

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2010



Volume XII, Issue V

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

Calendar of Events

June 3 Thursday

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

June 6 Athol High School graduation. Congratulations Royalston 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 ARRSD. 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 **Phineas 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

A logo for 'Dowsing' featuring a stylized, hand-drawn symbol resembling a vertical line with a hook at the top and a curve at the bottom. To the right of the symbol, the word 'Dowsing' is written in a large, serif font. Below it, the name 'Jon Hardie' and phone number '978-575-1454' are listed, followed by 'Water Wells' and 'Since 1965'. At the bottom, it says 'A free of charge community service'.

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

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.



That's progress: A new guardrail garnishes the top of Tully Dam as part of the RT 32 upgrade.

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 1st. 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 1st 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.

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. Shephardson 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.

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.

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 Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

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 thinnings and discards 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.

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*
- Parker, Robert *Blue Eyed Devil*
- Philbrick, Nathaniel *The Last Stand*
- Reiken, Frederick *Day for Night*
- Roberts, 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*

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.



Young 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 Lightning Thief*
- Riordan, Rick *The Titan's Curse*

DVD's: *Avatar, Crazy Heart, G-Force, The Hangover, The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, The Lovely Bones, The Men who Stare at Goats, Pirate Radio, and The Young Victoria*

CD's

- Saffire *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.

SATURDAY MORNING ON ROYALSTON COMMON

**JUNE 12
2010**

VILLAGE SCHOOL PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Organic blueberry pancakes & local maple syrup
7:30-10:30 AM • Town Hall • \$6/\$3 KIDS

SPECTACULAR SILENT AUCTION
www.villageschool.to for list of items
8:00-11:00 AM • Town Hall

TAG SALE **RAFFLES**
8:30-11:00 AM 4 Red Sox tickets
 Ladies B scrapghan

9:00 AM MAPLE LEAF DUO
Cello and hammered dulcimer

9:30 AM MICHAEL YOUNG
Drumming, flutes, dancing and storytelling

10:00 AM MILLERS RIVER MORRIS MEN

10:30 AM PRINCESS & THE PEA
Puppet show • in First Church basement
Courtesy of Royalston Cultural Council

11:00 AM OLD-FASHIONED CAKE WALK
Everyone is a winner!

ANNUAL LIBRARY PLANT SALE
at the Royalston Post Office

BOOK SALE
at the Phinehas S. Newton Library

FREE BIKE HELMETS & INFANT CAR SEATS
Royalston Police Department info tent



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@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

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

Carolyn 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.



Carolyn 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. Carolyn was an active member of the Royalston Grange, and ran the Junior Grange for 8 years. Most important to Carolyn was spending time with her entire family.

Carolyn 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. Carolyn 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 Franics

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.



All are invited to the June 30 "Craft and Chat" at the Royalston Town Hall, from 6 – 9 p.m. Bring along a craft to work on, participate in some of the Society's on-going projects or just pop in for a visit and some light refreshments. Currently on-going are lap quilts and lap afghans for veterans. All women (and brave men!) from Royalston and surrounds are more than welcome to attend. Contact Laurie at 978-249-5807 or lmdeveneau@msn.com for additional information.

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.

Groupies: "Poking Around"

By: Megan Wessels



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 across 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.

Garden Notes

May 23, 2010

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 performed during a steady, all-day rain. In the absence of that, I await 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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School Committee/ Royalston Rep.

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Babysitter available, 12 years old, has taken the babysitter's course. Available to babysit or keep kids occupied while parent is working around the house. Call Abby @ 249-3158

Child Care in Royalston: Little Farmers' Childcare Lic #2086547. Next to RCS, 10 minutes from Winchendon. Toddler-pre-school curriculum. Ages: birth- 5 years. Call Joni, 978-575-1083.

Housekeeping, weeding, or other odd jobs upon request. \$14.00/hr. Call Kathleen (Lawrence) Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Hand knit baby sweater sets, all colors. Great gifts. Call Shirley Anderson at 978-249-4013.

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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.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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