-2705.

October 18 Wednesday **Last day to register to vote**

or change party in November state election for US senator, gover-
nor and other offices. 2-4 p.m. and 7 - 8 p.m at Whitney Hall.

October 19 Thursday

7 p.m. **"An Eye for Iris,"** by Orange iris expert Steve Smith and
sponsored by the North Quabbin Garden Club (100 Main Street. Athol).
Members free, nonmembers \$5 Info: gardens@millersriver.net

October 20 Friday

7 pm **Storytelling Workshop:** *The Wild Man of Royalston
and Other Eerie Local Tales* with Norah Dooley at the Phineas S
Newton Library. Hear stories and bring your own tales of the unex-
plainable. Recommended for ages 9 - adult.

October 21 Saturday

7 - 10 p.m.

Oktoberfest sponsored by the Athol-Royalston
Education Foundation at the Ellinwood Country Club. Micro-
brewery beer sampling, music and dancing to the Every Day
Blues Band, German appetizers and desserts and traditional dance
instruction included in ticket. Suggested donation \$25-50. All
proceeds fund enrichment activities in our public schools. (At RCS,
A-REF has funded a nature trail and after-school chess, math,
Spanish and hiking/ photography clubs.) Call Carla Rabinowitz
249-4422 or Beth Gospodarek 249-0358 for tix.

October 23 Monday

7 pm **Library Trustee Meeting**

October 24 Tuesday

Sunset **Id al-fitr**, the celebration of the conclusion of Ramadan,
Islam's period of fasting and repentance.

October 25 Wednesday

11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club's Spooktacular Party** and
Brown Bag distribution at Town Hall

7:30 p.m. **Ladies' Benevolent Society** meets; Program on Monty
Tech opportunities. Call Kim MacPhee 249-8946 for venue.

October 26 Thursday

7-9 pm **Workshop to discuss options for property owners who
want to conserve their land**, including information about a new tax
incentive, at the Orange Town Hall. Refreshments. RSVP 978-248-
2118 or at info@partnership.org. Sponsored by the North Quabbin
Regional Land Partnership.

October 27 Friday

1:15 pm

Theater at the Mount presents *Miss Nelson has
a Field Day* in RCS Cafeteria. Funded by the Royalston Acad-
emy. Community welcome. 249-2900 for info.

7 pm? Royalston Fish & Game Club's annual **Turkey Social:**
free chowder with crackers and coffee and other beverages avail-
able for purchase. Turkeys and other holiday supplies raffled at
three spins for a dollar. Two brimming Thanksgiving baskets
raffled also. Info: Tracy Smith at 978-249-3103.

7 - 8:30 **Halloween Dance at RCS featuring the
great local band, Melanie and the Blue Shots.**

Students, current and former, ever attending the
Royalston Community School and other commu-
nity members are invited to come in costume to
celebrate the 10th anniversary since RCS opened. Tix available
in advance at school or at the door until sold out: \$5 per child (maxi-
mum \$10/ family.) Benefits the 6th grade trip to Nature's Class-
room. Info: 249-2900.



October 28 _____ Saturday

noon - 2 pm **Wildlife tracking workshop** at Tully Lake with Nick and Valerie Wisniewski of Walnut Hill Tracking & Nature Center. Benefits Friends of Tully Lake. \$25. Preregistration required. Mail your contact information and a check made payable to Millers River Watershed Council, to Maureen Blasco, 67 Norcross Road, Royalston, MA 01368. For info: 978-249-5138.

4-7 pm **Town Halloween party** sponsored by the Police Dept. Games and a Spook Walk at Town Hall. All ages welcome. Adults and teens needed to help run the event. Pls call Chief Deveau 249-5807 or Beth Gospodarek 249-0358 to offer assistance.

5 pm **Harvest Party** at the 1st Congregational Church

October 29 _____ Sunday **New Beaver Moon**
2 am **Daylight Savings Time Ends.** Clocks fall back one hour.

October 30 _____ Monday
10 am **Preschool Storytime Halloween Party** at the Phinehas Newton Library on the Common. Costumes encouraged for pre-schoolers and their caregivers. Drop in for healthy snacks and seasonal stories. Free.

October 31 _____ Tuesday
6 - 8 pm **Trick or Treating** - Children and groups should have flashlights. Officers will be in the areas of South Royalston and The Common to assist with traffic safety.

Nov. 1-15: **World Water Monitoring Days.** Choose one day and pick a local water body to monitor for temperature, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. Monitoring kits provided. All ages welcome. No prior experience needed. Call or email to register dave@dhsml.net or 978-413-1772.

Save the Date:

November 3 _____ Friday
5 pm **Village School Lantern Walk, Pot Luck and Contra Dance** with the No Name Band. Community welcome. Families \$10.

7 pm **Mystery Writers presentation** at Phinehas S Newton Library.

November 7 _____ Tuesday **Election Day**
No School ARRSB; Professional Development Day

November 10 _____ Friday
7 pm **Firemen's Turkey Raffle** at Fire Station
November 11 _____ Saturday
6:30 pm **Ladies' Benevolent Society Braised Beef Supper** at Town Hall. See member for tix. Adults: \$10 and kids: \$5.
7 pm **First Open Mic** of the season at Town Hall.

Post Office Has a Phone

The Royalston Community Post Office now has a phone/fax machine; the number is 978-249-4242. Our hours are 7:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Watch your mailboxes for our stamps by mail brochure. You can order stamps by filling out the form and enclosing a check. Then, leave it in your mailbox or drop it in any collection box. Your stamp order will arrive at your home mailbox in a couple of days.

It's Just Your Gratitude

Andy West, Selectboard Chair

Did you know that Royalston runs on volunteers? Take a few minutes to think about it. A seat on the Board of Selectmen provides a great window to view the workings (and workers) of government. The volunteers of Royalston are both appointed and elected, paid and unpaid. These public servants put in the hours required for their positions and more. They leave their homes and families to hold evening office hours or leave their child's school play to answer an emergency call. They hold meetings and take training. They research laws and grants. Much of this happens at night and on weekends. Time is precious for all of us these days. Think of what it takes to make this commitment to the Town. State and federal laws, Dept. of Homeland Security rules, and professional certification continue to put more demand on local government to comply with accreditation and knowledge requirements. Larger towns hire full time professionals. The people that work for Royalston are performing these same professional tasks – often at a part-time or no salary.

You know these dedicated volunteers; they are your neighbors. They are doing this for you and for Royalston. Why not take a few seconds and thank them?

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, BOH Chair

The delivery of the trash compactor has been delayed. It should be in place by the time this goes to press, so stay tuned.

The transfer station democontainer has been getting a lot of use lately. This container has been there as a service to residents with bulky waste and construction and demolition debris. Small business contractors have found the container convenient and its use has grown considerably. The charge is \$120 a ton which is what the BOH pays to empty the container. Most of the time, the attendant tries to make a fair assessment of the material in order to arrive at the fee. This can be a problem when heavy items such as roofing material are involved. Consequently, in order to keep this service available to small commercial contractors and not incur a tax subsidy by the town, we ask that these contractors come in with a fair weight assessment of their loads. We will use this weight assessment and the amount of space the load will take in the container to arrive at the fee. We ask your cooperation in this matter.

Next fiscal year we will be asking for funding for a set of scales. If scales are installed, it will then be a simple matter to assess the correct amount for the load. We have heard some contractors at times complain about the assessment. We respond by saying the cost would be more if you had to rent a dumpster for your work site plus shipping and tipping for the demo. We are only trying to be fair and equitable to everyone involved. If anyone has any ideas concerning this issue, contact BOH chair Phil Leger via his pager 978-36-1553.

Town Halloween Events

Curtis Deveneau, Police Chief

Children's Halloween Party - will be held at the Royalston Town Hall on Saturday, October 28, 2006 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. There will be games for all ages, a haunted spook walk and prizes. Anyone (especially teens and tweens) interested in working skits in the spook walk or with the games please contact Chief Curtis Deveneau at 249-5807 or Beth Gospodarek at 249-0358. The games will start at 4:00pm. The walk should start at about 5:00pm. It is suggested that each family attending bring a bag of candy to be shared the treat bags for the children. If have attended in the past, we hope to see you again and if you are new to the community, please come, meet your fellow community members and have a great time.

Trick or Treating - Will be held on Tuesday October 31, 2006 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. It is recommended that costumes be bright in color and have some reflective striping. Children and groups should have flashlights to make themselves more visible. Officers will be in the areas of South Royalston and The Common to assist with traffic safety.



Cultural Council Resumes Open Mic Nights and Has More Money than Usual to Grant

Marie Claire Humblet, Cultural Council Chair

First Open Mic. The first Open Mic is scheduled for November 11 at 7pm in the Town Hall, (This is indeed the second Saturday of the month, but starting in December the show will again take place as always, the first Friday of each month until April. The Open Mic is sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, a local agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Seasoned and not-so-seasoned artists are all welcome. Expect beverages and nicely baked goodies to launch the season properly.

The Royalston Cultural Council is to receive \$4000 to organize cultural events in 2007. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has received from the State legislature a large increase in the money they make available to local councils. Royalston will receive \$4000. Let us make the best out of this. The survey conducted this spring let the Cultural Council know that people want more community gatherings:concerts, dances, more plays especially comedy. But we trust the community to generate great ideas in other areas as well. Remember that local artists always get priority when the time comes to award this money.

Applications for 2007 grants are available at the Post Office, in the lobby of the Library or on line at www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.pdf Three copies of each application need to be sent to The Royalston Cultural Council P.O.Box 125. **The deadline for applications is October 16.** For information call Marie 575-0654 or Andrea 249-2705.

Have you ever thought about conserving the fields, forests, or wetlands on your property?

Kim MacPhee, Open Space Committee

If your answer is Yes, then you may be interested in learning more about a new federal income tax benefit that can save you money while protecting your land. This income tax benefit was recently signed into law as part of the 2006 Pension Act. In a nutshell, this tax benefit:

- Allows a 50% federal income tax deduction (increased from 30%) for the value of a conservation restriction donated by a landowner to an interested non-profit land trust, state conservation agency, municipality or other qualified organization.
- Permits the landowner to apply any excess deduction for up to fifteen additional years (increased from just five), or until the value of the conservation restriction donation is used.

A hypothetical example of how the new 50% federal income tax deduction works. Assume a landowner donates a conservation restriction valued at \$290,000 to a land trust. The landowner's adjusted gross income in the year of the gift and the next fifteen years is \$50,000. Assuming that the landowner's income remains constant, the landowner could use the charitable deduction resulting from the conservation restriction as follows:

$$50\% \text{ of } \$50,000 = \$25,000$$

The conservation restriction value can then be deducted like this:

Year 1: \$25,000 Year 5: \$25,000 Year 9: \$25,000 Year 13: \$0
Year 2: \$25,000 Year 6: \$25,000 Year 10: \$25,000 Year 14: \$0
Year 3: \$25,000 Year 7: \$25,000 Year 11: \$25,000 Year 15: \$0
Year 4: \$25,000 Year 8: \$25,000 Year 12: \$15,000 Year 16: \$0

Act soon: There is only a small window of opportunity to act on this new tax deduction, which ends December 31, 2007.

Why participate? Conservation restrictions leave the ownership of the land in your hands while permanently protecting important resources. You can continue to live on and use your property for activities such as farming, harvesting timber, and hunting, while ensuring that the land you love stays protected for future generations. Later, if your land is transferred or sold, the conservation restriction stays with the land.

Workshop for more information: The North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership (NQRLP), a collaborative effort of public and private land conservation organizations, is hosting a workshop where you will be able to learn more about this recently approved tax incentive for land conservation. The workshop will also address other options available to you for protecting your land, including gifts, sales, bargain sales, conservation buyers, bequests, and partial interests. Land protection specialists and a land use attorney will be on hand to answer your questions. The workshop will be held on Thursday, October 26th at the Orange Town Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in attending a workshop, or if you would like more information, please RSVP to Jay Rasku at 978-248-2118 or at info@partnership.org.

Through land conservation, individuals like you can make a real difference for the future of our town and our region.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

979-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Recent Membership Donations to the Friends:

Buddy Dyer

Dan, Kay and Ben Schodek

Marian Taylor - donation in memory of **Wm. Barry Altieri** who passed away June, 24 2006.

Thank You's

Diane Lincoln "Linq" for her new CD

Janet Bettey for several movie and book donations

Michael Mann for a book donation

Marsha Charest for many supplies

Jim and Pat Kelley for movie donations

John Poor for plant donations for the garden

Bill and Lian Cutting for donations of stone planters

Tom Musco for audiobook donations

Did You Know?

Many people have recently signed up for library cards. Most are surprised at the diversity of the collection and the services available. Further, they are surprised that we offer music CDs and movies to borrow – for free. Patrons can borrow CDs for two weeks and movies for a week. Maybe, you too, would be surprised at what we have available. All the new books are separated and kept right out front for about six months, which makes browsing for that one you just heard about easier. Don't know what you want to read? There's a patron favorite section for just returned items that people really enjoyed reading. Same thing for books-on-CD and tape. Our young adult circulation has significantly increased and a separate room just for young adult fiction makes browsing easy there too. And, of course, the children's room is full of not only books, books-on-tape and CD, and music, but also toys and games that can be checked out. This is your library. Stop by and see what's available.

Visit the Library Garden

Work on the garden behind the library has been wrapped up for this year. If you haven't visited it, stroll through and rest awhile. Our library has been graced with a permanent addition of extraordinary beauty. Much thanks go to Nathan Melbourne, whose idea and hard work originated the garden as his Eagle Scout project and to Sonja Vaccari and Aaron and Mike Richardson, who enlarged and planted shrubs in the garden. Also thanks to the Vaccari family for creating another bench at the top of the rise, to Athol Granite for moving the bench to the garden, and to Lian and Bill Cutting and John Poor for donating the funds for the shrubs and several plants. We would also like to thank Bill and Lian Cutting for donating new stone planters for the steps of the library.

Spooky Storytelling Workshop

Everybody's got a story. Join professional storyteller Norah Doolley to hear some seasonal stories and perhaps tell one of your own on Friday, October 20 at 7 pm at the library. The 1870s tale of the **Wild Man of Royalston** as well as the 1915 account of the **Soothsayer of Falls Rd** will be told. Participants will also be welcome to share their own experiences of the unexplainable. Recommended ages are stout-hearted 9 year olds through adult. Cider and pumpkin bread served. Pre-registration not required but helpful. 249-3572.

Mystery Writers at the Library

On Friday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m., three author-members of **Sisters-in-Crime**, a worldwide organization dedicated to combating discrimination against women writing crime fiction, will discuss their books and this genre at the library. Lisa Kleinholz writes a mystery series immersed in rock and roll, whose main character, Zoe Szabo, juggles the demands of raising children and a career. Some of her books include: *Exiles on Main Street and Dancing with Mr. D*. Leslie Wheeler writes "living history" mysteries. The main character in her series is Miranda Lewis and two of her most recent books are: *Murder at Gettysburg* and *Murder at Plimoth Plantation*. A transplant from California, she has a degree in English and History from Stanford and a Masters in English from UC Berkley and now lives in the Boston area. The third author is Gary Goshgarian, who writes under the pen name, Gary Bravers. He writes medical thrillers and his last book, *Flashback*, received an Honors Award 2006 from the Massachusetts Center for the Book. The story of why he writes under a pen name is an interesting, true tale about the publishing industry. He is a Professor of English at Northeastern University and the author of four popular college writing textbooks. As at most library events, delicious refreshments will be served. Copies of the authors' books are available to borrow from the library and books may be purchased at the talk.

Start Clowning Around - Circus Sign Ups Now

The Friends of the library are looking for adults and teens who would like to attend a one day workshop next spring in order to be trained in circus craft by the Silver Lining Circus. (Silver Lining is an award winning kids' circus training camp affiliated with Cirkus Smirkus and High Meadows Waldorf School.) Participants will learn clowning, stilt walking, juggling and more. Once trained, participants could **earn a dazzling stipend** by leading a circus workshop for younger kids during the 2007 summer reading program. The grande finale will be a really big show of kids, teens, pets and adults. To express a tentative interest or for more info, call or stop by the library 978-249-3572.

Preschool Story Time Starts Earlier

The Preschool Story Time begins at 10:00 a.m. this year (rather than 10:30) every non-holiday Monday through the end of June. Drop-in any Monday morning to join other families of preschoolers for fun, stories, snacks, and camaraderie.

Preschool Story Time Halloween Party

On Monday, October 30th at 10:00 a.m. preschoolers are invited to put on their costumes and come to the party at the library. There will be fun events, stories, and seasonal yummys to eat. Parents and caregivers are welcome to dress up too. Photos of the program will appear on the website ; it's an easy way to share your costumed kids with relatives everywhere. No registration is necessary; those not wishing to wear a costume are welcome as well.

Library Computer Classes

Want to learn the basics of word processing, e-mail or spreadsheets? Our library doesn't have enough computers to offer an actual class, but we'll try to set up a one to one tutor if you'd like a lesson. Call or talk to the librarian next time you visit.

Holiday Craft Workshops Planned

Keep Sunday afternoons in late November and early December open and watch for more information about time, place and costs as the Friends of the Library are in the process of organizing two interesting craft workshops: Kerry Stone will facilitate a **pottery workshop** where participants will pinch Mexican style candleabras from clay and Kathy Morris will offer another of her fine **wheat weaving workshops**.

Make New Friends - Day or Evening Meetings?

The Friends of the Library are thinking of changing their meeting time from 3:30 in the afternoon on the 1st Thursday of the month to evenings. If you've been thinking about getting involved, but haven't been able to make the afternoon meetings, this is your chance. Pls. call the library 249-3572 to express a day or evening time preference.

Some of the New Books at the Library

Adult Nonfiction

- Caldicott, Helen *Nuclear Power is not the Answer*
- Ephron, Nora *I Feel Bad About My Neck and Other Thoughts on Being a Woman*
- Fletcher, Connie *Every Contact Leaves a Trace: Crime Scene Experts Talk About Their Work From Discovery Through Verdict*
- Kirsch, Jonathan *A History of the End of the World:How the Most Controversial Book in the Bible Changed the Course of Western Civilization*
- Peters, Jack W. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching*
- Ricks, Thomas E. *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*
- Thomas, Abigail *A Three Dog Night*
- Wilson, E.O. *The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth*
- Woods, Randall B. *LBJ: Architect of American Ambition*

Adult Fiction

- Adichie, Chimanda *Half of a Yellow Sun*
- Atwood, Margaret *Moral Disorder and other stories*
- Baratz-Logsted, Lauren *This is Chick Lit*
- Beaton, M.C. *Love, Lies and Liquor*
- Beverly, Jo *To Rescue a Rogue*
- Binchey, Maeve *Irish Girls About Town*
- Bond, Stephanie *Body Movers*
- Brooks, Terry *Armageddon's Children*
- Bryant, Annie *Bad News/Good News*
- Bryant, Annie *Letters From the Heart*
- Bryant, Annie *Worst Enemies/Best Friends*
- Cornwell, Bernard *Sharpe's Fury*
- Delaney, Joseph *Curse of the Bane*
- Doogan, Mike *Lost Angel:A Nik Kane Alaska Mystery*
- Evanovich, Janet *Smitten*
- Gruen, Sara *Water For Elephants:A Novel*
- Hamilton, Jane *When Madeline Was Young*
- Harness, Cheryl *Just For You To Know*
- Lott, Bret *Jewel*
- McDermott, Alice *After This*
- Michaels, Fern *Fool Me Once*
- O'Brien, Edna *The Light of Evening*
- Quindlen, Anna *Rise and Shine:A Novel*
- Schreiber, Ellen *Vampire Kisses 3:Vampireville*
- Strieber, Whitley *The Grays*
- vonZiegesar, Cecily *Only in Your Dreams: A Gossip Girl Novel*
- Woods, Brenda *My Name is Sally Little Song*
- Wray, John *Canaan's Tongue*

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

**Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
2006 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!

Poetry Club Forming

Mary Carnie

Calling all poets and poet wannabees. The RCS Poetry Club will soon begin. If you are interested, please contact Mary Carnie at RCS 249-2900 ext. 111. We expect to begin in October. No experience is necessary - just a desire to have fun and dabble in poetry. Come join the fun to write and munch; we are a very friendly bunch!

Live Music at Halloween Dance at RCS

Monsters, divas, current and former students of RCS and all other interested community members are invited to **celebrate the 10th anniversary since the opening of the Royalston Community School** by putting on a costume and bopping to bluesy beat of Royalston's own fine band, **Melanie and the Blue Shots**, in the RCS gym Friday, October 27 from 7-8:30 pm.



The dance benefits the 6th grade field trip to Nature's Classroom, an experiential learning center in York, Maine with an emphasis on hands-on science. Although rustic, the week long trip is expensive; fundraising helps make the trip affordable for all families. No child gets left behind. Many thanks to the band: Melanie Mangum, Jim Bennett, Phil Leger, Noah Siegel and Matt Hickler for donating such formidable talent.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Tix available in advance at school or at the door until sold out: \$5 per child (maximum \$10/ family.) Price includes refreshments. Info: 249-2900.

Another Brick in the Walk

The Royalston Community School PTG is selling engraved bricks to be laid near the granite bench near the school entrance. These bricks are a fine way to go down in history by etching names of current and former students and community members. They are also a way to memorialize loved ones. Some bricks leave exhortations for the dozens of students that repeatedly pass by every day. One that is already installed says "read" and one has been ordered that urges "Do your part." (The PTG reserves the right to screen orders for appropriateness.) The cost is \$35 or 3 bricks for \$100. Each brick can have up to two lines with 13 characters per line. Call the school at 978-249-2900 for info or mail this form:

RCS Brick Fundraiser

name:

number of bricks:

message (2 lines / 13 characters per line):

Community Events at the Village School

Rise Richardson, director

The Village School hosts the annual **Autumn Lantern Walk** on Friday, November 3rd. The public is invited to participate in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school (the old Raymond School building) with a gathering in the dark for a bonfire, stories, and songs. Everyone will then join in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing candle-lit homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a contra dance with caller Norah Dooley and the No Name Band, beginning around 6:30 p.m. The contra dance will be called, and children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family are suggested.

Open House Saturday, December 2 10 a.m.-noon Come visit the school and meet the teachers. Children can join in activities in the classrooms.

Dean's Beans Coffee You can get yours delivered fresh once a month to the Village School, whole beans or ground. Pick up an order form in the hallway at the school. Orders are due the first Wednesday of the month. Prices are around \$7 a pound.

What's going on at Camp Caravan?

Drivers along South Royalston Road may have noticed a lot of activity recently at Camp Caravan, 225 S. Royalston Rd. The Millers River Educational Cooperative, which owns Camp Caravan and runs the Village School on the Common, has been working hard all year to restore some of the buildings to usable condition. Since August, they have been joined by a team of volunteers who have been working flat out to restore three of the original cabins. The whole site has had a new water system installed and MREC hopes to start work this fall on the new site for the Village School. MREC President John Richardson commented: "One of the great things is the number of people who stop by and tell us that they used to work at Camp Caravan in the old days. They are always delighted to see the progress we are making in restoring

S. R. School Reunion Association News

Its 103rd reunion barely completed, The South Royalston Reunion Association is already looking ahead to September, 2007 and its 104th annual gathering. Since the South Royalston Elementary School no longer exists, the Association has announced that ALL Royalston school children and staff are welcome into membership. The group celebrates the past with old photos and stories, and discusses the future of students attending Royalston's newest school and donate annual scholarships to local students. At reunion gatherings, associations are rekindled with childhood friends, as well as teachers and administrators. The members gather once each year for an annual meeting and social, a catered meal and maybe even a dance. Membership is just \$10 a year; it covers the costs of everything from the annual meeting and social event, to mailings throughout the year. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, contact Luann (Laroche) Simula at 249-8746.

Monty Tech News

Cherry sheet reductions are in, and good news, Monty Tech received nearly \$150,000 more than expected! The result is Royalston's share has been reduced by \$3,353, to \$54,663.

Do you work down Fitchburg way and need reliable, safe child-care? Monty Tech's new school-operated "Little Builders" program is a year-round, full day (7 a.m. – 5 p.m.) program serving children from 2.9 through 5 year olds. The center is operated within the School, and staffed by State-qualified Early Childhood Education teachers. Full-day, half-day, two-day a week and three-day a week options are available. Potential customers are encouraged to make an appointment to tour this incredible facility, which will serve as a work site for Monty Tech's best and brightest Early Childhood Education students. Call 978-345-9200.

Fire And Ems News:

Safety Tips For Fall Fire Safety

Mary C Barclay

Why not give your home a FIRE PREVENTION MONTH makeover this October? Verify that all exits are usable and unobstructed. Remove any flammables, and look for clutter near furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves and space heaters. Confirm that space heaters are certified for indoor use. Make sure they're not near dangling fabrics such as curtains or clothing and that anything on the ground (like laundry or magazines) will not get pushed up against them. Revisit E.D.I.T.H. – Exit Drills in The Home – and really practice. Make sure the appropriate fire extinguishers are fully charged and logically located in places like the kitchen, workshop, office, sleeping areas, garage and vehicles. When the time changes, it's time to change batteries in smoke, carbon monoxide and radon detectors. Even if the batteries test good, pass them along to the kids for their toys, and replace with fresh ones.

Safety Tips For Dark Days Of Fall

The shortened days, especially when daylight savings time ends on October 29, mean many children will be going to and returning from school in darkness. Motorists are advised to use extreme caution as children are awaiting busses from approximately 5:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., and are returning home from about 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Students also bear some responsibility for safety. Students should walk facing traffic, and step well off of the road when a vehicle is approaching. Students should wear light colored outer clothing, preferably with reflective details. A small flashlight pointed at the pavement (not in motorists' eyes!) alerts drivers that pedestrians are along the roadside.

Halloween trick-or-treaters need to take safety into consideration. Face make-up is preferable to masks that may occlude vision. Light colored costumes with reflective accents are the most visible from a distance. Costumes should not be so long or of a design that inhibit safe walking. Flashlights are a must! Motorists on the roads during trick-or-treating need to be unusually careful, as little ghosts, monsters and hobgoblins will be everywhere!

Royalston Community Coop

There are only two order dates prior to the Thanksgiving holiday (Oct. 12 & Nov. 9) and a third prior to the Christmas season (Dec. 7) – be sure to take this into account when ordering! The next delivery will be the afternoon of Oct. 19.

Congregational Churches Events

The Congregational churches of Royalston have a busy autumn schedule. The churches' youth group has a **Monadnock hike** planned for Sat. 10/7, leaving the First Church at 10 a.m. (Rain date: 10/14.) The First Church will be the site of **Shiloh** in concert Sat. 10/14, at 7 p.m. Also, a **couples' retreat** is slated for November 3-5. Details on any of the above are available by calling the Parsonage, 249-9155.

The Second Congregational Church is currently working on its annual **Jingle Bell Fair**, being held Saturday, November 18. They are in search of attic treasures, crafts, and baked goods. They're willing to pick up items if needed. Call Ginny Moore at 978-249-4962 or Gert Parnanen at 978-249-3728 to arrange a pick up time.

The Second Church's **Women's Fellowship** has an October 21 luncheon trip to Johnson's Farm planned. RSVP with Luann Simula at 978-249-8746.

Kids' Bible Club has begun at the Royalston Community School. It meets Wednesdays from 3 -4 pm.

Royalston Fish & Game Club News

The Royalston Fish & Game Club's annual **Turkey Social** is slated for Friday, October 27 at their facility on Route 68, just over the line into Phillipston. All are invited for free chowder with crackers and coffee; a full selection of other beverages will be available for purchase. Turkeys and special offerings such as sausages and roasts, along with farm-fresh produce will be raffled off at three spins for a dollar. Two baskets overflowing with about \$100 worth of ingredients for a perfect Thanksgiving meal will also be up for grabs. Basket tickets will be in the hands of all members shortly; anyone wanting basket tickets can see any Club member, purchase them at the door or contact Tracy Smith at 978-249-3103. Winners do not need to be present for the baskets.

Ladies' Benevolent Society

The October LBS Meeting is slated for Wednesday, October 25, beginning with a meeting to plan the Braised Beef Supper at 7:30 followed by a brief program on Royalston's regional vocational technical school – Monty Tech – with Royalston's school committee representative Mary C. Barclay and guests from the school. Call Kim MacPhee 249 -0946 for info on the venue.

Royalston Luncheon Club/COA

As always, members of the Royalston Council on Aging and its weekly Luncheon Club are looking for new members. The weekly gatherings can serve as an anchor for the week, a place for a nutritious hot meal, and a way to see old friends and make new ones. Special trips can provide affordable fun and adventure. Health and immunization clinics (blood pressure, diabetes screening, flu shots, cholesterol testing, etc.) are free or nominally priced and help conserve those health care dollars. Senior citizens and future senior citizens are all welcome to attend. This month's special event is an October 25th HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR. No tricks, but treats will be served following the meal and a costume judging will take place. For additional information, contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656.

It Takes a Village to Send a Kid to Cyprus: *Jessica Guiney of Morse Rd grew up in Royalston and attended our local public schools, where she served as a peer mediator beginning in the 4th grade. She is currently a student at Fitchburg State. Recently, just before the battles in Lebanon, Jess attended a conference on conflict resolution in Cyprus. She received mini-grants from several organizations in Town to help defray some of the costs of this trip, money well spent.*

Jess Guiney Attends International Conflict Resolution Conference

I recently had the opportunity to attend a month long conference on international conflict resolution in Cyprus. The conference, focusing on the Middle East, was geared towards training conferees in practical skills as well as informing them of issues surrounding conflict in the Middle East. Speakers included professionals who worked in the field and had direct experience negotiating or mediating agreements. Journalists and humanitarian workers shared their views of life "on the ground." Government officials from Iraq shared their hopes for the future of their country. Students were given conflict scenarios taken from real-life and assigned roles to practice their negotiation skills under the guidance of professionals in the field.

Sixty students would crowd the lecture hall from 8am until 6pm. We ate together, shared apartments, would argue about political situations in the world, wondering why leaders in our countries couldn't (or wouldn't) do more to help. With students from Jordan, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Hong Kong, India, the United States and United Kingdom. There were many intense and interesting moments.

The most influential parts of the trip were in these intense moments with new friends. From the moment I stepped into my apartment, hearing my two new roommates shouting to each other in Farsi, I knew the month would come with opportunities to learn both inside and outside the classroom. Mona and Azadeh, my roommates, were two young Iranian women studying human rights law.

Recipe of the Month

GREEN TOMATO RELISH By Senja Lilovia

This month's recipe comes from Jim & Pat Kelley of the St Laurant Campground on Turnpike Rd. For over a year, Jim has taken responsibility for the circulation of this newsletter. That means he has volunteered to pick it up at the printers, collate and add inserts when necessary, and sort, label and organize the bulk mailing before taking it to the post office each month.

Both Jim and Pat are avid vegetable gardeners. They offer this recipe just in time to put a practical use to all those October green tomatoes that need harvesting before first frost.

Jim says, "Senja Liliova, Pat's grandmother, of Lunenburg Mass, had many wonderful prize winning recipes over the years. She has been gone for quite sometime, but her delicious dishes keep her memory clear in our minds, hearts and stomachs."

Over time we grew to know each other. Eventually, we would stay up at night trading questions. Do you believe in wearing a headscarf? Do all students in the US drink so much? Do you all like President Bush? Do you think your country should have nuclear weapons? In general, we agreed on much more than we disagreed, but the conversations challenged us all to consider why our countries act the way they do, what the differences are in our cultures, and what we want our world to be like for our children.

By the end of the month we had all heard lectures and received training, designed projects and practiced writing grants. Most importantly, however, we had the chance to examine critical conflicts from many different viewpoints. A Kurdish Iraqi who has lost his leg in a land mine while living through the rule of Saddam Hussein, or an Iranian who has lived through a Revolution and the Iran-Iraq War can offer vital insights to conflicts, to solutions, and to history that one just can't find in a book, news article, or other second hand account.

The conference ended with a stark reminder of just what is at stake and why such interaction, understanding, and education concerning conflict resolution and prevention are so important. On our final day, we received news that a former IIMCR program participant from Iraq had been assassinated by a militant group for working with a US-based non-governmental organization. Many of my American friends decided to travel for a week or two to Beirut after the program. As I headed home to Boston, they were flying into Lebanon. Shortly thereafter they were stranded, witnessing firsthand some realities previously only studied through articles, lectures, or stories.

The experience taught me a lot, is not one I'll soon forget, and is one I'm very grateful to have had. I would like to thank in particular the Royalston Academy, the Ladies Benevolent Society, the Friends of the Library and everyone else who helped me to attend. To learn more about the Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution visit: www.iimcr.org.

- 4 qt green chopped tomatoes
- 2 qt green chopped cabbage
- 1 qt chopped onion
- 3 Red or Green sweet peppers chopped
- 3/4 c salt - pour over and let set overnight.
- Rinse salt off next morning.
- Add:
 - 1 qt cider vinegar
 - 7 c white sugar
 - 1 oz mustard seed
- Wrap 2 T tumeric and 1 oz celery seed in cloth (gauze)

Cook 10 min after it comes to a boil.
Pack into sterile jars. Process pints 5 min, quarts 10 min.





CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Truly Great News: **Joann Deacon** has been certified cancer free. She happily relates, "I can hardly wipe the smile of relief off my face and am sending a huge hug of thanks to all of you!" She will continue under close observation with an oncologist and undergo tests every 4 months. She is planning a celebratory hike up Mt Monadnock in October. All are welcome to join her on the climb.

Congratulations to Troop 18 Boy Scout **Aaron Richardson** who won the "Honor Camper Award" at Camp Wanosockett in Jaffery Well done, **Steve Ringer** of Laurel Lake Road. Mr. Ringer began this school year as Gardner Middle School's Health and Physical Education Teacher and is coaching sports.

Congratulations Grandparents:

Ralph and **Joy Cutter** of Athol Richmond Rd have a new grandson, Nathan Ryan, born July 30, 2006 ; he lives in Framingham Ct.

Alvin and **Kathleen Barry** have a new grandson, Jacob Evan, born on July 27, 2006 and weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces; he lives in Naugatuck CT.

Memorials

Gertrude E. (Newton) Brown, 95, died September 6, 2006. She was born in Royalston August 24, 1911, a daughter of Leon and Elizabeth (Sonn) Newton. She grew up on NE Fitzwilliam Rd at the Newton Mill. In a 2001 interview given to the Royalston Town Scrapbook, she reminisced about a happy childhood, which included a house full of extended family and hired mill workers, her own horse and gig, swimming and boating at the mill pond, playing pranks with her siblings, a remarkably intelligent dog named Buster, and of course, plenty of chores. For high school, she boarded in Winchendon and attended Murdock Academy. She "used her head for business" and went away to Becker College in Worcester, graduating in 1928. In her professional career, she worked as a secretary for Dr. Grossman in Athol, State Mutual Life Insurance, the Athol Machine Shop, Riverbend Elementary School and the Main Office of the Athol-Royalston school district. She enjoyed cooking and doing volunteer work and was an active member of the Athol Congregational Church, the Athol Memorial Hospital Auxillary and the Royalston Grange.

Her husband of 49 years, Edwin R Brown, died in 1987. She leaves a son, Richard A Brown of Butterworth Rd in Royalston; a daughter, Nancy Pacocha of Lanesboro; and a sister, Jane Newton of Athol; four grandchildren: including Jeremy and Jessica Brown of Royalston and three great grandchildren. She was predeceased by two brothers, Harold and Willard Newton, and a sister, Annette Ryno.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations be sent to the Athol Congregational Church Memory Garden (1225 Chestnut St, Athol) or the Athol Memorial Hospital Auxillary (2033 Main St, Athol).

Business Briefs:

New Plumbing Business in Town

Licensed plumber, John Robichaud, and his wife recently bought the house across from the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club on Winchendon Rd. They are starting Robichaud's Plumbing Service to serve Royalston and the surrounding area. Call the Robichauds at 978-297-3555 for information.

Sal's Going Out of Business

The rumors are apparently true. The Salvation Army Thrift Store on Main St, Athol will close October 31.

Makin' Our List, Checkin' It Twice

Do you offer products or services that would make perfect holiday gifts? If so, call us or e-mail the RCN to make sure you're included in the December issue Royalston holiday shopping ideas list.



In 1911, when Gertrude Newton Brown was born, the Newton Mill complex, located where Lawrence Brook crosses NE Fitzwilliam Rd, was a big and booming place where lumber was cut, dragged and turned into chair spindles that were then sold to the furniture factories in Gardner.

Gertrude and her four siblings and parents lived in a 1700s Cape colonial house which stood accross the street from where the 1800s - 2 family duplex still stands (and has been getting a makeover from Dana Perkins in recent years). When Gertrude's grandparents passed away, the family moved into the duplex and the children were allowed to use the old Cape as a playhouse. Gertrude had a fond memory of "inviting mother over to a dinner of lettuce and carrots we had pulled from the garden." Eventually, the house was pulled down.

State Primary Election Results:

Melanie Mangum, town clerk

Out of 902 registered voters in Royalston, 177 came out to vote in the State Primary on September 19. 162 Democratic and 15 Republican ballots were cast. For brevity, the following results are of the contested seats only, with the winners appearing first. Full results are posted at Town Hall, the Post Office, the Royalston Country Store and Whitney Hall.

Governor - Democratic:

Patrick – 105 Gabrieli – 28 Reilly - 28

Lt. Governor - Democratic:

Murray – 79 Goldberg - 40 Silbert - 13

Senator In Congress - Republican

Chase – 5 Scott - 3

Secretary of State - Democratic

Galvin – 113 Bonifaz - 25

Councillor - Democratic

Burke – 40 Buckley – 16 D’Andrea - 14

Foley – 30 O’Connor - 11

District Attorney - Democratic

Early – 76 Shea - 36

Birch Hill Limits Access

Built for flood control and managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, Birch Hill Dam in South Royalston offers 4000 acres of public land for recreation. Dog walking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, birding, canoeing, biking, xc skiing and snowmobiling are all encouraged. Recently, however, in an effort to discourage illegal dumping and other dubious activities, new strategies are being implemented. Erosion caused by off-path ATVs and mudrunning 4wd trucks combined with destructive teenage partying and an increasing frequency of household trash being dumped motivated these changes.

To funnel traffic toward high visibility areas, many of the gates in the Birch Hill Conservation Area have been locked and some heavily used paths have been blocked with boulders. It is still possible to get from Royalston to Lake Dennison in Baldwinville through Birch Hill, but it involves taking long-cuts and starting from Winchendon Rd or River Rd.

In addition to closing some roads to motor vehicle traffic, increased law enforcement by the Environmental Police has begun. The park is officially closed at dusk each day (even though some gates are physically open.) Police have begun issuing citations and investigating vehicles parked after dark. Ranger Phillips credits the increase in police presence with cutting the amount of trash collected in the park by two thirds. His staff hauled out trash to fill only one 30 yd. dumpster this summer compared with 3 dumpsters last summer.

Educating kids to appreciate the beauty of their natural surroundings is another part of the plan to clean up Birch Hill. “We offer free programs in the elementary schools in hopes that when the kids grow up, they will see conservation areas as places to preserve and respect - rather than just party spots,” according to Ranger Jeffrey Phillips. Teachers who would like to find out about these free programs should call 249-4467.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

September has provided its share of garden surprises, most of them pleasant, not the least of which has been the fall raspberry crop. In the spring of 2004, I set out six raspberry canes. There was no harvest that year. In 2005, the canes had multiplied dramatically and there was a modest October harvest. This year, I push my way through a 300 square foot jungle of canes, bent over from the mass of their ripening fruit. Fall raspberries are treated differently than the summer types. In spring, the fall bearing canes are cut to the ground and berries set on their new growth, while summer raspberries set their fruit on canes from the prior year’s growth.

Spinach is the undisputed recipient of the comeback-of-the-year award. The spinach saga began in early spring when I discovered the fall-planted spinach from the previous year had winter-killed. My first spring planting was clearly pre-mature: few of the seeds germinated. The second planting emerged but provided meager quantities of spinach before bolting to seed. Three strikes, but spinach had not struck out. I planted again on July 31 and not five weeks later was harvesting for market. I thin plants to about five inches apart and pick individual leaves. After three weeks of picking, I still admire a 100 square foot sea of spinach. By the time you read this, I will have begun picking from an even later (August 13) planting. There is an irony here. At the same time all of America was being advised, urged, and directed to throw out every trace of spinach, I was bringing in armloads from the garden.

After several weeks of inactivity, I have renewed my acquaintance with my hoe, in part because the August-planted beds required weeding but primarily to begin the process of preparing the garden for its winter rest. As soon as the onions get pulled and the potatoes dug, I am jostling the space with the hoe and encasing it in hay. It is not much of a jostle; the pulling and the digging pretty much performs the task for me. Jostling provides a variety of benefits: it loosens the soil, upends the occasional weed which grew through the mulch disrupts weed seeds about to germinate. Soon after frost puts an end to their production, I will undertake the same exercise in the tomato, winter squash, cucumber, and bean plots.

There is no avoiding it, this inevitability of frost. It may occur before this newsletter reaches your eyes or it may not occur for weeks thereafter. The chill is in the air. Some of us are burdened by it and some of us invigorated by it, but none of us can avoid it (unless, of course, by escaping to south Florida). Much of the garden cares not a whit and will continue to produce well into November. It is not yet time to put away the garden tools.

Wildlife Sightings

Bruce Robinson saw a **bobcat** cross NE Fitzwilliam Rd from the Carbone property to the Royalston Academy lands.

All summer, John Poor has been enjoying watching a family of **skunks** out his picture window. From the comfort of his living room, he’s observed three kits go from their fluffy baby stage to poised adolescence.

Classifieds

For Sale: Pro-Form XL Crosswalk Treadmill, in excellent condition. \$125. Call Diana or Geoff at 978-249-3726.

Firewood: Cut, split and delivered in Royalston. 978-249-9239

Winter Squah and corn stalks for sale: Neale Farm. Stop by or call 249-6872.

Wanted to buy: Truck 4x4 with plow. Will pay up to \$2000. Must be in good condition. Call Fran: 1-978-895-0817 or Paul: 1-978-895-2794. We live in Royalston.

Upright Working Freezer wanted for free or cheap. Will pick up. 249-3259.

Non-working Chest Freezer Wanted with intact lid, for use as rodent-proof grain storage. Willing to move. Call 978-249-7787.

Wood Carving Lessons: Call for details; all levels welcome. Laurie 249-3291.

Leaf Raking and odd jobs: call 11 year old John Divoll 249-3158

House Cleaning – 4 hr for \$60.00. Ask for Fran. Royalston and surrounding towns. Cell Phone: 1-978-895-0817.

Part time music teacher needed to teach recorder, singing, and more at the Village School. A background in music pedagogy is useful. Call Rise 249-3505.

Before School Sitter needed: from 6:30-8:10 a.m., Mon - Fri, in Winchendon Rd home watching 2 elementary school aged boys. Call Brad 249-6686.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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