Calendar of Events

June 3  Thursday
3:30 pm  **Friends of the Library annual meeting.** Plans, reports, elections, rhubarb squares. All welcome.

June 6  Thursday
3:30 pm  **Athol High School graduation.** Congratulations Royalest seniors.

June 7  Monday
7 pm  **Royalston Republican Committee Meets at Town Hall**

June 11  Friday
5:00 pm  **Fish Fryday** at the Winchendon Rod and Gun. Huge portions are around $15. Call 978-297-3955 for advanced tix.

June 12  Saturday
7:15 a.m.  **New Strawberry Moon**

**Saturday Spectacular**

7:30 – 10:30 a.m. Village School Pancake Breakfast in the Town Hall
8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Village School Spectacular Silent Auction upstairs, Town Hall
9 a.m. – noon – Family Fun & Kids’ Activities
11 a.m. – Boston Red Sox ticket drawing outside, Town Hall
9 a.m. – noon – Ladies’ B. ‘Scrapghan’ Raffle outside, Town Hall
9 a.m. – noon – Library Friends’ Plant Sale at Post Office
9 a.m. – noon – Library Friends’ Book Sale at Library
9 a.m. – noon – Royalston Police Giveaways outside, Town Hall
10:30 a.m. – 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. Contact Vice President Clayton Holmes at 978-249-4281 for info or a $10 ticket.

June 14  Monday  **Flag Day**
7:30 pm  **Community Preservation Committee** public hearing to present proposed guidelines for submitting proposals for projects.

June 15  Tuesday
noon  **Early dismissal in elementary schools. School is out for the summer** in the ARRS. Resumes August 30 for students.

June 17  Thursday
School’s Out!  **Monty Tech’s last day of classes**

June 20  Sunday  **Father’s Day**

June 21  Monday  **Summer Solstice**
The sun has reached as far north as it will before heading back south. Royalston enjoys its most hours of daylight for the year.

June 25  Friday
6:30 pm  **Special Town Meeting and Reconvened Annual Town Meeting** downstairs at Town Hall.

June 27  Sunday
11 am - 3 pm  **Royalston Garden Tour** includes nine impressive local gardens in the south, north and west of town. Pick up a map at the library. $10/adult, kids free.

June 28  Monday
1911 **Phinehas S. Newton Library dedicated.** Construction began August 1910.

June 30  Wednesday
6-9 pm  **LBS “Craft and Chat”** at the Royalston Town Hall.

July 1  Thursday  **Canada Day**
7 pm  **Royalston Shakespeare Company workshop performance** at Town Hall. Free but donations accepted.

**Save the Date**

July 10  Saturday
7:30 am  **2nd Congregational Church pancake breakfast** at Town Hall
8 am - 3 pm  **Royalston Congregational Church Fair**

July 18  Saturday  **Music Fest** in Bullock Park
Board of Selectmen’s Corner  
Andy West, selectboard

Annual Town Meeting: The Royalston Annual Town Meeting was held Friday, May 7, 2010 in the Town Hall. The Town meeting will reconvene Friday, June 25, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall. The reconvened meeting presents a final opportunity for voters to act on updated financial information or budget balancing actions before the budget takes root on July first.

Special Town Meeting: Every year, a Special Town Meeting is held along with the reconvened Annual in order to act on any remaining items from the current fiscal year. Check the town website or posting locations for the exact time and order of business.

Route 32: To date, trees have been surgically removed, asphalt pulverized, and 22 culverts replaced. The contractors have been working at steady clip and are well into the prescribed work. The contractors are hoping to have the project nearly complete by late summer.

What Happened at the Town Meeting?  
Beth Gospodarek

Voters at the annual town meeting approved 22 of 30 articles presented. An operating budget of $1,634,929 was approved, including $465,609 funding the Athol-Royalston Regional and $56,070 funding Monty Tech’s budget. Close to $280,000 was approved for the Department of Public Works and although some comments were voiced about the plethora of potholes, the Selectmen noted the long hours and dedication of DPW staff. The surprise of the night was the increase in the town clerk’s wages from $8200 to $10,000 on a motion from the floor in an effort to keep her salary comparable to other similar town positions, such as accountant and tax collector. Also, approval was given for a committee to begin planning events related to the 250th anniversary of the town, but accompanying funding was tabled. Other articles tabled, which will be re-addressed at the reconvened meeting June 25th, are: demolition of 1 School St, $5000 to clean-up 2 King St., $10,000 for capital projects at Athol High School, $5000 to repair the Center Cemetery Hearse House, $2700 to repair Old Center Fire Station, $7000 to buy pagers for the fire department, and $1,200 to paint the Phinehas Newton Library.

Waste Water Treatment Plant: The treatment plant next to the Millers River in South Royalston is aging. It has served its useful life – and more. Recent repairs have been expensive because of the need to custom-make obsolete parts. The Board of Selectmen recently hired an engineering firm to help develop specifications for a new plant. The firm will also assist the Town in applying for grant money for new plant design and construction and repairs to the piping. If awarded, the grant may pay a significant portion of the estimated $1.5 million cost.

Accolades: Congratulations to the members of Royalston Fire Department for the thanks received from local residents and the Orange Fire Department for their help in fighting a recent brush fire in Tully that threatened Royalston’s border. At the same time, several emergency calls were responded to elsewhere in Town. FD members train all year long for all types of emergency challenges. Soon the Town will benefit from the second group of Royalston Firefighters to graduate from Massachusetts Fire Academy certification training. Two more members have become EMTs this year while on the squad. Two Royalston Firefighters serve on an elite, region-wide rapid response team tasked to rescue trapped firefighters. Last year, because of severe mid-year budget constraints, FD members voted to train without pay and have continued the practice this year. Royalston’s Fire and EMS team members are known region wide for their knowledge, skill, and commitment to excellence. Thank you to the small group of men and women who spend countless hours in training and even more hours answering the call.

Assessors’ Notes  
Stephen Chase, assessor

Property tax bills were due June 1rst. You must pay on time even if you are due an exemption or abatement.

The Community Preservation Act-CPA surcharge has been added to the tax bills for the first time. Approved by the voters last year, it has nonetheless riled up a lot of ire. CPA exemptions are available to low income persons and low or moderate income seniors. Application forms are available from the assessors’ office. Qualification is on a sliding scale depending on combined income of all household members. The application requires detailed reporting of your income and expenses. This information remains confidential.

The Assessors meet every 1rst and 3rd Wed. of the month from 7-9PM at Whitney Hall. 978-249-0337.

Community Preservation Committee  
Marsha Charest

The Community Preservation Committee will be holding its next meeting on June 14th in the town hall. At 7:30, it will hold an open public hearing to present the proposed plan and guidelines for submitting projects that would be eligible for community preservation funding. Copies of the draft will be available at the library, post office and country store prior to the meeting. The public is invited. Inquiries regarding exemptions from the CPA surcharge should be taken to the Board of Assessors.
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Handicap Accessibility at Doanes Falls
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Trustees of Reservations are partnering to improve the hiking trail leading from the bottom of Doane Hill Road to lower Doane’s Falls to provide wheelchair access. For the first time ever, people of all abilities will be able to experience this scenic waterfall. The universal access trail is for pedestrians only, but it will be wide enough for Royalston’s rescue vehicle to get near the lower falls in an emergency. Other perks of the project include an improved parking area, an information kiosk, and a scenic vista with resting bench. Work should be done by the end of June. For more information, please call Park Manager Jeff Mangum at 978-318-8282 or email jeffrey.c.mangum@usace.army.mil.

Library Celebrating its 100th Anniversary! Watch for a year-full of news and events...
Phinehas S. Newton and His Legacy
Kathy Morris, library director
It was at the March 1910 Annual Town Meeting that Phinehas S. Newton offered $10,000 ($234,000 in 2010 dollars) to build a public library building if a suitable site could be found. The site selection committee composed of L. G. Forbes, E. B. Hanson, and L. B. Shepardson deliberated on several locations and chose the corner of the lot owned by William H. Hill, who resided in Brookline and donated the property in memory of his wife, Sarah. The cornerstone of the building was laid on August 18, 1910, construction was completed in May of 1911 and the Phinehas S. Newton Library was dedicated on June 28, 1911.

Phinehas S. Newton was born in Royalston on August 20, 1833 and named after one of his father’s brothers. He was schooled in Royalston and Westminster Academy. He went into the dry goods business with his brother Charles, who was a partner in the store with Joseph Estabrook before purchasing the dry goods and palm leaf hat business from him in 1853. Phinehas handled the palm leaf hat business where palm leaf, imported from Cuba, was bleached and split and distributed to local families throughout Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. The palm was braided and usually made into hats and returned to the dry goods store for credit. In 1870, Charles sold the dry goods business but Phinehas retained the palm leaf hat business with a factory near the blacksmith shop on the Common. Town records indicate that he was a successful businessman and was the 14th largest tax payer in 1875, 7th in 1885 and 2nd only to the Woolen Mill in 1890.

Board of Health News
Phil Leger, chair
Can’t make paper out of plastic! Please keep non paper items out of the paper container. Take your plastic bags back to where you got them from. Or better yet, don’t get them in the first place. If you must, get paper. Even better, use reusable bags.

New windshield stickers for the new fiscal year starting July 1st should be in by press time. Annual renewal stickers are $15 for residents and $50 for non-residents. See Tony for purchase. They go on the lower driver’s side windshield.

The Athol Board of Health office, 584 Main St., Room 1, lower level, is now selling rain barrels for $60 and Earth Machine compost bins for $40. The office is open Mon, Wed, Thurs 8-5pm and Tues 8-8pm. Call 978-249-7934 with questions.

Tip: Green up summer gatherings: Put out a container for bottles and cans, a box for paper and a bucket for compost. Used napkins and paper plates can be composted. Also, on the market, compostable eating utensils made from cornstarch have become available. Have a zero waste summer!

Royalston Police Department News
Mary C. Barclay
Free Bike Helmets – Free Baby Car Seats – Free Gun Locks!
The Royalston PD will have a booth on The Common Saturday, June 12 during the Village School fundraising event. Officer Sherry A. Miner, who serves as Royalston’s school resource officer and holds certification as both a DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer and child safety restraint technician, will be on hand to fit helmets properly and help with the selection and safe installation of baby car seats.

Royalston Republicans to Gather
“Get on up, get into it, get involved!”
- James Brown
Are you a Royalston Republican? Do you understand the need to get involved at this important time? Then come to the re-organization meeting of the Royalston Republican Town Committee:

Date: Monday, June 7, 2010
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Royalston Town Hall

Guests from the Republican State Committee will brief us on 2010’s key local races. Republican candidates who would represent Royalston have been invited. Our “open mic” will give you a chance to tell them YOUR opinions. If you are a Royalston Republican, let’s get together on June 7th.

Les Black
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney
Mondays: 1:00pm - 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
Clarence Rabideau, Stephanie McClure, Virginia Moore for books
Maureen Horn for CDs
Alayna Baker for help processing books
Jenny Nano and Emma O’Connor for movies

Donations to the Friends
Thank you to these community members who responded to the recent membership drive. These donations help the Friends produce this newsletter, facilitate library programs and purchase library supplies.

Deb D’Amico
George Bodman
Sharon Harmon
Kate Duffin
Emma O’Connor
Nancy Griffin
Virginia Gingras
Allen Young
Diane Lincoln
Alyce Mayo
Mariah Mallet and Phil Leger
Don and Jean Stanton
Phil and Carla Rabinowitz
Steph and John McClure
Phil Mickey and Nell Vaughn
James and Marlys Kelley
Bill and Sue Richard
Shirley Hubbards
Dan, Kay and Ben Schodek
Diana and Geoffrey Newton
Ed, Cindy, and Cady Boucher
Donald and Marlene Jarvenpaa
Norah Dooley and Robert Fairchild

Art Exhibits for June, July and August
Art work by Royalston Community School students will be featured in June, and then, Kathy Chencharik of River Road will have her photographs of scenes from Royalston on display during July and August. Kathy is the award winning photographer of the Friends of the Library Photography Contest last year and won the photography contest for the cover of the book Deadfall. She and her husband John have lived in Royalston for 33 years.

Books, Bard and Blooms:
Lots to Do this June thorough your Library

Book Sale Beckons
Stock up on summer reading. The library book sale is from 9 noon at the library on June 12. Find something interesting? Write a review for this newsletter!

Library Plant Sale Needs You
Come to the Post Office on June 12 in the morning to check out the fabulous offerings: fancy to wild, sunny to shady, tiny to tall, heirloom to modern, and practical to extravagant, which include perennials, annuals, herbs, veggies, shrubs and even trees. Pot up your plantings and discard to share with your friends and neighbors while supporting the Friends of the Library.

Royalston Garden Tour 2010
Look, chat, learn, and get inspired...Sunday, June 27 from 11 a.m to 3 pm, the long-awaited Friends of the Library garden tour will return with stops at nine of Royalston’s finest gardens tucked into three corners of town. Enjoy vegetable and fruit gardens, heirloom herbs, a plethora of perennials, formal ornamental combinations of trees, shrubs, flowers and hardscape, a water garden, as well as a garden designed to attract wildlife. Stop at the library for a map and off you go. Cost is $10/adult (kids free.) Baked goods and cold drinks for sale as well. Benefits the Friends of the Library.

Shakespeare on the Common
Kids ages 5 - 18 are encouraged to sign up to act or help in the tech crew for this season’s Royalston Shakespeare Company production. This workshop runs 9 am to noon, M-F, June 21 - July 1, 2010 with a performance at Town Hall on Thursday night July 1st at 7 pm. Come see how much fun 35 local kids, 13 days, one idyllic setting and a great script can conjure. Free thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library and the Royalston Cultural Council. Call the library with ques-
Upcoming Programs for All Ages

Summer Reading Programs at the Library
Thanks to funding from the Royalston Academy we are offering some great programs for kids this summer. The theme for the statewide summer reading program is ‘Go Green at your Library”. All green-themed programs will be on Thursdays at 1:30. Snacks will be served. These programs are suitable for children 8 and older and younger children with a caregiver. Free.

- July 8th  Create a cool ‘Green’ reusable Canvas Bag
- July 15th  Go Green with Frogs - a program on Frogs by the folks from Rainforest Reptiles (at the Town Hall if it rains)
- July 22nd  Make Cool ‘Green’ Animals from Recycled Soda Bottles
- July 29th  Make “Green” ice cream, play “Green” games, and win some great prizes.

This year readers will fill out certificates and after reaching a goal, add a piece of a masterpiece painting to a grid to recreate the painting. Programs will be documented and added to the Time Capsule being created for the library’s 100th anniversary celebration.

Preschool Summer Programs
The Royalston Academy has also funded our popular preschool summer programs, scheduled to occur on Mondays at 10:00 at the library. There will be music and movement, painting, and green crafts for preschoolers including making homemade ice cream on July 26th.

Pat Poor Memorial Lecture
Louisa May Alcott Program Rescheduled
Pencil in Friday, October 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall for the program on Louisa May Alcott with Harriet Reisen and Nancy Porter. Reisen is the author of the biography, Louisa May Alcott, the Woman Behind Little Women and co-producer with Nancy Porter of the documentary of the same title. Part time Royalston residents, Boyd Estus was the Director of Photography and Liane Brandon was the Stills Photographer for the film.

New Materials June 2010

Adult Fiction
Allende, Isabel  Island Beneath the Sea
Clark, Mary Higgins  The Shadow of your Smile
Cruise, Jennifer  Wild Ride
Gael, Juliet  Romancing Miss Bronte
George, Elizabeth  This Body of Death
Giffin, Emily  Heart of the Matter
Gruber, Michael  The Good Son
Horan, Ellen  31 Bond Street
Johansen, Iris  Eight Days to Live
King, Laurie  The God of the Hive
Park, Robert  Blue Eyed Devil
Philbrick, Nathaniel  The Last Stand
Reiken, Frederick  Day for Night
Robert, Nora  Savor the Moment
Smiley, Jane  Private Life
Steinhauer, Olen  The Nearest Exit
Turow, Scott  Innocent

Adult Non-fiction
Barry, Dave  I’ll Mature When I’m Dead
Butchart, Ed  The Red Suit Diaries
Carroll, Sean  From Eternity to Here
Ehrlich, Gretel  In the Empire of Ice
Holbrook, Stewart  The Old Post Road
Janzen, Rhoda  Mennonite in a Little Black Dress
Junger, Sebastian  War
Strauch, Barbara  The Secret Life of the Grown-up Brain
World Heritage Sites

Adult Fiction
Cast, P.C.  Burned
Haddon, Mark  Boom!
Hobbs, Valerie  The Last Best Days of Summer
Mylnowski, Sarah  Gimme a Call
Noel, Alyson  Blue Moon
Voelkel, Jon  Middleworld

Children's Fiction
Aliki  Push Button
Korman, Gordon  The Emperor’s Code
Lichtenheld, Tom  Bridget’s Beret
Russell, Rachel  Dork Diaries

Children's Non-fiction
Engle, Margarita  Summer Birds
Jakubiak, David  A Smart Kid’s Guide to Online Bullying
Ross, Kathy  Crafts for All Seasons

Audiobooks
McNees, Kelly  The Lost Summer of Louisa May Alcott
Philbrick, Nathaniel  The Last Stand
Riordan, Rick  The Lightening Thief
Riordan, Rick  The Titan’s Curse

DVD’s:
Avater, Crazy Heart, G-Force,

CD’s
Safire  Havin’ the Last Word
Linq  Life Goes On
Linq  RX and the Side Effects
Two Late Spring Recipes

Rhubarb Squares: The Friends of the Library are holding their annual meeting in June and that usually means rhubarb squares will be served. This sloppy dessert has a hard time making an impressive visual presentation, but the taste combines gooey and crunchy, tart and sweet, and buttery and fruity. Once tried, you won’t care what they look like.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease an 8 inch square baking pan.

Make the base: Combine 1 cup all-purpose flour and 5 tbsp confectioners sugar. Cut in 1 stick butter with a pastry blender or fingers. Press into prepared pan. Bake for 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the topping. In a large bowl stir 3/4 cup granulated sugar, 2 1/2 tbsp all-purpose flour, 1 egg and 3 cups chopped rhubarb.

Spread the rhubarb over the base. Bake for about 50 minutes until set and slightly golden.

Turnip Green Tart: If you grow turnips (and why not?) June is the time to thin the crop. Use the proceeds to concoct this tart. It’s a little fussy but yummy.

Cornmeal Shell Dough: Combine 2 1/4 cups all purpose flour, 1 cup wheat flour, 3/4 cup corn meal, and 3/4 tsp salt. Add 2 sticks butter divided into cubes. Cut with pastry blender or run thorough fingers until dough resembles sand on a beach. Combine an egg and 1/4 cup water. Add to flour and work quickly into a dough. Divide in two and chill for at least an hour. Wrap one half for the freezer and roll out one half to line a 9” circular or 8x11” rectangular tart pan. Prick with a fork and bake in a pre-heated 350 degree oven for 25 minutes until crust is dry and just starting to brown.

Filling: Mix together 1/4 - 1/2 lb. chopped turnip greens, 1/4 cup chopped garlic scapes or one clove garlic, 3 large eggs, 3/4 cup vegetable broth, 1/4 cup milk or cream, salt to taste, and 2 tsp mustard.

Top the pre-baked crust with the turnip mixture and return to the oven for 20 minutes. Sprinkle on a little Swiss or cheddar cheese and bake for a final 10 minutes. Top with red pepper flakes and serve.
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Graduates at all levels, please send graduation information and/or senior pics to the RCN. As a community, Royalston residents are plenty nosy, but also care and like the opportunity to wish you well. Athol High School and Monty Tech graduates will be listed in the summer newsletter when everyone has finished classes.

Congrats to Erin Martioski, daughter of Diana Newton of North Fitzwilliam Road and Gary Martioski of Athol, who graduated on May 16 from Worcester State College with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice.

James Charest graduated from UMASS-Dartmouth with a Bachelors degree in Marketing. He is currently employed by Men’s Warehouse as a wardrobe consultant. While at UMASS he was Chairman for the Relay for Life, Orientation Leader for incoming freshman and International students, member of Judicial Board and Student Council and Vice President of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity.

Mount Wachusett Community college recently awarded Associate Degrees to Sherri L. Landry, Jody Lee C. Nolette, Megan M. Wessels and Certificates to Theresa M. Demboske, Barbara A. Stowell, Megan M. Wessels and Renee L. Javier. Kudos. Says Megan Wessels, the RCN cartoonist, “I graduated from the Mount on May, 20th. The ceremony was very nice. I got an Associate Degree in Computer Graphic Design Print and a Computer Graphic Design Certificate. The weather was very beautiful.”

Grady MacPhee took home 3 major freshman academic awards at Cushing Academy recently: the Bennie E. Butler Prize for excellence in freshman English; the Robert C. Hall History Prize for the freshman who has excelled in social science and history and the Delmar Wallace Algebra I Award for outstanding achievement in Algebra I.

Good job, Derek Wheeler of Athol, son of Ed and Sally (Divoll) Wheeler, all formerly of Royalston, who, with Matthew Karan of Athol, took a gold medal in the District Skills USA contest in the 3-D Visualization and Animation division. They are two of 13 gold medalists from Monty Tech participating in the National Skills USA competition in Kansas City, Kansas beginning June 21.

Monty Tech Honor Roll 3rd Quarter HIGH HONORS: Marquita Day, Michael Demboske, Amanda Putney, Meredith Carrier, Storm Easton, and Joshua Roberts. HONORS: Chaynna Campbell, Amy Putney, Michael Persson, Rebecca Paine, and Ian Duffin

Apologies and congratulations to Amberlyn Newton, a 5th grader at ARMS, who lives on Bliss Hill Rd. Her name has inadvertently been left off of the gold or silver honor roll every quarter this academic year.

Emily Mangum of School Street will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in June at the Athol-Royalston Middle School.

Obituaries

Carolyne M. (Ellett) LaBonte, 88, of Stone Rd., Royalston, died peacefully Tuesday morning May 11, 2010, in Athol Hospital after an illness.

Carolyne was born in Springfield, Mass. December 29, 1921 a daughter of the late Albert and Myrtle E. (Richings) Ellett, and has lived in Royalston since 1954. Her beloved husband Louis Leon LaBonte, Jr. died in 1989.

Carolyne worked for the former Fredericks in Athol for 5 years, the Thomas Dolby Company of Watertown, MA, and prior to her retirement in 1989 she was employed with the former Sidrics Company of Westminster as a stitcher. In 1990 she earned her Associates degree in Computer Science from Mount Wachusett Community College. She Served 5 years on the School Committee for Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School, and served on the planning committee for the fine arts center. Carolyne was an active member of the Royalston Grange, and ran the Junior Grange for 8 years. Most important to Carolyne was spending time with her entire family.

Carolyne will be sadly missed by two daughters: Cynthia S. Divoll and Carol-Anne Doucette, both of Royalston; 2 sons: Barry M. LaBonte of Weymouth, MA, and James F. LaBonte of Rochester, NH; 2 sisters: Madeline Dingman of Winchendon, and D. Hazel LaBonte of Bar Harbor, ME; 29 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Carolyne was predeceased by one son, Louis L. LaBonte III, and 2 sisters::Alice Harris and Claire Grey. She is buried in Lawrence Brook Cemetery.

Barbara L. Rogers

91, of 93 Athol Road, died Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the Quabbin Valley Healthcare. In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to: MSPCA-Angell, ATTN: donations, 350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

James, Happy Belated Birthday! (May 3rd)
Congregational Churches News

Pastor Jeff Francis

It is with great excitement and a sense of achievement that the parsonage has completed its Royalston Makeover! The journey was long but the fulfillment is most rewarding. Much thanks to XP Masonry and Keith Geyer contracting crew for a job well done. With the grass growing and the bugs flying we are preparing for the summer months with anticipation. One of the great summer events here in Royalston is coming up in July as we host our Annual Summer Church Fair on the Common. On July 10th from 9:00 in the morning until 3:00 pm the Common will be buzzing with shoppers, children, and of course, crafters. Get ready for some great food, inspiring music, and a wonderful atmosphere of both young and old alike. If there is anyone interested in helping out with this year’s fair or would like to donate furniture, household goods or other valuables there will be designated drop-off dates. They are: June 13 (1-4); June 27 (1-4); July 9 (4-7). Thank you in advance for supporting our Summer Fair. More details to come in the July edition.

Ladies’ B.
The Ladies’ B. is holding a ‘Scrapghan’ raffle now through noon on Saturday, June 12. The drawing will be in front of the Royalston Town Hall. The generously-sized, 100% acrylic afghan is crocheted in a shell pattern, using black and colorful scraps of unused, 4-ply yarn. It can safely be machine washed and dried. Following the drawing, Society President Laurie M. Deveneau will be joined by other society members in presenting a check towards the Village School’s Capital Campaign Fund to School representatives. The Society, which has already turned over $4,000, is planning to complete their pledge of $6,000 by year’s end, within the promised three-year time period.

AHS and ARMS Year End Dates 2010:

Athol High School

6/4  7:30 pm Senior Prom
6/6  1:30 pm Athol High School Graduation

Athol-Royalston Middle School

6/8  6:30 pm Multi-cultural Festival
6/9  6 pm 8th grade honors dinner
6/10  7th grade honors breakfast
6/11  Farewell to ARMS 8th grade dance
6/14  7 pm ARMS step up ceremony

What’s Happening at the Village School?

Once again, the 4th-6th class pulled off an outstanding pair of play performances. The children wrote the original play Persephone and the (Not-So-Hot) Heroes, a humorous nail biter based on their year long study of Ancient Greece, including myths and epic poems. The magnificent set was constructed and painted in one afternoon. The children also wrote the theme song and incidental music. They acted their roles with aplomb, way beyond their young years. Thanks to Chris Dawson for the loan of the follow spot and to Jim Bennett and Michael Young for a sound system that worked! In June, a DVD of the play will be available to take out at the library. Now, the 4th-6th is off on the train to Washington D.C. for 4 days of museums and national monuments. The remainder of the year is field trips to Sweetwater Farm, garden work, field day, and theme presentations by the K-3rd graders. Wednesday evening June 9th is the 4th-6th grade portfolio showing, followed by graduation. What an amazing year!

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School

All programs are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Royalston children receive a discount, courtesy of Royalston Academy.

July 6-9  ages 4-8  Nature Arts and Play
July 12-16  ages 4-8  Nature Arts and Play
July 12-16  ages 8 and up  Summer Art Intensive
July 19-23  ages 8 to 12  Science and Art Experience
July 19-22  ages 4 and up  Introduction to Suzuki Piano

The programs are open to the public. For more information, go to www.villageschool.to to download the brochure and registration form. Registration forms are at the library too. Limited openings.

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common - June 12

Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults $6 Children $3 Organic pancakes, organic blueberries and local maple syrup (children under 2 free)

Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Original artwork, framed children’s art, gift certificates for local merchants, restaurants, original craftwork, Red Sox tix, cordwood, unique jewelry, local maple syrup, Farm School CSA share, and lots more. At 11 a.m. the auction ends, and the highest bidder for each item wins the item. See the whole list of items at www.villageschool.to. The auction and breakfast benefit the Village School new building project at Camp Caravan. Also, Tag Sale 8:30 to 11:00 and Entertainment for young and old all day.
Monty Tech

Mary C. Barclay, school committee member

Monty Tech’s Superintendent-Director Jim Culkeen attended our Annual Town Meeting May 7 and expressed sincere thanks for the consideration always displayed. He appreciates the fact voters have always been willing to take up school articles at the beginning of the meeting, which enables him to continue with other duties. He was a little taken aback at the appreciation shown by Board of Selectmen Chairman Andy West, who expressed the Town’s thanks to both ARRS and MRVTSD representatives in attendance, and led a warm round of applause as a show of that thanks. It’s with Culkeen’s permission I relay his sentiment that The Town of Royalston holds the politest town meetings he’s ever attended.

Also, Monty Tech’s greenhouse is in full boom and is now open to the public. Located in the rear of the school building, the 90 by 30 foot structure is chock full of hanging baskets, potted planters, tomato plants and a wide variety of annuals, such as marigolds, begonias, geraniums, sweet alyssum, salvia, snapdragons and many more. Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, when school is in session. Proceeds from sales are used to maintain the greenhouse and purchase inventory.

Community School 6th Grade at Nature’s Classroom

Principal Somes of Royalston Community School took this picture during his visit at Nature’s Classroom, Ocean Park Maine on May 20th as he observed the RCS Grade Six students involved in a field group “day hike”. Royalston Community School has continued the tradition of having their grade six class attend for a week this unique educational experience that integrates social development with academic experiences.
**Wildlife Sightings**

This beautiful bear ambled through Deb & Joe Nunes’ yard on May 13th. It sure provided a stimulus package to the men working on Route 32 when it scrambled over a fence right into the road about 25 feet away.

Phil Jacobs was delighted to spot two foxes in different parts of town on the same day.

A somewhat envious Lynn Anair reports her husband, Ray, enjoyed watching a moose ambling across Winchendon Road, headed into the swampy woodlands of Norcross Road. According to Lynn, the moose was moving faster than Ray, who was unable to grab his phone/cam in time to record the event! The sighting was at dusk, May 6.

On Saturday, May 15, an adolescent moose ambled through the Barclay’s field and accross NE Fitzwilliam Rd to dine on the spring greens in what is left of the beaver swamp.

There have been several reports since mid-May of beefy woodchucks scouting out gardens. A little Googling indicates “whistle pigs,” when well-fed (they’re fond of alfalfa hay, too) can approach 30 lbs. If you’ve found effective ways to keep the hungry rodents out of vegetable gardens, please share your methods.

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**Garden Notes**

The May gardening lull is about to draw to a close and it is just as well: I do not do well with idleness. Despite my desire to jump right in, I need to remind myself to exercise some restraint. Seeds of corn, beans, cucumbers, and squash do not take kindly to cold soils. At best, germination will be delayed for weeks; at worst, the seeds will rot. The transplants (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, basil) will survive cold (but not freezing) conditions but will certainly not thrive. Seeds for any of the root crops can be planted, but, with a couple bushels of roots remaining in the cellar, I am hardly motivated. The fellow on the radio just mumbled something about an extended period of 80° days next week, putting a new slant on things. Note, however, that air warms up quicker than soil and it is the soil to which the seeds and plants are affixed. Whether or not the hot spell occurs (and contrary to my own advise), I am about to seed a couple of rows of beans and set out a couple of tomato plants, as much to observe their development as to obtain early grub.

It is never too early, however, to fret about rain. There have been showers and sprinkles but only one substantial rain since March 30. (Wouldn’t you know, it occurred during my first market day.) That’s fifty-four days folks. I transplant not by the calendar but by the weather. Ideally (at least for the plant if not the planter), it is perfomed during a steady, all-day rain. In the absence of that, I wait a cloudy period with rain imminent. With the forecasts suggesting no such conditions in the foreseeable future, I may well be obliged to brave the elements, transplanting on a hot, sunny day, and resigning myself to a stretch of water hauling, to and fro, to and fro.

I know I’ve mentioned it before and I know I’ll mention it again but if there is one bit of advise I’ve offered to nudge your gardening chores from drudgery to pleasure, it is to ‘weed’ before there are weeds. What might take minutes now might take hours three weeks from now as you hack away at the weeds. Corn I planted indoors two weeks ago in two-inch deep wooden flats have germinated, grown six inches and established a root system of six inches as well. Imagine the growth of a weed, outdoors and in the soil, over the course of three weeks.

Benefits continue to accrue from last winter’s ‘balmy’ conditions. A rose given to us by a neighbor twenty-odd years ago has died back to the ground every year since. It did not this spring. We haven’t seen our white lilac bloom since forever. This year it did.

I close with a note from the desk of the Department of Unexplainable Happenings (DUH). In 1977 we planted a Seckel pear tree, pears being a hardy and reliable fruit tree in New England. Our tree is hardy (it continues to grow) and reliable (it rarely if ever provides fruit). Now after 33 years it groans with fruit. Patience is a virtue.

Larry Siegel
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