Calendar of Events

November 1    Thursday
Studded snow tires may be put on today
3:45 pm   Friends of the Library meeting. Discuss library support, upcoming programs and this newsletter. All welcome.

November 3    Saturday
10 am - noon   Village School Open House

6 pm   Roast Beef Supper at the Royalston Fish and Game club. Call Ginny at 978-249-4951, Marie at 978-249-2836 or the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004 for tickets.

November 5    Monday
3:30 - 4:30 pm   Hip hop for kids dance classes at Town Hall begin and continue for 6 weeks. Snack provided. Participants can take the bus from RCS with a permission note from home. Free. Sponsored by the library. Funded by the Royalston Academy.

November 6    Tuesday  Election Day
7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Precinct one ballots are cast at the Town Hall; Precinct Two votes in Whitney Hall.

2:00 pm until sell-out. Election Day Bake Sales at both Precinct 1 and 2, by the Ladies Benevolent Society. Support your candidates and support the LBS Scholarship Fund

November 9    Friday
5 pm   Autumn Lantern Walk for Families from the Village School to the Town Hall  Public invited. Community pot luck supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. followed by a family contra dance with the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Donations are suggested of $5 per adult, $2 per child, or $10 per family.

7 pm   Turkey Raffle at uptown fire station. Can’t make the event? Buy a chance on a festive and overflowing Thanksgiving basket from any firefighter beforehand.

November 14    Wednesday
12:15 pm   And Now Mark Twain, a historic and comic presentation following the senior lunch at the Town Hall. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council. To dine beforehand, call Betty Woodbury (978-249-9656) by Monday. For more information, please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

November 17    Saturday
Pre-dawn hours – Leonid Meteor Shower. Look to the south and expect a shooting star about every five or six minutes.

8 am - 3 pm   Craft Fair to benefit the 250th committee at Royalston Community School on Winchendon Rd. Balsam wreaths, 250th commemorative ornaments and other home-made local items on sale. Soups and sandwiches available. Kids’ activities. A great place to have lunch and holiday shop.


November 18    Sunday
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.   Stomp Out Hunger at the Royalston F&G

November 21    Wednesday
half day   dismissal for all schools  for Thanksgiving break

November 22    Thursday  Thanksgiving Day

November 28    Wednesday
9:31 a.m.   Full Beaver moon

December 2    Sunday
5:30 - 7:30 pm   Jewelry-making workshop with Lauren Pecota of Noho Beads. Craft 3 pairs of sterling silver and bead earrings, perfect for gifts. $30 materials fee. All tools provided. Sign up at the library.

December 7    Friday
7 pm   Open Mic inaugurates its 2012 - 2013 season in Town Hall. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council,

December 9    Sunday
2 pm   Weave a wheat straw ornament with Kathy Morris. Materials fee $5. All materials provided. Register at the library.
Selectboard Notes: Community Housing Survey
Christine Long, Member
Enclosed in this newsletter is a light blue survey about housing options in Royalston, and the Select Board urges every household to complete and mail it to the address on the sheet or drop it in the boxes provided at Town Hall, Whitney Hall, the post office, the library and the Royalston General Store by November 15. That survey is the first step toward the creation of an affordable housing plan for Royalston to be developed by Community Opportunities Group, Inc., a study funded by a Community Development Block Grant won by the town this summer.

The plan will help the town promote the creation of affordable housing for our residents and employees and avoid the threat of inappropriate development being imposed on the town. The state wants every city and town to aim for 10 percent of its housing units to be affordable – less than one percent of Royalston’s current housing stock qualifies.

What qualifies as affordable? Units must be deed-restricted to low- or moderate-income sales or rentals; that is, the price must be such that buyers would pay no more than 30% of their income for mortgage, taxes, and insurance, and renters no more than 30% for rent and basic utilities. Furthermore, buyers and renters must be income-qualified by federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) criteria. Currently in this region, eligibility is defined as a maximum household income of $65,000 for a family of four and $58,500 for a family of three. The survey will help the consultant and the town evaluate our current housing and our residents’ needs. The town will also hold one or more public meetings to explore residents’ ideas about how to move forward.

The board also urges registered voters to go to the polls on November 6 – which provides an excellent opportunity to return the survey.

Luncheon Club News
COA Presents: And Now Mark Twain
Come and visit with one of America’s best loved writers and humorists. Be treated to a compendium of Twain’s life and works; laugh along with him at the foibles, follies and fantasies of a bygone era.

The date is Wednesday, November 14th; the location is the Senior Luncheon at the Town Hall; the program begins after the meal, about 12:15. This program is sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council and is free and open to the public. If you wish to join us for lunch that day, please call Betty Woodbury (978-249-9656) by Monday. For more information, please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

Royalston Police Department News
Mary C. Barclay

Probationary members of the Royalston Police Department have been completing their extensive check-offs and are gradually making the transition from observer to fully proficient officers. The influx has provided a welcome break for some of the more senior officers who have been trying to cover all of the necessary duties while working full time jobs and raising families. The entire department is now training together, providing opportunities for all to refine their technical skills and for the senior and junior members to learn to work together as cohesive unit. A recent training program on traffic control took place at the Town Hall under the direction of Operations Sergeant Roland G. Hamel. The class began in the parking lot as officers were ‘directed’ to their seats. An audio/visual presentation followed, with time for demonstration of gear and equipment, some hands-on time and of course, Q&A. The skills were put to good use shortly thereafter when many of the officers were tapped to manage the convoluted traffic patterns that occur at the annual Tully Triathlon.

Royalston WiredWest Support Form Update:
Jon Hardie - Wired West Delegate, MLP Manager & Royalston Broadband Committee Member
Congratulations! Give Yourselves a Pat on the Back - You Did It! More than 52% of the households in Royalston, and all of our core anchor institutions: fire, police, emergency services, library, schools, and town offices - 274 in all - have completed and returned that orange Royalston Wired West Coop support card or have signed up on line at www.wired-west.net.

Together we have demonstrated our overwhelming need for real high speed internet across town. AND we have demonstrated the economic viability of a high speed internet network serving every house in town. That’s a big deal!

I’d like to thank the many residents who shared their stories - and frustrations - at the town dump, library and general store about trying to run their home businesses, have their kids participate in online school resources, talk to their grandchildren, and do the simplest things - like updating their registration, pay bills, or update their computers on dial-up, flaky satellite or DSL.

AND If you still have that orange card on your kitchen table, and have been meaning to get to it - it’s not too late - to go online at www.wired-west.net, or drop it off at the library or general store. Every card is a dot on the planning map.
Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

The EEE dusk to dawn ban for outdoor activities was lifted Oct. 10th due to hard frost hitting Royalston. There are still pockets of mosquito activity in protected areas such as buildings and tarps. Still use precautions when out at night. Thanks to Royalston residents for their understanding concerning this response action.

Reminder that there are two options at the transfer station for used clothing, textiles, etc. The new option is adjoining the CRT container, and the town will receive some revenue for its use. Don’t throw away those textiles.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Mary C. Barclay

By this time last year, Royalston was buried under more than two feet of heavy, wet snow. Get ready. The standard all-hazards preparedness plans should take care of most home needs – be sure to keep a shovel and bucket of sand/salt at all exits. Tips for road safety include:

- Studded snow tires can be put on any time now; studded or not, tires with good treads are always a plus. Winter wiper blades, antifreeze for winter and sometimes a change in the viscosity of oil are due now. Take every opportunity to top off your windshield washer fluid during salted slush-spraying season.

For winter annoyances like getting stuck on ice or mired in a snow bank, if you’re properly dressed, in excellent health and in a location where you can safely get yourself out, it’s nice to have some sand or ice melt, a shovel and perhaps some of those traction mats in your vehicle. A working flashlight/lantern should always be within reach – LED type lights will go a long time on fresh batteries.

Should you end up in a disabled motor vehicle, it is generally better to stay put, warm and dry, and wait for someone to come to you. Keep a blanket or two or in the passenger compartment. If you travel rural routes or in case you’re sidelined during a major winter event, have what you need to survive a day or two. A couple of plastic bottles of water with room for expansion during freezing, bagged in leak-proof bags or containers, can generally be left under the seat without dire consequences. A plastic storage container with some pre-packaged nuts, crackers, etc. can also live under a car seat without incident.

Of course you already have a Family Communications Plan in place, so you and everyone in your family know who the point person is in case of an emergency. If you have a cell phone, you need a charging cord in your vehicle and a full list of contact information in your phone, right?

Check out www.ready.gov for more information on being prepared for whatever adventures winter may offer. And as always, if you or a loved one has a special need like electricity for medical equipment, requires oxygen, regular medical visits etc. please inform the Royalston Emergency Management Agency so you can be added to the high-priority emergency outreach list. REMA Director Jim Barclay can be reached at 978-249-2904 or ema@royalston-ma.gov.

Cultural Council’s Open Mic

Returns in Early December

On Friday, December 7, 7:00 PM in the Town Hall, the Royalston Open Mic will inaugurate its 2012 - 2013 season. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, with Royalston legend Phil Leger as MC, the Open Mic offers blues, folk, bluegrass, jazz and rock from your favorite local musicians, plus talented performers from all over our area. Come hungry. A homemade main dish and delicious baked goods are always available. Additional Open Mic sessions will take place on the first Friday of each of the following four months: January 4, February 1, March 1, and April 5, 2013.

250th Committee Events

The fun is not done...

*Holiday shop at the craft fair* to benefit Royalston’s 250th anniversary events on Saturday, November 17th. at the Royalston Community School located at 96 Winchendon Road from 8 am - 3 pm. There will be crafters, raffles, soup and sandwiches, children’s games & more. Please come for all your holiday shopping.

*Vendors:* Spaces are available for $10/ea plus a donated item with a value of $10 for a grand auction. Tables can be supplied for an additional $5/ea.

The committee is also looking for anyone who would like to help make goodies for the bake sale, concoct a pot of chowder or chili, or donate items for our raffles. These kindnesses would be greatly appreciated. For donation drop offs or questions, please contact Carol Rogers @ 978.249.5195 or Geoff Newton @ 978.249.3726. Thank you.

Upcoming 250th committee events

*Dec. 8* 120 club drawing

*January 26* Souper Bowl. The brainchild of Marlene Jarvenpaa. Ice skating, snow fun and games along with bottomless soup slurping at the Royalston Fish and Game Club all at one low price. Great for kids and their adults as well as anyone who likes winter or hearty food and convivial company.

*February 23* Chicken Pie Supper followed by Royalston’s first ever trivia night. Get together a team of 5 players to compete for the coveted trivia title and prize.

Returns in Early December

Have input about the 250th anniversary celebration? All welcome to come share ideas on November 8 at 7 pm at the next committee meeting.

Vacancy on the Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen are seeking someone to fill a vacant position. The appointment will be until next Annual Election. If interested, please contact the Board of Selectmen at 978-249-9641 or bos@royalston-ma.gov.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney
Mondays: 10:00 am - 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon
978-249-3572  www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you
John Jeffrey for donating the pumpkins that adorn the library steps, lots of little pumpkins inside and all the delicious apples and honey sticks.

Donations
John Poor
Cornwall Trust

Art Exhibits
Aaron Ellison will continue to have his beautiful photographs of the North Quabbin region on display during the month of November. During December and January Scott Griffin will exhibit photographs, wood carvings, and wood burnings.

Raffle: Hand-colored Pen and Ink Painting by Phil Mickey

Zumba Returns
Grab your sneakers (instead of that Halloween Snickers). Zumba, led by Kristin Killay, is back at the Town Hall on Monday nights from 6 - 7 pm beginning November 5. Every fitness level is welcome in this accepting workout program that crosses Latin rhythmic dancing with aerobics. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library with sound system help from the Cultural Council and generous permission to use the hall from the town select board. Free but donations appreciated.

Hip Hop for kids is back too
Beginning Monday November 5th, Hip Hop class with Jennie Nano will resume. Class is from 3:30pm until 4:30pm for 6 weeks and a snack will be provided. Jennie will teach basic dance movements as well as exposing participants to some beginner / intermediate Hip Hop/Jazz technique. Each class will begin with a warm-up that will stretch and strengthen muscles and develop proper body alignment, coordination and flexibility. Students then will participate in across the floor and center combinations.

Jennie has a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in dance and currently teaches dance at The Dance Center in Winchendon, Nashoba Valley Dance Academy in Groton, and the Paula Meola Dance in Sterling. She is the founder and artistic director of Jennie & Company, a modern/jazz dance company based in Fitchburg. RCS students can take the bus from school to the Town Hall with a note from a parent or caregiver. This program is funded by a grant from the Royalston Academy.

Two Holiday Gift-Making Classes
The Friends of the Library are sponsoring two gift-making classes on Sundays in December in Town Hall:

First, a jewelry making class with Lauren Pacosa will be held on December 2 at 5:30 pm. This class will be wire-working, making earrings with sterling silver wire. Lauren will teach about the different types of wire and hardness and teach how to work with wire and use a bench box and hammer to form different shapes. Participants will leave with three pair of sterling silver earrings, perfect for gifts or personal use. To see the earrings, visit the library website. The class will have a $30 materials cost for the sterling silver wires and all findings. All tools will be supplied.

Then, on Dec. 9, local wheat-weaver Kathy Morris will guide participants in creating a traditional wheat ornament. $5 materials fee.

Pre-register for either class by visiting or contacting the library.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

**Adult Fiction**
Alexie, Sherman  *Blasphemy*
Banville, John  *Ancient Light*
Barker, Pat  *Toby’s Room*
Brandman, Michael  *Robert B. Parker’s Fool me Twice*
Castle, Richard  *Frozen Heat*
Erdrich, Louisa  *The Round House*
Harrison, Kim  *Into the Woods*
Isaacs, Susan  *Goldberg Variations*
Johansen, Iris  *Sleep No More*
Lehane, Dennis  *Live by Night*
Leon, Donna  *The Jewels of Paradise*
Mayor, Archer  *Paradise City*
Moehringer, J.R.  *Sutton*
Pamuk, Orhan  *Silent House*
Rowling, J.K.  *The Casual Vacancy*
Weir, Alison  *A Dangerous Inheritance*
Woods, Stuart  *Severe Clear*

**Adult Non-Fiction**
Ellison, Aaron  *A Field Guide to the Ants of New England*
Owen, Mark  *No Easy Day*
Presilla, Maricel  *Gran Cocina Latina*
Romney, Mitt  *No Apology*
Sparrow, Giles  *Cosmos Close-up*
Stroufe, Del  *Forks Over Knives- The Cookbook*
Wolf, Naomi  *Vagina*

**Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction**
Albin, Gennifer  *Crewel*
Forde, Jasper  *The Last Dragonslayer*
Lowry, Lois  *Son*
Meloy, Colin  *Under Wildwood*
Patterson, James  *Confessions of a Murder Suspect*
Riordan, Rick  *The Mark of Athena*

**Audiobooks**
Child, Lee  *A Wanted Man*
Clancy, Tom  *Locked On*
Grisham, John  *Calico Joe*
Lehane, Dennis  *The Given Day*
Patterson, James  *Private Games*

**Juvenile Fiction**
Dunrea, Olivier  *Ollie’s Halloween*
Frazee, Marla  *Boot & Shoe*
Hoberman, Mary  *You Read to me, I’ll Read to you*
Howe, James  *Otter and Odder*
Klassen, J.  *This is not my Hat*
McMullan, Kate  *A Wedding for Wiglaf?*
McMullan, Kate  *Class Trip to the Cave of Doom*
McMullan, Kate  *Revenge of the Dragon Lady*
McMullan, Kate  *The New Kid at School*
Oliver, Lauren  *The Spindlers*
Russell, Rachel  *Tales from a not-so-smart Miss Know-it-all*
Spinelli, Eileen  *Cold Snap*
Stilton, Geronimo  *The Quest for Paradise*
Stilton, Geronimo  *Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye*
Stilton, Geronimo  *The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid*
Stilton, Thea  *Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt*
Stilton, Thea  *Thea Stilton and the Prince’s Emerald*
Stilton, Thea  *Thea Stilton and the Secret of the Old Castle*
Willems, Mo  *Let’s Go for a Drive!*
Woodson, Jacqueline  *Each Kindness*

**Juvenile Non-Fiction**
Frisch, Aaron  *Boston Celtics*
King, Martin Luther  *I Have a Dream*
Old Ironsides Museum  *A Sailor’s Life for Me*

**Dvds:**
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, The Cabin in the Woods, A Cinderella Story, Marvel’s The Avengers, Rock of Ages, Snow White & the Huntsman, and Thomas and Friends: Blue Mountain Mystery

**Cds**
The Killers  *Battle Born*
No Doubt  *Push and Shove*
Pink  *The Truth about Love*

Royalston Yellow Pages Enclosed
The Royalston Yellow Pages should be inserted in this newsletter. Many thanks go to Maureen Blasco for scouting out the entries and to Barbara Stowell of Grayrock Graphics for making them readable and attractive on the yellow page. This directory is a free service to Royalston residents published by the Friends of the Library.
Ellee Bronnes, daughter of Jody and Jeffrey Bronnes of Royalston and Andrew Newton, son of Bruce and Elizabeth Newton of Fitzwilliam, NH and John and Irene Drozdowski of Athol were married on Saturday August 25, 2012 at the Spencer Country Inn in Spencer with many friends and family. Ellee is employed at Rainbow Child Development Center and Andrew is in the Army National Guard and works for Loomis. The couple resides in Royalston.

The town’s oldest resident is Marguerite Langlois, who was born February 25, 1921. She received Royalston’s Boston Post Cane at a Selectboard meeting on October 2nd. The previous holder, Dorothy Bailey, recently moved. Pictured: Selectboard chair, Linda Alger and Marguerite Langlois.


Charles was born in Warwick, May 24, 1926, the son of Charles and Esther (Matthews) Lincoln Sr. He grew up and spent many years in Warwick, later moving to South Royalston where he lived for many years. As a youngster he worked on his father’s small dairy farm.

Charles worked many years for Rodney Hunt Company operating the foundry stack smelting iron. He later went to work for the Walter E. Fernald School in Templeton. While living in Warwick he served as constable, Chief of Police, volunteer fireman, dog catcher, selectman and even hand dug many graves in the cemetery. There was nothing he would not do to help people and could do anything he put his mind to. Charles had an affect on many troubled teens later in life as a foster parent in Royalston.

Charles loved cats, dogs and all animals and even had an encounter with a moose on a back road in Royalston with his car. The moose was fine and got up and wandered into the woods but his car did not fare too well! He enjoyed driving his car, and recently was very proud of the 178,000 miles he put on his 2006 Ford Taurus. He would drive anywhere: Walmart, CVS, or grocery store and was always very happy behind the wheel.

He leaves his wife Nancy; a daughter, Linda Gale and her husband Brian of Warwick; a son, Michael Lincoln and his wife Terri of Arvada, Colo.; stepchildren, Ernest Lopez of Gardner and Alex Cruz of Athol, Cheryl Richard, Fitchburg, Cedric Fisher and was predeceased by Greg Fisher; five grandchildren, Justin Gale of Warwick, Darren Gale of Orange, Brandon Lincoln of Arvada, Adam Lincoln of Russellville, Ark. and Sierra Lopez of Gardner; and two sisters, Sue Wallock and her husband John of Winchester, N.H. and Rosemary Lincoln-Clark of Royalston.

Burial was at the Village Cemetery in Fitzwilliam, N.H.. The family suggests donations in Charles’s name be made to a charity of one’s choice.
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Quiet Heroes: Tony and Amanda Basso went on a cruise and stopped in St. Thomas. While out on a jet ski, they saw someone out in the ocean waving at them and they skied over to him. He was an older conch diver being pulled out to sea who was very grateful that they had seen him and come. They put him on the jet ski and took him to his boat where he said he would be fine and refused a tow to the dock. Concerned that he might need help getting to shore they reported him to the people on the dock when they returned the jet ski as they prepared to continue on their tour.

Laurie Truehart recently was awarded People’s Choice and President’s Choice, and in the Master’s Division, she received first, second, and third place in birds of prey and first prize in wading and shore birds at the Spirit of Wood Show held at Middlesex College on October 14.

Local Poetry

Of You
Shelter me with soft whispers of nothing
Surround me with the scent of your prose
Protect my core from cruel wisdom
Upon your heart I rest my fragile love
Fragments of time bleed quickly into years-yet
You remain faithfully by my side
With each passing hour I am bemused
The gift fate herself has bestowed upon me - is
I may live out the remainder of my days
Blessed-in the company of you

Paul Thibodeau

Paul Thibodeau of Frye Hill has recently published an e-book, Broken Angel, of his original poetry. It is available on Amazon for $5.95.

RCS Poetry Club

The 1st and 2nd graders in the RCS Poetry Club wrote this raggedy acrostic poem for the newsletter:

Halloween

Family Fun
Rats
bAts
Ninjas
sKeletons
Exciting
No!
Scary
Terrible
phEw
wItch
boNes

by Jacob Rathburn, Sydney Ares, Adriana Gaulzetti, Karrisa Agnelli, Rebecca Nano, Samantha West, Ben Veness, and Andrew Robinson

A century ago, Royalston Falls was called Forbes Falls. It was a social hot spot with public transportation to its dance pavilion, where special meals and clam bakes were served.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee welcomes everyone to its meetings to discuss issues of open space and recreation in our town. It holds public meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every other month. Next meeting: November 8, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

The conclusion of the series about Royalton waterfalls will be next month.
Royalston Community School Update

Tayiah Neale and Rachel Killay, 6th graders
A wonderful month coming up at R.C.S. The classrooms are off to work. Kindergarten has welcomed a new teacher, Mrs. Green! Grade K was excited to perform Stone Soup. Then, the students made a book to go with it. The Hungry Boy was played by Jackson Phelps and the old woman was played by Aubrielle Brockney. Congrats to those two volunteers. First grade has been looking at New England mammals and each student will be making a flip book to go with the assigned mammal. The class has also remodeled its library. In grade six, students have been working in science. Their “wings” have been clipped because of EEE threat but they have worked inside with ferns and molds. Also in grade six, a group ran by Rachel Killay and Tayiah Neale are preforming the play Sleepy Hollow at school and tickets cost a dollar. All money will be donated to the MSPCA.

Office News: Veterans Day NO SCHOOL. We would like to get across that Veterans Day is MORE than a day off from school. It is a day to remember all those who fought or had anything to do with the wars, dead or alive. November 19th-20th are parent teacher conferences. Please call Mrs. Lajoie at 978-249-2900 to book one.

P.T.G News/Natures classroom: Thank you to everyone who took part in the fundraiser! Our next meeting will be on Monday Nov. 5th @ 3:15 please join us! The 5th and 6th grade is doing a gift card raffle for different stores. Get one at the post office or the school!

11/4 Daylight Savings Time Ends, Turn clocks back 1 hr.
11/5 End of Term 1
11/5 PTG Mtg. @ 3:15
11/7 Community Reading Day
11/12 Veteran’s Day, NO SCHOOL
11/13 Picture Retake Day
11/14 1/2 Day, NO KINDERGARTEN, Lunch Served, Noon Dismissal
11/15 Caring for Kids Dental Program
11/19 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 5:00pm
11/20 Parent/Teacher Conferences 6:00 - 7:30pm
11/21 1/2 Day, ALL STUDENTS, NO LUNCH SERVED, Noon Dismissal
11/22 Thanksgiving, No School
11/23 NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break

Village School News
After School Program for Royalston children
If you are looking for after-school care, the Village School offers a fun After School Program from 3 to 5:30 on school days. Children can take the RCS bus and get dropped off at the Village School on the common. There is homework help, supervised outdoor play, and lots of arts and crafts, (children learn knitting!) run by Royalston resident, Lynn Anair. To sign up, call the school at 249-3505.

After-School Music Lessons
Private and group lessons are offered at the Village School daily from 3:30-5:30 p.m., for flute, recorder, guitar and beginning piano. Call the school for more info. 978 249-3505

Upcoming events at the Village School
Open House Saturday November 3 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the classrooms, find out about our unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children to enjoy activities in the classrooms just for them. Next year’s preschool will start filling up.

Autumn Lantern Walk for Families Friday November 9
The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 9th. The public is invited to participate in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school with a gathering in the dark for stories and songs. Everyone then joins in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a family contra dance with the No Name Band, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Renown folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will call the dances. Children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations are suggested of $5 per adult, $2 per child, or $10 per family.

Book Fair: The Village School hosts a book fair of excellent children’s books, picked by staff and parents alike, with the help of Bruce’s Browser. Come in anytime, during school hours to browse and buy books. It begins on Monday November 26th, and lasts all week.

For continual updates on events, go to www.villageschoolma.org

Many thanks to the Royalston Academy for sponsoring a visit to Royalston Community School by a traveling theater troupe from Mount Wachusett Community College, which presented How to Train your Pirate. photo: Marie LaJoie
Royalston Fish and Game Club

Famous Fish and Game Roast Beef Supper: family-style meals include tossed salad, Italian bread with real butter, perfectly prepared beef roasts with mounds of steaming mashed potatoes and gallons of savory gravy. Coffee and dessert, too.

Ladies’ Day at the Range, sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and hosted by the Royalston F&G was a WILD success, with well over 100 women in attendance! Women as young as 15 had opportunities, often for the very first time in their lives, to hold a variety of guns, try their hand at archery and even fly fishing! Shotguns, rifles, and handguns of varying calibers were available, and by the end of the day, a number of the women were knocking off clay pigeons like professionals. NSSF estimates some 25% of women who participate in such an event decide they enjoy shooting to such a degree, they take up sport shooting as a hobby. Based on the smiles and chatter on Royalston F&G’s Ladies’ Day at the Range, there are some newfound shooting sport hobbyists. Females 15 or older by next spring may be interested in knowing the Royalston F&G is planning to host another Ladies’ Day at the Range. Call to have your name added to the contact list.

The Royalston F&G is open Sundays from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. and Fridays from 6 p.m. to midnight. Memberships are available at the bar or at the Royalston General Store. If you are interested in more information, contact Ginny at 978-249-4951, Marie at 978-249-2836 or the Clubhouse at 978-249-3004.

Monty Tech News

Royalston Rep. Mary C. Barclay
mcb Barclay@juno.com – 978-249-2598

Month after month this column tells of accomplishments made by students in many facets of their lives – academic, athletic, social – but rarely do the staff members receive mention, and I would add Royalston and surrounds are remarkably well represented on staff! I’m guessing the most senior Royalston member is Tom Verolini of River Road who is the evening facilities supervisor. If you have ever stepped foot in Monty Tech, chances are you’ve notice how clean, neat, impeccably-maintained a building it is. Thank Tom and his staff! The newest staff member isn’t from Royalston, but has connections. Pam Pothier of Ashburnham (married to newly appointed Royalston Special Police Officer Paul Pothier) is a member of the Technology Support Team. Longtime Graphic Arts Instructor Brian Bean lives just over the line in Phillipston, but has long been an active Royalston participant. Electrical instructor John Bussiere of Winchendon was raised in Royalston, and Kevin Killay of Toney Road is an instructor in the completely revitalized Machine Technology program. To my knowledge, Royalston’s first-ever husband-wife teaching duo at Monty Tech is that of Tracie and Tim Wright of Morse Road. Tracie is a seasoned member of the Dental Assisting instructor staff; Tim is in his second year as a teaching assistant in Welding and Metal Fabrication...and perhaps one of the most enthusiastic members of the staff! Be sure to thank these folks and all members of the administration, staff and faculty who make up Monty Tech.

Upcoming local music

Melanie and the Blue Shots Fall Tour:
Cheshire Tavern, Fitzwilliam Inn Nov. 16th; Red Apple Farm Harvest Fest Nov 18th; and New Year’s Eve Cheshire Tavern, Fitzwilliam Inn
Stay close to home and bring in the new year with your dancing shoes.

Folk Singer, John McCutcheon Coming to Area
North Country Sustainability Center, Inc. (NCSC) (in Ashburnham but serving Royalston) welcomes John McCutcheon to the Stratos Dukakis Performing Arts Center at the Montachusett Regional Technical High School. This family-friendly fundraiser for NCSC happens on Friday, November 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for students. Tickets are available online at www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information about North Country Sustainability Center or about the concert, please visit www.northcountrysustain.org or call 978-252-5021. NCSC is a 501(c)(3) organization. This concert is a major fundraiser for this regional group.

Recipe of the Month

Braised chipotle pork

Serves 6-8

This recipe comes from Phil Rabinowitz. He made it for the local foods supper from Chettie Hall’s pork with yummy results. Phil is known in town for his work on the Capital Improvements Committee and his folk performances at open mic, where he is dubbed the “man who knows 10000 songs.”

Ingredients

- 3 pounds marbled boneless pork, rinsed, dried carefully, and cut into 1” cubes (You can also use country-style ribs if you like gnawing bones. In that case, you’ll need about 4 1/2 to 5 pounds of bone-in ribs. Rinse and dry the ribs, but leave them whole.)
- Salt and fresh ground pepper
- Butter or oil for browning
- 2 large sweet or yellow onions, chopped
- About 6 large fresh tomatoes, chopped, or 3 14 oz. cans tomatoes, chopped
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups chicken stock or water
- 2 to 4 or more chipotles from a can of chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, depending on how hot you want the dish.
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1/2 cup or more orange juice
- 2 good-sized bunches fresh cilantro, chopped
- Salt to taste

Season the pork with salt and pepper. In a large heavy pot or deep frying pan with a cover, heat the oil and brown the pork. Chopped prok will brown quickly -- be careful not to cook it through. Ribs will take about 3-4 minutes a side. Remove the pork to a plate or bowl. Then, in the same pan, saute the onions till they soften and just start to brown. Add the chopped tomatoes, with any juice they have, and cook briefly. Add stock or water, scraping up the brown bits that cling to the pan. Add chipotles, tomato paste (stirring to dissolve it), orange juice, salt, and about 1/4 of the cilantro. Return the pork to this pan. Cover and bring to a boil, then either turn the heat down and simmer, or place in the oven, checking and stirring regularly and adding water or stock as needed to keep the dish from burning. Cook for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or more, until the meat is very tender. Taste the sauce as the dish cooks, and add salt, orange juice, chipotles, or tomato paste to your taste if needed. Let the liquid cook down at the end to a cup or so. Remove from the heat or oven and add the rest of the cilantro. Serve with rice. Enjoy, with a lot of napkins.
Classifieds

Services Available:


Sharpening: knives and scissors. Also, custom knife making. Call Rob 978-320-9982.

Little Farmers Child Care, located next to RCS now has full and part time openings! It also has before and after school child care. Hours are 6am-5pm Call Joni @ 978-575-1083

Graphie digital artist for hire. Websites, print materials - posters, flyers, brochures, business cards, invitations, etc... Also photo and slide scanning offered. Call Barbara at 508.364.3339 or email bguiney@wildblue.net.


House cleaning. 4 hr - $60.00. Experienced with references. Royalston resident. Call Fran: home 978-249-4596 or cell 895-0817.


Do you need housekeeping, outdoor work, or other odd jobs? $14/hour. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

Custom Sawmill Service - Our portable mill can turn your logs or ours into boards, planks, or beams. Log capacity is 36” diameter 21’ long. Call for pricing: Josh Doub Laurie Truehart private wood carving lessons. 978-249-3291.

Winter Storage: motorcycle, automobiles, boats, etc. Unheated. Clean and dry. Call 978-249-4013.

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Wanted

Chest freezer, approximately 18 cu. ft. Age and appearance not important; ability to freeze food is. Call Kathy or Larry 249-4260.

For sale


Hand-knitted items: baby sweater sets, mittens, hats, boot socks, etc. Nice selection of colors. Call 978-249-4013.

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale. Goats for sale: for meat or pets or rent them for brush clearing. Contact Helen at 978-249-5163 or 774-239-5062

Free-Range, pasture raised pork. Raised in Royalston. $2.00/pound; hanging weight. Processing fees not included. Whole pig or half. We arrange and ship for processing. Come pick one out. Call Chet Hall IV 978-249-2183.

Grass-fed Beef: All cuts available. Call Kathy at 978-249-4260.

Squier Davis Farm- Local, raw honey from happy bees at Squier Davis Farm. $6.00/lb. jar or $12.00/2 lb. jar (new this year). Call 978-249-4000 or stop by. We are located on Route 32 just past mile marker 60.


Royalston Maple Syrup from Divoll’s sugar house. Prices $9/pint; $15/qt; $28/half gal.; $50/gal. Call Randy at 978-602-5583.

Garden Notes

October 22, 2012

We awoke to a frost on the morning of October 13. Coincidentally, it was market day and I was obliged, at 5:00 a.m., to load the truck, drive to Amherst, and set-up (bundled as I was in sweater, coat, gloves, scarf, and winter hat). All in a day’s work.

If frost befell us, situated as we are nearly atop Prospect Hill, I am certain it befell every other part of Royalston. Within my range of frosts (for the short-of-memory: my garden is touched by, hit by, or killed by frost), I reckon this was a hit by. Some things died (principally tomatoes and squashes), but others I would have expected to succumb did not (beans and some annual flowers), though to look at them you would be hard-pressed to consider them alive). I covered peppers; a large number of them were late in developing and were covered with fruit. They survived just fine, the only damage inflicted, not by the frost, but by the weight of the blankets thrown over them.

The availability of garden beds to be re-worked for next year arrives in waves (just as well, given the logistics of dealing with eighty-four beds at one time). Work on the first wave is essentially complete. It included beds previously occupied by corn, potatoes, onions, and winter squashes (all long-ago harvested, corn in the freezer, potatoes, onions, and squashes strewn in bushel baskets here and there throughout the house). I am in the midst of the second wave, those beds made available by the recent frost. The third wave will not occur until seriously cold weather sets in and the root crops and brassicas are pulled. Wave four? That’s next spring, dealing with beds occupied by crops I will attempt to nurse through winter.

This fall’s honoree as recipient of my fleet of fish tanks is tatsoi, a crop I’m growing for the first time. Like all brassicas, it is cold-hardy, but, unlike some brassicas, I suspect it is especially cold-hardy. I’m hoping to harvest until such time as snow depths make it impossible to determine where the tanks are located. (Reminder to all: that never occurred last winter.) Tatsui belongs to that category of vegetables referred to in the seed catalogs as Asian greens. (Think Chinese cabbage or pak choi.) It is attractive with deep green leaves growing from a rosette. I’ve been harvesting heads (one-half to three-quarter pounds each) but, as winter progresses, I will pick outer leaves, expecting them to be replaced by emerging new leaves from the center). It cooks quickly; either stir-fried or braised, and can be eaten alone or in combination with other vegetables.

I notice other gardens during my infrequent wanderings around the area. I know they are garden sites because the ground has been tilled, the earth bared in preparations for next spring. Not so my garden. It is no longer in-your-face stunning, but I still find it a thing of beauty. It is not entirely bereft of flowers: a couple of rudbeckias, one solitary verbena, an orange and yellow patch of calendulas, and, underfoot, the remarkably persistent Johnny jump-ups (which can be found blooming almost every month of the year). Eighteen or so beds remain in production, obliging me, thankfully, to remain in production as well.

Larry Siegel
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