

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2006



Volume IX, Issue IV

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

November 1 Wednesday **All Saints' Day**
6:30 p.m. **Women's Fellowship meets** at 2nd Cong. parlor

7 p.m. **Monty Tech SchoolCom meets**

7:30 p.m. **Royalston Fish & Gun Club meets** (Directors at 7 pm)

November 2 Thursday
No School at the Village School – Parent Conferences

3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Library meeting.** A good place to meet people and get involved with the Town. Watch for an experimental change in meeting time after the new year.

5 p.m. Community Coop orders due in

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 **Sisters -in -Crime Mystery Writers presentation** at Phineas S Newton Library. Discuss mysteries and publishing. Refreshments. Free.

November 7 Tuesday **Election Day**
7 am - 8 pm **polls open in precinct 1 and 2**
No School ARRSB Professional Development Day
No School for Monty Tech in-service training

November 9 Thursday
Afternoon TBA **Coop Delivery expected**

November 10 Friday **Veterans' Day Observed:**
Schools, post office and other government offices closed.

7 pm **Firemen's Turkey Raffle** at Fire Station

November 11 Saturday **Veterans' Day**
7 pm **First Open Mic** of the season at Town Hall.

November 14 Tuesday
9 a.m. **Community Reading Day** at RCS. Volunteers from the community are needed to come into the school and share their love of books by reading to an elementary class. Pls. call 249-2900 for more information or to volunteer.

November 15 Wednesday
noon **early dismissal at RCS** for parent-teacher conferences. Conference times are also available during the evening of November 16. RCS parents should call the school, 249-2900, to schedule a time with their child's teacher. Report cards distributed at conferences.

November 16 Thursday
6:30 p.m. **Monty Tech School Council meeting**
TBA **Monty Tech Parents' Night**

November 17 Friday
10 a.m. **Gerwich Puppets present Pilgrim Adventure to America** at RCS. The community is welcome. Call 249-2900 for info. Funded by the Royalston Academy.

November 18 Saturday
Pre-Dawn hours **Leonid Meteor Shower**, associated with the passing of the Tempel-Tuttle Comet, will provide for about one shooting star every three or so minutes. Look to the Southern sky for points of origin.

8:30 a.m. **sellout Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale** at the Historical Society building/post office, to benefit Our Lady Queen of Heaven

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Jingle Bell Fair** at 2nd Congregational Church

6 p.m. **Pot Luck Supper** First Congregational Church

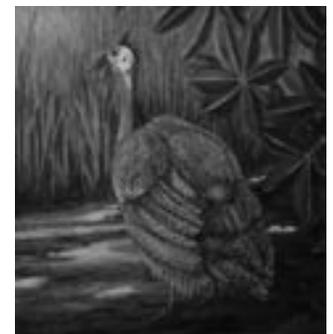
6:30 p.m. **Ladies' Benevolent Society Braised Beef Supper** at Town Hall. See member for tix. Adults: \$10 and kids: \$5.

7:30 p.m. **Vic & Sticks family comedy show** at 1st Congregational Church

November 20 Monday
5:18 p.m. **New Cold Moon**

November 23 Wednesday
early dismissal in ARRSB schools, closed through Thanksgiving weekend.

November 24 Thursday
Thanksgiving



Sonja Vaccari, *painting*,
PS Newton Library 2006

November 26 Sunday

8 p.m. (or sooner, as food runs out!) **Pete & Henry's Closes for 2006**

November 29 Wednesday

11 a.m. - noon Annual **Flu Clinic** open to adults of all ages at the Town Hall. Walk-ins welcome

December 1 Friday

7 pm **First Friday Open Mic** at Town Hall

December 2 Saturday

10 a.m. - noon **Open House** at the Village School

December 3 Sunday

Wheat Weaving Workshops. Learn a traditional harvest art and make a cool holiday gift. Pre-registration necessary. Priority given to members of the Friends of the Library.

1:15 pm workshop begins for weavers who attended last year.

2 pm workshop starts for beginners

December 6 Wednesday

6 pm Tree Lighting ceremony on the Royalston Common. Check for confirmation in December newsletter.

December 10 Sunday

2 pm Our Lady Queen of Heaven 50th Anniversary Celebration

11 a.m. Royalston F&G Annual Meeting

2 p.m. F&G annual Kids' Christmas Party RSVP 978-249-3004

Fire and EMS News

The Royalston Fire Department traveled to schools during October, and discussed the National Fire Protection Association's message, "Prevent Kitchen Fires - Watch What You Heat!" Firefighter EMT Kelly Newton organized the visits, which included Massachusetts Fire District 8 Acting Fire Warden Patricia Corriea, and Smokey Bear, who are shown visiting at the Village School. Fire Chief Wayne R. Newton, Firefighters Jim Draper and Christopher Fitzpatrick, and Building Inspector Geoffrey L. Newton, also a firefighter, attended the programs.



Smokey Bear recently visited local elementary schools to mark Fire Prevention Week and celebrate his 50th birthday. Photo: Barclay.



Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

The "Year of Elections" in Royalston is drawing to a close. Your faithful election workers will once again put in a long day for the State Election, which will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. This election will be the 6th election we have had in Royalston this year. In the normal cycle of things, there would have been only 3 elections to deal with, but we had 2 Special State Elections and one Special Town Election to run as well. I want to send out a huge thanks to all the election workers, who have helped make this busy year run smoothly. When you get out to vote, why not give them your thanks as well?

On Nov. 7, voters will decide between candidates for the following offices: Senator in US Congress, Governor, Lt. Governor, Atty. General, Sec. of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Rep. in Congress, Councillor, Sen. in General Court, Rep. in General Court, District Attorney, Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds and County Commissioner.

There will also be four questions on the ballot, which are very briefly summarized below:

Question 1: Sale of Wine by Food Stores. This proposed law would allow local licensing authorities to issue licenses for food stores to sell wine.

Question 2: Nomination of Candidates for Public Office. This proposed law would allow candidates for public office to be nominated by more than one political party or political designation, to have their names appear on the ballot once for each nomination, and to have their votes counted separately for each nomination but then added together to determine the winner of the election.

Question 3: Family Child Care Providers. This proposed law would allow licensed and other authorized providers of child care in private homes under the state's subsidized child care system to bargain collectively with the relevant state agencies about all terms and conditions of the provision of child care services under the state's child care assistance program and its regulations.

Question 4 on the ballot is a **non-binding question that asks voters in our district whether our state representative should be instructed to vote in favor of a resolution asking the President and Congress to end the war in Iraq and bring soldiers home.** (The exact language of this question can be found on the posted election warrant.)

More information on candidates and referenda can be found in "The Official Massachusetts Information for Voters" handout, which was direct mailed to registered voters several weeks ago. (Extra copies are available at the Phineas S Newton Library.)

If you have any questions about your polling place or registration, please call the Clerk's office at 978-249-0493. Get out and vote.

The Department of Public Works asks residents to refrain from raking leaves into the roads. They can clog drainage basins, which could lead to ice on the roads in coming months. Also, be aware that a winter parking ban will be put in effect within a few weeks. Watch for details.

Notes from the Selectboard

Andy West, chair

At the October 3rd Selectboard meeting, the Zoning Bylaw Task Force gave a report summarizing all the work done to date and the plan for completion. This report can be viewed at www.royalston-ma.gov. Many Royalston residents have turned out to participate in discussions regarding the bylaw. The Task Force will hold more public participation sessions. Once all the proposed ideas get distilled into a final draft, the Board will host several more information sessions before the proposal comes to Town Meeting for a vote. The Board is expecting this project to near completion in late spring.

The modified (lower impact) engineering plans for Route 32 are being prepared. As soon as they are complete the Board will hold public information sessions to share the plans and coordinate support for funding the project.

You may have noticed that some of the grand Maples on Royalston Common have been suffering lately. Many lost their leaves early. Others have been cut back severely. The young maples in South Royalston Park all died this year. The Board of Selectmen is working with Larry Siegel, Tree Warden, to develop a plan to replenish the greenery on the common and the park. We will be researching different species of trees and planting a variety to avoid devastation should blight occur. We are looking for a few hours of professional landscape design help as well as residents' input. Contact information is below.

Many Verizon customers in Town have had phone trouble recently. Board member Tom Kellner discovered from Verizon that the switching system for Royalston is old and in need of replacement. Verizon has agreed to the Board's request for a meeting to discuss their plans for an upgrade.

Want to voice your opinion? Contact the Board of Selectmen at bos@royalston-ma.gov or 978-249-9641.

Veterans' Day Reminders

from the Memorial Day Committee

Saturday, November 11 is Veterans' Day, which is set aside to honor all men and women who have or are serving in the United States military. The date was originally marked in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson as "Armistice Day" to commemorate the end of WWI, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour. The day became a federal holiday in 1938, and in 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans' Day. American flags should be flown at full staff on Veterans' Day, as a way to say thank you to the many Americans who have and continue to sacrifice their personal comfort and safety on behalf of their fellow Americans.

2006 Massachusetts Hunting Seasons in Royalston

For the next two months, use caution and wear orange while in the woods as Royalston is considered a fine hunting spot. Since most animals are neither pregnant nor raising babies at this time of year, it is considered the best time to hunt them. Beyond human concerns like recreation and putting meat on the table, hunting can be an important factor in maintaining healthy animal populations. (Nonetheless, it's hard not to feel a tug of pity for the poor snapping turtle enduring its endless open season.) For more information on hunting permits, special considerations and bagging limits, see www.mass.gov/masswildlife.

OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY

Licensed hunting permitted an hour after sunrise and an hour before sunset on these dates in our area, zone 5.

Birds

Pheasant, Quail, Ruffed Grouse	Oct 14 - Nov 25:
Turkey	Oct 30 - Nov 4
Deer (archery)	Oct. 16 - Nov. 25
Deer (shotgun)	Nov. 27 - Dec. 9
Deer (muzzleloader)	Dec 11 - Dec 30
Coyote	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, 2007
Cottontail Rabbit	Oct. 14 - Feb. 28, 2007
Fox (red or gray)	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, 2007
Gray Squirrel	Sep. 11 - Jan. 2, 2007
Jackrabbit	Nov. 15 - Dec. 30
Opossum	Oct. 2 - Jan. 31, 2007
Raccoon	Oct. 2 - Jan. 31, 2007
Snowshoe Hare	Oct. 14 - Feb. 5, 2007
Snapping Turtle	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31

ALL HUNTING SEASONS except waterfowl ARE CLOSED during shotgun deer season from Nov. 27 to Dec. 9

Duck Stamp available

at the Royalston Community Post Office—\$15.00



Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps," are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage.

Originally created in

1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have now become a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Besides serving as a hunting license and a conservation tool, a current year's Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges where admission is normally charged. For more info see: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Info/Stamps/stampinfo>

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

Garden Receives Statues

Frank Stearns has donated two statues for the library garden in memory of Elsie May Jewett, who was librarian for 42 years and Maxine Wilcom, who was an educator for over 40 years. Mr Stearnes credits these women with inspiring his love of learning. The statues depict a boy and girl reading a book.

Thank You

A belated thank you to **Rita Gates** for the irises donated the day of the garden tour.

J and K as well as **Janet Willhite** for recent membership donations to the Friends of the Library

Tom Musco, Lorrie Richard, and Ginger Asel for book donations
Janet Bettey for audio donation

Theresa Quinn for donation of many children's movies
Emma Finocchio for help around the library

Graham family for card donations

Norah Dooley for facilitating a great Scary Story Program at the library and for Maureen Blasco to baking the goodies that accompanied the tales

ed note: My children pointed out that I'd spelled "weird" wrong in all the publicity for the spooky stores night at the library last month. That led us to thinking of all the unusual spelling involved in many Hallowe'en words. The following poem resulted.

Spooky Spelling

Ever wonder why October spelling is so inexplicable?
Eerie even?

"Ghoul" and "ghost" hide the "h" werewolf wants.
i before e, in "shriek" but not "weird".

"Warlock" sounds like the news;

"Witch" like a question.

How can a "j" and 4 vowels (none of them an "e")
conjure a word that rhymes with squeegee?

Clearly, October spelling is clouded with tricks and treats.

It's not strange

spellers need power to inscribe their magic words.

Web Traffic

Read anything good lately? The library web site www.royalstonlibrary.org seeks to post book reviews by local readers. If you write it, they will come; the site had over 900 hits in September. Use the site as your first stop for library information and data base connections as well.



Art Exhibit at Library

Oil and acrylic paintings by Sonja Vaccari of North Fitzwilliam Road will be featured in November and December in the children's room at the library. This series depicts people and places around Royalston. The style is reminiscent of folk art as it seems simple yet captures a deeper truth about its subject. Sonja is also known for her Madame V creations, which have enlivened several Royalston Follies productions. Her wonderful rendition of the library-as-hat has settled into permanent display the reference room.

Mystery Writers Bring Whodunits to Town

If you are interested in whodunits or the process of getting your writing published, don't forget to attend the Mystery Writers Program at the library on Friday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m., when three members of Sisters-in-Crime, Gary Braver, Lisa Kleinholz, and Leslie Wheeler, will discuss their books, writing, and publishing. Copies of their books are available for borrowing at the library. Delicious refreshments will be served and copies of the authors' books will be available for purchase at the talk.

Wheat Weaving Workshops

Beginning wheat weaving with Kathy Morris will be held Sunday, December 3rd at the Royalston Town Hall at 2 pm. Participants will learn a little of the history of weaving grains into different designs and then some of the basic techniques. Each participant will create a love knot and a design called sweetheart to take home. For those who took the class last year and want to learn different techniques, a class will start at 1:15 p.m. Those participants will learn to do the Spanish House Blessing design known as "Corazon," which means heart in Spanish. Participation is limited and you must pre-register to attend either session. Preference is given to Friends of the Library members. Materials fee: \$5/members or \$10 for others.

Give to the Library Before 12/31/06 and your Donation can be Matched by the State

Want to give money to the library and have those funds matched? Just give money to the library until December 31, 2006 and the Board of Library Commissioners will match a proportion of the funds. A new program administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) has been established with \$250,000 in funds available for FY2007. Robert Maier, MBLC Director stated that "The purpose of the fund is to enhance public library services by providing a matching incentive program for funds donated to local public libraries for the enhancement of library services beyond those provided through municipal funds." Originally planned to allow a match of \$.50 for every dollar raised, the match will now be prorated based upon the appropriation.

A minimum of \$2,000, up to a maximum of \$100,000, must have been raised from or by private individuals or organizations for the benefit of the public library. Funds must be documented and placed in a separate municipal account under the control of the library trustees. Checks may be made out to The Phinehas S. Newton Library and left at the library or mailed to P.O. Box 133, Royalston, MA 01368.



Library Card 1000

Alex Lowton of Athol-Richmond Road (Deb and Joe Nunes' grandson) and new sixth grader at Royalston Community School was the one thousandth person to obtain a library card at the Phinehas S. Newton Library since the library began using numbers.

Some of the New Books at the Library

Non-fiction

Abbey, Clarke *Postcards From Ed: Dispatches and Salvos from an American Iconoclast*
 Bryson, Bill *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir*
 Carr, Jimmy *Only Joking: What's So Funny About Making People Laugh?*
 Casella, John *They Also Endure*
 Commission Chairs of the Annenberg Foundation *Treating and Preventing Adolescent Mental Disorders: What We Know and What We Don't Know*
 Consumer Reports *Used Car Buying Guide*
 Davitt, Keith *Hardscaping: How to use Structures, Pathways, Patios & Ornaments in Your Garden*
 Doctorow, E.L. *Creationists*
 Evanovich, Janet *How I Write: Secrets of a Bestselling Author*
 Friedman, Thomas *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*
 Gaiman, Neil *Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders*
 Green, Clare *Cutting a Bond with the Long Trail*
 Grisham, John *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town*
 Hart, Jack *A Writer's Coach*
 Katz, Jon *A Good Dog*
 Kelby, Scott *The Digital Photography Book*
 Kidd, Sue Monk *Firstlight*
 Maathai, Wangari *Unbowed: A Memoir*
 Oliver, Mary *Thirst*
 Owens-Celli, Morgyn *The Book of Wheat Weaving and Straw Craft: From Simple Plaits to Exquisite Designs*
 Prose, Francine *Reading Like a Writer*
 Rival Crock Pot *Slow Cooker Recipes*
 Tudge, Colin *The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter*
 Walter, Philippe *Christianity: The Origins of a Pagan Religion*

Adult and Young Adult Fiction

Anderson, M.T. *The Pox Party/taken from accounts by (Octavian Nothing's) own hand and other sundry sources; collected by Mr. M.T. Anderson of Boston*
 Baldacci, David *The Camel Club (Large Print)*
 Baldacci, David *The Collectors*
 Brown, Rita Mae *The Hounds and the Fury*
 Colfer, Eoin *Artemis Fowl: The Lost Colony*
 Connelly, Michael *Echo Park*
 Evanovich, Janet *Motor Mouth*
 Frazier, Charles *Thirteen Moons*
 Freeman, Brian *Stripped*
 George, Elizabeth *What Came Before He Shot Her*
 Gordon, Mary *The Stories of Mary Gordon*
 Green, John *An Abundance of Katherines*
 Horowitz, Anthony *Horowitz Horror*
 Knowles, John *A Separate Peace*
 Le Carre, John *The Mission Song*
 Levine, Gail Carson *Fairest*
 Macpherson, Suzanne *Hysterical Blondeness*
 Mayor, Archer *The Second Mouse*
 McCarthy, Cormac *The Road*
 Merrick, Elizabeth *This is not Chick Lit: Original Stories by America's Best Woman Writers*
 Messud, Claire *The Emperor's Children*
 Naslund, Sena Jeter *Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette*
 Parker, Robert B. *Hundred-Dollar Baby*
 Plumley, Lisa *The Scoundrel*
 Roberts, Nora *Blue Dahlia*
 Roberts, Nora *Dance of the Gods*
 Roberts, Nora *Morrigan's Cross*
 See, Lisa *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*
 Setterfield, Diane *The Thirteenth Tale*
 Wiggs, Susan *Summer at Willow Lake*
 Woods, Stuart *Short Straw*

Upcoming Events at the Congregational Churches

The Second Congregational Church's annual Jingle Bell Fair is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the church hall, and will celebrate the theme "Old Fashioned Scandinavian Christmas." Expect to find a good crowd searching for bargains at the attic treasures, crafts, raffles and baked goods tables. The Finns and Swedes will be baking up their best coffee breads, meatballs, cookies and candies for the event. New this year: The Candy Shoppe and a children's Chinese Auction Table. If you have some last-minute donations for any of the tables, please contact Ginny Moore at 978-249-4962 or Gert Parnanen at 978-249-3728 to arrange for a drop off time or for pick up.

The First Congregational Church is again hosting Vic & Sticks comedy show for families on Saturday, November 18. All are welcome to attend a 6 p.m. pot luck dinner (please bring a dish to pass) and the 7:30 p.m. show.

Our Lady Pie Sale

Each year, the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving, the parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Chapel hold their annual fundraising Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Pies of all types and sizes are available in the foyer of the Historical Society's building on The Common (outside the post office) from 8:30 a.m. until sold out... and that's generally pretty fast! Anyone wishing to donate may contact Helen Feliciano at 978-249-2007. Anyone wishing to buy better shop pretty early

Open Mic Resumes November 11



Melanie and the Blue Shots (l-r: Melanie Mangum, Matt Hickler, Jim McCrae, Phil Leger, Jim Bennett and Noah Siegel) will once again be the house band for the 06-07 Open Mic series at Town Hall. Sponsored by the Cultural Council, this event has grown more impressive and more diverse with each passing year. Performers who would like to participate are encouraged to call Jim Bennett for information at 978-575-1052 or show up early to reserve a time slot on the night of the show. All are welcome to join the audience for a free, fun night of local music right in our Town center. The refreshments, available for a donation, are often to die for. If you can't make it this November, free up your calendar for the 1st Fridays of the month Dec - March.

Ladies Benevolent Society

Braised Beef Supper

Saturday, November 18 at Town Hall at 6:30 pm



This photo depicts the aftermath of the 2005 LBS supper. The 2006 version is on Saturday, November 18 at Town Hall. (NB. This is a date change from the date listed in the last newsletter.) Come enjoy homemade pies and rolls, beef in savory gravy poured over rich mashed potatoes, marinated carrot salad and buttery baby peas. After dining, you'll be happy with a belly-full of benevolent homecooking and you'll probably know why it's called the "Lbs." supper. Profits pay for local scholarships. The supper is a deal at \$10/ ticket or \$5 for kids under 8 yrs. Contact any member or call Kim MacPhee at 978-249-0946 for tix. (Call quickly as space is limited.) Take-out available by advance reservation. Photo: Barclay

Annual Fire Department Turkey Raffle

On Friday, November 10th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Station 1 On The Common, the Royalston Fire Department will be holding their annual turkey raffle. Purchase chances to win turkeys and other holiday fixings while enjoying free clam chowder. Beer is available for purchase. Tickets for a chance to win one of the giant holiday baskets are available prior to the raffle from any Royalston firefighter for three tickets for a dollar. You need not be present to win one of the holiday baskets. Come enjoy this Royalston Thanksgiving tradition.

Annual Flu Clinic

All adults in Royalston, regardless of age, are invited to partake of this year's Annual Flu Clinic being held on Wednesday, November 29 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Royalston Town Hall. The vaccination is strongly recommended for any adults with chronic health problems, health care workers and the elderly. No appointments are needed. You're also invited to stay for lunch afterwards (again, regardless of age) with the Council on Aging's Luncheon Club - but you need to reserve a seat by Monday, the 27th, by calling Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656.

Poets Are Plentiful at Community School

The RCS Poetry Club is off to a great start! The following children have enrolled making it one of our biggest memberships to date : **Felicia & Autumn Tourigny, Tobey Chase, Kadasia & Alyana LaJoie, Emily Mangum, Emma Finocchio, Abby Divoll, Rhianon Fletcher, Darian James, Deijah & Chalia Euvrard, Derek Bates, Allisyn Mowrey, Michele Thompson, Carissa & Krista Boudreau, Kassandra Frazier, Olivia Oliveira, Sarah Arsenault, Hannah Bartkus, Haylie Baker, Josua Cormier, Isabelle O'Connor, Ryan Ganley, Tanner Favreau, Katie Robinson and Megan Perreault .**

The milky moon in the sky of ink
Sheds its light with a blink, blink, blink.
So come and let your little light shine
and we'll write poems that are sublime.

Geo-cache Club

Over a third of the students in the Royalston Community School are wandering around local conservation areas and using satellites to guide them to hidden treasures this month. Joann Deacon is running a weekly after-school Geo-caching Club. This club was funded by the Athol-Royalston Education foundation, a group which raises money for enrichment projects in local public schools. To become a member, please send a donation to PO Box 149 Athol 01331.

Village School News

more info: 978-249-3505

Lighting the Darkness: The annual lantern walk , pot-luck supper and contra-dance will be held Friday November 3rd. Children meet at the Village School at 5 pm. They will process singing while carrying home-made lanterns to the Town Hall where a pot-luck supper is scheduled. Following, contra-dances accompanied by the No Name Band will be taught by Norah Dooley. The community is welcome to participate. Tickets \$10/ family.

Cemetery Surveyed

Jane Manring, math teacher

Math students at the Village School have surveyed a portion of the Center Cemetery on the Common. The fourth graders learned that life expectancy in the 1840's was between forty and fifty. Each student recorded data from a different set of grave markers. There were conflicting results. One survey of thirty-nine graves revealed that most people had died before the age of five years. Another survey found that most people died between fourteen and thirty-four. Still another survey found most deaths to be between the ages of sixty and seventy. Noticing the difference in their data, the students concluded that they needed more samples in their survey. The oldest person was ninety-eight at death. The youngest was nine minutes .

Third graders found that the year 1830 had the most people who had died. Their advice to anyone conducting a survey is to pay attention that the same information is not recorded twice, be sure to check off names as you record them, number your papers, and be aware that some people have the same first and last names. If so, they are probably son and father or mother and daughter.



Officers for the South Royalston School Reunion Association were re-elected recently. (l-r) President Luann (Laroche) Simula, Vice President Debra (Alger) Vescovi; Secretary Susan (Alger) White and Treasurer Virginia (Harrington) Moore.

South Royalston School Reunion Association News

Everyone is still abuzz about the gathering held in September – great turnout, fantastic food, lots of fun, and dancing the night away to DJ Duane Neale's amazing collection of fifties and sixties music. If you'd like to be included in next year's reunion, remember that all Royalston school children and staff from any Royalston school are invited into membership. Membership is just \$10 a year, which includes the reunion meeting, dinner, entertainment and mailings for the year. Contact President Luann (Laroche) Simula at 978-249-8746 to join.

Monty Tech News

Congratulations to the 49 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients at Monty Tech, more than 17 percent of the 276 seniors. Royalston had three of its five seniors in the group: **Andrew Parnanen, Ryan Peters and Jessica Putney.** In order to qualify for the Adams Scholarships, students must earn at least one proficient score and one advanced score between mathematics and English language arts, and have a combined MCAS score that ranks in the top 25 percent within the Monty Tech District.

Monty Tech faculty members Molly Crane and Donna Tignor have created a mathematics workbook specifically for use in shops. The idea is to bridge the concepts being taught in the academic classes with similar skills being taught in trades and professions. Aligning these skills should be more interesting and relevant to students, enhance learning in both settings, and contribute to improving performance on standardized tests like MCAS.

The September 22 golf tournament was a great success, raising \$13,900 profit (up \$600 from last year!) for the BEEF (Business Education and Enrichment Foundation) which turns all of that money back into scholarships for graduating Monty Tech seniors.

Business Briefs

Royalston Community Coop

Coming down to the wire - one order date remains prior to the Thanksgiving holiday (delivery on Nov. 9) and a just two prior to the Christmas season (delivery on December 7) – be sure to take this into account when ordering! Also, if you have anything special to offer by way of holiday season gifts, add that to your order, and it will be passed along to members. The next orders are due in on Thursday November 2.

Pete & Henry's Gift Certificates make great holiday gifts and are good (as are all restaurant certificates, by State law) for seven years from the date of issue. Remaining '06 hours are Thursdays, 4-9 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving); Fridays, 4-10 p.m.; Saturdays, 3-10 p.m.; Sundays, 1-8 p.m., with November 26th being the last open day for 2006.

Playaway Lanes: Beyond Bowling

Japanese Language Instruction and Video Games Now Available

Behind the Clark on Summer Drive in Winchendon stands a classic bowling alley called Playaway Lanes. It looks a blast from the past with an aqua and orange formica motif. Little by way of decoration has changed since it was built in 1955, except maybe the hanging of a photo of magician Eddie Raymond scoring a perfect 300 game ten years ago.

Recently, however, Playaway has become a "Classic American Retro Bowling Space" under the new ownership of Andrew McGuire and his wife, Chie Yamanoi. It still has great bowling; \$20 gets an hour lane rental with shoe rental included for as many bowlers as share a lane. Electronic score keeping will be installed soon, but the owners promise they'll turn it off for anyone who wants to maintain their math skills. The video arcade has expanded into Tokyo Game Action, Inc., a game room with lots of Japanese games. This is the only location in the USA where many of these games can be found. The cost is \$25 for an hour of unlimited gaming. The owner is a former police officer and he requires all teens to sign in when they enter the building. Perhaps most intriguing, Playaway Lanes now offers Japanese language classes. The owners met in the classroom when Mr McGuire was teaching English for Toyota and his soon-to-be spouse was his student, and now, the couple has developed their own language teaching method. Japanese candies and toys, including a large Hello Kitty selection, are also on sale at Playaway. For information, call 978-297-1295.

Energy Expo

The North Quabbin Energy Group is proud to present the first ever North Quabbin Energy Exposition, in Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 4th from 10am-6pm. Memorial Hall is located at 584 Main Street in Athol. Admission is \$2 for adults, and children under 12 get in absolutely free! All proceeds will benefit the Memorial Hall Revitalization Fund and North Quabbin Energy Group. Vendors and speakers from around the region will address conservation, local energy projects, and renewable fuels. Learn about past and present water power in our area, enjoy local home made food from area churches, children's activities, raffles...and much more! Visit www.northquabbinenergy.org for more information.

Why Not Do Lunch?

Royalston's Luncheon Club meets every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall. In addition to food and friendly company, the luncheon offers a scheduled series of extras. The first Wednesday of the month has a Chinese Auction, the second Wednesday a blood pressure clinic and the last Wednesday a brown bag food distribution. In addition, the luncheon group also goes on occasional field trips. The luncheons are sponsored by the Council on Aging. Since we are all aging, all are welcome. The cost is nominal. Call Betty Woodbury for more information. 978-249-9656.

Classifieds

Help Wanted:

Library Substitute: Looking for qualified people to substitute during regular library hours and for preschool story time. Must be available on short notice and accepting of an irregular schedule. For more information and an application, come to the library.

Dog Needed: Looking for a medium-sized dog. Will provide a good home. 978-249-8970.

For Sale:

Avon products: Please contact Royalston's Jill Neale if you are interested in receiving a brochure. Her telephone # is 978-249-8613 and Email address is jillneale@trysb.net.

Firewood: Cut split and dried hardwood: \$150/ cord. Pine also available. Call 7 AM - 5 PM only please. 978-249-3725.

Firewood: Cut, split and delivered in Royalston. Leave a message for Randy at 978-249-9239.

Restamatic electric adjustable bed with attached controller. Head, Knee, and foot levels adjustable with a massage unit built in with Hi/Low settings. Twin size, 30 inches wide, 79 1/2 inches long will fit in a twin bed frame, on a free standing metal frame with rollers. Has a box spring attached to frame with the motor and a twin mattress. Like brand new, (stubborn father-in-law with hip replacement refused to use it). Asking \$750.00 or best reasonable offer (retails for over \$2,000). Please call and leave a message 978-249-6576

Michael Voldahl-Corliss has the following items for sale:

Donkeys: 2 geldings well behaved, friendly will not separate. \$1500. **Softub Hot Tub:** Model 220 1-4 persons. Light weight, portable and energy efficient. See web site at www.softub.com Originally \$3500. will sell for \$2000. **Whirlpool Upright Freezer:** 14.6 cu ft. Almond, \$200 or b/o. Call 978-249-9954.

Services Offered:

House Cleaning: 4 hrs \$60.00. Ask for Fran, Royalston resident. Cell phone #: 978-895-0817. Royalston and surrounding towns.

Leaf Raking, Wood Stacking and other odd jobs. Call 11-year-old John Divoll at 978-249-3158.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Bill and Elaine Chapman, residents of Old Turnpike Rd since May 2003, announce the birth of their son, **Colton William Chapman**. He was born in Leominster Hospital on August 19 2006, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 21 inches. **Bruce and Sylvia Chapman** of Royalston and **Paul and Pauline Viau** of Fitchburg are the proud grandparents.



Welcome to one of Royalston's newest inhabitants, **Ryan Jacques**, who joined his parents **Mike and Laura (Neale) Jacques** on September 7, 2006. The bouncing baby boy weighed in at an impressive 9 lbs, and was an equally impressive 22 inches long. Mom and Dad survived the adventure, and relatives in the vicinity of the Neale Farm, including **Uncle Ted Neale** and any number of cousins, are delighted.

Newly Wed: Lorrie Richard and Dean Boudreau Jr. were married Saturday, October 14th. They are new Royalston residents.



50th Anniversary: Walter and Joyce Hubbard of Athol Richmond Rd recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with friends and family at the Ellinwood Country Club.

Crooners and hoofers: Need a little holiday spirit? Enjoy nimble tap dancing numbers and a big cast belting out classic Broadway songs? Then, get tickets (before they sell out) to the Theater at the Mount's production of *A Broadway Christmas*, which runs the 1st two weekends in December at Mount Wachusett Community College. Royalston's **Benjamin West** and **Asher Chase** are song and dance men in the show. Info: <http://theatre.mwcc.edu> or 978-632-2403

New on the Monty Tech Staff: Congrats to Royalston's own **Tra-cie Wright**, a ten year resident of Morse Road, was among the new personnel introduced recently at Monty Tech. She is a teacher in the Dental Assisting program. Another Royalston resident, **Jean Enright** of Athol-Richmond Road, was also introduced. She is serving as Monty Tech's newly-hired School Psychologist.

Recipe of the Month

Happy Veterans' Day to Ralph "Buster" Serre, who will celebrate his 80th birthday next February. This photo was taken August 7, 1944 in Germany. Buster served in the army in WWII from 1944-47 and was stationed in three different bases in Europe.



He was born in Athol and raised in South Royalston and his wife, Bev, was born in Orange. They married in 1965 and have been residents of Town on and off since 1968 for a total of about 17 years.

This recipe has been passed on from Buster's grandmother to his mother, Evelyn Florena Newman Thayer, and then to him. It's called "The Pink Stuff"

because when Buster was a kid, before holiday dinners, he and his siblings would always ask, "Ma, did you make the pink stuff?"

The Pink Stuff

2 15 oz. cans shredded pineapple
 2 small bottles of marachino cherries chopped
 1/2 pint whipped cream (or an 8 oz. container of cool whip)
 1/2 cup warm water
 juice of 1 lemon
 1/4 cup sugar
 2 8 oz. pkgs of cream cheese-softened
 1 pkg. gelatin

Melt sugar with pineapple and lemon juice on low heat. In a small bowl, sprinkle gelatin on 1/2 cup warm water to dissolve and let cool. In a larger bowl, whip up the cream cheese and fold in the chopped cherries. Now, in a large bowl, using an electric mixer, whip the cream. Turn the mixer down to low speed and add the cream cheese mix, then the pineapple mix and lastly the gelatin mix. Continue mixing until well blended. Put in a 13x9 inch glass dish. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight. Cut up into squares and put onto a fancy dish. Happy holidays from Buster and Bev.

Report on Ecology of Lakes and Ponds in Our Region Available

Matt Hickler, a botanist and Royalston resident, has just concluded a report entitled "Lakes and Ponds of the Worcester-Monadnock Plateau Ecoregion in Massachusetts: Comparative Limnology and Patterns of Aquatic Plant Diversity." While it sounds overwhelming it presents a unique picture of the ponds and lakes in our region. For instance, of the 25 ponds samples, Tully Lake had the greatest species richness while Packard Pond had the least. Random selection of 20 ponds from the 71 water bodies greater than 5 hectares in surface area included only four natural ponds. A report on each pond or lake is included with all sorts of information on the area, aquatic vegetation, history, and more. You may read this report at the Phineas S Newton Library, download it at www.millersriver.net, or obtain paper copies from the Millers River Environmental Center at 978-248-9491.

World Water Monitoring Days

Choose one day between November 1 - 15, 2006 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.

Trees Toppled

Temperatures dropped 20 degrees in 20 minutes on October 20th as a major front came through. Apparently there was a microburst with strong wind shears in the west side of Tully Campground, where between 75 and 100 mature trees were either uprooted in soggy ground or snapped off in a 100-yard swath. The Trustees of Reservations, who own the property, asked for volunteers with chain saws to come to clean up the area. An approximately 115 year old pine fell into the Doane's Hill Rd, closing the road for several hours. After the front passed, an especially clear rainbow formed above clearings all over Town.

The huge Red Oak in the back corner of the "golf course", the field behind the houses on the southeast side of the Common dropped a large limb this summer. This monstrous tree had been pinned with steel rods some sixty years ago as it was beginning to split under its own weight. The tree still looks healthy, but it is no longer quite as gigantic.



Tully Campground

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

Wouldn't you know, away for the first time since February and I missed the early morning frost on the 14th. Remarkably, many of the frost sensitive plants survived, though barely. Those in my pepper and voluntary tomato patches lost some tips but otherwise looked just fine after I peeled back the blankets. Just as remarkable was the frost damage to the leaves of most of the brassicas. Brassicas (the cabbages, broccoli, cauliflower, radishes, rutabaga, turnips, kale. . .) are generally among the hardiest of the garden vegetables, shrugging off frosts in the mid-20s. Kale, in fact, can be harvested in mid-winter, either by you or the deer, depending on who gets there first. So it was befuddling to discover all the whitened leaves on the brassicas the morning after the gentlest of frosts. (October 22: 29 at dawn, our first sub-30 reading. Those peppers and tomatoes, covered again, survived again, though clearly the worse for wear.)



It is time, of course, and I know that, but the onset of frost remains a sobering event, the passing of another season. That being said, I forge straight ahead, embarking upon the 2007 season by planting the garlic. This is a mid-October event (inching toward a ritual) which highlights, as much as anything, the ongoing nature of the garden. Many of the beds are still occupied: by the whitened brassicas and a multitude of root crops, most of which continue to bulk up. Absent some catastrophic event, the root cellar will be beyond capacity this winter. Those beds that are no longer occupied receive their annual infusion of compost and wood ashes. Each year the preparation of the beds require the extraction and removal of stones. Each year, happily, there are less and less of them and they become smaller and smaller. I am looking forward to someday pulling out pebbles.

I am somewhat opportunistic in respect to foraging foodstuffs. Grapes abound this fall, and, with some effort, can be turned into jam or juice or hooch. I've gathered pears from three different sites, in each case the homeowner grateful I was cleaning up the yard. Cook pears long enough, put them through a sieve, sweeten them if you prefer, and pear butter results. Apples are not plentiful, though sufficient. You ain't seen gnarly until you behold an apple from an unsprayed Northern Spy tree. I turn them into the very same applesauce I would get from perfectly formed fruit. Called, as tree warden, to the Moore residence in the South Village to render an opinion on an overhanging branch and discovered it to be a branch of a black walnut tree. I left with a bushel of black walnuts. For me, the fun is as much in the discovery as the food it provides.

Raspberries continue as the fall garden's major surprise. The leaves are off the trees and I'm picking a couple of pints of berries every couple of days. There are many more yet to ripen and maybe, just maybe, we'll have a balmy couple of weeks to encourage their ripening. Fresh raspberries in November? Wouldn't that be something?

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Wildlife Sightings

A Red Fox with a beautiful russet coat was seen by Janet Bodman in the field at the corner of Stone & Deland Roads. Geo Bodman came across an impressive 8 point **buck** on Stone Road going into the Old Bodman Farm woods.

On October 6, 2006 at 7:45 a.m., Rhiannon Fletcher surprised a full-grown, **male moose** in her Bliss Hill Rd driveway as she went out to catch the school bus. It had a full rack. It is the first time either Rhiannon or her mother, Jackie Fletcher, had ever seen a moose. The Fletchers just moved to Royalston in November of 2005, and Rhiannon started at the Royalston Community School in September of this year.

On October 9, Elizabeth Hart spotted a **bobcat** crossing Northeast Fitzwilliam Road.

Get Well Don Fortin. We're thinking of you.

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