Calendar of Events

October 31 Thursday  Halloween
5 - 8 pm  Town Trick-or-Treating Hours. (The library is open for treats.)

November 3 Sunday
2:00 am  Daylight Savings Time ends. Fall back one hour. Check smoke detector batteries.
5:50 am  New Beaver Moon

November 4 Monday
7 pm  Friends of the Library meeting. All welcome.

November 8 Friday
5 pm - 8 pm  Autumn Lantern Walk sponsored by the Village School: The public is invited. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school with stories and songs. Everyone then joins in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall singing and carrying glowing homemade lanterns. A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a family contra dance beginning at 6:30 p.m. Last waltz: 7:50 pm.

7 - 10 pm  Fire and EMS Turkey Raffle at Station #1. Raffle tickets available from any firefighter for 2 lovely gift baskets. Refreshments and beer served.

November 10 Sunday
2:00 p.m. Antonia Petrash, author most recently of Long Island and the Woman Suffrage Movement, will give a program on women’s suffrage in Massachusetts and the rest of the USA at the library. Home-baked refreshments from emancipated women’s kitchens served.

November 11 Monday  Veterans’ Day
6 pm  Zumba starts (pending Selectboard approval) at town hall. Taught by Kristen Killay. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Call the library at 978-249-3572 to confirm. Drop in any Monday. Donations appreciated.

November 16 Saturday
8 am - 3 pm  A Holiday Craft Fair at the Royalston Community School. Fantastic local crafts, a Thanksgiving basket, a holiday tree raffle, lunch and more. Benefits the Royalston 250th celebration.


November 17 Sunday  Full Beaver Moon


November 20 Wednesday  COA Thanksgiving Meal at Town Hall. For turkey and the fixings among neighbors and friends, call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 before noon on Monday to reserve a spot. There is a suggested donation of $2.00 for seniors and $2.50 for others.

November 23 Saturday  LBS Drive-by-Pie: Fresh baked or frozen and ready-to-bake. Pre-orders for pies are encouraged. Call 249-5138. Across from Post Office on the Common; LBS Scholarship Fund benefits.

November 24 Sunday  Nationally recognized wheat weaver, Kathy Morris will give a workshop on making a split straw star ornament. Pre-register at the library 978-249-3572.

November 27 Wednesday  Hannukah begins

November 28 Thursday  Thanksgiving save the date

December 1 Sunday  Holiday swag-making workshop at the town hall. Led by Sharon Harmon. Pre-register by calling the library.

December 4 Wednesday  Tree Lighting on the Common

December 6 Friday  Open Mic at Town Hall
Selectboard Notes
Christine Long, Member

Fire Truck on Order: The new fire truck voters generously approved at last spring’s annual town meeting and at September special election is on order and will hopefully arrive by late July or early August.

Replacing the now-dead pumper at Station 2 in South Royalston, the new truck will be built by KME of Pennsylvania, a respected leader in the field. Fire Chief Keith Newton will soon be finalizing the technical specifications with the company.

The total price will be $406,000, which is $6,000 over the amount voters approved, but the town will save $12,000 because of the method of financing. That financing will cost the town about $64,000 per year for principal and interest (2.99%) over seven years.

Right to Farm: The Attorney General has accepted the Right to Farm by-law approved by voters at the June special town meeting and requires the following disclosure:

“It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products and for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy is within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within the Town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations.”

Open Space and Recreation Committee News
By Paul Montero, Chairperson

I attended meetings with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) to develop a trail inventory and map of trails in Royalston.

The trail map is now complete and has been posted on our web site for all to see and share. Visit the Open Space and Recreation Committee online at: http://www.mytowngovernment.org/01368. Then click on us in the calendar or from the list of Boards and Committees on the left side of the page. Once there, you may view an 8-1/2” x 11” and an 11” x 17” version of the trail map. You may also download and print a copy of this map.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee will be planning a hike and tour on some of the trails in the near future. If you have a favorite trail or one that you would like us to explore, let us know by sending an email to gozorno@verizon.net or attending a meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Committee, which holds public hearings every odd month on the first Monday in the Town Hall on The Common at 7 PM. The next scheduled meeting is November 4, 2013. All welcome.

What Happened at the Special Town Meeting on October 25th? Solar panels - in/ Stretch Code - out

The downstairs of the town hall was full as close to 40 voters decided the fate of a variety of articles. There was civil but pointed controversy over the articles related to the Energy Committee’s proposed “Green Community” by-laws. The voters adopted an amended version of article 4 requiring large-scale ground-mounted solar photo voltaic installations with 40 kW or larger to undergo a Site Plan Review or a Special Permit review process. Among other requirements, these plans and maps must be prepared by a licensed engineer, involve the connecting utility at the earliest stages, be monitored by the building inspector and town safety officials, meet the town zoning by-laws, clear as little habitat as possible, and provide for a “vegetated buffer” to screen the panels.

The “stretch code” article, requiring a specially certified inspector to verify that new construction meets energy conservation requirements consistent with the newest state building codes, did not pass. Hence, the town is not eligible for Green Community funding, (which is a percentage from electric bills as well as federal funds that the state redistributes to “green” towns to increase energy efficiency in that town). Citizens speaking against the article asserted that the potential funds to the town were not worth the cost of the government interference entailed and that the required construction methods had serious disadvantages, including the potential for mold. Those in favor spoke to the long term cost-effectiveness of energy efficient construction and the widespread adoption of this code in many neighboring towns. No one spoke to point out the positive side of government regulation or the perils of climate change underlying the Green Communities program. The initial vote was a tie 18 - 18, but a re-vote was called and voters were required to stand to signify their vote. This time the vote was 21-18 against adopting the Stretch Code.

Other articles moved money approved during the annual town meeting for Community Preservation Act projects and voting down an 8-month moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers in town since no one had applied for a license (nor could they before this by-law would have expired). In addition the voters defeated an article to match a $7000 Cultural Council grant to create a Replacement Systems Plan for the town hall.

Luncheon Club News: Thanksgiving Celebration
Gary Winitzer
The Royalston Council on Aging is inviting all those who are interested to join the Wednesday Luncheon Club for a Thanksgiving meal on November 20th at the Town Hall at noon. The meal includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potato and gravy served with green beans, a whole wheat dinner roll and cranberry sauce. Dessert will be pumpkin pie.
To reserve a meal, please call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 before noon on Monday. There is a suggested donation of $2.00 for seniors and $2.50 for others.
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Board of Health News

Phil Leger, Chairperson

It has come to the Royalston Board of Health’s attention that some people in town still maintain a burn barrel and burn their trash. Not only is this illegal, but also it dispenses toxic fumes throughout the neighborhood. This practice of burning started when sanitary landfills were not in existence. Back then, paper was the main item that was burnt. Bottles and cans were conveniently disposed of in an adjacent hole.

Burning trash nowadays is much different. With plastics and foils being used in packaging, the smoke contains many toxic particles. Look at the color of the smoke when burning trash; it will be black or very dark. Do you or your children wish to breathe this toxic smoke? We would think not.

Plus, you are left with toxic slag in the burn barrel.

If anyone sees someone burning trash in a barrel or otherwise, call the Fire Dept. via 911. Explain to dispatch what is going on, so they know it’s not a house fire, but a contained trash burn. The Fire Dept. can issue a warning or a ticket depending on the reception given by the offending party.

Our recommendation is to use the transfer station, where free recycling rules!

Royalston Cultural Council

The Cultural Council met recently to schedule the following events:

Christmas Tree Lighting: Wednesday, December 4
6:00 pm Tree lighting, carols, arrival of Santa, cookies and cocoa, RCS singers

Open Mic: will be Fridays beginning at 7:00 pm
December 6 (note: no November Open Mic)
January 3
February 7
March 7
April 4

Blues Night: Saturday, May 17, 2014, 7:00 pm

This would ordinarily be our year to do the Royalston Follies, but have decided to do them in 2015 instead as part of the year long town wide 250th anniversary celebration. We are also already thinking about MusicFest in July. This past July’s event was the best ever, and we are always looking for suggestions for headline bands and improvements.

The Cultural Council’s next meeting will be on Monday, November 18th at 6:00 pm at Deb Nunes’ to award this year’s Mass Lottery grants.

Feel free to contact any Cultural Council members with your ideas or concerns. Patti Carrier, Gordon Morrison, Patience Bundschuh, Andrea Lively, Lorraine Casighino, Carla Rabinowitz, Lydia Musco, Becky Hardie, Deb Nunes, Jim Bennett

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:

A Holiday Craft Fair at the Royalston Community School will be held on November 16, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors should contact Carol Rogers at 978-249-5195 to reserve a space. A raffle of a basket with all of the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner and a tree decorated with prizes and gifts is underway. You don’t have to attend the fair to win. The ongoing raffle of the Ferris wheel, tool package and House of Wax gift certificate continues as well. Call Geoff at 978-249-3726 leave a message. Thanks in advance for all donations.

2015 is a lot closer... Time to plan the actual celebration. Your input is needed. Please fill out the insert in this newsletter and return it to any board member or town building. All meetings are open. Come to the next one on November 7th at 7 pm to share your ideas.

Who has gotten lucky lately?

The following were winners in the last 120 Club drawing held October 5th at the Royalston Fish and Gun Club:
1st prize - $250 Cindy Savoy #46
2nd prize - $250 Elwin Deveneau #116
3rd prize - $250 Linda Vaidalas #37
4th prize - $100 Keith Newton #66
5th prize - $50 Jayne Porter #27
6th prize - $50 Sarah Lent #24
7th prize - $50 Zack St. Jean #105
8th prize - $20 Steven Lehtomaki #11
9th prize - $20 Scott Boutwell #85
10th prize - $20 Norman Carlson #31
11th prize - $20 Scott and Kim Jarvenpaa #28
12th prize - $20 Pat Bushee #72

The 250th Committee thanks all who played and enjoyed the accompanying chicken BBQ. It was a great time. The first of the year will be another 120 club plus watch for a calendar drawing in March.

Found: Digital Camera

A digital camera was found on Sunday, October 20th, on a boulder on the ledges on the ridge above Long Pond (accessed by taking the trail south of Spirit Falls toward Tully Lake.) The last photo in the camera is of the view from the ledge in molten beech and oak bronze foliage. Call the library to identify and claim. 978-249-3572.
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 Chencharik for his extraordinary craftsmanship on our new mobile bookcases.
Beth Gospodarek, Allen Young, Rice Flanders, and Marsha Gagliardi for an informative and entertaining look at North Quabbin residents who have lived, worked, and/or traveled in Africa.
Maureen Blasco, Sharon Harmon, and Patti Stanko for baking for our programs.
John Jeffrey for providing the great pumpkins adorning the library’s front steps.

Zumba is Back and Yoga may be Coming
Zumba, taught by Kristen Killay at town hall will resume for the cold months on Mondays from 6 - 7 pm. These drop-in classes are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and donations are appreciated. The first class will be November 11th (even though it’s a holiday) at 6 pm, pending Selectboard approval. Please call the library to confirm 978-249-0358.

A yoga class is forming as well. If you would like to participate, please call the library to express interest while time and venue are firming up.

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 26th, 1920. On Sunday, November 10th 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.

Two Holiday Workshops
Sharon Harmon will lead a workshop on making a fragrant holiday swag on Sunday, December 1st at 2 pm.

Kathy Morris will give a workshop on making a split straw star ornament on Sunday, Nov. 24th at 2 pm.

Holiday Horns Concert in December
The Quatro Cor, a French horn quartet composed of Jean Jeffries, Christine Mortensen, Margot Rowland and Royalston’s Rebecca Krause-Hardie will present an ‘informance’ of holiday music interspersed with stories and information on Saturday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Holiday refreshments will be served after the performance. Look for more information in next month’s newsletter.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

**Adult Fiction**

Armstrong  
*Four Summoner’s Tales*

Atwood, Margaret  
*MaddAddam*

Barry, Kevin  
*Dark Lies the Island*

Boyle, T.C.  
*T.C. Boyle Stories II*

Brandman, Michael  
*Robert B. Parker’s Damned if you Do*

Brust, Steven  
*The Incrementalists*

Choi, Susan  
*My Education*

Drabble, Margaret  
*The Pure Gold Baby*

Gilbert, Elizabeth  
*The Signature of all Things*

Gurganus, Allan  
*Local Souls*

King, Laurie  
*The Bones of Paris*

King, Stephen  
*Doctor Sleep*

Lahiri, Jhumpa  
*The Lowland*

Mayor, Archer  
*Three Can Keep a Secret*

Moriarty, Liane  
*The Husband’s Secret*

Naslund, Sena  
*The Fountain of St, James Court*

O’Flynn, Catherine  
*Mr. Lynch’s Holiday*

Palahniuk, Chuck  
*Doomed*

Patterson, James  
*Gone*

Patterson, Richard  
*Loss of Innocence*

Pelecanos, George  
*The Double*

Perry, Anne  
*Blind Justice*

Robb, J.D.  
*Thankless in Death*

Sandford, John  
*Storm Front*

Sandor, Steven  
*Replay*

Simson, Graeme  
*The Rosie Project*

Stirling, S.M.  
*The Given Sacrifice*

Woodrell, Daniel  
*The Maid’s Version*

Woods, Stuart  
*Doing Hard Time*

**Adult non-fiction**

Bryson, Bill  
*One Summer*

Collins, Billy  
*The Art of Drowning*

Davidson, Nancy  
*The Secret of Lost Cats*

Diehn, Gwen  
*Journal Your Way*

Hoffman, Alice  
*Survival Lessons*

Ladin, Joy  
*Through the Door of Life*

Lepore, Jill  
*Book of Ages*

Luttrell, Sharron  
*Weekends with Daisy*

Thompson, Bill  
*Bird Homes and Habitats*

**Children’s Fiction**

Barrows, Annie  
*Ivy+Bean take the Case*

Brown, Peter  
*Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*

Bunting, Eve  
*Big Bear’s Big Boat*

Collins, Suzanne  
*Year of the Jungle*

Cooper, Elisha  
*Train*

DePaola, Tomie  
*Strega Nona does it Again*

Eaton, Jason  
*How to Train a Train*

Fawcett, Jack  
*Dinosaurology*

Gaiman, Neil  
*Fortunately, the Milk*

Gunnery, Sylvia  
*Game Face*

Harris, Robie  
*When Lions Roar*

Henkes, Kevin  
*The Year of Billy Miller*

Pinkney, Jerry  
*The Tortoise & the Hare*

Raschka, Christopher  
*Daisy gets Lost*

Wiesner, David  
*Mr. Waffles!*

**Children’s Non-Fiction**

My *Arabic Alphabet Book*

Adler, David  
*Things that Float and things that Don’t*

Macaulay, David  
*Toilet*

Moss, Marissa  
*Barbed Wire Baseball*

Schaefer, Lola  
*Lifetime*

**Audio Books**

Bryson, Bill  
*One Summer*

Hosseini, Khaled  
*And the Mountains Echoed*

**DVDs:**


**CDs:**

Five for Fighting  
*Bookmarks*

Jack Johnson  
*From Here to Now to You*

New England Authors Book Reviews: Read any good books or enjoyed any interesting media? Write a review for the RCN. Submissions due by the 22nd of the month prior.

*The Art Forger* by B. A. Shapiro of Boston is a story revolving around the still unsolved robbery of several masterpieces twenty-five years ago from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. This suspenseful story focuses on a Degas masterpiece delivered by a renowned gallery owner to a graduate student painter supporting herself by reproducing masterpieces for an online reproduction company. The painting is one of the missing pieces from the Museum and the gallery owner wants her to copy it so that the original can be returned to the Gardner, but as she begins to study the composition, she doubts its authenticity. There are more nuances in the main character’s (Claire Roth) life that add to the story. Even if you know nothing about art or art technique, this book provides a fascinating look at art forgery and art history with a little romance and a lot of intrigue. An easy, enjoyable read.

*Three Can Keep a Secret* by Archer Mayor. This is Mayor’s twenty-fourth Joe Gunther novel, about the Brattleboro, Vermont police officer, now part of the fictional Vermont Bureau of Investigation, who is called upon to investigate the death of a retired prominent politician and a missing mental patient in the aftermath of the catastrophic Hurricane Irene damage in Vermont. The connection between these two and a coffin filled with rocks unearthed during the hurricane all come together to make this one of the better of this entertaining series. Archer Mayor did an author visit at the library years ago and provided participants with an enjoyable look at how he writes and the stories he creates. His stories revolve around familiar towns in Vermont and have also veered into Greenfield and Northampton as well as Boston and New York City with many real local spots highlighted.
Ed note: In the transcription from paper to press, Cheryl Mahoney’s recipe for Pumpkin Squares in last month’s newsletter had 1 t. baking soda omitted from the ingredients.

Recipe of the Month
This Easy Broccoli Quiche recipe comes from Bonney Newton, who has lived for 18 years on Bliss Hill, where she recently had to shoo a bear off her deck. Bonney is an artist. Serving as a special educator at Riverbend School in Athol, she has painted several murals in the building, including those in the foyer and the library. She also holds artists’ shows with her sisters and sells her work locally. Her grandchildren live nearby and are a big focus in her life. She recommends this recipe because it is very tasty and super easy.

Gert’s Easy Quiche
Ingredients:
- 1 pkg broccoli thawed and drained
- 1/2 stick butter or margarine melted
- 1 container, 24 oz sm curd cottage cheese
- 6 unbeaten eggs
- 6 tablespoons flour
- 8 oz grated cheese
Mix together. Pour in 13 x 9” pan or large pie plate greased and floured. 350 degrees for 1 hour

Poems
R.C.S. Poetry Club
two acrostic poems

Bats
Owls
Ogres

3rd and 4th grade group: Anthony Gaulzetti, Josiah Potter, Ryan Darling, Emma Martin, Daisy Pisani, Karissa Agnelli, Adriana Gaulzetti, Sydney Ares, and Daine Perry

Bomee jumping with me in leaves
Maple leaves
Golden maple leaves
Smell of maple syrup and sap
Crunching underneath our feet
More leaves falling down
helicopter seeds spinning
down to the ground
We hide under leaves
Until it is time for hot chocolate

By Rhea Sawicki, grade 1 Village School

R.I.P.
Unusual costumes
Mayhem
Predictions
creaK
Invaders
Notorious nights

Thanks to all whom particpated in Community Reading Day organized by the public libraries for the local schools. In Royalston, Community Readers were: Danielle Ares, Jen Basso, Marsha Charlest, Chet Hall, Shiela Hall, Michael Leander, Michelle Michelson, and Chris Willhite.

 pictured Jen Basso
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

Elizabeth Farnsworth authored an article featured in the fall 2013 issue of Northern Woodlands entitled, “What’s Living in Your Logs?”

Sara Rose Charest was born on October 21, 2013 at 2:11 p.m. She weighed 7lbs 3oz and was 19 3/4 “ long. Her parents are Paul and Lynn Charest of Holden, Mass. Her grandparents are Marsha and Fred Charest of South Royalston. Welcome.

On October 26, 2013, Jim Putney was honored at a dinner marking his retirement from service in the Royalston Fire Department. He was a firefighter for over 31 years. He received certificates of gratitude from the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives presented by Rep. Denise Andrews. Thank you Jim.

Tax Collector Named CEO: The Community Software Consortium, which includes 67 communities in Massachusetts, has appointed Rebecca Krause-Hardie as its CEO and executive director. Ms. Krause-Hardie also works as the tax collector and project manager in Royalston. She also is the owner of AudienceWorks, a management consulting firm, which represents such clients as New York Philharmonic, Caring.com, and the Boston Symphony. Women CEOs in tech fields are rare and women CEOs who are also first-rate french horn players, active EMTs, expert tie-dyers, cheerful bakers for town events and kind friends are completely precious.

Elizabeth Farnsworth

Paul A. Montero, P.L.S.
Professional Land Surveyor
101 Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd - PO Box 20
Royalston, Massachusetts 01368
Telephone: (978) 249-5879
Annual Meeting Notes
*Stephen Chase, Vice President*

The Royalston Village Improvement and Historical Society, Inc. annual meeting took place Friday, October 18th at the home of Peter Kranak. Officers for the coming year were voted in: Peter Kranak, President; Stephen Chase, Vice President; Mark Smith, Treasurer and John McClure, Curator. Attendees enjoyed a pot luck dinner with several kinds of fall desserts and then, were able to view original documents from the 18th century concerning the Woodbury family. Photos donated by Henry Cole, many of which have never been publicly viewed, showed the changes the common underwent from 1920 through 1990.

Temporary repairs to the society’s bell tower were authorized. There are holes in the siding near the rear base of the tower which leak at times. A Community Preservation grant will be applied for to do a complete restoration of the tower which will include making the bell operational.

Kathy Morris has agreed to organize programs for upcoming meetings. Look for “the Graveyard Girls” in the near future. What can you learn about history from a cemetery?

In addition, Patience Bundshuh is spearheading a benefit auction to raise funds to make other needed repairs to Old School House #1, home to the society’s museum, which is scheduled for March 15. Donations of “historical”, folklorical, quirky and other types of serviceable items and services are sought. Prepare the Ides of March!

Yearly dues are to remain at $5.00 and may be submitted to PO Box 57 New members sought. Mark Smith and Stephen Chase agreed to work on launching a web site. A Facebook© page is up and running, so please visit and “like” us at Royalston Historical Society. Inquiries may be directed to our email at royalstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or by calling Peter at 978-249-7625, Stephen at 978-249-0358 or John at 978-249-8675.

After School Programs 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 pm 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 and cello. Call the school for more info. 978 249-3505

Seventy five years ago, in September 1938, a flood brought on by hurricane fed drenching rains caused severe damage in Royalston. Parts of the South Village were underwater and buildings, including the post office, fell into the Millers River.

Up on the common, the steeple was blown off the church.

Throughout town, changes brought on by the 30’s floods are still visible. Birch Hill and Tully Dam were built in response. Civilian Conservation Corps workers were brought in to help clean up and make boards from the many blow downs. The area cleared as a sawmill is now Jonas Alliene Cemetery. Many older trees in town show the effects as well. Look for unusual curves indicating that the (then) young trees were permanently bowed from the southerly hurricane winds. Were you in Royalston during the 1930s floods? What do you remember? Write it down or tell us. It will be added to the collection.
6th Grade View

Noah Michaelson, gr. 6 correspondent

6th grade view
So far in this month of October (or the month of Halloween) everything has started out fast and everyone is moving along quickly... Last month there was a contest for the school logo of R.C.S. This month, they announced the winner! Congratulations to everyone who entered. You all did amazingly!

The top five winners in the R.C.S logo contest were Sydney Ares, Cassidy Cochran, Bella Cooke, Emma Martin and Noah Michelson. Noah Michaelson of 6th grade drew the new school mascot logo: a Royalston Raccoon with “I love R.C.S.” put in a speech balloon.

The students of R.C.S. have already done multiple projects and activities this month, such as when the Royalston Fire Dept. came in to talk about how to make a safe and fast exit from a house. Everyone learned how to go and where to go in a fire as well as what other dangers firefighters protect us from and what to remember in case of any of those emergencies occur.

We had a school-wide assembly this month and talked about how we will now have Student of the Month awards and how people that did the summer reading would receive a breakfast cooked by Principal Leander and how some students will receive an orange pass to show that they did the work. He prepared pancakes with and without chocolate chips and they were yummy! Pictures of students eating breakfast and receiving their awards can been seen at royalstoncommunityschool.wordpress.com.

Every grade has had something fun it has learned over the last couple weeks. Kindergarten liked making fall pictures of trees with real leaves. First grade loved doing shaving cream math. Second grade counted seeds from five fresh pumpkins it opened up in class. Third graders are really excited to have received their very own copies of the dictionary. Fourth graders are learning more about each individual province in Canada. Fifth grade sprouted seeds with hopes of seeing the effects of adding food coloring to their water. Fifth grade also had an election for class Vice President and President. The winning candidates were Brian Nano as President and Jack Sonnabend as Vice President, and I hope they do only the best for R.C.S. Lastly, the sixth grade worked on how to build a container that would safely hold an egg dropped all the way off the roof of the school. Now all we have to do is wait to find out what will happen next month.

Upcoming Events at the Village School

Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration for Families Friday, November 8

The Village School hosts the annual Autumn Lantern Walk on Friday, November 8th. 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. Renowned folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will call the dances.

All over Europe, children participate in lantern walks to mark the seasonal transition in nature from light and warmth to darkness and dormancy. The Village School has adopted this custom with songs, stories, and handmade lanterns that bring light into the darkness. The contra dance will be called, and 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.

Open House Saturday November 16th 10 a.m. to noon. Come meet the teachers, talk with parents, meet alumni, see the classrooms, find out about the unique curriculum and get your questions answered! Bring your children, they will enjoy art and science activities in the classrooms just for them. Preschool starts filling up for next year.

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

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 18th- check the website to make sure.

Thank You Royalston Academy

The Royalston Academy funded program, “MWCC presents, Alexander’s Terrible, Horrible Day” was presented at the community school on Friday, October 4th. The performers were full of enthusiasm, while RCS students enjoyed watching the show. Thank you to the Academy for funding these wonderful programs, and thank you to the Mount Wachusett Community College students for sharing their talents.
There has been a definite feel of autumn the last couple of days. (As well there should, this being the fourth week of October after all.) But still no frost (though I cannot imagine being frost-free by the time you read these mutterings). I continue to be irritated by those weather people, ensconced as they are in their climate-controlled rooms, advising me that my growing season will come to an end with the first frost. Just another piece of misinformation belching out from the airwaves. The whole lot of them should be obliged to relocate to area farms and assist in November harvesting. As a fringe benefit, they could actually experience weather rather than read about it from computer print-outs.

The absence of frost is almost immaterial at this point. Most of the tomatoes, in spite of the fact they are indeterminate and should be growing still, have given up the ghost. The basil is alive though you’d be hard-pressed to notice. The winter squash continues to flower and set small fruit, but we’d have to remain frost-free for another month to harvest any. A late planting of beans is about a week away from yielding, but I’ve had my fill of beans and would not be terribly disappointed to lose this final harvest. The sole exception to this I don’t care whether we get a frost attitude are peppers and, especially, raspberries, both awash in fruits in varying states of maturity and filled with flowers. The raspberries (though not the peppers) will survive light frost and I hope to continue harvesting for weeks.

Apples remain at the top of the to-do list. Bushel after bushel pile up, awaiting, hopefully, a volunteer crew to assist in a cider-making marathon. Intrepid son number four has resourcefully retrofitted a home cider press to make a difficult, labor-intensive, time-consuming undertaking a bit less difficult, labor-intensive, and time-consuming. The hand-operated grinder will be powered by a table saw’s motor (via a belt) and a hydraulic shop press will extract, with somewhat less effort, a greater amount of cider. The steers, of course, consume the mountain of apple pulp. (Self-serving promotional announcement: we sell apple-fed beef.)

Manure hauling, leaf raking, continued harvesting (sorry weather people), bed preparation; I will not be idle in November. It is immensely satisfying preparing the beds for next year (best that it is, given the amount of time I spend at it). I look forward to the immense satisfaction I will experience by growing in these beds in 2014.

_Garden Notes_  
October 22, 2013

The garden (and the gardener) care not a whit about the sequester. Or the government shutdown. Or the debt ceiling. On the other hand, it (and he) care a whole bunch of whits about the weather. The carrot will grow whether or not the government pays its bills. The carrot will not grow without water.

_Larry Siegel_
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Wildlife Sighting:
The Fullam family of Winchendon Road had a moose walk right by its picture window and across the front yard on Wednesday, September 25.

Colleen MacManus had a moose in the hayfield behind her house early in the morning on the last Saturday of September.

John McLure had a bear in his yard the same morning. Chet Hall saw it a few weeks later in the swathe below the bridge at the bottom of Frye Hill. Chet reports it’s "big" with a white V on its chest.

Hunting seasons - Be Mindful
Wear blaze orange in the woods. Bird hunters are out. Bow season for deer started Oct 21st and runs into December. Bow, shotgun and primitive arms (muzzle loaders) seasons are mixed in the month of December. There are hunters in the woods dressed in camo in secluded spots. No hunting on Sundays.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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