

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2010



Volume XIII, Issue VIII

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

Calendar of Events



“By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer’s best of weather
And autumn’s best of cheer.”
- *Helen Hunt Jackson, September, 1830-1885*

September 1 Wednesday
Back to School - classes resume in the ARRSD

September 2 Thursday
3:30 pm **Friends of the Library Meet-
ing.** Discuss library support, centennial events, fall programs and
the newsletter. All welcome.

September 4 Saturday
7 - 9 pm **Tool Town Live 2010** at the Uptown Common,
Main Street in Athol. The show will feature Ray Hendricks, with
opening act Rob Parks. Free. Refreshments sold to benefit the
Athol Public Library and Memorial Hall Revitalization Fund.

September 5 Sunday
2 pm **Annual Congregational churches picnic** at Tully Lake.
Anyone interested in being baptised call Pastor Jeff 978-249-
4311.

September 6 Monday **Labor Day**
Schools, banks, post office, library and other government agencies
closed.

September 8 Wednesday
6:30 a.m. **New Harvest Moon**

September 9 Thursday **Rosh Hashanah**

7 pm **Royalston Broadband Committee** meets at Town Hall.
Attend to learn more about the Mass. Broadband Institute and how
to help get broadband to all of Royalston.

September 10 Friday
5:30 p.m. **Winchendon R&G Fish Fryday**

September 12 Sunday
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. **Explore Tully Mountain** with Al-
len Young. Meet at the parking area near 98 Mountain Rd. Bring
a bag lunch to enjoy on the summit. Info: Allen Young 249-7612.
Sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club and the Orange 250
celebration.

September 13 Monday
10 am **Preschool Story Time** begins for the school year and
continues each Monday until June. All preschoolers and their
caregivers are welcome to drop in for stories, crafts, and healthy
snacks. Introduce young ones to the library, make new friends and
enjoy reading together. No pre-registration necessary.

September 14 Tuesday
7 am - 8 pm **State Primary.** Precinct 1 is located at Town
Hall, Precinct 2 at Whitney Hall in South Royalston.

September 16 Thursday
7 pm **Beekeeping in Western Massachusetts: Today’s Chal-
lenges & Tomorrow’s Bees** at the MREC, 100 Main St Athol.
Sponsored by the North Quabbin Garden Club.

September 18 Saturday **Yom Kippur**
1679 New Hampshire Territory & Massachusetts separated

10 am - 5 pm **4th Annual Fungus Fair:** Identifying walks,
talks and cook-ups at Millers River Environmental Center, 100
Main St Athol. Sponsored by Monadnock Mushroomers. Info:
Noah Siegel at nsiegel1@yahoo.org or 978-249-4260.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Phillipston Community Agricultural Fair**

6 p.m. **Family Spaghetti Supper** at the Town Hall sponsored by
the Ladies’ Benevolent Society

September 21 Tuesday **International Day of Peace**

September 22 Wednesday
11:09 p.m. **Autumnal Equinox**
October **Royalston Community Newsletter deadline** today

September 23 Thursday
5:17 a.m. **Full Harvest Moon**

September 29 Wednesday
7:30 p.m. **Ladies’ Benevolent Society meeting and program**
“Putting Your Garden to Bed” with Larry Siegel; Hostess is Kris-
ten West.

September 30 Thursday
7 pm **Mass. Broadband Institute** meeting at Mount Wachu-
sett Community College, North Cafeteria. Learn about the project
and get involved.

October 2 Saturday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Garlic & Arts Festival** in Orange, at Forsters Farm,
60 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West, selectman

Broadband is Coming to Royalston ...

If residents get involved

The State's broadband agency, Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) recently applied for and received a federal stimulus grant to connect rural Central and Western Massachusetts towns for broadband internet. This \$70 million state project will create a "middle mile" solution – a fiber optic trunk which will set the stage for private contractors to provide house to house delivery. The state will not connect each house, but will provide the major pipeline for the private contractors. Check out the project online at "www.massbroadband.org." (If you don't have internet access at home, computers are available for use at the Phineheas Newton Library during library hours and wi-fi is available 24/7 around the library.)

Unfortunately, Royalston was not included in the grant application. However, MBI has told the Board that Royalston will be included if MBI receives enough information about our current capability (we need to prove we are disconnected) and enough public support to show the desire.

Here is where you come in. We need to show MBI that no town needs connecting more than Royalston. We can do that by being counted and showing our support for broadband. Here are specific steps that you can take:

- 1) Fill out the MBI broadband survey online (at work or at the library). This survey is the key to put Royalston on the map. Encourage your friends and neighbors to fill it out (www.massbroadband.org/mapping/survey.html).
- 2) Attend the Royalston Broadband Committee meeting (see below) and learn about the project and how you can help.
- 3) Attend the MBI project informational meeting at Mount Wachusett College (see date below) and let them know Royalston wants in!
- 4) Link yourself to information by emailing broadband@royalston-ma.gov or by calling the Selectmen's office at 978-249-9641.

Important Broadband Dates:

-Royalston Broadband Committee, Thursday September 9, 2010, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

-MBI informational meeting, Thursday, September 30, 2010, 7:00pm, Mount Wachusett Community College, North Cafeteria

Open Meeting Law: This past July 1, major changes to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law took effect. These changes reformed the way meetings are posted and minutes are recorded. The Selectmen have scheduled a seminar about the new law to be given by our Town Counsel, Kopelman & Paige. This is a mandatory meeting for all members of Town boards and committees. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.



Route 32: In the last newsletter, we reported that the final coat of paving would not be applied until 2011. Of course, just as the last newsletter went to press, the Selectmen received word that a change had been approved by Mass Department of Transportation to apply the top coat this year. That work should be almost complete now. The road will then receive its new markings and signs to complete the project.

Road Construction Ahead

Keith Newton DPW supervisor

D.P.W. workers have been preparing road areas for reclamation and pavement work. The roads that will be affected Winchendon, NorthEast Fitzwilliam, Doane Hill, Cross Rd., (Taylor Cut Off), and part of Athol Road. Please expect delays and plan on extra time when traveling these areas in the upcoming weeks. Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation throughout this process. Also, warning signs are both for the safety of workmen and those driving on the roadway. Please adhere to these postings and remember that fines will double in work zones and construction areas.



Physics meets whimsy: *If you need a destination that will make you smile this fall, travel down Butterworth Road and admire the scores of stone sculptures under the hemlocks, along the granite walls and among the yellowing ferns. Clearly a lot of effort went into these creations. One pass with the snow plow and the rock piles will topple. There is some zen in there somewhere.*

Royalston Cultural Council Seeks Proposals for Artists and Programs

The Royalston Cultural Council -- the folks who bring you Open Mic, the Follies, Music Fest and more -- announce that funds are available for artists, craftspeople, naturalists, and educators! Applications are due October 15, 2010. Our recent community survey shows that people want more community-wide events such as dances, movie nights/film series, concerts, and plays -- especially comedies. We also welcome photographers, craftspeople, nature artists, and field naturalists to offer instruction for all ages. Visit our website (<http://www.royalston-ma.gov/cultural/indexrcc.htm>) for lots of information about grants and links to the funding application. Contact Lorraine Casinghino (249-5151, lorrainecasi@gmail.com) for more information and to discuss your proposal.



The Royalston Shakespeare Co. (a.k.a the Friends of the Library) would very much like to thank the cultural council for its generous support of the recent youth workshop production of Macbeth. For more photos and information about the program, visit <http://royalstonshakespearecompany.blogspot.com/>

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

New windshield stickers are in and due. All vehicles entering the facility need to have current windshield sticker visible. This year's color is orange. The cost is \$15 for the first sticker and \$5 for multiple vehicles. Commercial and non-residents are \$50.

Still can't make paper out of plastic. Still finding plastic and plastic coated bags in the paper roll off. Please return plastic bags to the places that you got them. We also have barrels near the roll offs for these.

Hazardous waste collection day is September 25, 2010 at the Orange Transfer Station off East Main Street by Pete's Tire Barn. Pre-registration is required. We have a limited budget for Royalston residents, so it's first come, first served. You can register on line at www.franklincountrywastedistrict.org or ask Tony at the transfer station for a mail-in registration or call the District at 413-772-2438.

Assessors' Notes

Chapter 61 new applications and 10 year renewals are due by September 1st, Chap 61A & 61B new apps and yearly renewals are due by October 1st.

Royalston Police Dept: Be Cautious of Paving Scam

Chief Curtis Deveneau

Gardner police have been receiving reports from local residents and other law enforcement agencies that a group or groups of "paving companies" are again operating in the north county areas. Police would like to inform the community that these paving companies operate in such a manner that more often than not, homeowners become victims of a scam through these operations for thousands of dollars. Prosecuting these cases are very difficult.

These paving companies usually never call ahead, but arrive at a home where they feel driveways are in need of repair and approach homeowners offering a bargain basement price, often telling the homeowner they just finished another driveway and have enough left over to pave their driveway at a discounted price. Some estimates are shown and near the completion of the paving, the foreman of the crew has already cashed a check and will begin the process of telling the homeowners they owe more, using a variety of explanations why.

A recent victim informed police he found not only plenty of stories of such scams on the internet, but the very same crew under investigation in another state that had bilked him..

The Royalston Police would like to inform the community that should their homes be in need of paving as well as general repairs to seek out reputable companies to do this work. You should avoid the scam artists that arrive unannounced at your door. You should never pay more than 10-20% of the estimate up front before work begins and never pay in cash. It's always good practice to get at least two estimates from reputable companies and check references if possible.

If there is any doubt in the homeowner's mind, please contact your local police department or building inspector to verify companies.

"Sorrow and scarlet leaf,
Sad thoughts and sunny weather.
Ah me, this glory and this grief
Agree not well together!"

- Thomas Parsons, 1880, *A Song For September*

September

For summer there, bear in mind, is a loitering gossip, that only begins to talk of leaving when September rises to go." - *George Washington Cable*

" 'I grow old, I grow old,' the garden says. It is nearly October. The bean leaves grow paler, now lime, no yellow, no leprous, dissolving before my eyes. The pods curl and do not grow, turn limp and blacken. The potato vines wither and the tubers huddle underground in their rough weather-proof jackets, waiting to be dug. The last tomatoes ripen and split on the vine; it takes days for them to turn fully now, and a few of the green ones are beginning to fall off." - *Robert Finch*

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Donations to the Friends

James and Nancy Melbourne

Barbara and Enis Willhite

Grace Belmont

Sara and Michael Dilg

The Krasowski/Quinn family

Paul Montero

Library Centennial



Slogan Needed for 100th Birthday Bag

Reduce, Reuse and Read! Do you have a clever saying that would look great on a reusable canvas shopping bag commemorating the 100th birthday of the Phinehas S. Newton Library? If your slogan is chosen, you'll receive a free bag. Ideas may be left at the library, emailed to royalston@cwmar.org, or phoned in to 978-249-3572.

What Memorabilia should be Included in a Library Time Capsule?

What items could give a taste of the present day library to citizens in the future? That's the question going out to everyone in town. Let us know what you would include. Suggestions already include photographs of events during the year, a copy of the library budget, a newsletter, and a Royalston Shakespeare Company T-shirt and program. Let us know - what do you think should be included?

Preschool Story Time and Monday Morning Open Hours to Resume

The Preschool Story Time will be held on Monday mornings at 10:00 beginning September 13th. All preschoolers and their caregivers are welcome to drop in for stories, crafts, and healthy snacks. This is a great way to introduce young ones to the library, make new friends, have some fun, and enjoy reading together. No pre-registration is necessary. The library will be open on Mondays from 10:00 am to 8:30 pm until next June. Thursday and Saturday hours remain the same.

Pat Poor Memorial Lecture: Louisa May Alcott Program

Join us on Friday, October 22nd at the Royalston Town Hall for an evening with Harriet Reisen, author of *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women* and co-producer of the film by the same name. Also joining in the conversation that evening will be co-producer, Nancy Porter, Director of Photography, Boyd Estus, and Still Photographer, Liane Brandon. Boyd and Liane are part-time Royalston residents. Also on exhibit will be the still photographs that Liane made for the film and during the filming. Look for more information next month. Delicious refreshments and beer and wine will be served. Copies of the book and film are available for borrowing from the library. Thanks to John Poor for his donations in memory of Pat, which have made this series possible. The Friends of the Library are sponsoring the event.



Speakers Harriet Reisen and Nancy Porter

New Materials September 2010

Adult Fiction

Armstrong, Kelley *Waking the Witch*
 Barr, Nevada *Burn*
 Deveraux, Jude *Scarlet Nights*
 Gardner, Lisa *Live to Tell*
 Golden, Bruce *Evergreen*
 Hiaasen, Carl *Star Island*
 Kellerman, Faye *Hangman*
 McCaffrey, Anne *Nerilka's Story*
 Michaels, Fern *Game Over*
 Mosse, Kate *Sepulchre*
 Ross, JoAnn *No Safe Place*
 Shteyngart, Gary *Super Sad True Love Story*
 Turtledove, Harry *West and East*
 Unger, Lisa *Fragile*

Adult Non-Fiction

Bacevich, Andrew J. *Washington Rules*
 Chodron, Pema *Taking the Leap*
 Evanovich, Janet *Troublemaker*
 Gwynne, S.C. *Empire of the Summer Moon*
 Johnson, Wayne *Live to Ride*
 Kidder, Tracy *House*
 Lockwood, John H. *Western Massachusetts*
 Macaulay, David *Great Moments in Architecture*
 Tucker, Paul Hayes *Monet in the 20th Century*

Adult Audiobooks

Bacevich, A.J. *Washington Rules*
 Gregory, Philippa *The Red Queen*
 Gwynne, S.C. *Empire of the Summer Moon*

Book Reviews

Read any good books lately? Write a review and submit it to the RCN. For late-summer reading, here are 3 recommended books available from the library.

The 19th Wife by David Ebershoff- Interesting amalgam of a modern murder mystery set in a polygamous outlaw Mormon sect in Utah and the true history of the early Mormons: their success in attracting thousands of followers to dry, deserted, unforgiving land, organizing a great city, and establishing "plural marriage".

There are two protagonists in the book. The fictional modern hero is the ex-communicated son of a modern "19th wife" accused of shooting her husband and now facing the death penalty. The other is the actual "19th wife" of Brigham Young, Ann Eliza Young, who ran away and wrote a controversial memoir describing the "spiritual, emotional and physical" bonds imposed by polygamy. Ann Eliza Young went on a lecture tour to many major cities and met with senators to influence congress to ban legal polygamy in the USA.

Young Adult Fiction

Colfer, Eoin *Artemis Fowl*
 Riordan, Rick *The Battle of the Labyrinth*

Children's Fiction

Beil, Michael *The Red Blazer Girls*
 De Quidt, Jeremy *The Toymaker*
 Dodd, Emma *I Don't Want a Cool Cat*
 Fleming, Denise *Sleepy, Oh so Sleepy*
 Howe, James *Brontorina*
 McDonald, Megan *Judy Moody, Girl Detective*
 Millen, C.M. *The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane*
 Preus, Margi *Heart of a Samurai*

Children's Non-Fiction

Adler, David *A Picture Book of Cesar Chavez*
 Bodden, Valerie *Polar Bears*
 Chancellor, Deborah *Tiger Tales and Big Cat Stories*
 Greenberg, Jan *Ballet for Martha*
 Munro, Roxie *Desert Days, Desert Nights*
 Robinson, Laura *Cyclist Bikelist*
 Somervill, Barbara *Python*
 Webster, Christine *Porcupines*

DVD's: *180 South, An Education, Bob the Builder, Clash of the Titans, Cop Out, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Ghost Writer, Hot Tub Time Machine, Kick-ass, Race to Witch Mountain, The Bounty Hunter, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Losers, and The Runaways*

Music CD's

Cosgrove, Miranda *Sparks Fly*
 Gomez, Selena *Kiss & Tell*
 Lovato, Demi *Here We Go Again*



Anthill by E.O. Wilson - Part of this book is really about ants, the only animals on earth to fight wars besides humans. In this book, the main human character is a young boy who plays on a stretch of Alabama pond shore his whole life. He becomes quite a naturalist and eventually goes to law school so that he can be practical about conserving southern habitats from encroaching suburbanization. Little did he suspect protecting land from development could be so fraught with danger.

Super Sad True Love Story by Gary Shteyngart is super sad not because of the love story at its center but because of the bleak culture described in the indeterminate not-to-distant future. Everyone younger than 30 communicates only by "apparati", tiny pendants that are the next-next generation smart phone. Mainstream people choose to dress in crudely sexual clothing and address their loved ones fondly with slurs and epithets. China is collecting its debt on treasury bonds and the US economy is collapsing with crime and chaos ensuing. In all this mess, the main characters are still fragile humans and their difficulty in connecting meaningfully is also very sad. This satire is wicked, clever and all too plausible.

Where They Went



The Barclays have returned from a three-week drive to and from San Antonio with a carload of daughter Caitlin's things. Caitlin works per diem at SeaWorld and

“pays for rent and food” with a job at Logan's Roadhouse. Jessica (Putney) Denesowicz, a US Army PFC in training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, accompanied Jim, Mary and Caitlin for an evening at the Riverwalk and also had supper at Logan's one night when Caitlin was working. On the return trip, Jim and Mary stopped in Longview, Texas to see Jim's brother, T. Michael Barclay, and dropped by to visit daughter Heather in Washington, DC. Jim's a little pouty, but Mary is glad to see daytime temps below 104 degrees!

Benjamin Morris Siegel took a spring vacation to Florida, where he visited the Everglades.



Emily Mangum and Tobey Chase went to Center Ossipee, New Hampshire to visit Emily's great-grandparents. Melanie Mangum snapped this great shot of the girls enjoying Carter Pond.



Recipes of the month

Just when you think you thought you'd never want to see another zucchini, Sonia Vaccari has submitted two recipes to make you happy they keep on coming. Sonja has an earned reputation as a very good cook. She is the former postmistress, the instigator of the open mic series, the winner of every award that involves a unbelievable hat at the Follies and a professional artist available to paint fabulous personalized murals in your house. Below is a portion of the mural she painted at Pat Jackson's house on S. Royalston Rd. Many thanks to Sonja and George for opening up their gardens during the recent garden tour.



Zucchini Pancakes

a “whats for supper” summer time favorite

1lb shredded zuc drain for 1/2 hour, squeeze dry
 1/2 cup chopped red pepper
 1 tsp salt / pepper to taste
 4 eggs
 2 Tbs melted butter
 1 Tbs chopped sage
 1/4 cup Parm cheese
 3/4 cup flour
 cayenne to taste, go lightly!

Mix all ingredients into a batter. Fry in olive oil till lightly browned. Serve with or w/o butter.

The BEST Zucchini Bread

3 cups flour	3/4 tstp baking soda
1 1/2 cups sugar	2 cups shredded zucchini
2 1/2 tsp cinnamon	1 cup walnuts
1/4 tsp salt	1 cup raisins
1tsp baking powder	3 eggs
	1cup oil
	1cup chocolate chips

Mix all ingredients; pour into 2 buttered loaf pans, I line w/wax paper for easy removal, bake 350 for apx. 45 min. to 1 hr till firm and done.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

The Ladies Benevolent Society of Royalston has awarded four memorial scholarships for 2010 as follows:

H. Pauline Smith Award - **Allyssa Bergquist**

Judith A Willis Award- **Hillary Whitcomb**

Virginia Frye Award- **Patrick Scribner**

Estelle (Steffie) Siegmund Award - **Catherine Brighenti**

Shannah Lively recently completed her first year of graduate school at the University of Connecticut. Her area of study is social work for the elderly. She had an Internship at the Alzheimer's Research Center of Connecticut for her first year and will have an Internship at the Jerome Home this coming year. Her GPA for her first year of study was 4.150.

Heather Lively recently finished her junior year at Springfield College with a major in Public Health. She made the Dean's List with a GPA of 3.56 while playing volleyball for the Springfield College Pride.

Christopher W. James recently graduated cum laude from Westfield State College, where he majored in criminal justice and minored in political science. While at Westfield, he played football for four years and received the 12th player award his senior year. He plans to pursue a law related career. He is the son of Mary Jane Williams of town and Willie James of Willmington NC and the grandson of Helen Williams of Bolton Rd with whom he lived.

Allen Young of Butterworth Rd is the author of a brand new book, *Thalassa: One Week in a Provincetown Dune Shack* about his one-week stay in a Provincetown dune shack. It includes a detailed introduction to the history and status of the shacks. This journal is available to be checked out at the library or for purchase from Ingram book distributors.

SPC Scott A. Easton, Military Police Officer in the United States Army, has just returned to the U.S. after a year deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. SPC Easton, 22, is the brother of Kaylee Easton of Baltimore, Maryland, and of Noah, Colby, and Storm Easton of Royalston, Massachusetts.



Anair in 9/11 Memorial Ride: For his seventh time, Winchendon PD Sergeant Ray Anair of Norcross Road is riding in the 9th annual "Tour de Force NY 9/11 Memorial Bike Ride." It is a 501(c)3 charity fundraiser, with proceeds supporting family members of police officers killed in the line of duty. Ray will be riding with more than 200 cyclists from North America and Europe, departing 9/11/2010 from the Pentagon and riding through DC, across to Maryland, to the shores of Delaware and up coastal New Jersey, ending at Ground Zero NYC on 9/14/2010. All contributions, large and small, are graciously accepted. Contributions may be left at the Winchendon Police Station or mailed to Ray.

DeMar Technologies LLC



15 Oak Hill Lane
Fitchburg, MA 01420
Tel: (978) 345-8655

sales@demarmachine.com
www.demarmachine.com
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Published Poets Society at RCS

The Royalston Community School Poetry Club is forming in September. Everyone who enjoys playing with words and/or eating snacks after-school is welcome. See Mrs. Carnie or watch for information coming home in backpacks.

Congratulations to these RCS poets whose work has been published in the *2010 Pine Tree Poetry Anthology*:

Mackenzie Masteler	Gabriel Dawson
Elizabeth Holden	Sarah Demboske
Hannah Bartkus	Joshua Roberts
Annie Reynolds	Abigail Divoll
Derek Bates	Molly Divoll
Isabelle O'Connor	Rhiannon Fletcher
Rebecca Tetreault	Autumn Tourigny
Samantha Dodd	Destiny Wrigley
	Emily Davis

LADIES' B.

The Ladies' Society kept busy over the summer months, hosting some social craft nights (including one with expert quilter Cookie Boudreau of Winchendon) and conducting some fundraising events. Fall is shaping up to be even busier, with a family-priced spaghetti supper coming up Saturday, the 18th and another informative and entertaining evening with farmer/gardener Larry Siegel, who will present a program on "Putting your garden to bed for winter" on Wednesday, the 29th. All are welcome to attend any programs, and all women of the community are invited to join at any time of the year. Contact President Laurie M. Deveneau at 978-249-5807 or lmdeveneau@msn.com for more information.

Start Training

Tully Triathlon on 10/16

Celebrate fall and join in the 4th Annual Tully Lake Triathlon

This October 16, join an autumn North Quabbin tradition, a 17-mile paddle/run/bike race designed to showcase all the best this region has to offer. Awards will be given to the top finishers in each of the following categories: Individual-Women, Individual-Men, Team-Two Person, Team-Three Person, and Team-Four Person. For more information visit www.thetrustees.org/tullytriathlon or call the campground at



Winchendon Rod and Gun

Winchendon R&G Fish Frydays resume on second Fridays, 5p.m.-ish to 8 p.m. (or whenever the food runs out!) beginning September, 2010. Call the Winchendon Club at 978-297-3955 for advance tickets.



Monty Tech News

Did you know Monty Tech now has a store called "The Gear House," featuring fun and useful items in school colors and sporting views of logos and The Bulldog. Check out the offerings during school day lunch periods from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

While you're there, pop over to the "Mountain Room Restaurant," a learning lab for students in culinary arts. You'll enjoy a gourmet meal for a bargain price. Menus are posted on the website by 10 a.m. each school day morning it's open.

Appointments are suggested (978-345-9200) but men and women can enjoy an array of services offered at Monty Tech's Cosmetology department. Complete hair styling (shampoos, cuts, sets, coloring and perms; beard/mustache care) and facials (plain or with vaporizer and infrared lamps), make-up application, manicures, pedicures and several treatment options are available.

Monty Tech is one of Royalston families' two in-district high schools. It is supported with your tax dollars, so be sure to find out all it has to offer to students AND the public.

Congregational Churches News

As we all say goodbye to a beautiful summer here in Royalston, we are all excited as to what's upcoming this fall. Although it was a very rainy day for our annual church fair, the sun was shining in our hearts and we were full of joy and it was a true blessing to see our neighbors between the rain drops. Thank you to all who came out to join in the fun! See you next year for even more fun.

FCCR & SCCR will be having their annual church picnic and water baptism at Tully Lake on Sept. 5th. at 2pm. Of course, we will be having our church olympic games as well. Anyone interested in being baptised call Pastor Jeff 978-249-4311.

Bible Club will be starting this year on Sept. 15th at R.C.S. every Wed. afternoon from 3-4pm. We are non-denominational and welcome elementary age children. We will be telling stories, singing, creating drama & skits, watching bible videos and puppet shows, eating refreshments and much more. Come and invite your friends. Questions call Dave Williams 978-821-3578 or Susan Veilleux 978-249-5004

FCCR will be hosting its 2nd. annual "Touch the World" Missions Conference Oct. 15th-17th. More details will follow next month. Come join Revival Town Youth Group. We meet every Sunday at FCCR 4-6pm. Where teens can strengthen their walk with Christ. All ages 12 to 19 are welcome. Questions ? Call our Youth Pastor RJ 401-489-0644

Ray Hendricks - Free Concert- Tool Town Live

The Tool Town Live 2010 concert series continues Saturday September 4 at the Uptown Common near 1550 Main Street in Athol, Massachusetts. The show will feature Ray Hendricks, with opening act Rob Parks. The concert is from 7-9pm, and free for all ages. Refreshments will be sold to benefit the Athol Public Library and Memorial Hall Revitalization Fund.

In 2004, opulently gifted singer/songwriter/guitarist Ray Hendricks returned to the Athol area from Boston, where he spent most of the early 2000's proving himself to be one of the most promising young artists in the New England scene. After his return to Athol, within less than one year, with absolutely no support from the corporate music industry, Hendricks' career catapulted, from packing small and medium-sized clubs to capturing a rabid, growing legion of several thousand fans. Opening act Rob Parks considers himself a singer/songwriter- new aged -one man band. He has strong roots in John Mayer style, guitar-driven pop, with the vocal capacity of R&B's Ne-yo. "To keep it edgy, I try to incorporate a lot of today's popular punk with high energy, upbeat lyrical tales of love, loss, and the fact that being 22 is fun," says Parks.

If there is a chance of rain in the forecast, the concert will be held in Memorial Hall at 584 Main Street in Athol.

"The breezes taste
Of apple peel.
The air is full
Of smells to feel-
Ripe fruit, old footballs,
Burning brush,
New books, erasers,
Chalk, and such.
The bee, his hive,
Well-honeyed hum,
And Mother cuts
Chrysanthemums.
Like plates washed clean
With suds, the days
Are polished with
A morning haze."
- John Updike, September



Calling all Collier Campers

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts – If you ever camped at Collier in Gardner, you're invited to their fourth annual Camp Collier Reunion! Please join in on Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 3 p.m. (welcome and registration) for socializing and historical exhibits (3 – 6 p.m.), burgers and dogs (4:30 – 5:15 p.m.) and group photo at 5:15 p.m. Afterwards enjoy a campfire (bring your folding chair!) and movies from past camps. Everything should wrap up about 7:30 p.m. Optional meals are \$7/adults and \$4/kids under 8. Patches will be available for \$3 each. Registration forms at www.campcollier.org or by contacting Chris Pera at 978-632-4369 or info@campcollier.org. You can also check out the Camp Collier Facebook page!

4th Annual Fungus Fair

On Saturday, September 18, from 10 am - 5 pm, learn, see and eat something new at the Millers River Environmental Center. Big name mycologists will be leading forays and giving talks, including:

- Fantastic Fungi I Have Loved and Known* with Rick Van de Poll
- Beginners' Mushroom Identification* with Erin Page Blanchard
- Mushrooming and the Environment* with Elinoar Shavit
- Common Edible & Poisonous Mushrooms; East vs. West* with Debbie Viess
- Finds of the Day* with Noah Siegel

There will be a mushroom cook up and much more. Cost is \$5. The event is sponsored by the Monadnock Mushroomers Unlimited. For more information, contact Royalston's most famous fungi guy, Noah Siegel at 249-4260 or nsiegel1@yahoo.com.



Beekeeping in Western Massachusetts: Today's Challenges & Tomorrow's Bees

Thursday, September 16, 7 p.m.
Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Dan Conlon, president of the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association and former Beekeeper of the Year, will provide background on current beekeeping practices that harm and help honeybees. He will also discuss the future of beekeeping, agriculture, and the honeybee and how this will impact consumers, our food supply, and the native plants so important to our environmental health.

Dan Conlon is a full-time beekeeper operating 800+ colonies in western Mass. He, along with Bonita Conlon produce honey, provide pollination to regional growers, raise queens and teach beekeeping without the use of chemical treatments. Dan has written extensively on many topics relating to bees and beekeepers, and continues to work with researchers providing field testing of theories and techniques in an effort to improve the health of honeybees.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions. Guests and new members are always welcome, so join us this month and learn something new about gardening. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a donation.

Garden Notes

August 20, 2010

As I write, we are on the cusp of a serious stretch of wet weather and isn't it about time, the last stretch occurring in late March. Early summer's hot, dry conditions provided me with a new perspective on gardening. Never before, for thirty-four Royalston garden seasons, had I been obliged to water in July, and there I was, in mid-August, unrolling 350 feet of hose and directing streams of water at individual plants, young transplants, and newly-seeded beds. I had arrived at a form of triage, attending only to those plants which appeared to be thriving and letting the rest fend for themselves. From June 14 to July 10 there was but one measurable rain and torrid conditions prevailed. There were casualties of course. The first was the late spring/early summer garden. Yes, the very one I had referred to in the July newsletter as magnificent. The peas, the spinach, the lettuce survived for a bit then abruptly called it a day, pre-maturely curtailing the harvest period. The second was the potatoes, also glowingly described in July. Potatoes have a critical need for water during two stages of their development: just before flowering when potatoes are being formed and soon after petal drop when the potatoes bulk up. There was no problem with formation, there were lots of problems with bulking up. What I extracted were large numbers of small potatoes, yield off at least 50% from last year. The third casualty was the failure of seeds to emerge during this time (this had never occurred before). I planted and replanted and replanted again before it dawned upon me that there must be a better way. There was. I created furrows, planted the seeds within the furrow, covered lightly, watered well, and mulched. Results were dramatic, germination occurring in a matter of days.

The big story is not the summer's casualties, they were to be expected, but its successes. Cucumbers and summer squash abound, as patrons of the library can attest. Beans, corn, winter squash, fall brassicas, and onions have performed beyond my wildest expectations. Yes, I was still watering the squash, brassicas, and tomatoes

in early August, but the others were watered only when young and the corn not at all. And, as has been the case ever since the forsythia bloom, everything is advanced. Onions were pulled weeks ago, have cured, and are already in storage. We were eating broccoli in early August and are about to harvest our first cauliflower. These are fall broccolis and fall cauliflowers.. There are large numbers of tomatoes ripening (again, early). Regretfully there are large numbers of slugs consuming large numbers of tomatoes.



On the subject of tomatoes, August ushers in one of life's great challenges: finding the tomato hornworms. Hornworm damage is unmistakable: the leaves atop the plants are eaten to the stem, the canopy disappears. I employ various methods in my search. I determine what has most recently been eaten (the stubs of the leaves and leaflets will be green and not brown). I look for the droppings. And I undertake my search from

below, looking up, since the hornworms attach themselves to the undersides of the stems. In the end, though, they are discovered not because of my clever methods but because they've become so large they are difficult to miss. Extracting them from the plant (they hang on pretty tight), I scratch my head in puzzlement as to how I had missed them until that point.

Bring on September with its day-in, day-out harvests. The 'bank' is about to pay its dividends.

Larry Siegel

Classifieds

Wanted: 5-7 acres of land to buy for agricultural use (to plant an orchard, build a greenhouse, etc) in close proximity to Royalston. Mostly cleared land preferred, with a stream or pond on premises a definite plus. Call 617-281-5611 or 781-721-1207.

Little Farmers Child Care at 88 Winchendon Road in Royalston has openings for full and part-time child care. Visit us @ www.littlefarmers.webs.com or call Joni @ 978-575-1083. Lic # 2086547

Babysitter available: Has taken babysitters training course. Able to watch kids while parent is working around the house. References available. Allison Mowrey, age 12. 978-249-7694.

Hand knitted Baby Sweater Sets. Assorted colors. Great gifts! Please call Shirley Anderson at 249-4013.

Taking fall bookings. Backhoe \$65/hr. Call Phil Leger 617-584-9714.

Grass-fed Beef – all cuts available. Call Kathy, 978-249-4260.

Local Royalston Produce from Ted at the Neale Farm on Neale Road. If the sign's out, he's open.

Firewood - \$180/170 cubic feet for green, cut, split and delivered locally. Call for prices on limited supply of semi-seasoned and fully seasoned. Also available: Sawdust for bedding or mulch. Leave message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

Firewood: Seasoned hardwood. Cut and split. \$175/cord delivered locally. Call Chet IV 978-249-2183.

Kittens for sale: 2 - 1/2 Manx & Bengal kittens. Both jet black, with Manx tail. 1 male, 1 female. Litter box trained. 14 weeks old. All 3 sets of shots and worming done. \$75 each. Call Chet 978-249-2183.

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



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Wildlife Sightings

Back in July, as Michael Young and wife Pat Worth of Gulf Rd. were driving to Athol on the Royalston/Phillipston Rd., Michael noticed **5 raccoon babies** on the road. He herded them to safety in the roadside ferns. His actions were viewed suspiciously by the young ones, who seemed to have lost their mother.

Kristen & Joel Richford of South Royalston Rd. were

getting ready to watch one of their favorite shows and winding down from their 4th of July weekend when they saw a **momma moose & her child** in the back yard. Kristen reports, "It was the neatest thing,. We have seen a few racoon, deer and a bear or two but this was the first time we have seen moose in our yard. Luckily my hubby is quick with the camera phone".



Phil Leger has noticed, "**Turkeys and their new young** all over Taft Hill and full nice looking **red foxes** on the prowl. "

The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
Royalston MA 01368

Royalston Resident
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Royalston MA 01368

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Beth Gospodarek
Layout and Sponsorships: Stephen Chase
Circulation: Becky Divoll, Lorraine Casinghino
Treasurer: Barbara Willhite
Staff: Maureen Blasco, Theresa Quinn, Mary Barclay, Larry Siegel

Submission deadline for Oct. issue is: Sept. 22

Please Contact Us

To submit news, articles, ads, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net
Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01386
Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)
Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

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