

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

October 2013



Volume XVI, Issue VIII

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

Calendar of Events



October 2 Wednesday

7 pm **Hearings and forums on medical marijuana facilities moratorium, solar bylaw and stretch code**, at town hall

October 4, Thursday

8:35 pm **New Hunters' Moon**

October 5 Saturday

7 pm **Chicken Shoot** at the Royalston Fish and Game Club. All are welcome to attend; it is a fun time. Contact Marlene Jarvenpaa for more information. Benefits the Royalston 250th Committee.

Oct. 5-6 **Garlic and Arts Festival**, Forster's Farm, Orange 10:00-5:00. \$5 adults/\$8 weekend, kids free.

October 9 Wednesday

10 - 11:30 am **Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic** at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free for Royalston residents who are 18 or older. Walk-ins are welcome.

October 10 Thursday

3:45 **Friends of the Library Meeting**, all welcome.

October 14 Monday

Columbus Day observed

October 15 Tuesday

midnight **Cultural Council grant applications due**

October 18 Friday

6:45 pm **Royalston Historical Society meeting**. Pot luck at Peter Kraniak's house, corner of Winchendon Rd. and Stone Rd. New members welcome.

7:38 pm **Full Hunters' Moon**

October 19 Saturday

7th Annual Tully Lake Triathlon, 17-mile paddle/run/bike triathlon. 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. More info: www.tullylakecampground.org

7 - 10 Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation. \$20/ticket for food, live music and fun. Supports enrichment activities in the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. See any board member, including Laurie Deveneau, Nancy Melbourne, Maureen Blasco or Beth Gospodarek for tickets. For more information, visit www.royalstoneducationfoundation.org.

October 21 Monday

4:30 pm **Library Book Group** meets to discuss Sy Montgomery's *The Wild Out your Window*, a very readable collection of short essays through the seasons about local natural history and lore. Copies are available at the library.

October 25 Friday

7 pm **Special Town Meeting**, at town hall

October 25 Saturday

1 - 3 pm Town Halloween Party, sponsored by the Royalston Police Department. Old fashioned games and a costume parade at town hall. Free. If inclined, bring a bag of candy to donate.

October 31 Thursday **Halloween**

5 - 8 pm **Trick or Treating Hours**



Selectboard Notes

Christine Long, Member

The Energy Committee has worked for several years and countless hours to move Royalston toward becoming a Green Community and bring in up to \$130,000 in grant money. Now that goal is in sight.

Two of the steps need voter approval, and the Selectboard urges voters to attend an information session on Wednesday, October 2 and special town meeting on Friday, October 25, both at 7 p.m. at town hall.

One article recommends a new zoning bylaw that will allow a by-right solar array at the landfill (via an overlay district) and solar arrays elsewhere by special permit from the Planning Board. The bylaw requires both kinds of installation to meet design standards and to be screened by vegetation.

The other “green” article asks Royalston to accept the stretch code, which imposes more stringent standards on a building’s energy use. Yes, this increases construction costs a bit, but those costs are recovered through lower energy bills and, sometimes, through utility company or tax incentives.

To date, 131 towns and cities in Massachusetts have adopted the stretch code. Among them are Athol, Petersham, Wendell, New Salem, Gardner and Westminster, all of which have also achieved Green Community status and thus earned state grants of at least \$125,000. “Thanks to these communities, Massachusetts is leading the nation in energy efficiency,” said Governor Deval Patrick in 2011 after 100 cities and towns had adopted the code. “These communities serve as a model for other municipalities seeking to increase energy efficiency and lower operating costs.”

With the grant money, Royalston will be able to make **upgrades** to public buildings and facilities it otherwise couldn’t afford to do. These upgrades will make our aging facilities more efficient and result in significant savings in energy costs.

Special election notes: The board wants to thank voters for approving the debt exclusion for a new fire truck for Station 2 in South Royalston. We will keep you posted about when the new truck arrives.

The board regrets that voters by eight-vote margin chose not to establish a capital stabilization fund. Because we feel this measure is essential to the town’s financial health, we will ask again for approval.

Royalston Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs

The Royalston Cultural Council has set an October 15, 2013 postmark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. The Royalston Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Last year, the Cultural Council distributed approximately \$3800 in grants. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.aspx.

Luncheon Club News: Flu Clinic 2013

Gary Winitzer

The annual Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9 from 10 am to 11:30 am at the Town Hall. The clinic, sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging, is free of charge and is for Royalston residents who are 18 years of age or older. Walk-ins are welcome. Health insurance is not required. This year’s flu shot contains vaccines for influenza B virus, influenza A (H1N1) virus and influenza A (H3N2) virus.

Pneumonia vaccine will also be available. The vaccine protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria, including those most likely to cause serious disease.

Vaccine will be administered by Nurses from Athol Hospital. Assistance will be provided by the Athol Board of Health.

To join the Wednesday Luncheon Club for a meal, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 before noon on Monday.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chairperson

A reminder that some folks still don’t have their annual windshield stickers. These were due July 1st. They are \$15 for the first sticker and \$5 extra for each additional car in the same household. Also, town workers are not exempt (as per State Ethics Law). This revenue helps pay for free recycling. It may be free to you, but there is a transportation cost. Please be the good citizens that you are and purchase your annual sticker on your next visit. Those of you that already have, a big thank you for supporting free recycling in Royalston.

A big thank you to RDPW for the line painting at the transfer station. By press time, there should be the final application of a crosswalk between building and compactor and safety lines along the edges of the roll offs. Be aware of who is behind you when backing up please.

Haz/mat collection was held in Orange for Royalston residents. There will be another one next year. In the meantime, please do not leave paint or haz/mat material at the transfer station. If someone has a need in between to get rid of haz/mat contact the RBOH @ boh@royalston-ma.gov for referrals to facilities that can take the materials.

Still collecting all kinds of textiles etc. As long as they are not wet or moldy, we can take it.



Make Royalston an Official “Green Community”

Donna Caisse, Energy Committee Chairman
978-249-4497 dcaisse1@verizon.net

Why become a Green Community?

- *To gain economic benefits by reducing energy consumption and reducing energy costs.
- *To reap environmental benefits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- *To receive recognition as a sustainability leader in our state.
- *To be eligible for grant money to become even greener. \$\$\$\$\$

Green community grant allocations are based on \$125,000 as a base, plus a population/per capita income formula. Royalston would be granted \$125,000 by becoming a Green Community. One of the biggest benefits of becoming a Green Community is gaining access to grants, and additional financial assistance for energy projects.

Last month I told you I would give you more information on “The Stretch Code”. The Energy Stretch Code is defined by documentation of a Town Meeting vote adopting 780 CMR 115.AA, Ma. Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) the Energy Stretch Code. Criterion #5 is to minimize life cycle costs. The statute says: “require all new residential construction over 3000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies”. Royalston is not zoned for commercial or industrial construction so that does not pertain to Royalston. There have been a very small number of new homes built in Royalston due to Zoning Bylaws. The stretch code requires all new residential construction be subject to the stretch code.

In order to become a Green Community we must pass the Stretch Code as a general bylaw by a Town Meeting vote. What we could expect after becoming a Green Community are upgrades to our town’s heating systems, and energy efficient measures such as weatherization and PV solar systems and street lights. The Town could also receive some help with the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the way of VFD pumps.

Energy Management Systems are being used in municipalities to target energy waste. This is something Royalston could benefit from as well. We have partnered with Guardian Energy Solutions to come up with a Reduced Energy Plan for Royalston.

Our representative is Matt Whittemore; he has been out to Royalston twice to tour our buildings. He met with the DPW Director, Keith Newton, and took notes and pictures to document the current infrastructure. His plan will make suggestions to upgrade our systems to operate more energy efficiently. There are many incentives being offered by National Grid right now that can maximize our improvements at no or low cost, with no money coming directly out of our Town budget.

There is a lot of information to absorb regarding Green Community Designation and the Energy Stretch Code, more than I can share in this Newsletter. If you would like to learn more about Green Community Designation go to mass.gov, Department of Energy Resources, Green Communities Division.

The informational meeting regarding the Energy Stretch Code sponsored by DOER and Jim Barry, our Regional Representative from DOER, will be held on October 2, 2013, at the Town Hall, directly following the hearing for the Solar Bylaw at 7:00. If you have any questions please attend on October 2nd. There will be babysitting and refreshments available.

The Special Fall Town Meeting that the Solar Bylaw and Energy Stretch Code will be voted on will be held on Friday October 25, 2013. Please attend; we need your support and your vote!

Thank You.



GOING...GOING...GONE !

Phillipston and Royalston Homeowners ...

Housing Repair Assistance is Still Available - for now...

Our current grant for home repairs is about to close. This is your last chance to get help under the current program. You may be eligible for up to \$35,000 for a single-family home for code repairs, lead paint and asbestos abatement. If you are a homeowner whose residence needs repairs, contact the CDBG Administrator, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, 1427 Water Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420, telephone 978-345-7376 x 306. Call today to see if you qualify for assistance.

Phillipston – Royalston
Housing Rehabilitation Program




Funding provided by a Massachusetts Community Development Block grant administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, and the Towns of Phillipston and Royalston.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, 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

Chuck and Polly Longworth for donating a rocking horse to the children's room.

Thank you to Beth Gospodarek, Allen Young, Marcia Gagliardi, and Rice Flanders for an enjoyable, entertaining, and informative evening discussion of living, working, and/or traveling in Africa.

Thank you to Maureen Blasco, Sharon Harmon, and Patti Stanko for providing delicious baked goods for the 'Echoes of Africa' program.

Thank you to the Royalston Cultural Council and other local cultural councils for funding this program.

Programming at the Library

The community is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers and generous donors who fund all of the library programs so that no town funds are used. The Royalston Academy has funded our summer reading, after-school, and enrichment programs for many years. The Royalston Cultural Council each year has funded our Shakespeare Theater Workshop and many other programs. John Poor gave funds for the Pat Poor Memorial Lecture series that funds an author talk each year. And, the Friends of the Library, through your generous donations, funds all the other programs and provides delicious refreshments, lots of volunteer help and moral support as well as creates and distributes this newsletter 10 times per year. This library staff is very appreciative of the kindness, effort and generosity it receives.

Check us out on Facebook

Now, in addition to our excellent website, which has more detailed information and links, you can visit us on Facebook. So 'Like' us and add us as a friend to see photos from library programs and to find out what activities are happening. Thanks to Jeff Mangum and Gina Verrelli for getting us and keeping us 'connected.'

Check it out!

Just a reminder that we have two ice cream balls, each of which make a quart of ice cream, a digital projector, dvd player, sound system, and screen, and two folding tables that may be borrowed.

Preschool Story Time Fall Holiday Party

The preschool story time will have a holiday party on October 28 at 10:00 a.m. with holiday treats and stories. Preschoolers and their care givers are invited to dress in a costume for the party if they choose. Story time happens every non-holiday Monday at 10:00 a.m. from the beginning of September through the end of June. No pre-registration is required. It's a great way to meet other children and parents. For more information, call the library or check out the website.



Antonia Petrash to Discuss Woman Suffrage

It seems hard to believe that the 19th amendment to the Constitution granting women the right to vote occurred less than one hundred years ago. Congress finally enacted the law in 1919 and it was ratified on August 26, 1920. on Sunday, November 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the library. Antonia Petrash, author most recently of *Long Island and the Woman Suffrage Movement*, will give a program on women's suffrage, discussing not only the women of Long Island but also those of Massachusetts who were important in the fight to gain the right to vote for women. Her book is twelve chapters relating personal stories along with biographical information about the diverse nature of these women who worked so hard and long for the cause of woman's suffrage. For more information, visit www.royalstonlibrary.org or call the library.

Holiday Workshops

Two upcoming holiday workshops: Sharon Harmon will lead a workshop on making a fragrant holiday swag on Weds. Dec. 4th at 7 pm and Kathy Morris will give a workshop on making a split straw star ornament on Sunday, Nov. 24th at 2 pm. Visit the library or watch the November newsletter for dates and times.

Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult Fiction

Boggs, Johnny	<i>Wreaths of Glory</i>
Castle, Jayne	<i>Deception Cove</i>
Chamberlain, Diane	<i>Necessary Lies</i>
Child, Lee	<i>Never Go Back</i>
Coetzee, J.M.	<i>The Childhood of Jesus</i>
Coulter, Catherine	<i>The Final Cut</i>
Cussler, Clive	<i>The Mayan Secrets</i>
Demille, Nelson	<i>The Quest</i>
Dufresne, John	<i>No Regrets, Coyote</i>
Grafton, Sue	<i>W is for Wasted</i>
Harding, Paul	<i>Enon</i>
McDermott, Alice	<i>Someone</i>
McMillan, Terry	<i>Who Asked You?</i>
Miller, Linda	<i>Big Sky Wedding</i>
Modesitt, L.E.	<i>The One-Eyed Man</i>
Mott, Jason	<i>The Returned</i>
Penny, Louise	<i>How the Light gets In</i>
Reichs, Kathy	<i>Bones of the Lost</i>
Sparks, Nicholas	<i>The Longest Ride</i>
Waldman, Adelle	<i>The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P.</i>
Wingate, Lisa	<i>The Prayer Box</i>

Adult non-fiction

Achor, Shawn	<i>Before Happiness</i>
Maltin, Leonard	<i>Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide 2014</i>
McKibben, Bill	<i>Oil and Honey</i>
	<i>Talk about a Dream</i>

Audio Books

Achor, Shawn	<i>Before Happiness</i>
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor	<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>

Young Adult Fiction and Non-fiction

Black, Holly	<i>The Coldest Girl in Coldtown</i>
Cooper, Susan	<i>Ghost Hawk</i>
Olson, Martin	<i>The Adventure Time Encyclopedia</i>
Stiefvater, Maggie	<i>The Dream Thieves: Book 2 of the Raven Boys</i>
Whiteman, Dorit	<i>Lonek's Journey</i>

Artist Exhibits

Do you paint, take photographs, make sculptures, quilt, or do some other artistic endeavor? If so, don't be shy, call the library and let us know what you have that we could exhibit. If you don't tell us, we won't know and we can't guess. We are always looking for different individuals to exhibit work. Why not gain notoriety and 15 minutes of fame with an exhibit at the library? It has been amazing to see the work of so many talented people in town. It's your turn now. Call 978-249-3572.

Children's Fiction

Adler, David	<i>Onion Sundaes</i>
Barrett, Judi	<i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 3</i>
Becker, Aaron	<i>Journey</i>
Floca, Brian	<i>Locomotive</i>
Hest, Amy	<i>Charley Boy and Grampa</i>
Leppanen, Debbie	<i>Trick-or-Treat</i>
Miller, Pat	<i>Sophie's Squash</i>
Savage, Stephen	<i>Ten Orange Pumpkins</i>
Stead, Phillip	<i>Hello, my Name is Ruby</i>

Children's Non-Fiction

Daly, Carol	<i>Rats</i>
Montgomery, Sy	<i>The Tapir Scientist</i>
Wu, Faye-Lynn	<i>My First Book of Chinese Words</i>

DVDs: *Barbie Mariposa & the Fairy Princess, Bates Motel Season 1, Behind the Candelabra, The Bling Ring, Curious George: A Halloween Book Fest, Elementary Season 1, Epic, From Up on Poppy Hill, The Good Wife Season 4, The Great Gatsby, Homeland: Complete Second Season, Nashville Season 1, Now You See Me, Scandal Season 2, Scooby-Doo!, Sofia the First, Star Trek: Into the Darkness, Teen Beach Movie and World War Z*

CDs:

John Mayer	<i>Paradise Valley</i>
Keith Urban	<i>Fuse</i>
Sheryl Crow	<i>Feels like Home</i>



All welcome at the **Library Book Discussion Group**, which meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the library from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Copies of the book are always available for check out at the library in the month prior.

Recipe of the Month

Cheryl Mahoney's Pumpkin Bars

Cheryl Mahoney and her husband Daniel moved to South Royalston from Gardner in 1980. They raised two children here, Damon and Erin, and now have grandson Tyler, who is a freshman at Athol High. Cheryl, a long-time nurse, recently retired from the Templeton Development Center and Dan from the Athol Daily News, where he was an the advertising manager. Cheryl reports that this recipe comes from one of the nurses she worked with at Heywood Hospital. Enjoy.

Cheryl's Pumpkin Bars

2 cups all purpose flour	1 - 16 oz can pumpkin
2 tsps baking powder	1 2/3 cups sugar
2 tsps gound cinnamon	1 cup chopped pecans
1/2 tsp salt	cream cheese frosting
1 cup oil	4 eggs

The indefatigable 250th Anniversary Committee is holding community events to raise funds for the 250th anniversary hoopla. Here's what's next:

Upcoming 250th committee events:

Chicken Shoot October 5th at the Royalston Fish and Game Club at 7 pm. A fun night with many chances to win fabulous prizes. All welcome. Curious? Call Marlene Jarvenpaa.

Save the date to get a jump on the ho ho holiday season.

A **Holiday Craft Fair** at the Royalston Community School will be held on November 16, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 3p.m. Vendors should contact Carol Rogers 978-249- 5195 to reserve a space. She is also accepting donations for a Thanksgiving and a Holiday basket raffle. The ongoing raffle of the ferris wheel, tool package and House of Wax gift certificate continues as well. Call Geoff 978-249-3726 leave a message. Thanks in advance for all donations.

Still digesting:

The Local Foods Supper 2013 was a fine success. **Thanks to all who grew, donated, cooked, worked, presented and came together** in this binding community event. See you next year. I'm thinking.... borscht?

Here is what was on the menu in 2013:

Starters

Herb Bread – baked and grown by Deb Nunes. Pickles: Szechuan beans, curried cauliflower, and hot carrots and dill spears from Steffi Sigmund's recipe in the LBS cookbook; all made from Beth's garden-except the cukes, which came from the giveaways Larry Siegel left at the town library.

In a medium-sized bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, soda and salt; set aside. In a large mixer bowl, beat together eggs, pumpkin, sugar, and oil. Add the flour mixture, beat well. Stir in pecans. Spread on ungreased 15x10x1 inch baking pan. Bake in 350 degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack.

Meanwhile make cream cheese frosting by beating together until fluffy one 3 oz package of softened cream cheese with 1/4 cup butter and 1 tsp vanilla. Gradually add 2 cups sifted powdered sugar, beating until smooth.

Frost the bars and sprinkle with additional chopped pecans. cut into bars. store in refrigerator. Yields 24 .

Salads

Polly Longworth's Orzo Salad from Larry Siegel's green beans and cherry tomatoes, Maureen Blasco's Garden Salad – all from her own garden, Lorraine Casinghino's Green Bean Potato Salad with Larry Siegel's potatoes and beans and Kale-Caesar salad made by Beth Gospodarek from her own abundant power kale.

Soups

Bert Sawicki's Gazpacho featuring veggies from the Farm School, Ted Neale., Maureen Blasco and Larry Siegel, Patti Stanko's Potato Leek Soup with her own veggies and wild mushroom soup with Noah Siegel and Alissa Allen's hen-of-the-woods

Main Dishes

Maureen's Zuke Parmesan featuring her own veggies, Kathy Morris's Prospect Hill Farm Pot Roast, Phil Rabinowitz's saffron- garlic pork with Larry Siegel's garlic and onions and Adams Farm pork, Mariah Mallett's Shepard's Pie with Kate Collins and George Northrop's Aurora Farm lamb and veggies from Ted Neale, Beth Gospodarek's Vegan Cossack Pie with root veggies from Ted's, Larry's and her own garden as well as Maureen's cele-riac root., Tom Musco's Leek and Ham Quiche – with eggs from Celt Grant and Deb Newton and ham from Brenda Putney

Desserts

Maureen's Peach Pie – with a bumper crop of peaches from her tree planted in memory of her mom., Theresa Quinn's Apple Cranberry Cake with apples from Jeanne Stanton and Tully cranberries, Mariah Mallett's Chocolate Zucchini Cake – with Buddy Dyer's zukes and Emma O'Connor's Grape-nut Custard made from her own hens' eggs.

Thank you to Wachusett Brewery and Mark O'Connor for donating the beer! **Thanks to all who grew, donated, cooked, worked, arranged, presented and came together in this binding community event.** See you next year. I'm thinking.... borcht?

Milestones

Amber Marie Simmington

18, of Athol-Richmond Road (Rt. 32), died in a tragic single-vehicle accident on Rt. 32 just minutes from her home on Friday, September 13, 2013.



She leaves behind her parents, Daniel and Debra Simmington of West Royalston, her two sisters Jessica Smith and her daughter Kassidy and Amanda Smith and her two children Ayden and Lilly. She also leaves several uncles and aunts, William Simmington of Monte Vista, CO and his family (Bill's wife Lorraine predeceased him on September 3, 2013), Robert and Kitty Simmington of Winchester, NH, Larry and Cathey Simmington of Orange, Patrick and Karen Budano of CT, Kate and family of AL, Bobby of TN, Bernice of NH and Kathy and family of AZ. Amber also leaves many cousins from several states.

Amber had a great love for her family, be it going to yard sales or shopping with Mom, or sleeping over at her sister's houses and just "hanging out." She was a recent honor graduate of Athol High School, receiving several scholarships and awards for outstanding achievement. She loved being on the girl's volleyball team as number 9, and was the manager for the boy's volleyball team as well; she was asked to return as manager for the volleyball team this year as she entered her first year at Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner. Amber had great personal and school spirit.

Amber had many interests. She had a fantastic artistic free-hand drawing ability, be it sketches of mountain and valley scenes, castles, or fashion drawings. She greatly enjoyed being involved in church activities. Her first 17 years were as a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, led by Pastor Eric May and his wife Cally.

Amber loved the vacation bible school programs each year and especially enjoyed bible camp in Jaffrey, NH. When she became too old as a VBS participant, she became a volunteer helper. A few months ago, Amber and her parents began attending the Athol-Orange Baptist Church in Athol. Several years earlier, Amber became involved in the AOBC Awana Program, having been invited by her friend Ruth White. She loved it, and received several awards and certificates for achievement. She was looking forward to joining AOBC, and thoroughly enjoyed Rev. Mark Bariloni's messages. She loved her many friends and church families of the Athol-Orange Baptist Church, the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Swanzey, NH and Bethel Bible Church of Surry, NH where our friends Pastor Craig Fisher and his wife Kim minister with their children.

Amber loved her blue Ford pick-up truck and her boyfriend Brandon Thomas; she loved driving around with Brandon and swimming at Tully Lake. She liked collecting key chains, taking walks in the woods around her home and occasionally shooting her bow and air-soft pistols with her Dad. Several trips up into the White Mountains of NH were very special to her, be it Story Land in Glen or Clark's Trading Post in Lincoln.

Amber's passions included playing the piano and her lessons with Mrs. Janet Paoletti; listening to country music and watching *Pirates of the Caribbean* series movies. She was recently enrolled in Mt. Wachusett Community College in the Automotive Technology Technician Program, so she could "fix-up" her own truck and hope to be a racer someday. Amber loved all animals, especially wolves.

Amber will be remembered for her very sweet, kind, understanding, non-judgmental personality. She was a great encourager and peacemaker – she always sought to find the best in people and make people happy. She had the highest respect and love for her friends: Lori Blanchard, Brandon, Mariah, Justin and everyone whose lives she touched. She loved you guys to the fullest!

Funeral services were held September 19, 2013. at Higgins-O'Connor Funeral Home, with her father, Daniel C. Simmington, officiating and Rev. Mark D. Bariloni assisting. Burial was September 22 at Maple Cemetery on Route 32 in West Royalston. The family asks that memorial donations be made in Amber's name to the Athol High School Athletic Association, Volleyball Department, c/o David King, 2363 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 or the Athol Animal Shelter, For the Care of Animals, c/o Athol Police Department, 280 Exchange Street, Athol, MA 01331. For further information or to share a memory with the family go to: www.higginsoconnorfuneralhome.com.

Heather D. Barclay and Dwayne "Tai" Johnson were married

this past September on Friday the 13th in the stone pavilion at Patapsco State Park in Ellicott City, Maryland. Tai is a native of the District of Columbia and served in the United States Marine Corps. He works in the hospitality industry and is a tattoo artist. Heather is daughter of Jim & Mary Barclay, was raised in Royalston, and is co-owner and vice president for Ad Astra, Inc. A Royalston reception will be held at a date to be announced.



Tully Lake Triathlon

Ranger Jeff Mangum

Celebrate fall with the 7th Annual Tully Lake Triathlon on Saturday, October 19, 2013! Join us for what has now become an autumn North Quabbin tradition. Our 17-mile paddle/run/bike triathlon is 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. Stay with us and enjoy the last weekend of camping for the season. The campground opens Friday afternoon at 2pm and remains open until Sunday at 4pm. Reservations are required; race participants get 20% discount. For more information or to make a reservation, call 978.249.4957 or visit www.tullylakecampground.org. **Attention: Doane Hill Road will be closed from about 8:30 am - 3:30 pm for the event.**

North Quabbin Garden Club

Thursday, October 17, 2013, 7 p.m.
Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Specialty Gardens

Nancy Gerry of Athol has been an avid herb and perennial gardener for forty years. She will give a presentation on silver and gray gardens and cutting and drying gardens. Her talk will include a demonstration on drying flowers and herbs for use in arrangements and crafts. 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.

Royalston Historical Society Annual Meeting

The Royalston Village Improvement And Historical Society, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Friday, October 18th at Peter Kraniak's house at 43 Winchendon Rd. (corner of Stone Rd.) A pot luck dinner will be held at 6:30pm. You may skip the pot luck and come for dessert and the meeting, which will start at 7:30. New members always welcome.

On the agenda will be the election of officers for the next year. The program will be a presentation of recently purchased Woodbury family documents dating from 1762; a trove of letters, deeds, orders from the king, references to the early Ladies Benevolent Society, accountings, etc.

There will also be the first public viewing of photographs and documents newly donated by Henry Cole showing the extensive influence of the Bullock/Cole families upon the Royalston Common during the 20th century.



Move over Lincoln and Douglas: There may also be a lively debate between Keith Newton and Stephen Chase over the location of the house depicted in the the September Newsletter. Newton believes the photo shows the old Phinehas S. Newton estate on NE Fitzwilliam Rd. Chase believes the house to be at 10 The Common, known as The Bastille. You decide.



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1940 view of Royalston Common from the northeast from the Cole collection.

6th Grade View

Noah Michaelson, gr. 6 correspondent

In Royalston Community School (R.C.S.) everything has started out great for a back to school welcoming! We have several new students in multiple classrooms ready to start the new year.

Everything has started out fast for each classroom. For example, the second grade "Quack! Quack! Welcome back!" bulletin board is up out in front of the classroom and there are Poetry Club sign ups. The Kindergartners are happy learning what their classroom responsibilities are: 1. listening bodies, 2. raising hands, 3. walking feet, 4. helping hands and 5. caring heart. First graders are really enjoying their new classroom. Fifth graders have begun classroom elections with a vote scheduled for the last week of September. The sixth graders have begun working on an arachnid project. Mr Hanes and Mrs. Stimpson swapped teaching third and fourth grades and the classrooms got jazzed up.

One of our big school wide contests is going on and it's the R.C.S. school logo competition. Every student can come up with his/her own design of a new school logo. These logos will be sorted out to find the top five, They will then be displayed during the RCS open house where everyone can vote for a favorite. The design with the top votes will be put on new T-shirts and sweatshirts. The student with the winning design will receive a free T-shirt. So the question is...who will the winner be?

Everything has started out great for back to school at RCS. With elections, projects, contests, new clubs to sign up for and a Scholastic Book Fair with the open house it's going to be even greater start to October.

Calendar:

Oct 09 - Fire Drill followed by Fire Safety Program provided by Chief Newton & the Royalston Fire Dept.,

Oct 15 - O'Connor School Picture Day, student pictures and district personnel ID photos

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!). The program is 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 (soprano, alto, tenor), piano, guitar, ukulele, violin & cello. Call the school for more info. 978 249-3505

What's happening at the Village School?

We had our annual Harvest Day, harvesting the Village School garden that was planted by the students last spring. The whole school enjoyed eating the roast potatoes that were dug up by the students. It's still field trip time! Classes are visiting local gardens, visiting Sweetwater Farm in Petersham, the Farm School in Athol, going to Red Apple Farm, the Fisher Museum at the Harvard Forest, hiking to Lawrence Brook and climbing Jacobs Hill. On our mid-October Sunday Parent Work Day, we'll all pitch in and spruce up the inside and outside of the school.

Upcoming events

Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration for Families Friday November 8

Open House Saturday November 16 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

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- Sample microbrewed beers and German wines
- local fun-save gas, meet friends and support our schools
- Groaning Buffet of Hearty Harvest Food: ham, crusty bread, sauerbraten, root veggies, salads as well as plum, apple and chocolate cakes

Saturday, October 19th, 7-10 pm
Ellinwood Country Club

Sponsored by the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation
Tickets available from board members and Kimball-Cooke Insurance. Visit www.royalstoneducationfoundation.org or call Beth 978-249-0358 for more information.

Proceeds benefit enrichment programs in the Athol-Royalston Public Schools

New web-site : www.atholroyalstoneducationfoundation.org

Garden Notes

September 22, 2013

I can observe the garden as I would a glass of water: it is half-full (the positive view) or it is half-empty (the less-than-positive view). Were I to obsess upon the latter, I might make note of the foraging porcupines: one hundred seventy-five broccoli and cauliflower plants topped, fifty feet of winter squashes chewed beyond recognition. Or the unprecedented incursion of the slugs, who, seemingly, have consumed as many tomatoes as we. Or the presence of the turkeys, scratching and nibbling their way through the garden. On the other hand, most everything else has thrived and continues to thrive and I could not be more pleased with the mass of food accumulating in the house and remaining in the ground. My glass is more than half-full.

37° at sunrise on the seventeenth and I assumed the lower lying areas in town experienced their first frost. Not so. I drove by the perennial cold sink, Putney Hollow astride Lawrence Brook, and noticed the squashes (or pumpkins) remained green. Just as well. Frosts on Prospect Hill have occurred by the middle of September but not for a good number of years and I've been spoiled into believing that our first frost date is more likely to occur a month from now.

I have commenced the product pushing phase of the garden season. Hauling and sorting and re-sorting and processing. While most of our food will end up in the root cellar, we continue to freeze corn, beans, peas, cauliflower, and broccoli (when the porcupines oblige) and a variety of fruits. We subscribe to the practice of first-in, first-out, the problem being that first-in

Classifieds

Lost: Rubber band powered scale competition airplane model on Deland Hill Road at Putneys Field at the top of the hill. Color is overall white with large Fed-x logos on the sides, purple vertical tail and a 13" wingspan. Call Jack at 978-602-4029 \$ cash \$ reward.

Wanted: Secure parking or garage for my 6X8 ft trailer. I visit Long Pond occasional weekends and have no space at home. Call Ron Hurley 617 816-8003/Rhurley@partners.org

Housing wanted: Mature female with two small dogs needs a small apartment or house. Excellent references. Call 978-575-0751

Services Available:

Laurie Truehart: private wood carving lessons. 978-249-3291.

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

After-school child care at the Village School. See p. 8

Graphic 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 brguiney@wildblue.net.

Birch Hill Computers: Sales, Repairs and Parts 978-790-7876, birchhillcomputers.com.

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

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. Mariah Mallet 249-9410.

Do you need housekeeping, outdoor work, or other odd jobs? \$15/hour. Call Kathleen Lawrence Pirro at 978-249-9774.

resides at the bottom of the freezers. It requires a major overhaul, which at least provides us the opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with the freezers' contents (including some items that have evaded discovery for years). Root cellaring is much the easier food preservation technique.

Last year's season-of-no-fruit is a dim memory. There was a bumper crop of peaches. Ours are packed away in the freezer, but those of you with late maturing varieties continue to await harvest. Since peaches are produced on the previous year's growth, their overwhelming numbers have resulted in a multitude of snapped branches. I address the problem by pruning back that growth by one-third each spring. I further address the problem by propping up the branches. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Apples and grapes abound, so much so that we are awash in both.

Much of October will address the glut of apples, but not to the exclusion of the other affairs of the garden. In the absence of frost I continue to pick beans and cherry tomatoes (the slugs seem disinclined to climb the chicken wire support), even the occasional cucumber. With most of the garden remaining in production, I continue to pull weeds. As beds open up, I perform my annual ritual of enriching, turning, and mulching them. Harvesting continues apace, though carrots and beets and rutabaga and leeks will remain in the ground until November. There is no finer time to be in the garden than October. If I don't have a particular reason to be there, I will fabricate one.

Larry Siegel

For sale

Storage space in dry building, large enough for small trailer, boat, etc. Also plenty of outside parking space. Call 978-249-4013.

Piano for Sale: 5'10" Chickering grand piano; good condition; includes humidifier system; \$1500.00. Call Deb Nunes, 978-249-4000

Two lightly used walkers. One roller style, \$50; one standard style, \$10. Call Diana at 978-249-3726.

Dean's Beans Coffee - get yours delivered, fresh, once a month to the Village School, whole beans or ground. Order form at www.villageschoolma.org. Pick up the coffee in the Village School hallway.

Eggs: \$2.00 per dozen. Best time to call or stop by: after 4 p.m. 978-249-5548.

Eton Beamer Matrix Scooter: 2005, black, 49cc, 1,716 mi., 75mpg. New battery and plug. Must sell for health reasons. \$800 Call 978-249-3119

Birch Knoll Farm - Hay for sale, Goats for sale: for meat or pets or rent them for brush clearing. Contact Helen at 978-249-3163 or 774-239-5062

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

Fall piglets. \$70. Call Chet 978-249-2183

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

Nature books and prints suitable for children and adults. Commissions accepted. Call Gordon Morrison at 978-249-2947.

Firewood- Taking orders for spring delivery of green firewood \$185/ 170 cu feet. or \$360/340 cu feet. Call Jim Putney. 978-249-3379.

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Wildlife Sighting : Six inch diameter **snapping turtle** (which is to say a smallish snapping turtle) wandering a 1/4 mile away and up a steep hill from the swamp. What makes a snapper leave the swamp in mid-September?

A dearth of Monarch and a plethora of Woolly bear caterpillars noted this September. The latter are the larva of the *Pyrrharctia isabella*, Isabella tiger moth. The black and brown banded caterpillar is reputed to predict the severity of the coming winter. In the 1940s, Dr. C. H. Curran, curator of insects at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City took fall foliage trips to collect Woolly bear caterpillars. He attempted to verify folklore that a large central brown band on the caterpillar indicated an upcoming mild winter. His small sampling over eight years seemed to bear him out, so he published the result in the *New York Herald Tribune*. With publicity, the caterpillar became relatively famous and identifiable.

While most entomologists do not credit these weather prognostication talents, the Woolly bear does have some undeniable special characteristics. It is the only insect known to self-medicate. It eats toxic plants to kill parasites such as wasp larvae invading its body. As a result its "woolly" spines are slightly poisonous and can cause dermatitis in humans handling the caterpillars. Another cool trait is the cryoprotectant in its tissues. The Woolly bear is commonly seen this time of year because it is seeking cracks and leaf litter in which to overwinter. As the thermometer drops, first its heart stops beating, then its gut freezes, then its blood, followed by the rest of the body until it is frozen solid. In the spring it thaws out and emerges to pupate wrapped in a white web of a cocoon. Once it emerges from its pupa as a moth it has only days to find a mate. Then the female lays eggs and dies. In the Arctic, the summer period feeding is so short that the Woolly bear caterpillar must feed for several summers, freezing again each winter before finally pupating. Some are known to have survived as many as 14 winters.

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