Calendar of Events

May 1 Saturday May Day
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Last day of open burning season (must have FD issued permit)

May 2 Sunday
10 a.m. Annual Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby
See p. 8.

4-6 pm. Art Opening. Local artists Gordon Morrison and Elizabeth Farnsworth are holding a joint exhibition of their work at the Petersham Craft Center. Work can also be viewed during regular gallery hours 12-4pm Wednesday-Sunday. Show lasts through June 10.

May 5 Wednesday Cinco de Mayo
9:00 a.m. May Day Celebration at the Village School. Children can join in May Pole weaving and dancing as well as singing of traditional songs with local musicians. The aging Millers River Morris Men will appear, unable to contain themselves, and pound the earth to drive out winter and bring fertility to the crops, the animals, and the people! The public is invited. This event will last under an hour, just enough time to greet the spring and evade the black flies.

May 6 Thursday
3:45 p.m. Friends of the Library meet. All welcome.

May 7 Friday
7 p.m. Annual Town Meeting downstairs at Town Hall

7 pm Father-Daughter Dance at Athol Town Hall, sponsored by A-REF, a local group which raises funds for outside-the-budget projects in the local public schools. This year A-REF funded a class-set of snowshoes and a “family art night” at RCS as well as many other projects throughout the district. Dance info available at RCS or www.a-ref.org.

May 8 Saturday

May 9 Sunday Mother’s Day

May 13 Thursday New Flower Moon

May 15 Saturday Armed Forces Day
President Harry S. Truman set aside this day so Americans could thank troops for their “patriotic service in support of our country.” This holiday replaced individual celebrations held by the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

May 19 Wednesday
noon Singer Patty Carpenter will perform folllowing the senior luncheon at town hall. Free and open to the public. If planning to enjoy lunch beforehand, pls. call Betty Woodbury by Monday, May 17th (978-249-9656) to reserve your meal.

May 21 Friday
10:30 am and 7 pm The Village School’s Annual Original Play at the Royalston Town Hall called Persephone in Peril. Based on their year-long study of Ancient Greece, the 4th-6th grades have written an original script, which they perform in an action packed, rollicking performance, including lighting and original music. This year’s play is humorously focused on the mischief brought down on humans by the gods on Olympus. Everyone is welcome. Free, and donations are accepted to defray production costs.

May 26 Wednesday
7:00 p.m. “The Art of Beekeeping” Ladies’ B. program with hostess and beekeeper Deb Nunes. Note the change in time. The beekeeping portion of the meeting will be outside at 7 pm with a business meeting to follow at 8:00. See p. 6

May 27 Thursday
7:07 p.m. Full Flower Moon

May 31 Monday Memorial Day
Post Office, PSN Library and schools closed
2 p.m. Memorial Day Exercises in the South Village
3 p.m. Memorial Day Pot Luck Luncheon, organized by the Ladies’ Benevolent Society and Our Lady Queen of Heaven parishioners for all townspeople – Veterans are guests – others, please bring a dish to pass. (See p. 2)

Save the Date
June 12 Saturday New Strawberry Moon

Saturday Morning Spectacular: Village School pancake breakfast and auction, library plant and book sale, historical society bake sale and a puppet show The Princess and the Pea by puppeteer Nicol Wander and friends, sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council.
5:30 p.m. Royalston F&G Chicken Barbecue
Board of Selectmen’s Corner

Andy West, Selectman

Route 32: Trees have been marked for cutting along the route. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the tree cutting plan. The contractors have used care to clear the line of site but keep the rural character. Loggers will be working for the next couple of weeks to clear the trees. Surveyors have been laying out the plan the length of the road. The next steps will involve installing new drainage pipes to replace the old worn, collapsed piping.

Volunteer Openings: Several town residents stepped forward last month to volunteer for some of the openings on boards and commissions. A few were folks who had not served in town government before. Thank you to them for volunteering. There are still a few openings. Keeping the town boards as volunteer-based keeps the government personal and keeps tax dollars down – for just a few hours a month. If you are interested or just want to find out more details, call the Selectmen’s Office 978-249-9641.

Annual Town Meeting: The Royalston Annual Town Meeting will be held Friday, May 7, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall. Royalston’s budget is requested to be level-funded (except for schools) at a little over $1.6 million. Come to the Town Meeting and have a voice in how it is spent. Check out the complete warrant online at royalston-ma.gov or posted at the Town Hall, Post Office, or the General Store.

Open Space & Recreation Committee

Aaron Ellison

The Open Space & Recreation Committee implements our newly-approved 7-year Open Space Plan (the full plan can be read at the Library or viewed on-line through the Committee’s web-site: http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSC/indexopen.htm). In the next few years, the Committee will be studying abandoned, discontinued, or otherwise unused old roads in town; surveying and maintaining the section of the Metacomet-Monadnock National Scenic Trail that runs through town; partnering with local land trusts, and state and federal agencies to protect open space in town; and creating new opportunities for recreation in town.

The seven members of the Open Space & Recreation Committee are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. There are currently two openings on the committee, and we are looking for town residents interested to work with us. If you are interested in volunteering for this town committee (for 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2010), please contact the Board of Selectmen, email the committee (info@royalstonopenspace.org), or call Chris Long at 249-0246.

Board of Health

The transfer station has been in good shape thanks to the work of Tony Argiro and Steve Robinson. Give them a thanks next time you see them.

Pay attention to the signs as to where to dump, as this changes week to week. Remember to keep non-paper items such as plastic bags and styrofoam packing chunks out of the paper roll-offs. Paper can’t be made out of plastic.

We are working on possibly taking large plastic items such as toys, and large plastic pails etc. This would involve a different roll off to capture these items. Stay tuned for future details.

No plans for pricing changes. These will stay stable through the next fiscal year which starts July 1. New stickers for the new fiscal year should be available in late May. New stickers need to be purchased by July 1. These are $15 for the year. See attendant for details.

Town Clean-up Wrap-up

Mary C Barclay

Here’s a wrap-up on the annual Royalston Roadside Clean-up, which for nearly two decades has been organized by “Checkpoint Charlie” Scribner. Forty residents turned out ready for their assignments or accomplished some cleaning on their own either in advance or on the big day. Charlie expressed special thanks to the Board of Selectmen for their support, also to the Board of Health for waiving dumping fees, and to transfer station personnel who accepted extra work with a smile. Last, but not least, thanks to Dan and Cathy Monette for providing the grill and cooking for the troops.

The stats for 4/24/10 were:
40 participants 15 bags of recyclables
40 bags of trash 7 tires
5 hub caps between the Common and Doane’s Falls miscellaneous pieces of furniture
COA Hosts Patty Carpenter
After a several year absence, singer Patty Carpenter will return to the Luncheon Club on Wednesday, May 19th, starting at noon. She is a well-known talented and popular performer, playing and singing songs from the early part of the 20th century up to the present. It’s always wonderful to hear all those golden oldies from the 30’s, 40’s, and 50’s! She has appeared at the Luncheon Club numerous times in the past decade, and the Cultural Council is delighted to fund her appearance. This concert is FREE and open to the public, ALL AGES. If you wish to participate in the meal, please call Betty Woodbury by Monday, May 17th (978-249-9656). For more information about Patty’s visit, please call Deb Nunes (978-249-4000).

Remember: luncheon club meets 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m every Wednesday. Meals are $2 for seniors and $2.50 for pre-seniors. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat for the next Wednesday’s meal.

Memorial Day Commemoration

Music Fest T-shirt Contest- Designs Needed
Royalston Cultural Council needs t-shirt ideas! The mid-summer Royalston Music Fest has become a community tradition, and so have the t-shirts designed for each year’s event. Many of us have a full seven-year “run” of all the great Music Fest shirts, and they are fast becoming collectors’ items. Royalston youth have contributed some great designs in the past, and the Cultural Council wants to tap teen talent again this year.

Do you have an idea for a t-shirt design for this summer’s Music Fest? If so, make a sketch and either drop it in the Cultural Council mailbox to the left of the front door to Town Hall, or email a scan to Elizabeth Farnsworth at efmarswo@mtholyoke.edu. If you’d just like to discuss design ideas, feel free to give Elizabeth a call at 249-6771.

Music Fest happens on Sunday, July 18, 2010.

All are invited to attend Memorial Day exercises in South Royalston on Monday, May 31. Exercises begin at 2 p.m. in the park where a parade forms and proceeds to the Riverside Cemetery. Here all children are invited to decorate veterans’ graves with wreaths; the procession continues to the Miller’s River for a wreath dedication and then back to the park for closing ceremonies. All are also welcome to attend a post-parade luncheon at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel on Route 68 just north of the park at 3 p.m. Veterans and their families, dignitaries and parade marchers are guests; others are asked to provide a dish to pass. This year parishioners are pairing with the Ladies’ Benevolent Society to coordinate the pot luck luncheon.
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
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you
Diane Lincoln for donating two of her new CDs and the DVD Playing for Change: Peace Through Music
Virginia Moore and Priscilla Dand for book donations
Beth Gospodarek for stepping in and helping at the cross culture club gatherings
Tony Cooper for audiobooks
Maureen Blasco for keeping the keeping aloft

Author Visit Postponed
The visit by Harriet Reisen, Nancy Porter, Boyd Estus, and Liane Brandon to discuss the film and book Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women has been postponed until the fall due to scheduling problems. Look for more information in the June newsletter.

Student Art Exhibit at the Library
May and June are Student Artwork months at the library. During May, work done by students at the Village School will be on display and during June, artwork of students from the Royalston Community School will be exhibited. Stop by and see how creative our children are.

The Bard is Back
What is the Royalston Shakespeare Company? It’s not arm, nor leg, nor face, nor cheek, nor any other part belonging to a man. Neither is it a star to every wandering bark (although it does rather confirm what fools these mortals be).

No, ‘tis instead a 13- day- from-book-to-stage theater workshop, running from 9 am - noon M-F June 21 - July 2, with a performance at 7 pm on July 2nd at the Town Hall. Participants have a lot of fun but also work hard in preparation for treading the boards whilst proclaiming (generally in iambic pentameter) some of the most famous lines in the English language. For those who prefer to stay behind the scenes, a tech crew is also needed. All usually leave the RSC with a better knowledge of Shakespeare’s words, times and theatrics as well as a few new friends. The workshop will be directed by the local triumverate of Maureen Blasco, Norah Dooley and Beth Gospodarek. Those ages 5 - 18 interested should sign up at the library. (There are space limits to the number of actors to fit on the town hall stage, so sign up soon.)

Stay tuned to discover which of Shakespeare’s works will be undertaken... think star-crossed lovers in the midst of a gang war... or possibly a tragedy involving mercilessly ungrateful children... or even a sad tale of unscrupulous loan sharks. It’s all good in the hands of the Bard.

Kite Flying Day 2010 saw the kites soar in the breeze (until the accompanying soaking shower hit.) Let’s hope for better weather next year.

Bibliophiles with Green Thumbs:
Plant Sale Donations Needed
Spring is in a hurry this year. The perennials are already perky and the seedlings on the window sill are ready to be thinned. Pot up your extras for donation to the fabulous Friends of the Library plant sale. Share your green thumb and benefit your community at the same time. The Friends of the library publish this newsletter, run lots of enrichment programs such as Shakespeare, cross culture club and vacation events as well as purchase supplies, DVDs and technology for the library.
New Materials at Your Library

Adult Fiction
Balzac, David  Deliver us from Evil
Berg, Elizabeth  The Last Time I Saw You (Large Print)
Beverley, Jo  The Secret Duke
Black, Benjamin  Elegy for April
Bowen, Rhys  The Last Illusion
Box, C.J.  Nowhere to Run
Boyce, T.C.  Wild Child, and Other Stories
Butcher, Jim  Changes
Carey, Peter  Parrot and Olivier in America
Coben, Harlan  Caught
Cussler, Clive  The Silent Sea
Dallas, Sandra  Whiter than Snow
Dodd, Christina I  The Lake Shore Limited
Edwards, Louisa  On the Steamy Side
Endicott, Marina  Good to a Fault
Evans, Richard  The Walk
Genberg, Ira  Reckless Homicide
Giorrello, Bibella  The Clouds Roll Away
Gowda, Shilpi  Secret Daughter
Grimes, Martha  The Black Cat
Harvey, Michael  The Third Rail
Johansen, Iris  Eight Days to Live
Kellerman, Jesse  The Executor
Kellerman, Jonathan  Deception
Kiernan, Kristy  Between Friends
Lamott, Anne  Imperfect Birds
Lehrer, James  Super
Marlantes, Karl  Matterhorn
Martel, Yann  Beatrice and Virgil
McCall-Smith, A.  The Double Comfort Safari Club
McEwan, Ian  Solar
Miller, Sue  The Lake Shore Limited
Min, Anchee  Pearl of China
Modesitt, L.E.  Imager's Challenge
Peters, Elizabeth  A River in the Sky
Porter, Henry  Brandenburg Gate
Quick, Amanda  Burning Lamp
Quinlten, Anna  Every Last One
Robards, Karen  Shameless
Robards, Karen  Shattered
Simson, Helen  Major Pettigrew's Last Stand
Smith, Lee  Mrs. Darcy and the Blue-eyed Stranger
Steinbeck, Thomas  In the Shadow of the Cypress
Tolkien, Simon  The Inheritance
Vergheese, A.  Cutting for Stone
Wheeler, Richard  Snowbound
Whitson, Stephanie  Sixteen Brides
Woods, Stuart  Lucid Intervals

DVD's: The Blind Side, Did You Hear About the Morgans?, District 9, Fantastic Mr. Fox, Huggies Potting Training Success, Peace Through Music, The Princess and the Frog, Sherlock Holmes, and Twilight New Moon

Adult Non-Fiction
An Angler's Guide to Trout  Fishing in Massachusetts
Hiebert, Helen  Paper Illuminated
Lappe, Anna  Diet for a Hot Planet
Loving, Jerome  Mark Twain
McKibben, Bill  Eaarth
Montgomery, Sy  Birdology
Remnick, David  The Bridge

Adult Audiobooks
Bryson, Bill  Shakespeare
Cornwell, Patricia  The Scarpetta Factor
Grann, David  Devil and Sherlock Holmes
King, Stephen  Just After Sunset
Mantel, Hilary  Wolf Hall
Meyers, Yann  Beatrice and Virgil

Young Adult Fiction
Armstrong, Kelley  The Reckoning
Collins, Suzanne  Catching Fire
Hockensmith, Steve  Pride and Prejudice and Zombies
Hunter, Erin  A Clan I Need
Marchetta, Melina  Finnikin of the Rock
Meyer, Stephanie  Twilight: The Graphic Novel
Pike, Ainslyne  Wings
Reeve, Philip  Fever Crumb
Turner, Megan  A Conspiracy of Kings
Turner, Megan  The King of Attolia
Turner, Megan  The Queen of Attolia

Young Adult Non-Fiction
Dini, Paul  The Batman Adventures
Petillo, Lisa  Political Profiles: Sarah Palin
Yoyo  Call of the Winged Panther

Children's Fiction
Barrows, Annie  Ivy + Bean: Doomed to Dance
Cushman, Karen  Alchemy and Meggy Swann
Diamond, Emily  Raider's Ransom
Kann, Victoria  Pinakolicious
Kann, Victoria  Purplicious
Lowrey, Lois  Birthday Ball
Munoz, Pam Ryan  Neruda
O'Connell, Rebecca  Danny is Done with Diapers
Pinfold, Levi  The Django

Children's Non-Fiction
Alexander, Cecil  All Things Bright and Beautiful
Donavan, Sandra  Pingpong Perry Experiences How a Book is Made
Hopkins  Sharing the Seasons
Jenkins, Steve  How to Clean a Hippopotamus
Katz, Anne  Girl in the Know
Kreiter, Eshel  John Singer Sargent
Krensky, Stephen  Barack Obama
Luciani  The Meeting
Mazer, Anne  Spilling Ink
Nelson, S.D.  Black Elk's Vision
Stamaty, Mark  Ali's Mission
Steig, William  Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
Vestergaard, Hope  Potty Animals
Winter, Jeanette  The Librarian of Basra

Resident Recommended Reading
While bored and pacing the book section at BJ's recently, the book Shutter Island was recommended by a complete stranger to Jim Barclay. He bought, he read (all afternoon, evening, night...), he raves! “Suspenseful, unpredictable, and well written.”
Royalston Fish and Game News

The Annual Walter E. Carlson Memorial Fishing Derby takes place Sunday, May 2, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Royalston F&G Club pond, freshly stocked the night before with a variety of trout, thanks to the Millers River Fishermen’s Association. Members’ children (Under 14 years of age) are entitled to the first two fish and the cookout lunch at no cost. Guest fisherchildren (Under 14) can purchase a $2 ticket which includes their first two fish and lunch. Additional tickets may be purchased by all participants for $2, to catch an additional two fish.

The Annual ATA Memorial Day Trap Shoot is on Monday, May 31, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. The F&G Club’s kitchen will be open to the public during those hours, with Lisa Cosentino cooking up a variety of breakfast and lunch specials.

Sure signs of summer? The Royalston F&G Chicken Barbecues are coming. The first is planned for Saturday, June 12 at 5:30. Advance tickets are strongly recommended. Contact Vice President Clayton Holmes at 978-249-4281 to get on the list for a $10 ticket.

Winchendon Rod and Gun Club Fish Frys
Be sure to check out the Winchendon R&G’s Fish Frydays, second Fridays of each month. Deep fried fish and chicken, fresh hand-cut fries and variety of sides. Whopping portions (suitable for two hungry adults) run $15ish. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available at the bar. Serving from about 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., or when the food is gone. Call the Winchendon Club at 978-297-3955 for advance tickets, or arrive (earlier, rather than later!) to buy at the door.

Ladies’ Bee
The next meeting of the Ladies’ Benevolent Society is slated for Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m. at the home of hostess Deb Nunes. The program begins at 8 p.m., and the topic is “The Art of Beekeeping” with Deb and Joe. Beekeepers and wannaBees are all invited. Non-members are asked to RSVP with Deb at 978-249-4000.

The Society is partnering with parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel for this year’s annual Memorial Day Post-Parade Luncheon, 3 p.m. in the (cool, black-fly-free!) church on Monday, May 31. It’s not unusual to see 50 guests at this luncheon, which concludes several days of Memorial Day exercises for many of the area’s military veterans. Those willing to pitch in with donations of paper goods, plasticware, and of course, pot luck offering, are needed. Please contact LBS President Laurie Deveneau at 978-249-5807 or lmdeveneau@msn.com or society member and church parishioner Helen E. Feliciano at 978-249-2007.

New members are welcome any time and anyone interested is invited to attend any program. Contact Society Secretary Mary C. Barclay at 978-249-2598 or mcbarclay@juno.com for a 2010 Program Guide.

The RCS Poetry Club investigated emotions during April. Here are the results:

Sadness  Autumn Tourigny
Sadness is when your dog has to be put down.
It happens when it is dark, cloudy and rainy outside.
It sounds like a baby cat meowing looking for somewhere to live.
It tastes like when you go out to eat and you didn’t like it.

Fear  Rhiannon Fletcher
Fear is as cold as a stone.
It happens when you get robbed.
It sounds like a dying person.
It feels like a shot to the side.
It tastes like fresh blood.

Love  Hannah Bartkus
Love is as wonderful as summer,
It happens when you meet a perfect guy.
It sounds like ocean waves.
It feels like walking on clouds.
It tastes like a chocolate chip cookie.

Jealousy  Isabelle O’Connor
Jealousy is as black as midnight.
Jealousy is when your best friend has a flat Plasma TV
and you’re not even allowed to have a TV in your room.
It sounds like a teakettle steaming.
It feels like getting hit in the head with a stone.
It tastes like a bleeding lip.

Dowsing
Jon Hardie  978-575-1454
Water Wells Since 1965
A free of charge community service
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Academic Honor Rolls - 3rd quarter
Royalston Community School, grades 4 - 6:
Straight As: Olivia Kimball and Ann Reynolds
All As and Bs: Haylie Baker, Derek Bates, Hannah Bartkus, Taryne Bousquet, Cody Bassett, Mark Brightenti, Jr., Justin Blake, Samantha Dodd, Dejah Euvard-Brewington, Alyssa Cassarino, Kassandra Frazier, Rhiannon Fletcher, Kayla Gerry, Erin Snell, Katelyn Holden, James Laforde, Rebecca Tetreault, Loryn Killay, Owen MacPhee, Kyle May, Amber Mahony, Allisyn Mowrey, Isabelle O’Connor, Melissa Persson, Kyla Rathburn, Zachary Roberts, Kristopher Selanis, Kariina Tobias, Destiny Wrigley, Dahlia Wright and Abigail Divoll

Athol-Royalston Middle School
All As and Bs: Corey Baker, Devin Bates, Beau Guimond, Emily Mangum, Cody Nolette, Katelyn Robinson, Brandon Tisdale, Felicia Tourigny, Mary White, and Michael Findlay
As and Bs but one high C: Chelsea Sanderson, Ryan Sawyer, and Nathan Tisdale

Athol High School
Straight As: MacKenzie Bennett, Alyssa Bergquist, Allyn Baker, and Michele Thompson
All As and Bs: Noah Easton, Larissa and Krista Erikson, Pat Scribner, Hillary Whitcomb, Kourtney Fraizer, Ashley Guyer, Dylan Hall, Samantha Hutchins, Joseph Ridell, Ashley Sawyer, Allison Bergquist, Colleen Boutell, Tyler Tisdale, Shelby Bronnes, Alexis and Ashley Javier, Tim Normandin and Ruth White.

Military News

Sgt. Kevin Nunes, son of Deb and Joe Nunes, returned in late February after a year’s deployment in Iraq with the U.S. Army. As a Military Policeman, he was involved in the training of Iraqi police forces. Fortunately he was not involved in any combat missions. He is stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, where he has resumed his MP duties.

Milestones

Birth: Princess Leanna Rogers arrived on April 22, 2010 at 7:07 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs 6 ozs and was 20 1/2 inches long. The proud parents are Carol and Kevin Rogers. She has two big brothers, Adam and D.J.

Memorial: A celebration of life is being held in memory of Elma E. Baker, who lived more than 30 years on Blossom Street in South Royalston before moving to Florida in the 1980s. She passed on December 28, 2009 at the age of 90. All family and friends are invited to attend on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 11 a.m. at the Second Congregational Church of Royalston, and to a luncheon afterwards by the ladies’ fellowship group. Memorial contributions may be made to the Second Congregational Church.

Recipe of the Month

Donna Caisse’s Cheese Cake
Donna has lived on Norcross Road with her husband Scott, who is also a very good cook, for 24 years. She is involved with the Royalston Ladies Benevolent Society and Royalston Energy Committee. She works as a dental assistant and enjoys gardening and spending time with her family.

Donna raves about this recipe, “Quick easy delicious! Everyone loves this cheesecake. I serve it plain or with fruit. Crushed pineapple in juice is my favorite.”

Ingredients

2 pkgs. cream cheese
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
graham cracker crust

Directions: Mix ingredients together. (Leave cream cheese out to get soft before using it.) Pour into a ready made crust. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 25 to 30 minutes. Can also be done in cupcake foils with a vanilla wafer as the crust. Top with fruit of your choice. Enjoy!
Royalston Community School Round-up
Recently, students at Royalston Community School donated $150.00 to the Organization Relief Fund for Haiti. Mrs. Carnie’s Poetry Club began the fundraiser by coloring posters that were hung on walls around the school promoting the event called “Hats For Haiti”. RCS staff and students paid $1.00 to wear a hat in school. RCS also marked dental health month. Children that participated in the recent “Smile Mobile Dentist Program” at Royalston Community School received dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays and sealants (if needed) Pictured is Carly Bartkus receiving her dental examination and cleaning.

Kindergarten students pictured holding the check from left to right in the front row are: Adam Rogers, Amber Plummer, Connor Mahony, Hayleigh Bauch, Rayna Berg, Back row, Izic French, Ryan Darling and Caleb Clapper.

RCS Dates to remember:
The Sixth Grade will get a cut from all proceeds at the Winchendon Subway on Tuesday, May 11th from 5-7 pm. All money will go towards end of the year events for the sixth grade class.

Summer Programs for Children
Local day camps at the Village School
Go to www.villageschool.to to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 6 to July 23, for children aged 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, the Summer Art Intensive for ages 8 and up, the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up, and Introduction to Suzuki Piano, ages 4 and up. Discounts are given to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy. Brochures are at the post office and the library.

YMCA Summer Theater Program for Kids
The Athol Area YMCA announces its tenth annual YouthReach! Summer Theater Program for youth entering grades 7 though 12. The program is an intensive three-week immersion experience into the theater arts where participants develop their own original theatrical performance using extensive brainstorming and improvisation. The first two weeks of the program, July 12 through 23, will meet in the Main Hall of the YMCA, 1 to 5 pm. The last week, July 26 through July 31, we will meet at the Orange Town Hall from 3 to 7 pm. The performance will take place on Saturday, July 31 at 7:00 pm.

Program cost is $50.00 for YMCA members and former ensemble members and $75.00 for first-time, non-member participants. A few scholarships are available. Parents should talk to the program director, Manuel King, for help obtaining these need-based scholarships. Please call the Y at 978-249-3305 for more information. The YouthReach! Theater Program is funded by the Local Cultural Councils of Royalston, Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Warwick and Wendell, as well as the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the John F. Boynton Fund and the Athol Area YMCA.

Village School Vibes
Openings for the next school year at the Village School
There are a few openings left in preschool. Call as soon as possible to arrange a visit. There are also openings in the 2nd-6th grade. For more information, call 249-3505.

Village School Student Art Show at the Gardner Ale House. Have lunch or dinner and enjoy the works of art by students on display during May.

What’s Happening at the Village School?
With the return to school from April vacation, the classes fanned out and sampled the local floral and fauna for Biodiversity Day. One class visited Lawrence Brook, another class went to the Camp Caravan pond, and the preschoolers explored the woods around the school. The students also illustrated the written records of their discoveries. The students are planting the garden, looking towards the fall harvest and snacks for the summer programs. Potatoes, sugar snaps, and carrots are planted now. By June 1st, pumpkins and winter squashes, cucumbers, Indian corn and more will be planted.

The month starts with a traditional May Day celebration, for which all the students have learned songs and dances. On May 21st, the annual Village School original play is performed at the Town Hall, the culmination of 2 month’s intensive work by the 4th-6th grade. In the week following, the 4th-6th grade class goes off to Washington D.C. for 3 days, to see the nation’s capitol and visit lots of museums.
Earth Day at the Day Care
The kids at Little Farmers Child Care were very busy on Earth Day. They planted a tree and cleaned the sides of the road between Little Farmers Child Care and RCS. The children, Sean, Sonia, Hailey, Jackson and Alexandra collected half of a bag of trash.

Monty Tech News
Congratulations to the three students who have been selected in the “quota round” to fill the three freshman seats to which Royalston is entitled. By the end of this month, those offered seats in the initial round from all towns will have either accepted or declined their seats, leaving available seats for those wait-listed...and Royalston has eight on the wait list. Any seats not taken on June 1 will be offered to the wait list candidates by intake score, regardless of their home community.

Royalston children tend to score quite high on the intake process, and therefore, tend to have additional seats offered to them in the second round. The 100 point system includes 25 points for grades (90-100% = 21-25 points), 20 based on attendance (0-5 days unexcused absence = 16-20 points), 20 for self-discipline (excellent = 20 points), guidance counselor’s recommendation can add up to 15 points, and an interview by Monty Tech guidance can add up to 20 more points. Any applicants earning a total of 45 points, and who pass both eighth grade English and math are eligible for seats. The 100 points include 25 points for grades, 20 points for self-discipline, 20 points for attendance, 20 for guidance counselor’s recommendation, and 20 points for an interview.

Congregational Churches News
Many of you attended our first Healing Service on Good Friday this past month and were in awe as God was moving in our midst. We give all the glory and honor to Almighty God. Both of our congregations are excited to see what God has in store for the next several months.

As you may already be aware the National Day of Prayer is on May 6th. We will be hosting a time of prayer at First Congregational Church of Royalston at 12:00 noon. We will be focusing our prayers for our nation, our youth, our service men, and our leaders. Please feel free to join us.

Please join us for a special service with a short-term missionary to Iraq on May 30th. Jason Fuentes will be our special guest as he shares his testimony of God’s presence in his life and ministry while serving on the mission field. Jason is a graduate of Zion Bible College.

Our youth department will be hosting our “Spring Fling” youth rally on the campus of FCCR. All youth are welcomed on May 22nd as Pastor Anthony Triplett and Whole Armor Church join us for a great day of activities, games, and services. All ages are welcome and we look forward to a wonderful atmosphere of both young and old. If you have any questions please call RJ Gunn at 401-489-0644.

It is with great anticipation that FCCR is ramping up for our annual Summer Fair. We are looking forward to hosting many guests and visitors for the day as we have many new features and activities during our July community event. We are looking for donations for our “Attic Treasures” booth. There will be designated dates for drop-off of valuables. Gently used items are welcome! Please look out for posted signs on Saturday morning. If you have any questions please contact Debbie Conrad at 978-895-3505.

Mt. Wachusett Community College
Interested in nursing, complementary health care, dental hygiene, massage therapy or physical therapy? Mount Wachusett is offering informational sessions on these during the month of May. Contact the Enrollment Center at 978-630-2984 or zap a note to admissions@mwcc.mass.edu for additional information.
Wildlife Sightings

Cindy and Kelsey Savoy saw a mink cross in front of their car on Warwick Road recently on the way to school.

Lynne Teague at 124 Falls Rd had a black bear in her driveway on Tuesday the 21st of April at 7pm. She reports, “When the bear saw me, it went behind my barn into my neighbor’s yard. The bear stood up on its hind legs at an apple tree. I called my neighbor to have her look out her window so she could see the bear, which she did. Then the bear went on its way to the woods behind our house.”

Taft Hillers, Sandra Bruso and her kids Emily and Matt Davis (ages 10 and 9), were coming home down River Road the first Sunday of April around 8:30 pm when a small bear walked across the road. “He stopped on the other side and stood up and held on to a tree and looked at us. It was exciting”.

A rather robust racoon has been enjoying the challenging problems posed by the Barclays each evening in an attempt to keep him out of their trash cans. Covering lids with clamped-closed ready-made handles and even securing the can in an upright position did not deter the feisty furball in the least. At present, the can is bungee-corded to the back porch, with another bungee cord holding the handles in the clamped position. Based on the flurry of footprints some mornings the raccoon feels it’s worth the effort to wedge open an edge of the lid and extract a few choice morsels.

Betty Cook had a handsome Chukar in her yard last winter and again on Earth Day. The speculation is that it escaped from Hedgerow Kennels where they are raised for sport.

Garden Notes

The first asparagus spear appeared on April 13. Granted, the bed was weed-free, encouraging discovery. Granted I have become more attentive in recent years. And, granted, it was a week before another appeared. But. . . the emergence of asparagus is a beginning-of-May event. In the words of Buffalo Springfield, the pre-eminent folk-rock group of the mid 1960’s (What you don’t remember Buffalo Springfield? It was only forty-five years ago): “Something’s happening here, what it is ain’t exactly clear…”

The mild winter and early spring are reflected beyond the garden. Forsythias glowed (and still glow). The bulb display has been magnificent. (Patches seem to have expanded exponentially in a year’s time.) The fruit trees have begun flowering, in their time-honored sequence: first pears, then peaches, finally apples, the apples sequential as well, depending upon the variety. In the not-too-distant future all will be in bloom, as striking a floral display as exists at our farm. With vision that seems to be deteriorating from day-to-day, my eyes could use the jolt these masses of color provide.

April has been a month of hauling and piling: leaves, manure, compost, twigs, brush, trash. I have successfully transformed a mess into an orderly mess. The portable greenhouses (read: fish tanks) have been portable. They spent the winter atop some late-planted lettuce (none survived) and re-located to the chives and perennial scallions as new growth appeared. (Plants were three times as tall as those fish tank-less.) Currently, they reside in the spring lettuce bed and, in June, will be atop some heat-loving plants (melons and peppers come to mind), their last assignment until fall.

Surprisingly, May provides something of a garden breather for me. Everything is in place: beds prepared, pea brush gathered, chicken wire erected for the cherry tomatoes, fences surrounding the garden upright (at least temporarily). Other than the transplanting of onions and leeks, all spring crops are in the ground. (June will be early enough for summer planting and transplanting.)

Having just set out four hundred feet of them, potatoes are on my mind, so I close out the column with my Potato Planting Primer: Planting time is now, though anytime in May will work. Using the side of my hoe I create furrows about four inches deep. The rows are set two feet apart; the potatoes within are spaced at twelve inches. I get ten seed pieces per pound (1.6 ounces each). Ideally, I plant whole potatoes of the correct size, but when I am obliged to cut one up, I ensure that each piece has several eyes (from these eyes growth will occur) and plant them cut-side down. I fill in about half the furrow, tamping down the soil (I’m not sure that is necessary). When plants are a foot or so tall, I hill them up with the surrounding soil, leaving the growing tips above ground. A second hilling occurs several weeks later, ensuring the developing potatoes stay underground. And that’s it.

(Well, there is the matter of potato beetles, but that is for another time.)

Larry Siegel

North Quabbin Garden Club

Fifth Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 15, 2010, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, Thursday, May 20, 2010, 7 p.m. 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

The North Quabbin Garden Club is gearing up for the Fifth Annual Spring Plant Sale scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members have started to pot perennials from their own gardens in preparation for the big day. Be sure to stop by the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol and find choice plants for your own garden.

Ginny Thurston loved her garden in Harvard, and after her death from breast cancer in 1999, it became a healing center for others experiencing this disease. This eight acre garden is managed by volunteers from the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs. Tucker Smith, who chairs this effort, will show slides of the garden and explain the center’s work.
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Housekeeping or other odd jobs upon request, $15.00/hr. Call Kathleen (Lawrence) Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Help Wanted: Janitorial/cleaning at Village School 6 hours a week. Also, mowing at the Village School. Call 978 249-3505

Teaching Opportunity: Part time math teacher, approx. 8 hours a week, starting September 2010. This teacher works with small grade level math groups, (3rd and 4th grade) for 1 hour each, 4 days a week. The Village School uses the Investigations math curriculum, so willingness to learn a new approach is essential. Previous teaching experience is useful. Submit resume and references to Director, The Village School, P.O. Box 122, Royalston MA 01368.

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